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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER
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**** January 2003 Issue ***

The Electronic Newsletter of the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS) at New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
(<http://www.icisnyu.org/>)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS
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TRANSPORTATION

"Hydrogen-Powered Vehicles at Least a Decade Away"

"President Bush's vision of a hydrogen-powered, non-polluting "Freedom" car for the next generation of American motorists pulled out silently from a Newport Beach, Calif., garage yesterday morning with Gregg Kelly at the wheel, bound for his office 10 miles away. Kelly, president of a California robotics company, happens to drive a Toyota prototype of a hydrogen-fueled car, one of a handful in the United States today. It will take at least a decade before a host of technological, economic and political barriers are overcome, permitting a fleet of these revolutionary vehicles to appear on U.S. highways, industry experts said." (Washington Post)

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63512-2003Jan29.html>

"Hybrid Cars Going Mainstream?"

General Motors to Offer Hybrid Power in Cars, Pickups, SUVs"

"In one of the clearest signs yet that hybrid cars may be going mainstream, General Motors Corp. plans to offer a variety of the gas-and-electric powered vehicles over the next four years. The plan by the world's biggest automaker, to be announced Monday, includes hybrid models for cars, pickups and sports utility vehicles. GM's new strategy sends a clear signal that auto executives are starting to consider energy-efficient hybrids as potentially viable offerings to the mainstream motoring public." (CNN)

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/01/06/hybrid.cars.ap/index.html>

"Support For Fundamental Change In Public Transportation"

"TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Research Results Digest Number 55, Support for Fundamental Change in Public Transportation, addresses major dimensions of fundamental change; illustrates a few extraordinary, fundamental changes that are being pursued by transit organizations; and calls attention to immediate opportunities to support and sustain fundamental change in the U.S. transit industry." (Transportation Research Board)

Source: http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/tcrp/tcrp_rrd_55.pdf

"Latest Terror Suspect: Your SUV"

"Two television ads that try to link gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles to terrorist funding are generating controversy even before they begin airing. A group opposed to U.S. reliance on foreign oil is behind the 30-second ads, which their creator said are intended to be humorous parodies. One commercial features a child's voiceover connecting the dots between a man filling his gas tank and terrorist training footage. The closing statement: 'Oil money supports some terrible things. What kind of mileage does your SUV get?'" (CBS News)

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/01/09/national/main535833.shtml>

"Segway Hits City Roadblock"

"Known for its love of geek chic as well as its congested streets, San Francisco might have been expected to embrace a new, environmentally friendly personal vehicle that promises to pull people out of their smog-spewing cars. Instead, the city on Monday becomes the first large municipality to outlaw the Segway Human Transporter on its sidewalks more than a month before the chariot-like vehicles are made available to the public. The Board of Supervisors acted last month following intense lobbying by Segway in state capitols to change laws to permit the two-wheeled vehicles on sidewalks. In all, 33 states, including California, approved Segway-enabling legislation." (Wired)

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,57292,00.html>

"The City of NY Takes Momentous First Step Towards the Reuse of the High Line as an Elevated Walkway"

"Signaling an important change in policy towards the High Line elevated rail structure,

on Manhattan's Far West Side, the City of New York filed this week with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), in Washington, DC, requesting that negotiations begin to transform the High Line into an elevated public walkway. 'The City seeks a Certificate of Interim Trail Use for the Highline viaduct,' stated the City's December 17 filing to the STB. A Certificate of Interim Trail Use, or CITU, would start a process called "rail-banking," which allows out-of-use rail corridors to be reused as recreational trails." (Friends of the Highline)

Source: http://www.thehighline.org/news_122002fh1.html

"Helping Transit Agencies Tackle Security Challenges"

"To provide transit agencies greater flexibility in paying for transit security enhancements, a General Accounting Office report recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Transportation consider seeking a legislative change that would allow all transit agencies to use federal urbanized area formula funds for security-related operating expenses. (Transportation Research Board)

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-263>

"Rail Systems Boost Some Property Values, Study for OCTA Finds"

"Commuter rail systems, such as Orange County's proposed CenterLine project, can boost the property value of commercial buildings, apartments and condominiums, but less so for single-family houses, a new study shows. The Cal State Fullerton report, funded by the Orange County Transportation Authority, found that commercial property values around the United States increased by more than 30% in areas that have convenient access to light-rail systems. Residential property value increased from 2% to 18%, with the majority of the increase found in condominiums and apartments within one mile of rail stations. The value of single-family homes was not affected as much, the study found." (LA Times)

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/la-me-centerline14jan14,0,1681849.story>

"Running off the Rails: High-Speed Rail Works Well in Europe and Japan, So Why Can't the United States Get it Right?"

"North America is facing a transportation crisis. Highways in urban areas are becoming more congested every year. Airlines are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, clinging to bewildering fare structures and otherwise alienating customers. Fuels still come from oil imported from regions of the world that are potentially unstable. It's time for North Americans to get serious about high-speed rail." (IEEE)

Source: <http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/publicfeature/jan03/trail.html>

"China Awaits High-Speed 'Maglev'"

"Shanghai, China's largest city, is gearing up to launch the world's first commercial maglev train, which uses electromagnetic levitation to carry passengers at speeds of up to 430 kmh. The 30-km (18-mile) maglev line, built using German technology from Transrapid International at a cost of more than \$1.2 billion, is launching sometime in summer 2003. It enables passengers to travel from Shanghai's financial district to its international airport in about eight minutes. The same journey by car typically takes between 45 minutes to one hour." (Wired)

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,57163,00.html>

"A Summary of TCRP Report 88: A Guidebook for Developing a Transit Performance-Measurement System"

"This digest provides senior transit managers with an easy-to-read summary of the contents of and tools in TCRP Report 88: A Guidebook for Developing a Transit Performance-Measurement System. The guidebook provides a step-by-step process for developing a performance-measurement program that includes both traditional and nontraditional performance indicators that address customer-oriented and community

issues." (TCRP)

Source: http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/tcrp/tcrp_rrd_56.pdf

ENERGY

"EPA Clean Air Rules Survive Senate Challenge"

"In a victory for the Bush administration, the Senate has defeated a Democratic-led attempt to put off implementation of new federal air-pollution rules pending a study. On Jan. 22, the Senate rejected a proposal by John Edwards (D-N.C.) to delay for six months the "New Source Review" regulations the Environmental Protection Agency announced in November. The rules, which EPA has slated to take effect March 3, help determine when upgrades to powerplants, petroleum refineries and factories also require their owners to install advanced pollution-control equipment." (Engineering News-Record)

Source: <http://enr.construction.com/news/environment/archives/030123.asp>

"President Bush's 2004 Budget Will Increase Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Families"

"As a deep freeze impacts on many parts of the nation, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced today that President Bush's 2004 Budget includes \$288.2 million for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program. This represents an increase of \$11.2 million above the President's fiscal year 2003 request." (DOE)

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/janpr/pr03010.htm>

"NRC Chairman Blasts IG Report on Ohio Nuclear Plant"

"The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sharply criticized a report by the NRC's Inspector General that said NRC staffers permitted the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Ohio to delay inspections largely because of concerns about the financial impact a shutdown would have on the plant's operator. The IG's report, released Dec. 30, said that NRC staffers permitted the plant operator, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., to delay inspections of Davis-Besse reactor vessel nozzles for about six weeks, in large part because of the staffers' concerns of the financial effects on FirstEnergy." (Engineering News-Record)

Source: <http://enr.construction.com/news/powerIndus/archives/030113.asp>

WATER

"Authority Looks to the Pacific as a Potential Water Source"

"Turning salt water into tap water will be the focus of a long-term plan to keep water flowing into the growing, thirsty region. The board of the San Diego County Water Authority adopted a draft master plan yesterday that outlines how it expects to meet demand through 2030. Turning to the Pacific Ocean as a new source, the authority is continuing its push to become more independent from the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles, which supplies the county with up to 90 percent of its water." (San Diego Union Tribune)

Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/uniontrib/fri/metro/news_2m24plan.html

"New Idea Floated for L.A. River"

"Damming a stream might seem like a strange way to revive it. But that is the premise behind a proposal to bring back the natural beauty of the Los Angeles River. The idea, floated by a local artist, has caught the eye of at least one L.A. politician. City Councilman Ed Reyes, heading a committee that is looking at ways to revitalize the concrete-lined river, says he is intrigued by the idea of installing giant inflatable rubber dams at two ends of downtown. That section would become an artificial lake that

could serve as a centerpiece for urban renewal." (LA Times)

Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dam24jan24,0,3004160.story?coll=la%2Dutil%2Dnews%2Dlocal>

TELECOMM

"Stealth Antennas Try to Blend In"

"In the world of wireless, figuring where to put those hulking cell towers creates a catch-22. Cell-phone users want to be able to roam far and wide while getting crystal-clear reception. But extending and improving the quality of wireless transmissions requires new and taller antennas, and communities often balk at plans to erect more of those ugly metal towers. It's forcing the wireless communications industry into stealth mode... The next time you see a picturesque shot of rocks, a flagpole, a church steeple, cacti or trees, consider that there might be more there than meets the eye." (Wired)

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/wireless/0,1382,57199,00.html>

"Cities Create High-Speed UTOPIA"

"By June, a consortium of 17 municipalities in Utah is hoping to break ground for a high-speed fiber network and attract competitive service providers to serve more than a half million people in a six-county region. The Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency, or UTOPIA, was formed in April 2002 after the state legislature enacted a law the previous year permitting municipalities to sell services on a wholesale level for economic development reasons." (FCW.com)

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0120/web-utopia-01-22-03.asp>

GENERAL

"Grass-Roots Greenery:
At Last, Some Serious Efforts to Curb Carbon Emissions"

"Is America ready to tackle climate change? An absurd question, you might think. After all, George Bush pulled out of the UN's Kyoto Protocol on climate change a couple of years ago, to much international disapproval... Yet initiatives are now under way outside the White House that may undermine Mr. Bush's approach. The noisiest challenge comes from two Bush enemies: John McCain, his foe in the Republican primaries in 2000, and Joe Lieberman, who is now running for the Democratic nomination in 2004. The two senators have sponsored a bill- the American Investments for Reduction of Emissions Act- that would impose, for the first time, a federal restriction on emissions of GHGs. Under the plan, emissions from various sectors of the economy would need to decline to their 2000 levels by 2010, and further still by 2016. Market-friendly tactics such as emissions trading would be encouraged in order to get there." (Economist)

Source: http://www.economist.com/world/na/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1538758

"Young Urbanites Launch Journal"

"Along with immigrants and empty-nesters, it is young professionals who are fueling the nascent revival of cities. Now, a pair of these 20-something urbanites are launching a quarterly journal devoted to the future of metropolises and their suburbs. Adam Gordon, 23, who lives in Charles Village, is editor in chief, and Seth Brown, 24, who lives in Morningside Heights in Manhattan, is publisher of The Next American City, scheduled to make its debut next month." (Baltimore Sun) The first edition features the article "Green Building in Lower Manhattan," written by Alison Drury, an ICIS Graduate Research Assistant.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.urban09jan09.story>

"Pennsylvania: Saving the Steel Skyline"

"It was bad enough, locals say, when the Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces shut down. The whole plant stilled that day -- November 18, 1995 -- to hear a lone steelworker whistle 'Amazing Grace' as the furnaces' ever-constant blue flame died out. Now the five towering furnaces themselves are in danger of demolition unless the National Park Service saves the local skyline by designating them historic landmarks." (CNN)
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/DESTINATIONS/01/08/steel.skyline.ap/index.html>

"Clean Air Act Issues in the 108th Congress"

"A U.S. Congressional Research Service report suggests that although there is some interest in considering broad changes to the Clean Air Act in the 108th Congress, the more immediate prospect is for targeted proposals that might be attached to legislation reauthorizing federal transportation programs. (Transportation Research Board)
Source: <http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/03Jan/IB10107.pdf>

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FOCUS ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LOWER MANHATTAN
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"SOM-Led Plan for WTC Eliminated"

"The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) eliminated the team led by Skidmore Owings & Merrill from its ongoing design study to create a master land use plan for the site of the World Trade Center. Roger Duffy of Skidmore wrote a letter to the LMDC this week, withdrawing his firm from consideration. The letter said that SOM was withdrawing in order to pursue the firm's collaboration with Silverstein Properties, for whom the firm has designed a replacement tower for 7 World Trade Center. Some of SOM's collaborators on the design were disappointed that the LMDC eliminated the entire team based on SOM's withdrawal, and claimed that the firm did not notify them of the move." (Architectural Record)
Source: <http://archrecord.construction.com/news/wtc/archives/030123somwtc.asp>

"WTC Site Swap is Back on Table"

"The once-stalled talks to transfer control of Ground Zero to the city have sprung back to life - with a price now under serious discussion, sources told The Post yesterday. 'A few months ago, it was pretty much the odds were against a swap. Now, I think they're in favor of one,' said a source at the Port Authority, which owns the World Trade Center site. 'It's very much alive. It's just a matter of a number.' Under the deal being considered, the city would trade the land it owns under Kennedy and La Guardia airports to the Port Authority in return for the PA giving the city the Ground Zero property." (NY Post)
Source: <http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/67085.htm>

"Innovative Waterfront Design Prioritized"

"The Bloomberg Administration is leaning towards adopting a policy to require new electricity facilities to 'use creative and innovative designs'... Looking ahead, the prospect of new large-scale waterfront parks and the like seems to be shrinking...The reality we must accept on the waterfront is that infrastructure projects--such as power plants, waste transfer stations, port facilities and the like--will be most of the waterfront projects that DO move ahead in the coming years." (WaterWire)
Source: <http://www.waterwire.net/News/fullstory.cfm?ContID=1303>

"Architects Criticize Ground Zero Publicity"

"While architects have publicly proclaimed the World Trade Center site proposals displayed at the Winter Garden in Lower Manhattan as the greatest architecture show ever, many have privately expressed reservations about the designs' details, the handling of the competition and even the spotlight in which the contestants now stand...The popular image of the architect as a creative genius whipping up great designs on a cocktail napkin is at odds with the reality. More often, architects say, great design is the result of constant, sometimes painful give-and-take between the architect and the client. Letting the public in on the process from the start, even as spectators, has pulled back the veil on a ritual that is most often conducted in the hush of boardrooms and private offices." (NY Times)

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/01/arts/design/01ARCH.html>

"Libeskind Meets Metropolis"

"Earlier this month, architect Daniel Libeskind, his wife and partner Nina Libeskind, and their public relations agent came to visit Metropolis's offices here in New York City... Libeskind discussed the exacting research process he uses for every public project, including his front-running scheme for the World Trade Center site. He told us about studying the urban fabric, spending time on the site, talking to people, and observing their actions. But most revealing, he says he enjoys attending public hearings, no matter how contentious--which he has been doing endlessly in New York in recent weeks." (Metropolis)

Source: http://www.metropolismag.com/html/urbanjournal_0103/libeskind_meets.html

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UPCOMING EVENTS
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Monday, February 3, 2003

"The Occupational and Environmental Health Impact of the WTC Collapse"

New York City

This event features speaker Steve Markowitz, Director for the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Queens College. Dr. Markowitz estimates that the terrorist attack on September 11 in downtown Manhattan was "one of the worst occupational health disasters in the United States... Accumulating studies show respiratory disease and other effects among firefighters, day laborers, Ground Zero construction workers, and other workers and even residents near Ground Zero." This event is co-sponsored by the Environmental Sciences Section and the Geological Sciences Forum of the New York Academy of Sciences. (NYAS)

Time: 6 pm

RSVP: envirosciences@nyas.org

Note: Following the lecture, there will be an optional dinner by reservation only. Please reserve dinner by calling 212-838-0230, x 426. Dinner is \$20 for Academy members, \$25 for non-Academy members, and \$15 for students, payable on-site during registration.

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

"Architectural Utopias"

New York City

Authors and architectural historians Jon Beardlsey, from Harvard, and Rosemarie Haag Bletter, CUNY Grad Center, discuss "Architectural Utopias" in a panel with curator Celene Ryan.

Location: American Folk Art Museum, 45 W 53rd St, east of 6th Ave, Midtown (E/V- 5th Ave-53rd St station)

Cost: \$20/\$15 seniors, students & AFAM members

Monday, February 10, 2003

"The Future of The City: The World Trade Center and the Next New York"

New York City

The New York University Law School hosts a panel that will showcase four renowned New Yorkers in discussion regarding the effects of the redevelopment of the World Trade Center on New York City's future. The panelists include:

- Alexander Garvin, head of planning for the LMDC
- Paul Goldberger, architectural critic for the New Yorker
- Hugh Hardy, leading national architect and the President of New York, New Visions
- Joseph Rose, recently the head of the NYC Planning Commission and a leading New York developer

The moderator will be Professor Vicki Been, Director of the Program on Land Use Law at the NYU Law School Center on Environmental and Land Use Law. A reception will follow from 8:00 to 9:00.

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Greenberg Lounge of Vanderbilt Hall, corner of West 4th Street and MacDougal Street

Web: <http://www.americancity.org>

Tuesdays to Sundays, through February 23, 2003

"Le Corbusier Before Le Corbusier: Applied Arts, Architecture, Painting & Photography, 1907-1922"

New York City

This collection at the Bard Graduate Center exhibits the early years of Le Corbusier's work.

Location: Bard Graduate Center, 18 W 86th St, just west of Central Park W (B/C- 86th Station)

Cost: \$3/\$2 seniors & students w/ID.

Contact: 212 501-3011 or programs@bgc.bard.edu

Tuesday, February 25, 2002

"Teleconference on Environmental Impact of Construction Materials on Surface and Ground Waters"

Under the sponsorship of the National Highway Cooperative Research Program (NCHRP), Oregon State University researchers will conduct a teleconference on the findings and applications of the products developed under NCHRP Project 25-09, "Environmental Impact of Construction and Repair Materials on Surface and Ground Waters."

For participation information, phone: Ted Ferragut, 866-475-3126

Web: <http://cee.oregonstate.edu/nchrp25-09>

Saturday, March 8, 2003

"Preserving the Suburban Metropolis"

New York City

The Upper West Side's NY Historical Society hosts the NY Historic Districts Council's 9th annual conference. This event spotlights the history, recognition & preservation of New York City's suburban communities and planned developments.

Information and Registration: hdc@hdc.org or <http://www.hdc.org>

Saturday, March 29 through Wednesday, April 2, 2003

"Special Places, Unique Environments"

Denver, CO

The American Planning Association's national annual conference is hosted in Denver this spring, complete with workshops, tours, exhibits, and receptions on topics such as transportation, urban design, environment, revitalization & redevelopment, and citizen participation.

Registration: confregistration@planning.org

Web: <http://www.planning.org>

Monday, March 31 through Tuesday, April 1, 2003

"Fuel Cells 2003: Fuel Cells and the Hydrogen Infrastructure"

Stamford, CT

The Business Communications Company (BCC) presents their third annual conference, on fuel cells and hydrogen infrastructure.

Location: Holiday Inn Select, Stamford, CT

Registration: www.buscom.com/fuel_cells2003/registration.html

Tuesday, January 21 through Sunday, April 13, 2003

"The Tubes: Hudson & Manhattan's Rails Under the Hudson"

Hoboken, New Jersey

Terry Kennedy's exhibit chronicles the PATH work of the Hudson Tunnels, which began in 1874, and their inclusion into the PATH transit system. Co-produced by the Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy & The Hoboken Historical Museum, the exhibit is on view Tuesdays through Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays. Four weekend events are also presented:

1/26 @ 3:00PM- "Rails Under the Mighty Hudson" - a slide talk with historian/author Brian J. Cudahy

2/9 @ 3:00PM- "Antique Stocks & Bonds" - an illustrated talk with scripophily dealer Donald T. Mesler

3/8 @ 4:00PM- Miles Sq Theatre's Chris O'Connor reads Theodore Dreiser's short story about sandhogs

3/9 @ 3:00PM- "Saving the Hudson & Manhattan Powerhouse" - a slide talk by Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy president John Gomez

Location: The Hoboken Historical Museum, 1301 Hudson St, Hoboken, NJ (PATH-Hoboken station)

RSVP and Information: 201 656-2240 or <http://www.hobokenmuseum.org>

DID YOU KNOW?

ENERGY: Facts on Petroleum

"Imports of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products into the United States 2001"

-by Country of Origin-

(Thousand barrels/day)

1. Canada	Crude Oil: 1,356	Products: 473	Total: 1,828
2. Saudi Arabia	Crude Oil: 1,611	Products: 51	Total: 1,662
3. Venezuela	Crude Oil: 1,291	Products: 262	Total: 1,553
4. Mexico	Crude Oil: 1,394	Products: 46	Total: 1,440
5. Nigeria	Crude Oil: 842	Products: 43	Total: 885
6. Iraq	Crude Oil: 795	Products: 0	Total: 795
7. Norway	Crude Oil: 281	Products: 60	Total: 341
8. Angola	Crude Oil: 321	Products: 7	Total: 328
9. UK	Crude Oil: 244	Products: 80	Total: 324
10. Colombia	Crude Oil: 260	Products: 36	Total: 296

Source: Energy Information Administration, DOE

http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/rankings/totimportsby_country.htm

The INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER highlights innovative projects, practices, research and initiatives in the planning, financing, operation, and management of civil infrastructure systems. By focusing on innovation and collaboration among stakeholders, ICIS intends for the newsletter to both inform and connect various individuals and organizations from a range of disciplines and perspectives. It is also used to promote related infrastructure events and activities taking place around the country.

You are receiving this electronic newsletter because you have come into contact with ICIS in some way: virtually, through signing our web site guest book, or physically, through meeting someone connected to ICIS at a workshop or conference.

ICIS was established in January 1998 with funding from the National Science Foundation. Located at New York University, the ICIS consortium includes: NYU, Cornell University, Polytechnic University of New York, and the University of Southern California. We welcome comments or suggestions for future issues and encourage you to forward this newsletter on to colleagues and others who might be interested. If you have trouble accessing the full articles of this edition, please send your correspondence via email to icis@nyu.edu.

