CCIA HIGHLIGHTS of the week

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

Phone: 860-529-6855

CCIA Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Reception – Wednesday, December 4, 2013

November 27, 2013

CCIA WELCOMES NEW MEMBER: United Rentals – Trench Safety Division offers construction equipment rentals for underground construction and excavation and is a CCIA Associate Member. Contact: Nicole Gorman, Sales Representative; phone: 203-343-4483; e-mail: ngorman@ur.com; (new address as of January 2014) 8 Alliance Circle, Beacon Falls, CT 06403.

THE ADOPTION BY REFERENCE of OSHA’S updated construction standard for cranes and derricks was approved by the General Assembly’s Regulation Review Committee this week. Earlier this year, OSHA updated its construction crane and derrick standard to apply to underground construction work and demolition; this regulation complies with Connecticut general statutes which require ConnOSHA to adopt all federal OSHA standards.

THE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE approved this week the adoption by reference of OSHA’s updated Head Protection standard. These regulations reflect OSHA’s recognition of the 2009 edition of the American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection, and the removal of the out-dated 1986 edition of that national consensus standard. OSHA also included the construction industry in the rulemaking to ensure consistency in the standards.

GOVERNOR MALLOY this week announced that the state has awarded, subject to Bond Commission approval, over $18 m. in grants and loans to help fund thirteen affordable housing developments in the state-sponsored housing portfolio. Almost $17 m. will be distributed among four projects in Danbury, Hartford, New London, and Westport. Approximately $1.6 m. will be awarded in predevelopment grants to another nine projects.

THE NORWALK HARBOR DREDGING project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion. A recent article in the Norwalk Citizen reported that approximately 150,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment is being dredged and transported by scows to a designated disposal site in Long Island Sound south of New Haven Harbor. The work is designed to restore the harbor's main navigation channel between Long Island Sound and the Stroffolino Bridge to its congressionally authorized depth of 12 feet at mean low water. The project is being coordinated with the dredging of New Haven Harbor which, together, constitutes one of the largest federal dredging projects in Connecticut in the past 50 years, officials said.
CONNDOT HAS OPENED another comment period on revised plans for the Fastrak bus system between New Britain and Hartford, according to an article in the Record-Journal. Potential additions to the Fastrak system include adding services to Plymouth and Thomaston as well as bolstered service along Routes 10 and 229 in Southington. Local towns hope the state will add more bus routes or more times when buses travel through their towns, as a way to help residents connect to and from the Fastrak system.

ARTBA IS FORECASTING that beyond a modest increase in construction costs nationwide, the overall U.S. transportation infrastructure construction market will grow five percent from $129 b. this year to $135.8 b. in 2014, according to a release by the organization. ARTBA Chief Economist Dr. Alison Premo Black said the market would be led by expected double-digit growth in airport runway and terminal work, a 6 percent increase in bridge and tunnel construction, and 5 percent, or better, growth in total investment in waterways and ports, and heavy and light rail. According to Dr. Black, uncertainty about the level of federal support for state highway programs after next rail. According to Dr. Black, uncertainty about the level of federal support for state highway programs after next December, however, will continue to depress the road pavement market next year.

THE FORMER VETERANS Memorial Coliseum site in New Haven is the target of Montreal-based developer LiveWorkLearnPlay (LWLP) which envisions turning the site into a shopping mecca with year-round activities, according to an on-line article in connect.com. Renderings show several five- to six-story residential buildings with ground floor retail surrounding a “town square” courtyard. Plans to build a hotel, office tower, and residential tower depend on transforming the corner of Orange Street and Route 34 into an urban boulevard, the financing for which the city has submitted an application for $12.5 m. in federal TIGER grant funding.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of Nov. 27, 2013, if any, were not available as of press time.

EPA HAS MADE available $2 m. in funding for rebates to help public and private construction equipment owners replace or retrofit older diesel construction engines, according to a recent press release. Rebates will be offered as part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Since 2008, DERA has awarded more than $500 m. to grantees across the country to retrofit, replace, or repower more than 50,000 vehicles. Public and private construction equipment owners in eligible counties that are facing air quality challenges are encouraged to apply for rebates for the replacement or retrofit of construction equipment engines. EPA will accept applications from Nov. 20, 2013, to Jan. 15, 2014.

THE EPA IS PROPOSING draft guidelines to help federal procurement officials buy greener and safer products. The draft guidelines were developed by EPA, the General Services Administration, and others following several listening sessions with a wide range of stakeholders on how the federal government can be more sustainable in its purchasing and how it can best meet the numerous federal requirements for the procurement of sustainable and environmentally preferable products and services.

CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR) has introduced the Water Protection and Reinvestment Trust Fund Act of 2013 with the support of senior Republicans on the water infrastructure authorizing committees, according to a fact sheet. The bill would establish the Water Protection and Reinvestment Trust Fund, and create a voluntary fee program where businesses that rely on a clean water source could choose to add a 3 cent surcharge per unit to their product that would be deposited in the trust fund. In exchange, those businesses would be allowed to display on the product a medallion or label indicating their commitment to protecting America’s clean water. Eighty-five percent of the money would go to the Clean Water SRF and 15 percent would go to an innovative water financing program to be created based on the TIFIA program.

AN AMENDMENT TO the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2014, S. 1197, would allow prime contractors to count lower-tier small business subcontractors towards their small business goals. The current law only allows prime contractors to count first-tier small business subcontractors towards the goals. This change, which AGC of America strongly supports, will encourage prime contractors to make sure small businesses have opportunities to compete for subcontracts at every tier, thereby allowing more opportunities for small business growth. The House of Representatives previously approved by unanimous consent a similar amendment to its version of the NDAA bill in June.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, November 27, 2013:
1) Ccia Calendar December 2013 2) Ccia Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Reception12/4; 3) Connecticut Transportation Summit 12/12 4) YCF Membership Meeting & Holiday Get-Together 12/12 5) AGC/CT BIM Unit 4 12/13; 6) AGC/CT 2014 Build CT Application Kit - Submission Due by 12/27; 7) ACI – Flatwork Finishers Certification; 8) 2014 ACI Certification Schedule; 9) ACI Grade 1 Field Technician Application.

FROM THE INTERNET: On November 27, 1965, former Hartford Whaler Gordie Howe scored his 600th goal playing for the Detroit Red Wings in a game against the Montreal Canadiens. On the first Thanksgiving in 1621, which lasted for three days, 52 pilgrims were in attendance including John Alden, William Bradford, Priscilla Mullins, and Miles Standish, and approximately 50 Native Americans attended including Massasoit and Squanto, the Pilgrim's translator. The first national celebration of Thanksgiving was declared in 1775 by the Continental Congress to celebrate the win at Saratoga during the American Revolution. However, it did not become an annual event until 1863.