

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

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

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CALL TO ACTION! Use this [link](#) to send an email to your state Representative at the Capitol. Please take a minute and send an email to your Representative in the State House. Time is running out and the legislature has to act soon. \$4.3 billion of construction projects are at stake!

FURTHER STUDIES ON TOLLS did not proceed in the legislature this week. According to an [article](#) in *CTMirror*, House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz indicated that he is going to work as hard as he can to get the votes needed to pass the measure before the session ends. The acceleration of the schedule for transferring the car sales from the general fund to the special transportation fund was incorporated in the proposal for the toll study. The acceleration proposal has been a priority for CCIA and the MoveCTForward coalition, and the groups continue to build support to replenish the STF by the end of the session.

THE TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY in the General Assembly has shifted to replenishing the Special Transportation Fund according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Courant*. House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz said that the state legislature now needs to block rail and bus fare hikes that could happen in less than two months. CCIA has been advocating for accelerating the new car sales tax to avoid the fare increases, service cuts and deferment of \$4.3 billion in projects. The measure would have to pass by next Wednesday to avoid what Aresimowicz characterizes as an economic impact that “would be worse than any large employer leaving the state”.

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATORS are expected to have nearly \$2 b. in additional revenue available to balance the next state budget, an amount not seen since before the last recession, according to a new report from Office of Fiscal Analysis and Gov. Dannel Malloy's budget staff. According to an [article](#) on *CTMirror*, General Fund revenues this fiscal year will top \$19.34 b., a figure that includes almost \$1.3 b. in unanticipated income tax receipts tied to capital gains and other investment earnings. Combined with the \$212 m. already in the reserve, Connecticut should have \$1.5 b. when it closes the 2017-18 fiscal year, nearly four times the size of the projected \$382 m. deficit.

BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL Airport officials are recommending \$1.4 b. in projects as part of a 20-year ambitious master plan that would prepare the state's largest airfield for millions of additional passengers, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal*. Notable projects include a new passenger Terminal B connected to the current Terminal A, a new consolidated rental car and ground transportation facility that will put all rental car companies

in one space on-site, and a reconfigured Schoephoester Road that includes four roundabouts for smoother traffic flow along the airport.

STATE TREASURER DENISE Nappier confirmed, in a letter to House Minority Leader Themis Klarides, that the state's debt limit is not at risk of being exceeded due to the 20-year Hartford bailout and there is no cause for concern about any delays in issuing bonds after July 1, according to a [story](#) in the *Hartford Courant*. In an [article](#) in *CT Mirror* last week, Rep. Klarides said she was informed by the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis that the bailout debt would be counted against the bond cap, and that the only alternatives to exceeding the limit would include delaying or cancelling planned bonding for various projects, such as municipal school construction or capital programs at public colleges and universities.

THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC Accounts released an [interim report](#) last week that found the Department of Economic and Community Development, which is in charge of administering loans and grants to businesses, is not collecting accurate data about its economic assistance programs or the number of jobs created. Tax credits, economic assistance programs like the Small Business Express program, and the Manufacturing Assistance Act have been underestimated or overestimated by tens of millions of dollars. This [article](#) in *CT News Junkie* provides further coverage.

SIX HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE thousand dollars would be appropriated to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) to complete the disparity study of the state's minority set-aside program, under [S.B. 488](#), An Act Requiring the Completion of the Disparity Study. The bill was originally introduced “to make a technical change to statutes concerning government administration,” but was amended by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee to appropriate the amount of money estimated to complete the disparity study. The bill, which currently sits on the Senate Calendar, specifies that CASE would be required to complete the study by January 1, 2020.

MUNICIPALITIES WOULD be required to hold public hearings on proposed construction projects with a value of or more than \$25 m. under [S.B. 272](#), An Act Concerning the Approval of Certain New Municipal Construction Projects. The bill has received a favorable report from the Planning

and Development Committee, and currently sits on the Senate calendar.

A NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING project scheduled to go up in downtown Meriden later this year will be built to "passive house" standards, a super energy efficient design popular in Europe but still relatively unknown in the United States, [according](#) to the *Hartford Business Journal*. The 81 apartments and townhouses will use much less energy than other types of green buildings, resulting in big savings that will be passed on to the tenants, according to the project developer. Passive house technology aims to seal buildings as tightly as possible with super-insulated walls, triple-glazed windows, air exchange systems, and by situating buildings to maximize passive solar heating. The process reverses itself in warm weather to keep buildings cool.

SIX MONTHS SINCE the effective date of September 23, 2017, enforcement of OSHA's silica rule is still a work in progress, according to an [article](#) in *Bloomberg News*. The agency and states using the federal rule cited 116 alleged silica violations at companies around the U.S., as of April 17. Agency data that Bloomberg Environment reviewed show that when silica hazards are cited on job sites, they are usually grouped with other safety rule violations, such as fall protection. Of the 116 silica violations cited, the most frequently-mentioned provision, with 35 cases found by inspectors, was employers failing to measure silica exposure levels.

THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER Safety Administration (FMCSA) [announces](#) the Road Safety Art Contest which lets children in kindergarten through sixth grade (ages 5-12) use their creativity and talent to help raise awareness of how to stay safe on the roads. The Road Safety Partnership will award one Grand Prize and five Honorable Mention winners for each of two categories: (1) Category A: Artists in kindergarten through second grade, as of June 25, 2018; and (2) Category B: Artists in third grade through sixth grades, as of June 25, 2018. Entry form for both categories is [attached](#). The entry deadline is June 25, 2018 and contest winners will be announced in September 2018.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS, of May 2, 2018: [Proposal No. 0140-0172](#), Rehabilitation of Bridge Nos. 03350 and 03351 Route 8 NB and SB over Naugatuck River and Railroad, Thomaston: Northern Construction Service LLC \$9,199,817.30; McNamee Construction Corp. \$10,485,307.30; Manafort Brothers Inc \$10,677,337.37.

THE AGC OF CONNECTICUT Foundation will host a fundraiser on June 13, 2018 at Two Roads Brewing Company, 1700 Stratford Ave., Stratford, CT, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Join us at one of Connecticut's best-known breweries to support the AGC of Connecticut Foundation. All net proceeds of the event will be donated to the foundation which was established in 2017 as a non-profit charity to support educational, training, and workforce development activities and programs in the field of

construction in Connecticut. Registration and sponsorship information is available at this [link](#).

A HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP between the State of Connecticut and General Dynamics Electric Boat will include \$852 m. in capital investments, according to a [press release](#) from Gov. Dannel Malloy's office. The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development will provide various incentives over the course of the 17-year agreement, including \$20 m. for dredging to make way for a new dry dock and manufacturing superstructure. The investments will help the company grow their workforce by 1,900 by 2034, allow for capital investments of greater than \$800 m in the state over the next 17 years, and more than double their spending on in-state suppliers.

CALLS FOR CONNECTICUT'S WATER resources to be a "public trust" in the first-ever state water plan are under new scrutiny from Connecticut's water companies according to an [article](#) in *CTNewsJunkie*. Likewise, Gov. Dannel Malloy is saying he's not flexible on the plan's language. "Whoever is advocating for that language coming out does not have the best interests of the citizens of our state first and foremost in their mind," Malloy said. Betsy Gara, head of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Water Works Association, said the public trust reference in the plan is "not simply a restatement of existing law" but rather ties the statute to how the state balances its water uses, leading to potential misapplication and expansion of the public trust doctrine.

RECOVERY FROM THE GREAT RECESSION, which has been slow but steady, just hit a milestone, [CNNMoney reports](#). The recovery is now tied for the second-longest economic expansion in American history, thanks in part to its slow speed. "The silver lining is this very long economic expansion," said Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi. "We didn't experience the same boom-to-bust cycle that we had in the past."

THE 6TH ANNUAL JOINT FORCES Luncheon was held yesterday May 3, 2018, where a goal-surpassing contribution of \$26,000 was given to the [Homes of the Brave](#) in Bridgeport. Thank you [members and sponsors](#) for contributing to provide housing and services necessary to help homeless veterans return to a productive and meaningful life. The Joint Forces luncheon was established to make a difference in the lives of veterans in Connecticut. Photos from John Marinelli are available [here](#). Thank you, together we are making a difference!

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, 5/4/18: 1) [Safety Roundtable, Domestic Violence](#) 5/8.

FROM THE INTERNET: On May 4, 1970, the Ohio National Guard opened fire on students during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.