

# CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

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

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**CCIA WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER:** **Triax Technologies**, a technology company, is an AGC/CT supplier/service provider member. Contact is Phil Epifano, [phil@triaxtec.com](mailto:phil@triaxtec.com); phone: 203-803-9879; 20 Marshall St., Norwalk, CT 06854.

**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS** said this week that they intend to call a vote on a budget next week with or without a deal with Gov. Malloy and the Senate, according to an [article](#) in *CT Mirror*. The move is expected to force wavering lawmakers to decide between an imperfect spending plan and the “cataclysmically worse” choice of forcing Malloy to slash municipal aid by executive order. The House Democrats do not yet have a budget ready to place before the House, with the governor and Republicans expected to suggest their own revisions and ideas Thursday. House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz said he was approaching “an understanding” with Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney, but had no deal.

**THE TORRINGTON CITY COUNCIL** voted to borrow up to an additional \$20.3 m. for improvements and renovations to the Water Pollution Control Facility this week, bringing the total price tag up to \$72.26 m., [according](#) to the *Register Citizen*. The project will bring the facility into compliance with regulatory requirements for flood protection and the filtration of phosphorus and nitrogen, according to a presentation from WPCA Administrator Ray Drew, Public Works Director Jerry Rollett and Middletown-based engineering firm Wright-Pierce, before the council’s vote.

**TWENTY PERCENT** of the spending from construction-related workers compensation insurance claims filed in 2015 was for opioid prescriptions, double the amount of other industries, according to property casualty insurer CNA, as reported in an [article](#) this week in the *Hartford Business Journal*. The concern about opioids in the construction industry is why CCIA member, C.H. Nickerson, Inc. has been requiring pre-employment and random drug testing of its tradesmen and women since the 1990’s. C.H. Nickerson isn’t alone in its efforts to strengthen its drug-testing program. In fact, drug-testing giant Quest Diagnostics has noted a steady increase in the percentage of tests that detect a greater number of substances.

**CONNDOT’S PROJECT** to rehabilitate the Gold Star Memorial Bridge connecting New London and Groton is on schedule, according to an [article](#) in *The Day*. The \$30 m. project is scheduled to be completed in November 2018, and is intended to preserve the bridge for another 25 years. The project has so far entailed removing asphalt, patching up deteriorating concrete on the deck, structural steel repairs and painting touch-ups. DOT is currently replacing

the bridge joints and continuing to work on structural steel repairs.

**GOVERNOR MALLOY** [announced](#) last week that the CT Department of Labor has recovered a record \$8.9 m. in unpaid wages for Connecticut workers during the fiscal year that ended June 30. This represents an increase of \$1.8 m. from the previous year. Of the recovered total, nearly \$2.4 m. came through DOL’s Division of Wage and Workplace Standards responding to complaints that owed wages had not been paid. More than \$1.9 m. was provided to employees who did not receive the required minimum wage or overtime, DOL said.

**AT CONNECTICUT’S CURRENT** pace of job creation, the state will recover all of the jobs it lost during 2007-2009 recession by early 2019, economist Don Klepper-Smith said this week in an [article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal*. The state has recovered 82 percent of the jobs it lost and has another 21,000 jobs to go. Despite uncertainty caused by the state’s ongoing budget stalemate, Klepper-Smith said Connecticut’s job growth in key areas such as business and professional services and health care is important, and said the state’s “engines of economic growth have performed admirably over the past three years.”

**SIXTEEN NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE** rest stops would be upgraded or replaced as part of a public-private partnership (P3) announced by Gov. Chris Christie this week, according to a [report](#) on the CBS Philly website. “Under the agreement, HMS Host and Sunoco will invest more than \$250 million in capital improvements to the service area buildings and facilities at no cost to the Turnpike Authority, the toll payers or the taxpayers,” Christie said. In return, both companies get 25 year extensions on their leases to operate on both toll roads. Retail areas, restaurants and rest rooms will be overhauled or entirely replaced starting next year. The entire project is expected to take at least seven years to complete.

**A SEVERE SHORTAGE** of construction workers is expected to cause widespread delays and push labor costs sharply higher as Texas begins to rebuild from Hurricane Harvey, [according](#) to the *Wall Street Journal*. And the scarcity of labor could get worse still if Hurricane Irma slams the southeastern U.S. this weekend as expected. In all, 10,000 to 20,000 workers could be needed to rebuild the homes damaged by Harvey alone, or 10 percent to 20 percent of the total number of residential construction

workers in the Houston metropolitan area, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

**AT LAST WEEK'S INFRASTRUCTURE** meeting between the White House and 150 state and local officials, the Trump administration said the coming infrastructure package will be broken into three pieces, according to an [article](#) in *The Hill*. Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, outlined the legislation's likely three major components, starting with an emphasis on providing money for projects that already have some level of local or private funding. The second component will focus on rural areas, and the rest of the money will be funneled towards the "transformative stuff," such as new ways of building roads, tunnels and bridges.

**AGC OF AMERICA** recently announced the launch of the [AGC Diversity & Inclusion Awards](#) program. AGC will present a total of six awards in three award categories: the Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards, the Chapter Diversity & Inclusion Award and the Diverse Business of the Year Award. These awards seek to raise awareness of the value that a diverse workforce and inclusive environment brings to a company by spotlighting diversity and inclusion champions within AGC. By recognizing these diversity and inclusion champions, AGC hopes to inspire other AGC member-companies to engage in activities that will promote diversity and inclusion both within the Association and the industry.

**CONNDOT BID RESULTS** for September 6, 2017: [Proposal No. 0031-0131](#), Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 01338 (West Cornwall Covered Bridge) Carrying Route 128 over Housatonic River: Mohawk Northeast, Inc.: \$1,373,701.00; Northern Construction Service LLC: \$1,453,770.75; Schultz Corporation: \$1,573,959.15.

**OSHA HAS ISSUED** a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) to further extend the employer's responsibility to ensure crane operator competency and enforcement for crane operator certification from Nov. 10, 2017 to Nov. 10, 2018. During this time, OSHA will work to address stakeholder concerns over the operator certification requirements in the 2010 Cranes and Derricks in the Construction standard. AGC will submit comments, due Sept. 29, 2017, in favor of the extension. OSHA's press release can be found [here](#).

**THE FHWA RECENTLY released** its latest National Highway Construction Cost Index, (NHCCI 2.0) a quarterly estimate of the rising cost of domestic highway construction and maintenance over time. It is the first time the Index has been published since the agency made major methodological revisions to improve its accuracy. NHCCI 2.0 is the first major revision since FHWA created this index in 2007, and reflects steadily rising costs of highway construction and repair. Though the data fluctuate slightly each quarter due to a variety of factors, including market conditions, labor supply, materials costs and inflation, the latest figures show that highway construction costs today

have climbed by 67 percent compared to similar costs in 2003.

**CCIA SAFETY RECOGNITION Awards** will be presented at CCIA's Annual Membership Meeting on Wed., Dec. 6, 2017, at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville to member-companies with a qualified construction safety and health program. The awards are designed to help construction companies start a construction safety and health program or enhance an existing program. Additionally, the Platinum Level Award recognizes and rewards construction companies that have met or exceeded national safety statistics. [Applications](#) are due to CCIA by Fri., Oct. 27, 2017, and may be sent to [John Wilhelm](#).

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING** accepted for the 2017 Community Service Awards Program. CCIA recognizes member companies for outstanding contributions made to their communities. Nominations are due by close of business, Fri., Oct. 27, 2017. Please see the attached [program criteria](#) and [nomination form](#) for additional information. If you have any questions, please contact [Alison Kavanaugh](#) at 860 529-6855.

**SPONSORSHIPS OF AGC** of Connecticut's 2017 Industry Recognition Awards program are available. The event will be held on Oct. 12, 2017 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. This year's program theme is "Exceptional Achievement" and we extend special thanks and recognition to Event Sponsor, [Marcum LLP](#). Please use this [registration form](#) to select your choice of sponsorships and register for the program. A final list of nominees will be sent to members shortly. Please contact [John Butts](#) or [John Wilhelm](#) by e-mail or at 860-529-685

**REMINDER:** The 2017 Diggers Mixers Fixers Golf Outing is on Mon., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at The Southington Country Club. Registration and sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you haven't registered your foursome or sponsorship yet, please submit your [registration form](#) as soon as possible or email [Jean Barlage](#).

**THE MINORITY CONTRACTORS** Council will hold their 2017 Construction Expo and Matchmaker on Thurs., Oct. 5, 2017, 8:00 am to 1 pm at ConnDOT Headquarters, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington. Click [here](#) to purchase a ticket, become a sponsor, or become an exhibitor.

**FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS**, 9/8/17: 1) [CCIA September Calendar](#); 2) [2017 Diggers Mixers Fixers Golf Tournament](#), 9/25; 3) [Safety Conference](#), 9/12.

**FROM THE INTERNET:** On September 8, 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who then renamed it New York. If someone in Stamford, CT travels in a straight line north, east, west, or south, the next state they will encounter will be New York. Russia and the U.S. are about 2.5 miles away at their closest point. Basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain never fouled out of a game.