

# CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

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

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**WITH JUST TWO WEEKS LEFT** in the 2016-17 fiscal year, and a \$2.3 b. deficit looming after that, the gridlock surrounding the state budget will have significant repercussions, according to an [article](#) in *CT Mirror*. Gov. Malloy has warned legislators not to force him to run the state without a new budget as he will be required to sharply reduce spending across a wide spectrum of state programs. Without a budget, CT state law allows state government to continue to operate, but that spending would be restricted to that which is “necessary to the essential operations of state government.” In such a scenario, it will be up to the governor to determine what are “essential operations.”

**FARMINGTON VOTERS** this week rejected a plan for \$135 m. in renovations to the town’s high school, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Courant*. The proposal was shot down by a vote of 2,411 to 5,029, reflecting an overall trend of a 2:1 rejection at every polling station in town. Just over 40 percent of registered voters in Farmington cast ballots, making the turnout the highest for a referendum since 1995. At Farmington Town Hall Thursday night, Town Council Chair Nancy Nickerson described the results as “disappointing” and “a missed opportunity.” Nickerson attributed the rejection, in part, to the uncertainty surrounding the state budget.

**EVERSOURCE HAS BEGUN** work on a multi-phase project that will improve the reliability of the company’s natural gas customers in Wallingford, according to an [article](#) in the *New Haven Register*. The company will spend \$14 m. this year on the first phase of a 17-mile long project that ultimately will link existing gas stations in Wallingford and Middletown. The first phase of the project involves installation of 5.6 miles of line from Wallingford east along Route 68 to the Durham line. Work on that phase is expected to be completed by the end of November.

**CAPITAL CITY YOUTHBUILD**, a federally-funded program to provide technical training for city youth living in poverty, was featured in an [article](#) this week in the *Hartford Courant*. After a year, applicants receive full certification in construction, food service, or health care, earning their GED’s along the way. Just under 600 have graduated from the Hartford chapter in its 9 years of existence with an 80 percent job-placement rate. They’ve found jobs as nurses, chefs, and carpenters. Among the graduates, 7 have been accepted into Local 43 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP’S WEEK-LONG** rollout of his long-awaited infrastructure plan last week was thin on details, and what is known of the plan may not be of much help to Connecticut especially since the president’s budget plans to cut federal transportation funds, according to an [article](#) in *CT Mirror*. The administration’s plan is for the federal government to invest \$200 m. in grants and tax breaks to spur another \$800 m. in private investment in

infrastructure. However, CCIA President Don Shubert said, “Connecticut is not ready for public-private partnerships. Investors don’t want to wait 10 to 15 years to invest in a project. They want to make their investments now and Connecticut has nothing that’s ready to go.”

**NEW HAVEN’S SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION** program, an investment of \$1.6 b. to renovate or replace nearly all of its 46 schools over a 20-year period, could offer dramatic lessons for Boston as it embarks on its most expansive school construction program in four decades, according to an [article](#) this week in the *Boston Globe*. The buildings, New Haven officials say, have gone a long way to improving the environments for students and staff, but they caution that the new buildings are not a panacea for improving lackluster student achievement. Construction must go hand in hand with comprehensive school improvement plans.

**CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT** in Connecticut declined in May from the previous month, as the CT DOL [posted](#) on its website that there were 600 fewer construction workers in May than there were in April (61,100 vs. 61,700, a 1 percent decrease). Construction employment on a year-to-year basis, however, is up by 3.4 percent overall as there were 59,100 construction jobs in May 2016 compared to 61,100 in May 2017.

**THE MDC ANNOUNCED** the name of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel (SHCST) project this week, part of a naming contest held at the Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker in Hartford, according to a [press release](#). Sixth grader Cylese Diaz submitted the name “Iris,” citing that the name originated from the Greek definition of the word “rainbow,” and from the Greek goddess who personified the rainbow. Diaz wrote that the tunnel will allow everyone to enjoy the “rainbow, which appears after the storm” as its function is to collect stormwater and wastewater during rain events.

**EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION** in New England is among the highest in the country for employers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as cited in an

[article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal* this week. Total compensation costs among private industry employers in the six New England states averaged \$40.10 per hour in March, compared with the last report of \$39.11 per hour in June of 2016. Wages and salaries accounted for 70.4 percent of total compensation costs (or \$28.23 per hour), while benefits accounted for 29.6 percent of costs (\$11.87 per hour).

**A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY** of the House of Representatives, 253 members, signed a June 12 letter urging leaders of the tax-writing Ways & Means Committee to include a long-term Highway Trust Fund (HTF) revenue solution as part of legislation being developed to reform the nation's tax code, according to a [report](#) in ARTBA's *Washington Newsline*. In addition to this level of support far exceeding the 218 votes needed to pass legislation in the House, a majority of each party's membership in the chamber signed the letter, 119 Republicans and 134 Democrats, including Joe Courtney, Jim Himes, and Rosa Delauro from Connecticut. Read the [final Graves-Norton letter](#), including all the signatories, or see the members arranged by [state](#).

**U.S. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY** Elaine Chao [announced](#) the U.S. DOT is seeking public input to identify and reduce regulatory obstacles that stand in the way of completing important infrastructure projects at the closing of "Infrastructure Week" last Friday. "The current process takes far too long," said Secretary Chao. "Today, and all week, we have heard many recommendations from governors, mayors and other state officials who actually build things. A special DOT Task Force has already acted on what we've been hearing and identified dozens of ways to streamline the process." A comment period on the Federal Register notice will be open for 45 days at this [link](#).

**CONNDOT BID RESULTS** for June 14, 2017: [Proposal No. 0056-0307](#), Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 02138 Route 15 over Horseneck Brook (Town of Greenwich): New England Infrastructure, Inc.: \$3,697,979.40; McNamee Construction Corp.: \$6,344,729.40.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP IS** focusing on jobs this week, with a particular focus on workforce development, *Hartford Business Journal* [reports](#). The White House has designated June 12 through 16 "workforce development week" and has filled the president's schedule with workplace visits, speeches, and roundtable discussions on the subject in efforts to fix to a large U.S. problem: job skills. There are 6.8 m. unemployed Americans actively looking for a job and only 450,000 apprentices last year, excluding those in military apprenticeships. Trump's budget proposal allocates \$90 m. for grants to apprenticeships which is the same amount that President Obama allocated last year

**HUD'S OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD** Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) issued guidance on Feb. 17, 2017 setting new dust lead action levels and clearance levels for recipients of their Lead Hazard Control (LHC)

grants. The guidance sets action levels of 10 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> for floors and 100 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> for windows sills. The same levels will serve as clearance levels on these surfaces. In addition, the guidance sets clearance levels of 100 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> for window troughs and 40 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> for porch floors. These levels were effective April 1, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

**THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT** of Transportation has reported that the public-private partnership (P3) constructing the \$1.9 b. Phoenix-area Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway will deliver the project in late 2019, three years ahead of schedule, according to [Equipment World](#). The P3's private component, Connect 202 Partners, which is made up of Fluor Enterprises, Granite Construction, Ames Construction and WSP, restructured the 22-mile project so that the last section could be built all at once instead of as nine separate projects as the state originally planned.

**P3'S ARE GAINING** in popularity especially in light of their relevance to President Trump's expected infrastructure proposal. When executed right, they can be a win-win for both sides; however, a [story](#) in *Construction Dive* observes that unfortunately, a few not-so-stellar P3 stories have emerged, including a report that the Indiana Finance Authority is moving to take over an Interstate 69 highway project that is currently operating under a P3. The report discusses what conditions contribute to an unsuccessful P3, and how they can be avoided.

**OSHA RECENTLY RELEASED** information about the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool. The new app, available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone](#), is a collaborative effort between OSHA and NIOSH to update the OSHA Heat Safety Tool. Since its launch in 2011, more than 450,000 users have downloaded the OSHA Heat Safety Tool. Anyone using the current version of the OSHA Heat Safety Tool is encouraged to download the new OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool. The OSHA Heat Safety Tool will no longer be available for download after Sept. 30, 2017. For more information, see the NIOSH Science Blog post: [Heat Index: When humidity makes it feel hotter](#)

**RESCHEDULED:** The CCIA Safety Roundtable discussion, [New ANSI Standards for Aerial Lifts](#), presented by Tony Groat, International Powered Access Federation (IPAF), previously scheduled for last week, has been re-scheduled to Tues., June 20, 2017, at noon at CCIA, 912 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. The Safety Committee will meet immediately following the roundtable.

**FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS**, 6/16/17: 1) [CCIA June Calendar](#).

**FROM THE INTERNET:** On this day, June 16, 1858, in Springfield, IL, U.S. Senate candidate Abraham Lincoln declared, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." People all over the world are walking 10 percent faster than they did a decade ago. Thirty thousand websites are hacked every day. Joe DiMaggio had more home runs than strikeouts in his career.