

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'S ANNUAL MEETING & Holiday Reception, is next Wed., Dec. 7, 2016, at the Aqua Turf Club, Kay's Pier North. Doors open at 4:45 pm, the Annual Meeting begins at 5:00 pm with presentations of the CCIA Community Service Awards and Safety Recognition Awards and is followed by the Holiday Reception featuring a variety of food stations, hors d'oeuvres, assorted desserts, coffee, tea and open bar. Register today by contacting Carol, chall@ctconstruction.org. Details are available at this [link](#). Thank you to the 2016 Program Sponsors.

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AT A CCIA-ORGANIZED press conference this week, U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy expressed cautious optimism about President-elect Donald Trump's proposal to spend \$1 trillion on improving America's roads, bridges, and transportation systems, according to an [article](#) in *CT New Junkie*. Blumenthal said there's immense potential in terms of construction projects being a key to our economy, but warned that the way Trump's plan to pay for them will be a "Trojan horse for tax breaks and giveaways to investors who simply get those tax credits to invest in project they're already doing." Additional coverage of the press conference may be found in this [report](#) on NBC CT, in this *Hartford Courant* [article](#), and in this [article](#) in *CT Mirror*.

CONGRESSWOMAN ROSA DeLauro agrees with President-Elect Trump that we need to make substantial investments in rebuilding and expanding our infrastructure, and she believes the best way to pursue a clear, comprehensive infrastructure policy is to establish a National Infrastructure Bank, according to a [commentary](#) in *CT Mirror*. "The National Infrastructure Development Bank," she wrote, "would leverage private dollars from institutional investors, such as pension funds, to supplement current funding. It would provide loans and loan guarantees to projects, and issue Public Benefit Bonds with proceeds to fund projects. Many organizations, from labor unions to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have endorsed some form of an infrastructure bank."

U.S. REP. BILL SHUSTER (R-PA), chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that he is awaiting discussions with President-elect Trump's representatives and hopes a bipartisan plan to finance infrastructure recovery will emerge, according to an [article](#) in *The Washington Post*. The plan Trump presented during the campaign is built around private investment, but few analysts think that will generate the cash needed to meet his \$1 trillion target. "When we sit down with the administration and our [congressional] leadership we'll

devise a plan that I think will encompass many different [funding] options," Shuster said.

A TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BOOST included in a short-term spending bill is being urged by top Democrats on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, according to [The Hill](#). In a letter to top Senate and House Leaders Monday, the lawmakers called for any continuing resolution (CR) to reflect the increased investments for highway, highway safety and public transit that were provided in a surface transportation bill in December 2015. Under the FAST Act, Highway Trust Fund spending on transportation was to increase by \$2.4 billion in fiscal 2017, but the CR that passed in September continued funding at current spending levels.

DONALD TRUMP'S CHOICE OF ELAINE CHAO for U.S. DOT Secretary has received the approval of ARTBA President and CEO Pete Ruane. "As a former deputy secretary of transportation and secretary of labor in the respective Bush Administrations, there will be little learning curve for Elaine Chao," Ruane said in a [statement](#). "She is already well-versed on federal transportation policy, regulatory and safety matters. We look forward to her playing a critical leadership role in fulfilling President-elect Trump's campaign pledge to make major new strategic investments in America's transportation infrastructure network."

INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS is as important as investment in roads and bridges, according to 83 percent of respondents in a new [AIA survey](#). They also regard public buildings as belonging to the community's infrastructure, and seven in ten Americans want their public buildings renovated. Ninety-four percent of those surveyed said that well-maintained public buildings are important to the future of their community.

DESPITE CONNECTICUT'S SLUGGISH economic recovery and relatively higher cost of operating, opportunities for the state's construction industry exist, according to an [article](#) written by Luke Ebersold of Blum

Shapiro in the *Hartford Business Journal*. Given the level of competition that exists in the construction industry, companies should concentrate on making the right technological and equipment upgrades. "Operating a modern, state-of-the-art construction business means operating with more efficiency and innovation than ever before, and those companies that make these investments will have the best opportunities to succeed," Ebersold said.

DEEP HAS SELECTED 25 projects, including 11 in Connecticut, to move forward in a program designed to bring more clean energy into the power pool serving Connecticut and New England, according to an [article](#) in the *New Haven Register*. The projects were selected from more than 100 submissions sent to the agency in a response to a request for proposals. Two of the projects selected to advance to the next step in the process are in North Haven and Wallingford, according to DEEP officials. Details regarding the exact location of the projects and which companies are behind them is not being made available at this time. Dennis Schain, a DEEP spokesman, said that information "is considered business confidential."

BY 2024, NEARLY ONE IN FOUR people in the labor force are projected to be age 55 and over, according to a recent U.S. DOL [blog](#). This is a big change from 1994 when people ages 55 and older represented only 11.9% of the labor force. There are two reasons for this trend. The first is an aging population: baby boomers are moving into older age groups (by 2024, the youngest will be 59 years old). The second reason is that older people are remaining in the labor force longer than those from previous generations. The rest of the blog offers reasons why older workers are choosing to remain in the workforce.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of November 23, 2016: Project No. 0174-0395, District 4 Headquarters, Thomaston, and Norfolk Maintenance Facilities Tank Replacement: SRS Petroleum Services Corp.: \$1,476,380.00; Connecticut Tank Removal, Inc.: \$1,883,564.00; Banton Construction Co., Inc.: \$2,003,725.00. Project No. 0126-0170, Commodore Hull Bridge Painting and Steel Repairs (Derby, Shelton): Atsalis Brothers Painting Co., Inc.: \$23,796,420.56; Allied Painting, Inc.: \$25,874,373.65; Blastech Enterprises, Inc.: \$25,938,316.48. Project No. 0158-0211, Route 15 Safety Improvements, Resurfacing, Enhancements and Bridge Improvements & Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00728 Merritt Parkway Over Saugatuck River (Westport): Manafort Brothers, Inc.: \$56,712,000; O&G Industries Inc.: \$57,230,988.88; Waters Construction Co., Inc.: \$61,587,059.20.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of November 30, 2016: Project No. 0172-0446, Beam End Repairs and Bearing Replacement for Bridges in District 2: The Hartland Building & Restoration Co. \$5,771,536.00; Abhe & Svoboda, Inc. \$6,121,345.10; New England Road, Inc. \$6,689,136.00. Project No. 0131-0205, Southington

Maintenance Facility Renovation: Banton Construction Co., Inc. \$6,780,040.00; LaRosa Building Group LLC \$6,917,922.67; Nosal Builders Inc. \$7,174,198.30. Project No. 0035-0194, Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00047 Old King's Highway North over I-95: New England Road, Inc. \$4,540,536.50; C.J. Fucci Inc. \$4,569,977.95; Rotha Contracting Co., Inc. \$4,751,640.30. Project No. 0172-0447-R1, Beam End Repairs and Bearing Replacement for Bridges in District 2: New England Road, Inc. \$2,929,759.00; Rotha Contracting Co., Inc. \$3,032,106.00; Abhe & Svoboda, Inc. \$3,694,951.60.

POTENTIAL "BUY AMERICA" provisions in President-elect Donald Trump's \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal could spell trouble for exporters of Canadian construction materials to the U.S., [according](#) to *Global News*. Both Republicans and Democrats have expressed a desire to impose mandates regarding domestic sourcing of materials, which is seen by many as way to win public approval for any potential infrastructure spending legislation.

THE OSHA 30 HOUR program will once again be offered by CCIA in 2017. The [course](#) is scheduled for four Thursdays in January: January 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:30 am to 4:15 pm, at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill. Faculty for this special program are employed by major construction firms in Connecticut, OSHA, and safety consulting firms. Registration deadline is Fri., Dec. 16, so register today.

OSHA HAS ISSUED [final revised rules](#) for its walking-working surfaces and fall protection standards, a change the agency estimated will affect 112 million workers at 7 million job sites. The agency said the biggest change is that employers will be able to choose from a variety of general and personal fall protection systems. The new rule will also resolve inconsistencies between OSHA's general and construction industry standards. OSHA predicted the rule, which goes into effect Jan. 17, 2017, will allow the industry to avoid at least 29 fatalities and more than 5,800 injuries.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN [HIGHLIGHTS](#), 12/2/16: 1) [CCIA December Calendar](#); 2) [2016 CCIA Annual Meeting & Holiday Reception 12/7](#); 3) [YCF Annual Holiday Membership Meeting 12/15](#); 4) [2017 CPR/First Aid & OSHA 10 Hour Classes](#); 5) [OSHA 30 Hour Course, January 2017](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On December 2, 1942, Dr. Enrico Fermi and his staff at the University of Chicago demonstrated the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. The United States is an older country than Germany. India's "Go Air" airline only hires female flight attendants because they are lighter, so they save up to US\$500,000 per year in fuel. The most common color for highlighters is yellow because it doesn't leave a shadow on the page when photocopied. After working out, it takes 5 hours for your body temperature to return to normal.