

# 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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**CCIA WELCOMES NEW MEMBER: Garf Trucking Inc.**, a women-owned small business that manufactures and delivers state approved earth materials for commercial and residential use, is a CCIA Associate Member. Address: 462 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT 06095. Contact: Nancy Garthwaite, e-mail: [garftrkg@gmail.com](mailto:garftrkg@gmail.com); phone: 860-558-8487, [www.garftrucking.com](http://www.garftrucking.com).

## GOVERNOR MALLOY RENEWED

his push to support Connecticut's transportation program in 2018, urging legislators this week to resist the traditional election-year approach of dodging controversial topics, [according](#) to *CT Mirror*. Legislators "refused to discuss it (transportation) in non-election years. Give me a break," Malloy told reporters while outlining new transportation projects at the CT fastrak station on Main Street in New Britain. The governor, who must recommend adjustments to the 2018-19 state budget when the next regular General Assembly session starts on Feb. 7, has not disclosed any specifics to date. But Malloy clearly has laid down the challenge for a robust transportation debate in his final year in office.

**A TRANSPORTATION FORUM**, featuring presentations by Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates, will be held Jan. 19, 2017 at the Aqua Turf. As with the first Transportation Forum with Republican Gubernatorial Candidates held on December 15, CCIA is hosting the event with a broad group of transportation advocates. This is our opportunity to make sure the candidates understand the importance of investing in transportation. Registration and breakfast begin at 8 am. Attendance is free; [registration](#) is required. Please bring your industry colleagues.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (DAS)** has released its list of agency [proposals](#) for the 2018 legislative session. Agency proposals must be approved by the Office of Policy Management (OPM) in order for them to be introduced by the governor. Included in DAS's proposals are several technical modifications to the state Building and Fire Code. The agency also proposes to change the definition of "small contractor" to a Connecticut-based business that is certified as a small business by the federal Small Business Administration. The proposal also changes the term "update bid statement" to "update statement" and gives project owners the discretion to allow bidders to cure an inadvertent failure to submit their prequalification certificate and update statement with the bid documents.

**DAS WILL PROPOSE IN THE NEXT** legislative session to allow it and the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) "greater control over the selection of subcontractors and by allowing CMR's, with DAS approval, to self-perform some of the work." The [proposal](#) states, "All work

not performed by the construction manager at risk shall be performed by trade subcontractors selected by a process approved by the commissioner. The construction manager at risk contract shall have a guaranteed maximum price for the cost of construction that shall be determined not later than ninety (90) days after the selection of the trade subcontractors. Construction shall not begin prior to the determination of the maximum guaranteed price, except for the project elements of site preparation and demolition."

**AMONG CONNDOT'S AGENCY** Proposals for consideration in the next legislative session are [proposals](#) to enhance the department's ability to utilize Public-Private Partnerships (P3's) and to allow a pilot program for automated speed enforcement at highway work zones. The work zone speed enforcement program would compare two or more locations and report back on speeds, near misses, etc. The P3 section of the proposal is meant to remove and change restrictive requirements that are seen by the department as impediments to its ability to take advantage of P3's, such as the limited definition of "project," 25 percent state participation requirement, and the inability to finance with availability payments.

**PROJECTS IN ELEVEN** Connecticut towns and cities that support transit-oriented development and boost economic activity will receive funding, according to a [report](#) by WFSB. The \$15 m. from the Connecticut Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program, administered by the Office of Policy and Management, will support: Planning for Storm-Water Management and Village Center Redevelopment in Warehouse Point (\$123,800, East Windsor); Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan (\$239,050, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments); and Main Street Transit-Oriented Development Implementation, Phase II (\$1.8 m., Windsor Locks), among other projects.

**GOVERNOR MALLOY** last week [announced](#) that more than \$31 m. in state funding is being awarded to support the development of affordable housing projects in ten communities across Connecticut. These awards will help to create, rehabilitate, or preserve nearly 600 units of affordable housing for both the rental and homeownership markets. Projects include 86 units in Norwalk for \$4 m., 48 units in Suffield for \$6.4 m., 128 units in New London for \$4.2 m., and 186 units in Trumbull for \$5.2 m.

**CONNECTICUT WAS THE** only northeast state to see a decline in workplace fatalities last year, [according](#) to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, as [reported](#) in the *Danbury NewsTimes*. The state registered the lowest incidence rate in the nation of people perishing as a result of injuries sustained on the job. In 2016, 28 Connecticut workers lost their lives while on the job, whether in the workplace, traveling in the course of work, or as a result of incurring injuries or ailments resulting in their later deaths. That amounted to 16 fewer workplace deaths than in 2015, a 36 percent decline that put Connecticut among 11 states to see an improvement in job mortality.

**THE EDITORIAL WRITER** for the *Greenwich Times*, Michael J. Daly, wrote an [editorial](#) last week, the headline of which read: "Get with it Connecticut, it's time for tolls." He argued, "The tolling system of 2017 is not your grandfather's – or your father's, for that matter – tolling system. It's time for Connecticut to get with it on tolls. Electronic tolling is painless and it can be set up so that Connecticut drivers get a deep discount, as other states do their residents. Connecticut needs money and this is a painless way to generate it."

**CONNDOT BID RESULTS** for December 20, 2017: There were no bid results this week. The next scheduled bid letting is January 10, 2018.

**SOUTH WINDSOR HAS APPROVED** a \$30 m. luxury retirement community on Buckland Road at Evergreen Walk, the *Hartford Business Journal* [reports](#). The town's Planning & Zoning Commission awarded its first-ever special exception for the independent living project dubbed "Evergreen Crossing Retirement Community." The project will be built on eight acres and feature 128 one to three-bedroom rentable apartments.

**NEW ENGLAND** is one of the costliest places to run a business, at least in terms of employee wages and benefits, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as it was [reported](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal* this week. Total compensation costs among private industry employers in the six New England states averaged \$40.74 per hour in September, compared to \$38.92 per hour a year earlier. Wages and salaries accounted for 70.2 percent of total compensation costs (or \$28.60 per hour), while benefits accounted for 29.8 percent of costs (or \$12.14 per hour).

**WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES** are in various stages of implementing BIM standards and mandates for those contractors that want to do business with their governments, a U.S. BIM standard won't materialize, at least for the foreseeable future, according to an [article](#) in Construction Dive. Roger Grant, program director for the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) said, "There isn't a prescribed structure for [a common set of government practices]. We don't have one agency responsible for all construction like the U.K." Grant said it's a challenge to get alignment between agencies and industries that have their own ways of operating.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP'S** chief economic advisor Gary Cohn said recently that infrastructure and welfare reform are the Trump Administration's top goals for 2018, [according](#) to ARTBA's *Newsline*. He did not offer new details about the infrastructure plan, but repeated the administration's familiar goal of using \$200 m. of federal money to leverage \$1 trillion of investment over the next decade. He emphasized the administration's ongoing effort to streamline the infrastructure project approval process, and that the nation needs to use technology to modernize its transportation system.

**THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS** for the District of Columbia Circuit last week upheld OSHA's rule on exposure to crystalline silica, [according](#) to ARTBA's *Newsline*. The rule took effect on Sept. 25. National construction industry organizations, including ARTBA and AGC, challenged the rule on both economic and scientific grounds; however, the court sided with OSHA. It wrote: "Industry's insistence that compliance is infeasible for some firms in some operations some of the time cannot upend our deference to OSHA's well-supported finding that compliance is feasible for the typical firm in most operations." The court also noted that OSHA was not required to provide "hard and precise estimates of costs" for the rule.

**AGC OF AMERICA** will host a WebEd on [How the Construction Industry Will Perform in 2018](#) on Wed., Jan. 3, 2018 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. During the WebEd, AGC CEO Steve Sandherr and chief economist Ken Simonson will release the national and state construction hiring and business forecasts for 2018, which are based on a comprehensive survey of construction firms nationwide. They will explain the forecasts' significance for broader economic and employment growth for 2018. The WebEd is free to AGC members; \$49 for non-members. Registration is required.

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**FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS**, 12/29/17: 1) [CCIA January Calendar](#); 2) [OSHA 30-Hour](#), January 2018; 3) [Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Transportation Forum](#), 1/19; 4) [CPR/First Aid & AED 2/23](#).

**FROM THE INTERNET:** On December 29, 1949, KC2XAK of Bridgeport, CT became the first ultrahigh frequency (UHF) television station to begin operating on a regular daily schedule. The Gregorian calendar, which marks January 1 as the new year, was adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in 1582. Auld Lang Syne was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. The words mean "times gone by."