

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

A weekly information bulletin for members of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association Phone: 860-529-6855

September 13, 2013

CCIA HAS PARTNERED with the Connecticut Business Industry Association (CBIA), the Stamford Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut to conduct a [survey](#) of businesses about Connecticut's transportation issues and priorities. The results of this survey will assist us in our transportation advocacy efforts at both the federal and state levels. We encourage you to go on-line to complete this survey which should take less than 10 minutes to complete. All responses are confidential and reported only in aggregate, and we will share final results of the survey with all participants.

GOVERNOR MALLOY this week assured the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council that he's doing his best to put out more state construction work, according to an [article](#) in *CT Mirror*. Leaders of council said that while they remain confident in the governor, they're anxious to see more work get underway. The governor expressed surprise when informed that the long-awaited, \$400-450 m. widening of Interstate 84 in Waterbury wouldn't begin until late 2014, or possibly even early 2015. The governor responded he thought the project was supposed to begin in the spring of 2014; however, a ConnDOT [project update report](#) confirmed that a late 2014/early 2015 project start is planned.

A COMPARISON OF CONNECTICUT'S and Massachusetts' gas taxes and road and bridge conditions in an Office of Legislative Research (OLR) [Research Report](#) revealed that even though Massachusetts' gas tax is lower than Connecticut's, it generated about one-third more in 2011 than Connecticut's tax generated in 2012 (\$662 million vs. \$493 million). The report speculates that one reason for the difference may be that Massachusetts has twice as many registered motor vehicles as Connecticut. The report also states that in fiscal year 2012, 36.4% of CT's Special Transportation Fund was used to pay debt service on bonds issued to fund transportation projects, 24.5% was used for ConnDOT's operating expenses and for highway and bridge renewal, and 21.3% for bus and rail operations. By comparison, Massachusetts used 63% of its Commonwealth Transportation Fund to pay debt service in 2011.

CCIA, OSHA AND CONNOSHA teamed up to present a well-attended joint Safety Conference this week at the Holiday Inn in North Haven. We'd like to thank the following individuals for their informative presentations: Paul Mangiafico of OSHA and Al Bassett of the state's Urban Search and Rescue team on Excavation and Trenching Safety; Dave D'Ostilio of Local 478, IUOE and State Crane Inspector Elliott Henowitz on State Certifications for Crane/Hoisting; Michael Mabee of the U.S. Department of Labor on the departments'

Whistleblower Program; and Warren Rogers of CL&P on Power Line Safety. We want to add a special thanks to our sponsors, C.H. Nickerson; Bay Crane Service of CT, Dimeo Construction Co., Gilbane Building Co., Heavy Equipment Services Co., Safety Priority Consultants, and Turner Construction.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA) began hearings this week on Connecticut's Joint Natural Gas Infrastructure Plan ([Docket No. 13-06-02](#)) which was filed with PURA by Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas on June 14, 2013. The companies are requesting PURA's approval of their plans to add approximately 280,000 new natural gas customers in Connecticut over the next 10 years. The Office of Consumer Counsel issued a [press release](#) stating that they "will advocate for a sensible, cost-effective implementation of the Plan that minimizes ratepayer impacts."

THE AVERAGE TIGER AWARD in 2013 amounted to \$8.8 million, according to a recent [article](#) in *Transportation Issues Daily*. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) is a discretionary grant program administered by the U.S. DOT, the funds of which are to be awarded on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation projects. Connecticut's sole TIGER award in 2013 was \$10 m. for the State Street Station Expansion in New Haven.

THE DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX increased 1.4% in August to 114.2, according to [McGraw Hill Construction](#). The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the first report for nonresidential building projects in planning. The index had leveled off during June and July, following steady gains that were reported during the first five months of 2013. With the August increase, the Momentum Index is up 27% compared to the same month a year ago. According to McGraw Hill's analysis, while the overall economy remains sluggish, the prospects for commercial development continue to show improvement, as reflected by the growing volume of projects at the planning stage and

such strengthening market fundamentals as occupancies and rents.

U.S. HOUSE TRANSPORTATION and Infrastructure Committee leaders are emphasizing to other lawmakers the impact of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2013 on peoples' everyday lives as they roll out their version of the bill, according to an [article](#) in *Politico* this week. The Senate passed its own \$12 billion water bill in May, using the legislation's traditional name (the Water Resources Development Act) and a much-debated strategy for getting around Congress's ban on earmarks. Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) added the word "Reform," signaling his intent to limit costs and cut back on the notoriously long timelines of the Army Corps of Engineers' project reviews.

THE U.S. HOUSE this week passed on a bipartisan vote, 396-10, H.R. 2747, The Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act, sponsored by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT), according to a [report](#) in *Employment Law Update*. The bill would transfer authority over payment of back wage claims under the Davis-Bacon Act from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the Labor Department. Courtney said on the House floor that he hoped the measure would be "a first step in a larger effort to allow DOL to engage in further enforcement actions" under Davis-Bacon, including the authority to debar employers who do not comply with the law.

RESPONDING TO REPORTS that the Obama Administration is crafting new regulations to satisfy union critics of the health care law, U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) and House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN) this week [requested](#) the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) to estimate the taxpayer cost of providing premium tax credits to individuals participating in multiemployer health care plans. Under the Affordable Care Act, individuals are only eligible to receive premium tax credits if they buy insurance through a "qualified health plan;" however, multiemployer plans do not currently meet that definition under the law.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of September 11, 2013: Proposal No. 0092-0522, Reconstruction of I-95 Over West River: West River Constructors: \$114,252,900.48; The Middlesex Corp.: \$129,773,454.00; Cianbro Corporation: \$137,948,175.00. Proposal No. 0171-0310, Guiderail Upgrade on State Routes 71A, 71, 68, and 17 in the Towns/City of Berlin, Meriden, Wallingford, Durham, and North Branford: Total Fence LLC: \$993,984.00; Atlas Industrial Service, LLC: \$1,024,427.00; Hammonasset Construction, LLC: \$1,077,320.00. Proposal No. 0474-0073, Windham Regional Transit District Facility: Banton Construction Co., Inc.: \$6,495,664.00; C.J. Fucci, Inc.: \$6,717,612.00; Lawrence Brunoli, Inc.: \$6,957,000.00.

U.S. DOL'S OFFICE of Disability Employment Policy will host "Employers: What Can We Do? Join the Conversation for Change," a two-day [online dialogue](#) beginning on Monday, Sept. 9. The goal is to understand employer needs and determine how ODEP can better assist employers on hiring people with disabilities. "Clearly, employers are a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. "We need to fully understand their needs and how we can assist them so they, in turn, can foster workplaces open to the talents of all qualified individuals, including those of us with disabilities."

TAILGATE WITH your fellow contractors and other young professionals before watching the UConn Huskies take on the University of South Florida Bulls in football at Rentschler Field in East Hartford on Sat., Oct. 12, 2013. The CCIA-AGC of Connecticut Young Contractors Forum event will begin three hours before game time, which has not yet been announced. [Registration](#), including a game ticket, is only \$35.

RIGGER FOUR HOUR TRAINING by The Crosby Group will be offered by CCIA on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at CCIA Headquarters in Wethersfield. While attending this program will not make someone a qualified rigger, time spent in Crosby seminars and the certification of training that one receives helps to prove qualifications. There is no fee for the program; however, [registration](#) is required.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, September 13, 2013: 1) [Construction Risk Transfer Strategies](#); 2) [YCF Membership Meeting](#); 3) [EMF Meeting at Tri-State 9/19](#); 4) [2013 Diggers, Mixers & Fixers Golf Outing 9/23](#); 5) [Federal Health Care Reform 10/2](#); 6) [CRBA 80th Anniversary Honoring Ed Gilligan 10/10](#); 7) [AGC/CT 2013 Industry Recognition Dinner 10/17](#); 8) [Safety Recognition Award Packet 10/25](#); 9) [OSHA 10-Hour October Class](#); 10) [ACI Grade 1 Field Tech & Flatwork Finisher Schedule 10/13](#); 11) [ACI Grade 1 Field Tech Application 2013](#); 12) [ACI Flatwork Finisher Application 2013](#); 13) [2013 Community Service Awards Nomination Form 11/8](#); 14) [Basic Rigging & Crane Signaling Class \(Class scheduling based on request\)](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On September 13, 1814, after witnessing Fort McHenry being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem which was later set to music and in 1931 became America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The music to which the poem was set was a popular English drinking tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven" by composer John Stafford Smith. Friday the 13th fact: Mark Twain once was the 13th guest at a dinner party. A friend warned him not to go. "It was bad luck," Twain later told the friend. "They only had food for 12."