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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER  
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\*\*\* November 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.nyu.edu/icis)

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WEB FEATURE OF THE MONTH: "MIT OpenCourseWare: Urban Studies and Planning"

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS  
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ENERGY

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"Energy Bill Blocked in Senate, At Least for Now"  
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A vote in the Senate on November 21st collected enough votes to block the Bush administration's energy bill... at least for the time being.

Ichniowski, Tom. "Energy Bill Blocked in Senate, At Least for Now." McGraw Hill Construction, enr.construction.com. November 21 2003. 1 December 2003.  
<http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20031121b.asp>

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"Germany Starts Historic Nuclear-Power Shutdown as First Plant Switches Off"  
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Germany began closing one of eighteen nuclear power plants, commencing a new plan to shift the country's energy supply permanently away from nuclear energy over the next two decades.

Associated Press. "Germany Starts Historic Nuclear-Power Shutdown as First Plant Switches

Off." PlanetSave.com. November 14 2003. 30 November 2003.  
<http://www.planetsave.com/ViewStory.asp?ID=4486>

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"U.S. Wants a Smarter Grid to Avoid Another Blackout"  
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Electric transmission experts have been researching a "smarter" electric grid system that utilizes information technology in real time to avoid breakdowns.

Kemezis, Paul. "U.S. Wants a Smarter Grid to Avoid Another Blackout." McGraw Hill Construction, enr.construction.com. November 24 2003. 1 December 2003.  
<http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/200311241.asp>

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"Panel Suggests Gas Tax Rise in New Jersey"  
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New Jersey Governor James McGreevey's transportation commission recently recommended that the state increase its gasoline tax by 12.5 cents or more per gallon, which may spark a political controversy over the matter.

Kocieniewski, David. "Panel Suggests Gas Tax Rise in New Jersey." New York Times. November 25 2003. 30 November 2003.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/25/nyregion/25JERS.html>

TRANSPORTATION

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"Metro's Train Comes In: Rail Plan Approved"  
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Voters approved Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority's \$7.5 billion regional transit plan despite strong opposition forces. The result will change the nature of transportation in Houston, decreasing reliance on cars.

Wall, Lucas. "Metro's Train Comes In: Rail Plan Approved." Houston Chronicle. November 5 2003. 23 November 2003.  
<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/ec/metrorail/2201398>

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"Congestion Charging 6 Months On"  
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Transport for London reviews the impacts of congestion pricing in London 6 months after its launch. Findings include a 30% reduction of traffic delays in the charging zone, less time spent at lower speeds and traffic queues and estimates of traffic and commuter diversion.

Transport for London. "Congestion Charging 6 Months On." Transport for London. October 23 2003. 23 November 2003.  
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/downloads/pdf/congestion-charging/cc-6monthson.pdf>

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"Recycling for Reefs: More than Redbirds"  
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With the retirement of the last Redbird subway cars, Waterwire examines the practice of utilizing subway cars as artificial reefs.

Gaines, Porter-Ann. "Recycling for Reefs: More than Redbirds." Waterwire.net. November 12 2003. 23 November 2003.  
<http://www.waterwire.net/news/fullstory.cfm?ContID=1455>

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"State Promotes Test for Projects"  
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Governor Romney of Massachusetts proposes new criteria to gauge future major transportation projects, including measures of cost-effectiveness, congestion reduction, environment impact and benefit, and the promotion compact development.

Flint, Anthony. "State Promotes Test for Projects." Boston Globe. November 11 2003. 23 November 2003.

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2003/11/11/state\\_promotes\\_test\\_for\\_projects/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2003/11/11/state_promotes_test_for_projects/)

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"Happy Trails"  
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Urban areas are seeing the inclusion of bicycle paths into the city as new transportation corridors, including recent rail-to-trail conversions.

Atkin, Ross. "Happy Trails." Christian Science Monitor. November 19 2003. 23 November 2003.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1119/p11s02-lihc.html>

#### WATER & WASTEWATER

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"Texas Fish on Prozac Pose a Problem"  
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Fluoxetine, the active ingredient in Prozac, has found its way through an area wastewater treatment plant into Lake Lewisville, northwest of Dallas.

Herskovitz, Jon. "Texas Fish on Prozac Pose a Problem." Reuters. ESPN Outdoors. 30 November 2003.

<http://espn.go.com/outdoors/conservation/news/2003/1027/1648110.html>

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"Designers Scramble to Meet Myriad Needs of Utilities"  
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McGraw Hill Construction examines the state of security investments in our nation's water utilities.

Rosta, Paul B. "Designers Scramble to Meet Myriad Needs of Utilities." McGraw Hill Construction, enr.construction.com. December 1 2003. 1 December 2003.

<http://www.construction.com/NewsCenter/Headlines/ENR/20031201d.asp>

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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"Disconnected Urbanism"  
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Paul Goldberger discusses how cell phones have changed our sense of place, intruding into every possible moment and location and creating a disconnect between the urban dweller and their experience of place.

Goldberger, Paul. "Disconnected Urbanism." Metropolis Magazine. November 2003. 23 November 2003.

[http://www.metropolismag.com/html/content\\_1103/obj/index.html](http://www.metropolismag.com/html/content_1103/obj/index.html)

#### GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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First Homeland Security University Center of Excellence Announced: Homeland Security Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events  
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The U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected the University of Southern California (as the lead institution) as the first Homeland Security University Center of Excellence. The new center, housed at USC, is called the Homeland Security Center for Risk and

Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events, and is headed by Professors Randolph Hall (PI) and Detlof von Winterfeldt (co-PI) at USC. University partners with USC are New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service - The Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (Professor Rae Zimmerman), the University of Wisconsin at Madison (Professor Vicki Bier), and individuals at the University of California (Berkeley) and from MIT. The USC team was selected from 72 applications.

U.S. DHS release <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2387>  
NYU-Wagner School Release <http://www.nyu.edu/publicaffairs/>  
<http://www.nyu.edu/wagner/news/146.html>

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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"The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Hearing on Financing Port Infrastructure - Who Should Pay?"  
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The House of Representatives Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee held a November 20, 2003 hearing to discuss financing for port infrastructure projects, and assess whether changes will be needed to adequately support future needs. Testimony transcriptions include: U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), U.S. Rep. Doug Ose (R-CA), Jean C. Godwin (Executive Vice President and General Counsel, American Association of Port Authorities), Robin Lanier (Executive Director, Waterfront Coalition) and Christopher Koch (President and CEO, World Shipping Council).

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"Housing: Shipping Containers Show Promise for Living Space"  
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In response to the tens of thousands of empty shipping containers crowding seaports across the United States, Fox & Fowle Architects is developing a unique housing project based on shipping containers as building materials. The result is a new approach to an urban mixed-use community.

Angelo, William J. "Shipping Containers Show Promise for Living Space." McGraw-Hill Construction Engineering News-Record. November 17 2003. 23 November 2003.  
<http://www.enr.com/news/buildings/archives/031117.asp>

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
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Wednesday, December 3, 2003

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"Green Infrastructure, Audio Conference Training Series"  
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Web Conference

Presented by the American Planning Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, this audio conference series addresses the value of parks and greenery to environmental planning. Panelists include Mark A. Benedict (Senior Associate, Strategic Conservation, The Conservation Fund), Peggy Harwood (National Program Manager, USDA Forest Service - Urban & Community Forestry), Megan Lewis, AICP (Senior Research Associate, American Planning Association), Jack Scholl, AICP (Senior Principle, Environmental Planning & Design, LLC), and moderator Stuart Meck, FAICP (Senior Research Fellow, American Planning Association). (APA)

Time: 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. E.T.  
For more information: <http://www.planning.org/audioconference/>

Sunday, December 7 through Tuesday, December 9, 2003

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"Transit Initiatives and Communities: Lessons Learned"  
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Tempe, AZ

The Center for Transportation Excellence in Tempe, AZ hosts a conference that aims to equip local groups with the tools to bring transit initiatives to their communities. Sessions include "Developing a Winning Message," "Tactics and Strategies," "Marketing and Media," "Raising funds," "Recent Case Studies," and "Campaign Planning." (Center for Transportation Excellence)

For more information: [www.cfte.org/events.asp](http://www.cfte.org/events.asp)

Tuesday, December 9 through Friday, December 12, 2003

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"Ground Water in Coastal Zones:  
Availability, Sustainability and Protection"  
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Orlando, FL

The Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, a division of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), presents their annual conference examining issues of groundwater health in coastal zones.

Phone: 800-551-7379, ex. 554  
e-mail: [ctreyens@ngwa.org](mailto:ctreyens@ngwa.org)  
For more information: [www.ngwa.org/pdf/AGWSEbrochure.pdf](http://www.ngwa.org/pdf/AGWSEbrochure.pdf)

Through Monday, January 19, 2004

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"BIG & GREEN: Toward Sustainable Architecture in the 21st Century"  
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New York City, NY

The Museum of the City of New York hosts this fascinating exhibit examining leading designs on "green" skyscrapers and megastructures, built to consume less energy and utilize renewable materials and resources.

For more information: <http://www.mcny.org/Exhibitions/BigGreen/Bigngreen.htm>

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2004  
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Monday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, 2004

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"Security Threats in a Networked World:  
New Technologies, New Challenges"  
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Chatham House, London SW1

A conference organized by The Royal Institute of International Affairs in association with the UK Cabinet Office, Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

Web: <http://www.riia.org>  
Phone: Conference Unit on +44 (0) 20 7957 5754  
e-mail: [conferences@riia.org](mailto:conferences@riia.org)  
Mail: The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, UK

Monday, March 29 and Tuesday, March 30, 2004

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"The 3rd Annual New Roofs for a New Century International Conference"  
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New York, NY

The 3rd Annual New Roofs for a New Century International Conference (NRNC) kicks off in New York City.

e-mail: [EBANYS@aol.com](mailto:EBANYS@aol.com)

Web: <http://www.eba-nys.org/>

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WEB FEATURE OF THE MONTH

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"MIT OpenCourseWare: Urban Studies and Planning"  
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MIT OpenCourseWare offers free MIT Urban Studies and Planning course materials to the public. Over 30 courses are featured in Urban Studies and Planning, from "Sustainable Energy" to "Urban Transportation Planning." No registration is required.  
Source: <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Urban-Studies-and-Planning/index.htm>

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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](mailto:icis@nyu.edu).

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