At one time, the Hartford riverfront was a booming center of commerce. But river traffic has declined, and Interstate 91 was built between the concrete dike and downtown, greatly limiting access to the area. Over the past several years, major efforts have been undertaken to improve access and revitalize the entire riverfront area. As a result, the water in the Connecticut River is much cleaner, major segments of construction have been completed, and riverfront development and programs have resulted in nearly 300,000 visitors coming to the banks of the Connecticut River in 1996.

Riverfront Recapture, Inc., is a private, non-profit group instrumental in restoring public access to the Connecticut River and in the revitalization effort. The group celebrates its 16th anniversary this year, of what was envisioned to be a 20-year commitment to this project. The organization has raised, or lobbied for, more than $220 million of clean water projects and recreational amenities to improve the Riverfront in Greater Hartford.

The group lobbied the Federal and state highway departments and economic development agencies for projects like Charter Oak landing, the Interstate 91 platform, and the East Hartford amphitheater. At the same time, the Metropolitan District Commission has poured almost $100 million into river cleanup.

One of the organization’s first projects was to reclaim the 62-acre Riverside Park, which now boasts a public boat launch, riverwalks and picnic areas, and is the site of a proposed boathouse for the group’s popular community rowing program, and Riverfront Adventure. (Riverfront Adventure is an educational/recreational program developed to encourage individuals to work together to achieve success, through a series of outdoor activities, including activities on ropes 30-45 feet off the ground!) Riverfront Recapture has also hosted waterskiing competitions, and championship bass fishing tournaments, including the 1994 Bassmaster Top 100 Tournament.

Other completed portions of the project include the Charter Oak Landing and Great River Park. Charter Oak Landing is the new park south of downtown Hartford, which includes a dock for excursion boat service, riverwalks, as well as a wharf that can accommodate a tall ship as a riverfront attraction. Great River Park is the new park in East Hartford, which boasts a 350-seat amphitheater, and a riverwalk from the Bulkeley Bridge to Charter Oak Bridge, where park visitors can now cross over the river to Charter Oak Landing. Both parks also have a public boat launch and picnic areas.

The Riverfront Plaza over I-91, a landscaped plaza over I-91 which will reconnect downtown Hartford with the Connecticut River, is now under construction, and expected to be complete by the end of 1998. As part of this construction project, grassy terraces will descend to the Riverfront from the elevated plaza, creating amphitheater seating for 2,000 people. A bulkhead at the base of the terraces will provide for excursion boat and water taxi services, and a pedestrian promenade on the Founders Bridge will link riverfront parks in Hartford and East Hartford. The construction of the Bulkeley Bridge Walkabout, a “bridge” around the abutment on the western bank, is scheduled to begin in 1997, to hurdle the barrier between downtown Hartford and Riverside Park created by the beautiful stone arches of the Bulkeley Bridge.

Other riverwalk connections are designed and under review by permitting agencies. Construction of these proposed riverwalks will begin as funding becomes available.

Recognizing that the ultimate success of the Riverfront revitalization relies heavily upon
how well the completed park system is managed, maintained, and secure, in 1995, Riverfront Recapture asked the Capital Region Partnership to develop a comprehensive management plan. In response, the Partnership convened an Ad Hoc Riverfront Council of community, corporate, and political leaders, to review the possibilities and recommend a long-term management strategy for the Riverfront. The proposed management structure includes involvement from the municipalities of Hartford, East Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor, in cooperation with Riverfront Recapture and the Metropolitan District Commission. Under the proposed management plan, the MDC would be responsible for the physical maintenance and park range services for the entire Riverfront park system as each portion is completed, and Riverfront Recapture would provide additional programming and marketing efforts. The municipalities would continue to provide police and fire services for Riverfront parks within their borders.

Fruits of the revitalization effort are being seen by companies such as Deep River Navigation, who have seen a tremendous increase in ticket sales for dinner cruises, and who subsequently added to their cruise offerings. And because of the economic recovery being realized as a result of the Riverfront Recapture project, the Riverfront has been recognized by Washington, DC-based American Rivers, as one of "America’s Most Improved Urban Rivers".

For more information on Riverfront Recapture, Inc., call (860) 293-0131 or at the following web site:

www.riverfront.org

Q-Bridge Update

Over the past several years, the I-95 New Haven Harbor (Q-Bridge) Crossing study has been undertaken to determine the needs of Interstate 95 where it crosses the New Haven Harbor, with regard to structure, traffic operations, and travel demand. The SDEIS (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement) for this study is now available for public review and comment. Copies of the SDEIS Executive Summary are available at public libraries along the shoreline, and open house informational sessions were held in June to allow the public to view and discuss the proposed alternates.

The ICDC (Intermodal Concept Development) has been advising the ConnDOT and the Federal Highway Administration on issues related to transportation strategies for this corridor, and, in coordination with the various agencies, have made great efforts to solicit input from the public and keep the public informed of the study’s findings.

The strategies listed below have been selected through the public screening process by the ICDC and participating federal agencies:

1. No-Build
2. Construct new 7-lane bridge, including reversible lane, and I-95 ramp metering.
3. Construct new 8-lane bridge
4. Rehabilitate Q-Bridge as 6 lanes
5. Widen Q-Bridge to 8 lanes, including an HOV lane, and relocation of interchange 46.

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6. New 10-lane bridge, including relocation of interchange 46.
7. Rehabilitate Q-Bridge as 6-lanes, new light rail system and I-95 ramp metering.

These alternatives also address bus service enhancement, improved commuter rail service between New Haven and New London, and I-95 intercorporate parking lots. Other elements of these options include closing the Wooster Street NB On-Ramp to I-95, reconfiguration of the Woodward Ave and Stiles Street interchanges, transit incentives, provision for shoulders on I-95, and reconfiguration of I-91 / I-95 / Route 34 interchange.

On June 25, in conjunction with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hearings on anticipated impacts upon waters and wetlands regulated by the Clean Water Act, a public hearing was held to discuss the 7 alternate river crossing proposals. Following the public hearing, these strategies will be analyzed re: anticipated transportation and traffic performance based upon projected travel demand in the year 2015. Air quality, noise, property impacts, natural, historic and archaeological resources, social and economic effects, capital and operating costs, and construction impacts will all be considered.

If you would like to have your ideas included as part of the study record, and did not participate in the Public Hearing, submit your comments on 8 1/2"x11" paper by August 1, to:

Mr. Edgar T. Hurle
Connecticut Dept of Transportation
Environmental Planning, Rm. 2159
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Additional information on the Q-Bridge study can be obtained by contacting Connecticut DOT at (860) 594-2939 or (860) 594-2941.
WTS Members Cruise the Connecticut River

On Friday, July 11, WTS members and their guests gathered at the Charter Oak Landing in Hartford and boarded the Lady Fenwick, for a casual cocktail cruise along the scenic Connecticut River.

Pleasure cruisers were able to view some of the progress being made by Riverfront Recapture, Inc., in revitalizing the riverfront in the Hartford area, and experience for themselves why the Connecticut River Valley has been named one of the 40 “Last Great Places in the Western Hemisphere” by the International Nature Conservancy.

This was a great opportunity for members to introduce co-workers to WTS, and introduce their spouses to fellow WTS members. It was nice to see such a good turnout for this social event!

Thanks to Christina Olson and Ann Marie McDonnell for the fabulous job organizing this enjoyable, seasonal event! Our thanks also to Ginger & Pickles Catering, who provided tasty snacks for those of us aboard the Lady Fenwick.

ATTENTION BOATERS!

Now that summer is upon us, it’s time for many to take to the seas. Before casting off, please keep the following in mind:

If you own and operate a boat in Connecticut waters, a Safe Boating Certificate is required. This applies to all State residents, and people owning property or vessels in the State. The Safe Boating Certificate is issued by the DEP to any applicant, regardless of age, who proves that he / she has successfully completed an approved safe boating course, such as those offered by the DEP, U.S. Power Squadrons, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The U.S.C.G. and Connecticut Law require that U.S.C.G.-approved personal flotation devices (PFD’s) are aboard your recreational boat, of the number and type appropriate to your particular vessel.

Safe boating operation depends greatly on proper maintenance and preparation, as well as the actions of those aboard. Here is a checklist to help make your trip a safe one:

☐ Fuel tanks are full
☐ Lights and horn are working
☐ Boat is checked for leaks, bailed out, boat plug in
☐ Fuel lines and tank are checked for leaks
☐ Weather and water conditions are suitable
☐ Gear and supplies are properly stowed and secure
☐ Motor is in good operating condition
☐ Propeller is in good condition, free of weeds and debris
☐ Personal Flotation Devices are checked for condition/fit

DID YOU KNOW...

17% less Americans walked to work in 1990 than did in 1980?

OR That San Francisco was the most popular U.S. city in 1996? (Sydney, Australia was favored worldwide)

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☐ Passengers are seated and briefed on emergency procedures
☐ Float plan was provided to a responsible person ashore

This, and other important information on safe boating, and rules and regulations for operating a boat in Connecticut waters, is available in CTDEP’s “Connecticut Boater’s Guide”, or call the DEP at 434-8638.

Of course, being courteous and aware of other boaters goes a long way to ensuring a safe, enjoyable day on the water. When cruising the waters this summer, as a passenger or operator, please - Think - Safety First!!

TRAVEL TIPS & TIDBITS

According to FAA figures, approx. 1.2 billion passengers used the nation’s airports in the U.S. alone last year - vs. 800 million in 1985. In 1996, there were approximately 23.4 million aircraft arrivals and departures (vs.18.2 million in 1995), and by the year 2005, the FAA anticipates total airline passengers in the U.S. will rise to 1.7 billion.

**The number of passengers using Bradley Airport reached a record high of 491,258 in April 1997.**

✓ When flying in the US, don’t forget a photo i.d. For international flights, two photo ID’s are recommended.
✓ Make sure all your luggage has an ID tag that matches the name on your ticket.
✓ Due to extra security measures now in place at all U.S. airports, plan for delays and for your bags to be inspected.
Hello fellow WTS members! I am currently working as Office Engineer on the I-95 Reconstruction Project in Bridgeport. One of the many reasons I am so excited about working on this project is that it is one of the largest highway/bridge projects in Connecticut, with some of the highest technology available today.

Having worked in the transportation field for 11 years, it wasn’t until a few weeks ago that I came to the shocking realization. I recently attended two work-related events: a Partnering Session for my project, and a retirement party for four gentlemen from CDOT’s Design Group. Of the 45+/- people at the Partnering Session, only 2 were women. And of the 500+/- at the retirement party, there were only a handful of women. This got me thinking.... In an office of 13, there are only 2 females: myself and the secretary. I have always been aware of the low ratio of women to men in the transportation industry, however, it was never as apparent to me as now.

WTS provides programs which encourage women to strive for and achieve success in their careers, even in non-traditional rotes. WTS provides opportunities for women and men to gain exposure in the industry and network with other transportation professionals. Although there are many very successful women in this field, there is a great deal of room to improve the current percentage of women vs. men. I encourage more women to continue to promote WTS. You can make a difference!

- Lori Long

WTS’s Role in ISTEA RE-AUTHORIZATION

WTS is taking an active role in the National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA) authorization. In 1996, WTS conducted a survey among its members (for which WTS received its first research grant from the American Planning Association). The purpose of the study was two-fold: to assess practitioner’s views on the implementation of ISTEA, and to establish WTS as an organization of professionals highly knowledgeable about ISTEA.

WTS has also compiled a list of speakers of members from different modes of transportation who are fully knowledgeable and experienced on the issues surrounding the ISTEA debate. The list of WTS members who serve as ISTEA spokespersons for their agencies/employers was submitted to House and Senate Transportation Committees and to USDOT to be used as resources from which to solicit testimony at hearings, outreach meetings, and to serve on ISTEA reauthorization task forces.

WTS is also preparing a series of papers on key issues to ensure representation of balance and multimodal perspectives, which will be disseminated to AASHTO’s re-authorization task force, and others.

With the current concerns over the deficit and how monies from the Federal Budget are allocated, States are scrambling for their “piece of the pie”. Many are concerned that, due to limited funding available, the whole concept of “Intermodalism” (on which ISTEA is based) will be put by the wayside, with different modes of transportation vying for funds for their own needs, and not looking at the needs of the federal transportation system as a whole.

WTS is working to present the WTS perspective on ISTEA, as well as gain visibility, and continue to be recognized as a leader on national transportation issues.

WTS Plays Role in Political Appointments

Last October, WTS National began taking an active role as an advocate for WTS members being considered for political appointments on the national level. WTS’s role is to develop letters of endorsement as an example of a collective, collaborative effort to promote women within the industry.

Nuria Fernandez, a Director of the WTS National Board, sits on the Women’s Coalition Transportation Task Force. Nuria works in Washington promoting WTS’s list of candidates. Liz Levin, WTS National Vice President and Boston Chapter member, has been working as a liaison with the Women’s Coalition, leading the effort to promote WTS members and other qualified professionals from the private sector as candidates for political appointments. She has forwarded the names of several qualified WTS members to Rodney Slater, Secretary of the USDOT, for consideration.

Women interested in pursuing political appointments should send resumes to WTS National, who will ensure your resume goes through the proper channels.
The Engineering Center

The Engineering Center (TEC) is an association management consortium which oversees the national operation of WTS. In addition to WTS, TEC is associated with organizations such as: Boston Association of Structural Engineers (BASE), Boston Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Massachusetts School of Survey, Intelligent Transportation Systems of Massachusetts (ITS), Licensed Site Professional Association (LSPA), Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), and Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE).

Founded as a not-for-profit organization in 1987, The Engineering Center provides educational programs, association resources and information services to engineers, land surveyors, related professionals and the public.

TEC's mission is to:
• increase public awareness of the value of the engineering profession
• provide current information affecting the profession
• offer administrative services and facilities to engineering organizations in New England
• provide a forum for discussion / resolution of professional issues

TEC offers services such as: practical, applied research to improve the value of engineering work to the public, member and prospect database management and maintenance, internal and local meeting space, coordination and registration, up-to-date industry trade and consumer publications, public relations and editorial expertise, internal communications coordination, web site creation, coordination and maintenance, resource center and industry library, and coordination of national, regional, and state-wide special events, programs, seminars and conferences.

TEC's sponsoring associations are: American Consulting Engineering Council of New England (ACEC/NE), Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (BCSCE), and Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers (MALSCE).

WTS is TEC's only national client. TEC and WTS headquarters are in Boston, Massachusetts. TEC's Administrative Manager, Joanne Durham, is available at (617) 227-5551 or via E-Mail at:

tec@engineers.org.

WTS National Web Page

The WTS Web Page is up and running. The address is:

http://www.wtsnational.org

Dial in to the Web Page for current news about what's happening with WTS national, and about events being held by other WTS chapters.

WTS Newsletter

MEMBER SURVEY

In our efforts to improve and expand WTS in Connecticut, we included a member survey in the May 1997 newsletter, asking members for their input. Due to limited response, we have included another copy of the survey in this month's issue. We need your ideas on programming and on improving the Connecticut Valley Chapter. Please take a moment to complete and fax the survey to: Kathleen Boyle (203) 468-5107, or mail to:

WTS Connecticut Valley, Inc.
P.O. Box 310106
Newington, CT 06131-0106

The Program Co-Chairs are hard at work trying to provide interesting and diverse programs, and we are trying to provide you with a newsletter which you will find interesting, helpful, and relevant. For this, we need your input!!

Member News

Congratulations to Sue Reynolds, Chapter V.P., for her recent promotion to Director of Communication II for ConnDOT!

Due to recent re-organization within Rideshare, Connie Dice, Chapter President, has taken on new responsibilities in her position as Director of Sales and Marketing. She is now also responsible for supervision of the customer service department.

Please share your news with other WTS members. Please contact Newsletter Co-Chair Kathleen Boyle at (203) 468-5100 so it can be published in the next newsletter.
One of the “perks” of WTS membership is the WTS Job Bank and Information Hotline, which is graciously provided to us by the Rideshare Co.

The Hotline contains the latest news in WTS programs and exciting job openings currently available in the transportation industry. WTS Members should try to take advantage of the information and opportunities provided by this service.

Recent employment opportunities listed with the WTS Job Bank include postings for: Civil Engineers, Highway Project Engineers, Architects and Architectural Designers, Regional Planners, Environmental Engineers, and Administrative personnel.

We strongly encourage employers to take advantage of this service for publishing current job openings. Not only is it free to the employers, it also provides an avenue to target qualified transportation professionals. Please be sure your employer is aware of this service provided by WTS.

For more information on specific job openings or to post a job opening, contact Job Bank Co-Chairs:

Leslie Haines (860) 282-4400
Colleen Kissane (860) 594-3255

WTS News Letter
large or small, makes a difference!
More information regarding the duties of each Office and Committee on Page 7.

WTS draws its strength from member involvement. The following members have been and continue to be involved as WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter’s

1997 Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons:

President
Connie Dice 860-298-7000

Vice President
Susan Reynolds 860-594-3062

Secretary
Maureen Shea 860-594-2911

Treasurer
Brooke Hobberman 203-777-7433

Program Co-Chairs
Christina Olson 860-247-5329
Ann-Marie McDonnell 860-258-0308

Newsletter Co-Chairs
Kathleen Boyle 203-468-5100
Lori Long 203-335-7425

Membership Co-Chairs
Sheila Suppicich 860-594-2086
Nancy Hayden 860-594-2109

Job Bank Co-Chairs
Leslie Haines 860-282-4400
Colleen Kissane 860-594-3255

Fundraising Co-Chairs
Heather Hart 860-644-6002
Leslie Johnson 860-865-2191

Scholarship Co-Chairs
Roxane Fromson 860-594-2038
Bea Isaacs 860-768-4845

Publicity Chair
Ann Marie Kemp 860-659-0514

Please feel free to contact any of the above if you would like to contribute your time or ideas, or would like to give or solicit input from any board member or committee chairperson.
Board & Committee Chair Responsibilities

The Chapter Board consists of all officers elected at the general meeting, and all Chairs appointed by the Chapter President. All Board members and Chairs are expected to attend monthly Board meetings and general membership meetings regularly. (When there are co-chairs to a committee, at least one of the co-chairs must attend the Board meetings.) Board members and chairs are also asked to contribute to the newsletter as needed.

Primary responsibilities of the executive committee and committee chairs are outlined below:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President:** Ex officio member of all committees, except the committee on nominations; Presides over all Board meetings; Maintains communication between chapter liaison, and between other local chapters; Notifies the chapter of national issues and deadlines; Offers aid, support and assistance to members and committees; Attends national meetings as a Chapter representative; Appoints committee chairs; and is the chapter spokesperson. (The immediate past president oversees the nominations committee, presents the list of nominees to the Board, distributes ballots, and introduces the new Executive Board.)

**Vice President:** Assumes the duties of the President in her absence and other duties assigned by the President; Prepares the monthly board meeting agenda; Establishes communication between other transportation groups; Monitors Chapter via management by objective; Ensures contact between committee volunteers and Chair of the appropriate committee.

**Secretary:** Keeps minutes of all Board meetings and preserves all papers, letters, and records on non-financial transactions; Notifies Board members of pending meetings, and distributes committee reports and meeting agenda; Picks up mail at chapter mail box and distributes to appropriate parties; Coordinates the bi-annual filing of chapter corporation papers.

**Treasurer:** Responsible for the funds of the Chapter, maintaining complete and accurate records of all monies received and paid, and ensures that the Board follows a policy of fiscal responsibility. The Treasurer works with the fund raising committee to establish revenue objectives, prepares the Chapter budget, and provides assistance to the Program Committee.

**COMMITTEES**

**Fundraising:** Assist in offsetting operating and program costs of the chapter; Develop and maintain fund raising programs, Organize and obtain donated time and services; Obtain funding for special projects; Coordinate fund raising programs at meetings in conjunction with the Program Committee.

**Membership:** Responsible for all phases of Chapter membership activities, recruitment and maintenance of membership records; Develop Chapter membership application and membership welcome letter; Prepare membership report; Notify WTS National of Chapter dues structure changes; Coordinate membership records with Treasurer and notify Newsletter Chair of changes; Develop annual work program focusing on major recruitment efforts; Follow up on non-renewing members.

**WTS Newsletter**

**Newsletter:** Coordinate production of the Chapter’s newsletter; Request and write articles; Collect data, edit, print and distribute newsletter; Establish and distribute production schedule; Work with Treasurer in promoting Sponsors through newsletter and placements; Photograph monthly meetings with chapter camera and maintain photo album of events; and maintain album of national and other chapter newsletters.

**Program:** Responsible for providing programs that support the goals of the organization, i.e. career development, networking, education and diversity. Select and committee and oversee committee meetings; Recommend programs, formats, and guest speakers for the program year; Coordinate programs (including physical room arrangement); Maintain record of correspondence and pertinent program information; Distribute meeting / event notices; and distribute, collect, and analyze program evaluation forms.

**Publicity:** Develop public relations contacts and seek news media exposure for WTS as a group, and for its individual members, promoting membership benefits of WTS through all media available. Establish subcommittees as needed; Publicize WTS meeting and events; Coordinate requests for speaking engagements; Publicize individual members’ achievements within and outside the chapter; and disseminate and display WTS information in the public and private sector of the transportation industry.
CT Valley Chapter Calendar

FALL PROGRAMS:

September 1997
Field Trip to ConnDOT Newington Operations Center

At 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 17, WTS presents a tour of the Newington Operations Center, followed by a luncheon presentation on Incident Management by a member of ConnDOT's operation center. If you have ever wondered who is behind the advisories on those electronic message signs along the highway, this is the tour to take. The tour will allow you to get a behind the scenes look at ConnDOT monitoring traffic conditions on I-91 and I-84 in the greater Hartford area. This is a great follow-up to the program at the Annual Luncheon on Intelligent Transportation Systems, which was presented by DeLeuw-Cather's Ardell Hoveskeland.

October 17, 1997
Financial Investments Luncheon in Newington, CT

Now is the time to plan for your financial future! On Friday, October 17, WTS welcomes guest speaker James W. Smith, Account Executive, Investments of Dean Witter, Reynolds, Inc. Where will our economy be in the next 5 to 10 years? Given the fluctuations in the economy, it is important to know how to structure your investment portfolio right now, for a secure future using stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 401(k)'s, etc. Mr. Smith will be on hand to answer these and many other questions.

November 1997
Career Development

Looking for direction on how to get ahead in your present career, or looking to change careers? Donald Blanchette of Flath & Associates will be speaking on Career Development, from the perspective of parlaying experience and abilities you have already acquired into a new career. He will also discuss goal setting, and provide direction on how to use your present job to gain additional experience to develop your qualifications for your "dream job". At 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, WTS members and guests will meet for cocktails at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden, CT. Plan on attending this thought-provoking presentation.

December 1997
Holiday Gathering

The Program Committee is organizing an evening event to celebrate the holidays. Join us for the presentation of the 1997 WTS Connecticut Valley Annual Awards to the Employer and Member of the Year and the installation of the newly-elected Executive Board members for 1998. Please plan on joining us at this gala event!

Be sure to mark your calendars - you won't want to miss these upcoming events!!