On the Eve of the Fourth of July, Congress Finally Gets a Highway Reauthorization Bill that Strengthens America

On the eve of the long Fourth of July holiday, Congress finally acknowledged that the nation’s future is at risk if it can’t fund road and bridge improvements and reached an agreement last week on a proposed new surface transportation reauthorization bill to fund federal road and bridge construction that will extend through the fiscal year 2014. Congress passed this new legislation last week which will replace the SAFETEA-LU law. The highway and transit programs are now operating on a final one-week extension as the paperwork for the reauthorization bill is sent to the President for his expected signature this week.

Although it will not be the long-term bill the industry had hoped for, Long Island Contractors’ Association (LICA) officials said the move addresses the three year lapse of the SAFETEA-LU law. LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst said, “Senator Charles Schumer and Long Island Congressman Tim Bishop, who both served on the bill’s joint conference committee, have been relentless in getting their colleagues to focus on this strategic issue. In the highly charged partisan environment that is today’s Washington, that has been no mean feat, and this compromise is their victory as much as anyone else’s. We must focus now on putting the men and women of the heavy construction and transportation industries back to work.”

To read the American Road & Transportation Builders Association’s (ARTBA) brief summary of the bill click here.
Gramercy Group Makes Crucial Improvements to South Shore Mall in Bay Shore

With customer visits exceeding nine million people annually, Westfield’s South Shore Mall in Bay Shore is as much about state-of-the-art infrastructure as any store sale or restaurant reservation. Accordingly, the mall’s owners awarded a $10 million contract to LICA member Gramercy Group, Inc. to prepare the retail center for the next generation of shoppers.

“Projects like this one are a great example for the public of the crucial role played by LICA members in maintaining and improving our local communities,” said Executive Director Marc Herbst. “It also represents a $10 million vote of confidence Westfield has in the region’s future.”

At its peak, this multiple shift project will employ up to 170 workers daily to execute a variety of tasks that range from demolition and debris removal to preparation for new construction.

Construction on the South Shore Mall began in May 2012 and is slated to be completed in October 2012.

Gramercy Group provides high-quality service for all phases of wrecking and demolition. Gramercy’s mission is to become the premier demolition company in the New York Metropolitan area by providing the finest level of timely and comprehensive services to its customers while striving to exceed their expectations. They provide a safe working environment for all of their employees and maintain a respect for environmental concerns encountered in the performance of their work. For more information on Gramercy Group, Inc., visit their website by clicking here.

Arbitrary EPA Soot Standards Could Put Transportation Projects in Jeopardy, LICA Executive Director & ARTBA State Chapter Executive Tells House Subcommittee

Arbitrary standards for particulate matter (PM) or “soot” proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could endanger transportation improvements by placing federal highway funds in jeopardy, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) told members of Congress last week.

(Continued on next page)
Testifying before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, Marc Herbst, chairman of ARTBA’s Council of State Executives and LICA executive director, explained that the EPA’s proposed new standards come at a time when counties are still struggling to comply with existing regulations.

The proposed regulation “creates a counterproductive cycle where new standards delay needed improvements to the nation’s highway and bridge network, which has already reached ‘critical mass’ in terms of being able to serve the needs of our citizens and economy,” Herbst explained.

He went on to describe the impact of EPA’s latest proposal, noting, “States and counties need predictability and time to develop transportation plans which achieve PM reduction and create jobs. Adding a new layer of requirements on top of existing standards that have not been fully implemented only complicates these ongoing efforts. Specifically, existing projects deemed to be in compliance with the Clean Air Act when first undertaken could be thrown out of compliance if new standards are approved, exposing project owners to costly, time-consuming litigation.”

Herbst also explained how EPA’s actions are counterproductive to current efforts to reauthorize the federal surface transportation program, saying, “It is ironic that members of both chambers and parties have made streamlining the environmental review and approval process for transportation projects a priority of the transportation bill, yet few talk about how EPA’s PM proposal will severely disrupt the very process they are trying to make more effective.”

Last week’s testimony builds on many years of regulatory comments, legislative efforts and litigation by ARTBA on the subject of EPA Clean Air Act standards. ARTBA will continue to work towards a regulatory system that allows the nation to make progress towards cleaner air without sacrificing the ability to pursue desperately needed transportation improvements vital to our economy, public health and safety.

For 20 years, ARTBA has been the transportation design and construction industry’s primary regulatory advocate. In just the past five years alone, ARTBA has presented the industry’s views to federal agencies more than 100 times on a variety of issues.

To read Marc Herbst’s full testimony, click here.

**AGC Reports 8% Decline for Long Island Construction Jobs since Last Year**

New York’s construction jobs are on the decline according to a recent study done by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) with some of the largest job losses seen in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The study, which analyzed employment data from 337 metropolitan areas, from May 2011 to May 2012, reported a chilling loss for Long Island with a decline of 4,700 jobs.

(Continued on next page)
“Last year’s job losses are a continuation of the industry’s downward spiral since 2008,” said LICA’s Chairman James Pratt, III of Pratt Brothers, Inc. “Declines in public and private projects forced Long Island’s construction industry to shrink by 12,000 jobs from 2008 to 2010. We had sought signs of improvement but it’s now clear that this report charts a trend that should be disturbing to elected officials and the business community. They all need to become advocates of orderly economic growth that jump starts the construction industry as these jobs sit at the heart and soul of our working middle class.”

Save the Date: CFMA Hosts Annual Dinner to Benefit Contractors for Kids

Mark your calendars! Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) is hosting their Annual Dinner to benefit Contractors for Kids (CFK) on Thursday, November 8, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury.

As the CFMA’s 2010 Construction Executive of the Year, LICA’s Executive Director Marc Herbst is asking you to support this year’s honoree and LICA member, Executive Vice President of Skanska USA Michael Viggiano.

CFK is a not for profit organization founded for the purpose of providing assistance to families in our communities. Their goal is to assist children and their families overcome obstacles that have unfortunately changed or impacted their lives through sickness, injury or death. Whether it is to pay a phone bill or mortgage payment, aiding in paying for medical bills deemed experimental or due to lack of insurance, arranging transportation or paying for a room to allow families to remain close during these tough times, or in heartbreaking cases when a child does not survive illness and a family needs financial help with burying a child, Contractors for Kids will be there.

Click here for sponsorship opportunities and/or to purchase a journal ad for this event. For more information or to RSVP for this event, click here.

Continuing to Support CFK…

CFK is hosting their 7th Annual Family Fun Day and Picnic on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 11:00am to 5:00pm at Southaven County Park, Upper Level, and they want you to join them!

Voted best picnic in 2007 and 2008 by Long Island Business News (LIBN), CFK invites your company to have your corporate picnic with them. CFK will supply all the food, beverages and fun and you supply the people. Picnic tables will be available for you so no need for you to bring any chairs. There will be rides, games and fun things for children of all ages. Corporate sponsorships are available. Click here for more information.
### Bid Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bid Date</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Bid Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/15/12</td>
<td>Rain Gardens &amp; Streetscape Improvements</td>
<td>Village of Manorhaven</td>
<td>Reet Construction Corp.</td>
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<td>6/18/12</td>
<td>Grand Canal Sidewalk Restoration</td>
<td>Town of Hempstead</td>
<td>Concrete Plus</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/21/12</td>
<td>Repair &amp; Reconfigure C-130 Namp @ Francis S Salamun AWS</td>
<td>Francis S. Salamun Airport</td>
<td>Gorak Inc.</td>
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<td>6/21/12</td>
<td>Prevent Matt/Drainage Routes 107, 25, 25A, 111 &amp; 444</td>
<td>New York State Department Of Transportation</td>
<td>Intercity Paving Associates, LLC</td>
<td>$1,220,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/21/12</td>
<td>Acceleration &amp; Left Turn Lane Extensions Various Routes</td>
<td>New York State Department Of Transportation</td>
<td>ACC Construction Corp.</td>
<td>$1,690,000</td>
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<td>6/21/12</td>
<td>Thermoplastic Reflectorized Pavement Markings</td>
<td>Town of Babylon-Purchasing Dept.</td>
<td>Turner Cesspool</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
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<td>6/26/12</td>
<td>Rebid-Parking Expansion &amp; Utility Tunnel Repair</td>
<td>County of Suffolk, Dept. of Public Works</td>
<td>PSL Industries, Inc.</td>
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<td>6/27/12</td>
<td>Diesel Fuel Storage Tank @ North West Well Field</td>
<td>Massapequa Water District</td>
<td>M &amp; D Environmental Technology</td>
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<td>6/28/12</td>
<td>Storm Water Drainage Road Improv - Hyacinth Rd</td>
<td>Town of Hempstead</td>
<td>All Island Plumbing</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
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<td>6/28/12</td>
<td>Storm Water Drain &amp; Road Improv - Barnum Isle Area Phase IV</td>
<td>Town of Hempstead</td>
<td>Araz Industries</td>
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<td>ACC Construction Corp.</td>
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<td>6/28/12</td>
<td>Parking Lot &amp; Walkway Improv @ 240/250/260 S. Main St</td>
<td>Freeport Housing Authority</td>
<td>Pioneer Landscaping &amp; Asphalt Paving Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/28/12</td>
<td>Storm Water Drainage Road Improv - Hyacinth Rd</td>
<td>Town of Hempstead</td>
<td>All Island Plumbing</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Numbers in red represent the winning bid**  
Highlighted and bold companies represent LICA Members