

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

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

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GOVERNOR LAMONT WAS SWORN IN this week as the 89th Governor of Connecticut. According to a *CT News Junkie* [report](#), in his first speech before the General assembly, Lamont commented on addressing the State budget deficits. “Together we will craft an honestly balanced budget which does not borrow from the future, but invests in the future,” Lamont said, adding that he wants to “fix this damn budget, once and for all!” “In six weeks, I will present to you a budget which is in balance not just for a year, but for the foreseeable future; so that mayors and first selectmen, business and labor leaders, teachers and police officers know what to expect. And we will deliver on what we say — on time and on budget,” Lamont said. You can view Governor Lamont’s speech [here](#).

GOVERNOR LAMONT’S STAFF includes Ryan Drajewicz as Chief of Staff, Melissa McCaw as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (Budget Director), Paul Mounds as Chief Operating Officer, former Judge Robert Clark as General Counsel, Marc Bradley as External and Constituent Affairs Director, Maribel La Luz as Director of Communications and Representative Chris Soto as Legislative Affairs Director.

COMMISSIONERS TO LEAD STATE AGENCIES continue to be nominated as Governor Lamont settles into office this week. To oversee construction industry-related activity, the Lamont Administration has named Joe Giulietti as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, Katie Dykes as Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, James Rovella as Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Lamont is re-nominating the Commissioners in place for the Departments of Revenue Services, Consumer Protection, and Labor. Appointments for the Commissioners for the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Economic & Community Development have not been announced at this time.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY convened this week for a legislative session that is scheduled through June 5th. A *CT Mirror* [article](#) captured the sentiment of opening day. “We must not stifle the fragile dreams of our young,” said Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, who is starting his 39th year in elected office. “We must commit to be a partner of people who are striving to build better lives for themselves and their families. ... We must continue to advance enlightened policies.” House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz, D-Berlin, who was elected to this term as speaker, opened with a call for inclusiveness and cooperation. “We have almost 30 new faces, almost 20 percent of this chamber is brand new with a wealth of new ideas and a lot of new perspectives,” he said. “I look forward to working with all of you. And regardless of how many years you’ve been here, regardless of what political party you came from, your ideas are needed, they are welcome and we want you involved.” He pledged that Connecticut’s

House of Representatives would not become as dysfunctional as Washington.

CONNECTICUT HOUSE REPUBLICANS said they will remain focused on reforms to shrink state spending in 2019, saying initiatives to expand government or raise revenue via tolls, sports betting, or new taxes should wait according to an [article](#) in the *CT Post*. Minority Leader Themis Klarides said one initiative should involve scaling back CTfastrak, the bus transit program linking New Britain and Hartford, with any bus runs not operating sufficiently close to capacity should be suspended and the funds redirected to transportation infrastructure work. House GOP leaders did not say how much funding they expected to shift by curtailing bus service, but lawmakers acknowledged it would not be a major source of funding for the transportation infrastructure rebuilding program.

CONNECTICUT’S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK was a little brighter at the CBIA 2019 Economic Summit and Outlook that took place last Friday. According to an [article](#) in *CTMirror*, the State’s economy is poised for strong growth in 2019, but faces a slow-down late in the year. “Conditions are really very strong,” said Emily Mandel, an economist with Moody’s Analytics, the research arm of a major Wall Street bond credit rating agency. “We’ve got job openings that outnumber the people looking for work,” and “we are finally seeing wage growth pick up on cue.” Mandel also commented “there could be some softening of the economy at the end of the calendar year. ... But for now, it’s something to feel good about.”

CONNECTICUT NEEDS TO KEEP and attract younger residents and address its fiscal instability, according to Kaman CEO Neal Keating. A *Hartford Business Journal* [article](#) reports that the Bloomfield-based executive said that young people and their parents take notice of Connecticut’s middling to poor standing in various state rankings by national media. In particular, Keating wants to see improvement in Connecticut’s ranking in [PwC’s annual ranking](#) of aerospace manufacturing attractiveness. Keating also commented that though Connecticut added manufacturing jobs in 2017 for the first time in years, its

manufacturing growth has been among the slowest in the U.S. over the past decade.

THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY has reached an agreement with Gateway New London LLC to run the State Pier in New London for at least 20 years according to an [article](#) in *The Day*. Connecticut Port Authority Chairman Scott Bates said that the deal represents the largest investment in State Pier in the facility's history. The deal will ultimately enable the port authority to become financially independent, and no longer receive an annual appropriation from the state. According to the article, Matthew Satnick, co-CEO and chairman of Enstructure, Gateway's financial partner, has commented that the company sees New London's deepwater port as a "potential offshore wind hub" and that Gateway is in touch with "the major players in the offshore wind (industry) and are collaborating on opportunities for New London."

CONNDOT BID RESULTS for January 9, 2019: [Proposal 0063-0703](#), Relocation of I-91 NB Interchange 29 and Widening of I-91 NB and Route 5/15 NB to I-84 EB & Resurfacing and Safety Improvements on I-91, Hartford: O&G/BHD, JV: \$212,964,746.16; Int 29 Constructors JV: \$213,403,530.26; Middlesex Corporation: \$223,563,664.71. [Proposal 0160-0151](#), The Roof Replacement of the Willington Repair Facility, Willington: Greenwood Industries Inc.: \$331,000.00; Silktown Roofing Inc.: \$367,077.00; Commercial Roofing & Contracting Inc. \$524,248.00.

NICOLE NASON has been nominated by President Trump to be the next administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. The *AASHTO Journal* [reports](#) that Nason, who is currently assistant secretary of the Bureau of Administration with the U.S. Department of State, spent five years in multiple transportation roles within the federal government. From 2003 to 2006, she worked as assistant secretary for government affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, then served as Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 2006 to 2008.

REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO (D-Oregon) was elected Chairman of the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on Friday. DeFazio has been the ranking member on the committee since 2015, and now moves into the leadership role with Democrats taking control of the House. At his visit to CCIA in September, DeFazio said that he planned to work with the Trump Administration on his version of an infrastructure bill this year.

THE NEW RULES OF THE U.S. HOUSE include provisions that impact transportation measures. According to [Eno Transportation Weekly](#), the next order of business, after electing Nancy Pelosi to be the Speaker of the House, was to adopt rules of the House for the 116th Congress. Among other things, the new rules package repeals term limits for committee and subcommittee chairmen, repeals the "Ryan rule" on Highway Trust Fund bailout transfers, and makes other changes that directly affect transportation and infrastructure programs and committees – including a

budget enforcement change that will make it easier to fix the \$7.6 billion highway funding rescission scheduled to take effect in July 2020.

CONNECTICUT'S TRUCKING INDUSTRY delivers some \$3.2 b. in pay to its workers annually, and the state's 58,400 trucking jobs annually earn an average of \$54,350 per worker, according to the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI). The *Hartford Business Journal* [reports](#) that the ATRI data also highlights taxes paid by the industry, with a typical five-axle tractor-semitrailer combination paying more than \$17,500 in combined state and federal road taxes each year. The findings come amid growing concerns among Connecticut's truckers about the potential for state lawmakers to weigh tolling state highways to fund road maintenance and other transportation infrastructure.

2019 ASPHALT PAVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION forms are available. ConnDOT reviews the nominations, selects winning projects, and the awards are presented annually at the spring Asphalt Pavement Conference. Categories include: Limited Access Highways, Unlimited Access Roadways, Municipal Projects, Special Projects, and Longevity Projects. Nominations are due before January 31, 2019. Forms can be downloaded [here](#).

TRACK TRANSPORTATION FUNDING measures in each state across the country during the year with ARTBA's Transportation Investment Advocacy Center [website](#). The Center monitors and reports on a wide-variety of transportation measures. It also provides a resource for businesses to use when talking with legislators on successful transportation investments at the state and local levels.

OSHA 10 HOUR TRAINING is scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays on January 22nd and 23rd, February 19th and 20th, and March 19th and 20th. Classes run from 7:00am to 3pm on the first day and 7:00am to 11:00am on the second day. For the January class, please register before January 11th by using this [registration form](#).

THE SQUEEZE IS ON: THE NEXT STATE BUDGET is the topic of the first of a series of forums to be hosted by *CT News Junkie*. The forum is scheduled for 10am on Wednesday, January 16th at reset, 1429 park Street in Hartford. Panelists include Kevin Lembo, Connecticut State Comptroller; Katie Roy, Executive Director and Founder of CTSchoolFinance.org; and State Representative Vincent Candelora, the Deputy Minority Leader in the House. Tickets are available [here](#).

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, 1/11/19: 1) [CCIA January Calendar](#); 2) [Safety Roundtable 1/15](#); 3) [EMF, Foundation Brake Training 1/17](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On January 11, 1908, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt declared the Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument. The largest reported snowflake was in Keogh, MT during the year 1887 and was 15 inches wide.