

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

A weekly information bulletin for members of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association

Phone: 860-529-6855

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GOVERNOR MALLOY PROPOSED a 30-year, \$100 b. transportation program this week, entitled [Let's Go CT](#), which includes a \$10 b. investment in state and federal funds over the next five years, but also focuses heavily on designing projects during those years. The administration said the initiative almost certainly would require additional revenues, considering the state's Special Transportation Fund is otherwise headed for a deficit in two years and insolvency in four. This [article](#) in *CT Mirror* provides a good summary and analysis of the proposal. Projects included in the plan are: planned upgrades for Metro-North, Shoreline East and Hartford commuter rail lines, including station renovations and new parking; replacement of the elevated section of I-84 in Hartford; widening various sections of I-95 in New London and Fairfield counties; restructuring key highway junctions, such as I-91 at the Charter Oak Bridge and the Waterbury Mixmaster; repairing the Gold Star Memorial Bridge between New London and Groton; and redesigning Route 9 in Middletown.

CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY could grow at a rate of 8.1 percent this year, according to a [report](#) released Wednesday by University of Connecticut economists, who describe the prediction as both "stunning" and "dubious." The Connecticut Center of Economic Analysis released its study this week hours before Governor Malloy presented his two-year budget proposal. The report, titled "Will Connecticut Thrive in an Uncertain World?: Exchange Volatility, Shifting Labor Markets, and Collapsing Oil Prices," was written by the center's Forecasting and Analysis Group.

CCIA TESTIFIED THIS WEEK before the Committee on Public Safety and Security in opposition to [H.B. 6494](#), An Act Establishing a Complaint Procedure for Property Owners When Blasting Causes Damages. CCIA President Don Shubert stated in his [testimony](#) that there is no need to create complaint procedures when there is already a simple procedure contained in current state blasting and explosives regulations. Additionally, there is no need to amend the existing regulations to address modern blasting techniques because the current regulations are stronger than many other states and blasting is conducted in accordance with nationally-accepted practices.

CCIA AND AGC/CT SUBMITTED [testimony](#) to the Committee on Labor and Public Employees expressing concern about [S.B. 383](#), An Act Concerning Workforce Participation Thresholds for Public Works Contracts. The bill would require any contractor who is a party to certain public works contracts to include in the affirmative action plan the employment of a workforce that is at least 25 percent minority, 25 percent state resident, and 6.9 percent women. The testimony pointed out that the percentage thresholds for minorities, state residents, and women appear to be unsubstantiated and that they could act as a barrier for Connecticut contractors who would be unable to meet the thresholds from pursuing public work.

CONNDOT COMMISSIONER James Redeker cautioned lawmakers against replacing Metro-North Railroad as the

operator of the New Haven line last week, according to a [report](#) on the *Fox Business* website. Republican State Senators Toni Boucher of Wilton and Tony Hwang of Fairfield recently introduced legislation that would force ConnDOT to put the contract out for competitive bids, but Redeker has said that replacing Metro-North isn't practical as the company employs conductors, engineers, track maintainers, electricians, supervisors, and senior managers to oversee operations, and he doubts that another company would have the staffing and technical skills to take over.

DANBURY MAYOR Mark Boughton said the city's mall could suffer under the governor's plan for transportation improvements, which he believes will include reinstating tolls and a possible widening of I-84. Boughton told [Hearst Connecticut Media](#) that adding toll stations on Danbury's border with New York would deter mall customers and that while widening I-84 near the city would be positive, he can't see how such a project would be funded. "The widening of 84 is a multi-billion dollar proposition, just from Exit 3 to Exit 8," Boughton said. "Given how state government moves, all of us will be long gone before you see that road widened."

THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE Services (DAS) recently announced its New Statewide Minor Capital Projects Program on its [website](#). The web page provides an overview of the selection process for companies that wish to be pre-selected to bid on small DAS projects valued between \$500,000 and \$1.5 m. Contractors would be pre-selected to bid in the following classifications of work: Electrical; Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems; General Building Construction; General Trades; HVAC; Masonry; Roofing; Sewer and Water Lines; and Sitework.

THE MALLOY ADMINISTRATION is looking to open up job and housing opportunities for ex-convicts, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal*. However, nonprofit advocates and some employers see a number of obstacles that prevent many "re-entrants" from landing good jobs, including the "check-the-box" for a criminal

record section on job applications, a state ban on ex-cons from being licensed as barbers or working in daycare centers, racism, and public stigma against re-entrants due to safety concerns. The governor's proposals call for reclassifying certain nonviolent offenses as misdemeanors, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession, and expanding a post-prison employment program providing ex-convicts vocational skills training and adult basic education.

GROTON IS CONSIDERING building one new middle school and renovating the town's two existing middle schools into elementary schools as a part of a plan to deal with its aging schools, create racial balance in the district, and make it more competitive with other school districts, according to an [article](#) in *The Day*. The total cost would be about \$164.4 m. Assuming the town would receive the maximum reimbursement from the state, Groton would be responsible for \$69.6 m. of the cost. If the plan is approved by voters at referendum, work on the new middle school would begin in March 2017 and be completed two years later. Renovations on the two existing schools would be scheduled to start in 2019 and be finished in 2020.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS, of February 18, 2015: Project No. 0170-2876, State Bridge Program: List 21 Culvert Rehabilitation/Replacement Bridge Nos. 06716, 06717, 06699 (Southbury, Weston): Dayton Construction Company, Inc.: \$3,325,006.10; Guerrero Construction Co., Inc.: \$3,596,581.40; New England Infrastructure, Inc.: \$4,932,939.50. Project No. 0171-0381, Accessible Pedestrian Signal Upgrades In District 1: Electrical Contractors, Inc.: \$991,770.20; The NY CONN Corp.: \$1,024,445.65; Paramount Construction LLC: \$1,204,935.65. Project No. 0083-0261, Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00145 Interstate 95 over Wepawaug River, Milford. This Contract is a 100% Set-Aside Contract. NJR Construction, LLC: \$797,172.50; Dayton Construction Company, Inc.: \$877,282.00; PJF Construction Corporation: \$1,186,601.95. Project No. 0042-0320, Pavement Preservation on CT Route 15, Town of East Hartford: American Industries, Inc.: \$3,250,000.00; Tilcon Connecticut, Inc.: \$3,846,971.65; Empire Paving, Inc.: \$3,894,407.40.

JOHN LARSON, Joe Courtney, and Elizabeth Esty were among a coalition of 72 Members of Congress who signed on to a [letter](#) to House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi that said Congress must stop "kicking the can down the road" on surface transportation and pass a long-term reauthorization bill. "In the last decade, there have been nine short-term extensions of highway and transit programs," the lawmakers wrote. "This kind of uncertainty impedes economic growth and makes it difficult for our country to fulfill its competitive potential."

U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION Anthony Foxx told House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee members last week that the country needs a

long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill, according to an ARTBA [release](#). He also outlined the aspects of the Administration's six-year \$478 b. "GROW America" reauthorization proposal which would be paid for by a one-time repatriation tax. Committee members generally agreed with Foxx about the need for a long term bill, with Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) terming reauthorization the "top priority" of the committee. Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) was skeptical of the mechanism proposed by the Administration to fund its GROW America proposal cautioning that it likely would not be approved by the current Congress.

OSHA HAS WINTER weather resources available to help employers protect outdoor workers exposed to [hazards from the cold](#), such as frostbite and hypothermia. OSHA's [Cold Stress QuickCard](#), now [available in Spanish](#), explains how to protect workers from these life-threatening hazards.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG (CBYD) is hosting two contractor breakfasts to help prepare for the upcoming excavation season. These sessions will cover CBYD Best Practices, safety hazards related to specific utilities, what to do if you damage a utility facility, and CBYD laws and enforcement process. Both events are free of charge. The first breakfast will be held on Feb. 27, 2015 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, and the second will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Orange. Both programs begin at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited, and [registration](#) is required.

ALL CCIA MEMBERS are invited to attend The Joint Dinner of the Design and Construction Industry on Thurs., Feb. 26, 2015 at The Aqua Turf in Plantsville, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. CCIA and its divisions are co-sponsors of this annual event which draws participants from all sectors of the Connecticut design and construction industries. [Registration](#) is being coordinated by AIA Connecticut.

THE FIRST TWO UNITS of AGC of America's BIM Education Series will be offered this spring at CCIA in Wethersfield. [Unit 1, BIM 101](#) is scheduled for Wed., March 25, 2015 and will be instructed by Michael Choquette of Skanska Building USA. [Unit 2, BIM Technology](#) is scheduled for Fri., April 2, 2015 and will be instructed to Joseph Ferrucci, F+F Mechanical Enterprises.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, February 20, 2015: 1) [BIM Unit 1, 3/25/2015](#); 2) [BIM Unit 2, 4/2/2015](#); 3) [CCIA Safety Seminars 2015](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On February 20, 1962, John Glenn made space history aboard the *Friendship 7 Mercury* capsule when he orbited the world three times in 4 hours, 55 minutes. He was the first American to orbit the Earth. Charlie Chaplin once entered a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest and didn't even make the finals... as did Dolly Parton in a Dolly Parton look-alike contest. There is a town in Norway called Hell, and it freezes over almost every winter.