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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER
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***** June 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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ENERGY

"EU and US Sign Partnership Agreement on Fuel Cell Technologies"

"The EU and the United States have formally agreed to launch cooperative projects in the field of fuel cell technologies in order to minimise duplication, overcome technical obstacles, and create common standards and codes in order to stimulate the market. The pledge was contained in an annex to the EU-US scientific cooperation agreement for non nuclear energy, which was signed by Research Commissioner, Philippe Busquin, for the EU and Secretary of State for Energy, Spencer Abraham, for the US at a special ceremony during a conference on the hydrogen economy in Brussels on 16 June." (CORDIS)

Source:
http://dbs.cordis.lu/cgi-bin/srchidadb?CALLER=NHP_EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:20432

"Offshore Areas No Longer Off-Limits
to Harmful Oil and Gas Exploration"

"In a vote today on energy legislation, drilling proponents defeated a bi-partisan amendment that would have maintained protections for the nation's sensitive coastal and marine areas. The amendment, co-sponsored by Sens. Bob Graham (D-FL) and Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), as well as several other senators, would have removed a provision of the energy bill (Section 105) authorizing the Interior Department to inventory potential oil and gas resources of the entire Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)." (NRDC)
Source: <http://www.nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/030611c.asp>

"Study Questions Hydrogen Economy"

"According to conventional wisdom, hydrogen-fueled cars are environmentally friendly because they emit only water vapor -- a naturally abundant atmospheric gas. New research however shows that leakage of the hydrogen gas fuels cars could cause problems for the upper atmosphere. In an article appearing this week in the journal Science, researchers from the California Institute of Technology report that the leaked hydrogen gas that would inevitably result from a hydrogen economy, if it accumulates, could indirectly cause as much as a 10 percent decrease in atmospheric ozone. The researchers are physics research scientist Tracey Tromp, Assistant Professor of Geochemistry John Eiler, planetary science professor Yuk Yung, planetary science research scientist Run-Lie Shia, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientist Mark Allen." (SolarAccess.com)
Source: <http://www.solaraccess.com/news/story?storyid=4500>

"EPA is Sued Over Carbon Dioxide:
3 N.E. States Charge Violation"

"Massachusetts and two other New England states yesterday sued the federal Environmental Protection Agency in an effort to force the government to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, which they say add to global warming. In a suit filed in US District Court in Hartford, the attorneys general of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine argued that the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide, even though such emissions are not currently regulated by the Bush administration." (Boston Globe)
Source:
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/156/metro/EPA_is_sued_over_carbon_dioxide+.shtml

"Oil and Gas Transport Hinges
on Tigris River Bridge Repair"

"A bomb that felled one span of the Al Fathah Bridge across the Tigris River near Baiji also ignited a fire that burned 16 pipelines connecting Kirkuk to the national pipeline system - and engineers vow to fix the problem. Within 30 miles of Kirkuk lie 40% of Iraq's proven oil reserves. The oilfields feed crude oil into the system to the Baiji refinery at 150,000 bbl per day, then into the Strategic Pipeline, which delivers to Baghdad and Basra refineries and into the Iraq-Turkey Pipeline." (McGraw-Hill Construction)
Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20030616h.asp>

"Companies Vie for Lucrative Bahamas-Florida LNG Route"

"Three energy companies planning to build pipelines to move liquefied natural gas from the Bahamas to Florida are racing for approvals before one of them is squeezed out. AES Corp., El Paso Corp. and Tractebel are looking at Bahamian sites for terminals, with pipe running to the Florida coast, a route that has never been used for gas pipelines. Industry officials say only two pipelines are likely to be built because Florida's

power demands do not require all three." (McGraw-Hill Construction)
Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20030602e.asp>

"Vermont Legislature Encourages Green Options"

"On May 30, the Vermont legislature adopted a bill, which the Governor is expected to sign, granting authority to the Public Service Board (PSB) to approve green power options offered by electric utilities. According to the bill SP 0057, renewable energy options may be priced at a premium to standard tariffs provided that the premium is cost-based and 'reasonably reflect[s] the difference between acquiring the renewable energy and the utility's alternative cost of power, including administrative costs.'" (SolarAccess.com)
Source: <http://www.solaraccess.com/news/story?storyid=4498>

"Energy Secretary Abraham Comments
on EIA's Short-term Energy Outlook"

"The Energy Information Administration (EIA), the independent statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Energy, today projected that summer motor gasoline prices will average \$1.46 through the upcoming driving season, less than what Americans paid in the summers of 2000 and 2001. Crude oil prices have increased somewhat, in response to continued world oil demand, low oil inventories and uncertainty about the timing of a resumption of Iraqi oil exports. But EIA's report expects world oil production to increase for the remainder of the year, allowing for a stock build-up and oil prices in 2004 in the \$25.00 per barrel range." (EIA)
Source: <http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/junpr/pr03125.htm>

WATER

"Landscaping for Now and Later: Landscape
Design with the Drought in Mind"

"Water, water, water - or the lack of it - has become a topic of everyday conversation in the West. The limited supply of such a precious resource has resulted in water management becoming a strong trend in the landscape industry over the past few years. 'The incorporation of "centrally controlled" irrigation systems is changing how commercial and residential properties use water,' said Marianne Hansen with American Landscape of North Salt Lake. 'With water demands projected to exceed local capacities, educating the public on efficient water usage is critical.' Landscapers became more aware of the importance of this education when Denver banned the installation of new landscapes last year. Studies released at the time of the ban revealed a number of interesting facts." (McGraw-Hill Construction)
Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/DCP/20030613n.asp>

"What's on Tap?:
Grading Drinking Water in U.S. Cities"

"This June 2003 NRDC study of drinking water quality in 19 U.S. cities finds that pollution and deteriorating, out-of-date plumbing are sometimes delivering drinking water that might pose health risks to some residents -- and unless steps are taken now, tap water will get worse. The report issues grades to each municipal water system studied in three problem areas -- water quality and compliance, source water protection, and right-to-know compliance -- and outlines a plan for protecting the nation's drinking water supply." (NRDC)
Source: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/uscities/contents.asp>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

"AT&T Sues Pittsford Over Cell Tower Use"

"A cell tower that's supposed to look like a pine tree is causing some static in town. The 'monopine' now has antennae for Nextel. AT&T Wireless would like to add its antennae, but it claims town officials have been stalling and giving the company the run-around on its application. So the company is taking the town to court. Town officials claim that SBA Properties, the company that built the tower early last year, didn't do a satisfactory job of camouflage. They also say the tower and the site don't comply with the specifications of the site plan approved by the town Planning Board." (Democrat and Chronicle)
Source: http://www.democratandchronicle.com/news/0612story20_news.shtml

TRANSPORTATION

"Charging Speeds Up London 37%"

"Ken Livingstone will today claim that the biggest gamble of his political career has paid off in spectacular fashion, with figures suggesting that the capital's £5 a day congestion charge has raised traffic speeds by an unprecedented 37%. In the first official update of the effect of the scheme, the mayor's Transport for London authority will publish a study showing a 40% reduction in congestion during charging hours, compared to its own expectation of 20% to 30%." (The Guardian Unlimited)
Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/congestion/story/0,12768,971779,00.html>

"Senate Approves Aviation Bill,
with Boost for Construction Grants"

"The Senate has passed a three-year reauthorization of federal aviation programs, including a modest increase for airport construction grants. Senate passage of the bill came on June 12, by an overwhelming 94-0 vote. Senate action came one day after the House approved its version of the aviation measure, a four-year renewal of the Federal Aviation Administration programs, with even higher funding for Airport Improvement Program construction grants. The next step for the legislation, which would be the successor to the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act of 2000 (AIR-21), is a House-Senate conference to work out differences between the respective bills." (McGraw-Hill Construction)
Source: <http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20030613a.asp>

"And Amtrak Keeps Rolling Along"

"David Gunn, 65 and a glutton for punishment, left retirement to run Amtrak. His office is in magnificently restored Union Station, a relic of something Gunn knows is gone forever -- the era of glamorous railroading... Deferred maintenance cannot forever be deferred for this railroad that two years ago mortgaged part of Penn Station in Manhattan to meet \$300 million in expenses. Gunn's predecessor then said he was 'absolutely confident' that Amtrak would reach 'operational self-sufficiency by the congressionally mandated deadline in 2003.' 'Fanciful' is Gunn's dismissal of the idea that Amtrak can end its deficit. Fanciful, too, is the idea that the government will quit subsidizing Amtrak operations in the Northeast Corridor. Without subsidies, those operations would end for 1.1 million passengers a month, who would be put into the corridor's already congested highways and air space." (Washington Post)
Source:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A26674-2003Jun6¬Found=true>

"Freeway Building No Cure for Congestion"

"What if, after spending \$6.25 billion to rebuild and widen metro area freeways in the name of relieving congestion, we just make it worse? ...If

Gov. Jim Doyle and state Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi adopt the shortsighted recommendations of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, taxpayers could shell out \$6.25 billion - which no one yet knows how to get - for 127 new lanes of freeway over the next 30 years and have little to show for it except more traffic." (Milwaukee Journal Snetinel Online)

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/jun03/146821.asp>

GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE

"The Impacts Of Smart Growth Upon The Economy"

Anthony Downs provides a critical overview of sprawl at smart growth at the Land Use Institute of the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on April 30, 2003.

Source: <http://www.anthonydowns.com/smartgrowtheconomy.htm>

"Paying for Prosperity: Impact Fees and Job Growth"

"Growth costs money. And increasingly many municipalities, confronted with tax-averse electorates, have turned to impact fees--one-time charges against new development--to pay the costs of growth. Traditionally, these costs have been financed by property taxes. However, those revenues have proven mostly inadequate to fund the roads, water and sewer infrastructure, and schools required by new residential and commercial development.

Impact fees, though, are not universally accepted. Conventional wisdom among some private interests and public officials is that impact fees constrain local economic development, serving as a de facto "tax" on capital, stifling investment, and driving job growth to other fee-free jurisdictions... Given that impact fees often pay for public infrastructure projects, understanding the relationship between impact fees and local economic development, defined here as local job growth, is key. This report addresses the controversy around impact fees by reviewing the academic literature concerning the effect of impact fees on employment and the economy generally." (The Brookings Institution)

Source:

<http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/publications/nelsonimpactfees.htm>

"Report by the E.P.A. Leaves Out Data on Climate Change"

"The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to publish a draft report next week on the state of the environment, but after editing by the White House, a long section describing risks from rising global temperatures has been whittled to a few noncommittal paragraphs... Among the deletions were conclusions about the likely human contribution to warming from a 2001 report on climate by the National Research Council that the White House had commissioned and that President Bush had endorsed in speeches that year. White House officials also deleted a reference to a 1999 study showing that global temperatures had risen sharply in the previous decade compared with the last 1,000 years. In its place, administration officials added a reference to a new study, partly financed by the American Petroleum Institute, questioning that conclusion." (NY Times)

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/19/politics/19CLIM.html?th>

"Bio-Solar House in Thailand"

"It's an environmental dream: a self-reliant house that produces its own electricity, water, and cooking gas. Solar energy powers the air-conditioning, lights, and household appliances. Rain, dew, and condensation from the cooling system produce enough water for a family of four. Recycled water irrigates the garden, and surplus electricity is sold to the power company or used to drive an electric car 30 miles (50 kilometers) a day. In Thailand, this dream has become a reality. A

research team from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok has built the country's first "bio-solar" house. Yet at first sight, the house hardly stands out among the other homes in a gated residential community." (ArchitectureWeek)

Source: http://www.architectureweek.com/2003/0611/environment_2-1.html

"Vancouver Team Wins 'City of Tomorrow' Contest"

"A vision of 22nd-century Vancouver - complete with hydrogen-powered neighbourhoods and kilometres of interlocking "greenway" parks - won an international competition to design the city of tomorrow on Wednesday. The Canadian team edged a joint entry from San Diego, Calif., and Tijuana, Mexico, that described a city of computer-navigated cars and recycled sewage." (The Globe and Mail)

Source:
<http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20030604.wvanc0604/BNStory/National/>

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FEATURE WEB SITE OF THE MONTH
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"What Makes the Big Apple Grow:
Historic Photographs of the New York City Water Supply System"

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Maybe you've seen some interesting old photographs of New York City's water supply infrastructure while riding the subways in NYC recently. To compliment the new ad campaign, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection offers a marvelous web site tour of the history of the city's water supply system through pictures and words.

Visit: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dep/html/awareness.html>

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UPCOMING EVENTS
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Sunday, July 13 through Thursday, July 17, 2003

"Coastal Zone 2003:
Coastal Zone Management Through Time"

Baltimore, MD

"The Coastal Zone conference series is the premier international gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals. The largest of its kind, this biennial symposium attracts over 1,200 participants from around the world. The Maryland Coastal Zone Management Division and Delaware Coastal Programs will be your hosts for Coastal Zone 03 (CZ 03) in Baltimore, Maryland. Join us July 13 to 17, 2003, as we explore coastal zone management through time." (NOAA)

For info: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz2003/>

Saturday, July 19, 2003

"Bronx River Alliance Canoe Trip"

The Bronx River Alliance offers a Saturday afternoon canoe trip departing from and returning to Hunts Point Riverside Park.

Time: 11 am to 3 pm

Location: Meet at Hunts Point Riverside Park, Lafayette Avenue and Edgewater Road.

Registration & Questions: Call Angela Randall, Bronx River Canoe Guide, at 718.430.1846

Sunday, July 20 through Wednesday, July 23, 2003

"CDS 2003: Community as Place"

Ithaca, NY

"Conference participants will collectively explore the relationship between community development and community sustainability. With a focus on 'place' we will explore different perspectives on the intersection of natural, built and cultural environments. Participants will discuss and learn about resources and approaches that foster community development. The Conference features multiple tracks covering areas such as Community Vitality, Economic Development, Extension, Environment, Practice, Research and Graduate Studies, Social and International Issues, Urban Issues, Telecommunications, and Faith-based Community Development. Mobile workshops will go into the local community for first-hand experiences in community development." (Community Development Society)

For info: <http://www.cds2003.org/>

Saturday, July 26, 2003

"Bike Summer Greenway Ride"

The Bronx River Alliance offers another Saturday outdoor excursion, this time consisting of a bike trip up and down the Bronx River Greenway.

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Meet at Concrete Plant Park

Registration & Questions: Call Resa Dimino, Bronx River Greenway Coordinator, at 718.430.4648

Friday, August 22 through Sunday, August 24, 2003

"Vermont Alternative Energy Festival"

Randolph Center, VT

A three-day festival complete with alternative energy exhibits and vendors, live music and speakers.

Location: Neibling Farm, Randolph Center, VT

Tickets and Information: <http://www.pondapalooza.com/>

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.

