

TRB

Transportation Research Board

COMMITTEE ON LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
(AFB40)
MIDYEAR MEETING,
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
AUGUST 6 – 9, 2017

*Retro-fitting for
Resilience*

Sunday, August 6

Check-in: **Homewood Suites Hartford Downtown**
338 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT, 06103 (Breakfasts included)

On your own: Explore the State House, Constitution & Mortensen Plazas, ancient burial grounds, or Fredrick Law Olmsted's resting place.

6:00 – 7:30 **Reception with cash bar & lite fare**
City Steam Brewery – A historic building, centrally located.

Dinner on your own in Hartford

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Monday, August 7

7:00 – 7:30 Van to CTDOT in DOT headquarters, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS – In conjunction with local professionals & students

7:30 - 8:15 Continental breakfast & networking in lobby

8:15 – 8:30 **Welcome from Delois Barnes**; ConnDOT Landscape Designer, who will introduce for opening remarks:

James P. Redeker

Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation

Keith Robinson – Principal Landscape Architect California Dept. of Transportation
TRB (AFB40) Chairperson – Committee on Landscape & Environmental Design

The Context Sensitive Re-Design of the I-84 Viaduct through Hartford, CT

8:35 – 9:15 **Richard B. Armstrong** – Principal Engineer, ConnDOT

Rich is overseeing this \$5 billion effort to reconstruct a 2-mile segment of I-84 in downtown Hartford. Rich will provide an overview and discuss the public consensus building process through extensive community outreach.

David Spillane – President & Principal – Planning & Urban Design,
Goody Clancy, Boston, MA.

David will discuss the urban design challenges in the I-84 corridor and how the project will better integrate the interstate into the urban fabric.

Q & A

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The Queen of Parkways – Connecticut’s Merritt; Then & Now

9:20 – 9:45 **Video Montage** – Created by Robert Moore, ConnDOT Photographer

Enjoy a whirlwind virtual tour of this National treasure, without the traffic! This video will describe the Parkway’s storied history, famous bridges & landscape, illuminate modern challenges, and introduce members of the Panel Discussion.

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK / Networking – ConnDOT Lobby**

Two decades of balancing historic integrity with speed, development & climate change

10:00 -10:35 **Michael Calabrese** – Trans. Supervising Engineer, ConnDOT Highway Design

Mike has been a key player in the implementation of 38 miles of Merritt Parkway Safety Improvement projects, proudly carrying on the tradition of in house design.

10:35 -10:50 **Delois Barnes** – Transportation Landscape Designer 3, ConnDOT Highway Design

Delois has been overseeing the restoration of Thayer Chase’s original planting design which healed the scars of construction through contrasting open and forested spaces, while addressing the concerns of adjacent residents.

10:55 - 11:45 **Panel Discussion with audience Q & A**

Managing the Merritt has always included a variety of perspectives, including:

- **Vince McDermott** – Principal, Milone & McBroom, Cheshire, CT
In addition to developing the Merritt Parkway Landscape Master Plan in the 1990’s, Vince has been a leader in the design of Connecticut’s multi-use trail system.
- **Jill Smyth** – Executive Director, Merritt Parkway Conservancy
In addition to representing stakeholders concerned with landscape preservation and community character, Jill has been an invaluable part of the team charged with restoring the 66 historic bridges.
- **Bruce Villwock, Arborist** – ConnDOT Maintenance & Operations (Retired)

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For many years, Bruce was charged with vegetation management, including the removal of hazard and fallen trees, mowing, snow removal and protecting public safety along the Merritt Parkway.

- **Michael Calabrese** (Above)
- **Delois Barnes** (Above)

11:50 -12:50 BUFFET LUNCHES – ConnDOT Cafeteria & Courtyard

Browse “Table Top Displays” showcasing efforts to improve pollinator habitat by:

- ConnDOT Maintenance & Office of Environmental Planning
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (America’s oldest)
- CT Department of Energy & the Environment
- The University of Connecticut

Protecting & Connecting

1:00–1:30 An Ecological approach to designing coastal infrastructure
Terry Doss – Ecologist, Biohabitats, Incorporated, New York, NY

Terry is working with the City of New Haven and other urban coastal areas to assist these communities into enhancing the resiliency and safety of their shoreline after flooding and structural damage by recent storms and in the face of sea level rise while also potentially improving local ecology in this urban setting.

Q & A

1:35-2:05 Greening the East Coast from Maine to Florida
William O’Neill – Partner, Fuss & O’Neill, P.E.,L.S. (Retired)

This civil engineer grew his firm in a multi-disciplinary direction, with a focus on community & environmental design. He now dedicates his efforts to the “East Coast Greenway Alliance”, whose focus includes return-on-investment generated through sales tax from businesses located near the trails.

Q & A

2:15-2:30 BREAK / Networking, ConnDOT Lobby

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CTfastrak - Transforming an industrial urban corridor through multi-modal transportation

2:30-3:00 **An overview of Connecticut's new 'Bus Rapid Transit' (BRT) system**
Maureen Lawrence – Trans. Supervising Planner, DOT Transit & Ridesharing

Since 1998 Maureen has been involved in the design, development, implementation and now continues to work on the operational planning for CTfastrak.

3:00-3:30 **The Landscape Architect's approach to transportation design**
William C. Richter, AIA, ASLA - Richter & Cegan, Avon, Ct.

Taking on the role of site designers across four communities, this firm has connected residential neighborhoods to the BRT system with new public spaces, providing accessible circulation and comfortable settings, making it easy and pleasant to ride the bus.

Q&A

END EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS – In conjunction with local professionals & students

3:45-4:15 Load van for ride from ConnDOT to historic downtown New Britain

4:30 **Welcome from Erin Stewart** – Mayor, City of New Britain
Once the center of Stanley Tools and other manufacturing, this city; home to Central Conn. State University, has embraced Complete Streets, TOD, and other trends to improve quality of life and economic potential.

4:40-5:15 **Walking tour of streetscapes and main BRT terminal**
Michael A. Cegan, ASLA, APA - Richter & Cegan, Avon, Ct.

Broken into four phases, these designs have re-activated a historic plaza, linked the BRT to local systems, and will soon re-connect neighborhoods severed by a highway using plantings, sculpture and artful illumination.

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5:30-6:00 **Ride on CTfastrak back to Union Station & Homewood Suites**

7:00 **Group Dinner**
Black-Eyed Sally's adjacent to Homewood Suites

After enjoying dinner and ground level views of the park, on your own;

- Attend Jazz performances at the pavilion in the park
- Walk the newly renovated Gold Street – and I-Quilt
- Venture North to the resting place of Fredrick Law Olmsted

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Tuesday, August 8

7:30 - 9:30 **TRB Committee Business Meeting**
Homewood Suites Ballroom

9:30 - 9:45 **Break**

9:45 - 11:00 **TRB Committee Business Meeting**
Homewood Suites Ballroom

11:15 **Load bus for tour**

Highway Design will share a brief overview of project using on board technology.

11:20-11:30 *Bus to East Hartford, CT*

11:30-11:50 **Burnside Avenue**

Two projects were overlaid to transform a busy corridor in East Hartford. The first project addressed safety and operational concerns; later the same corridor was given a road diet which extended to connect neighborhoods and businesses.

11:55-12:05 *Bus to Manchester, CT*

12:10-12:50 **Welcome to the Charter Oak Greenway**

LUNCH – Lunch will be provided in a small park situated within the State ROW, but maintained by the Town.

The site is between a very popular section of the East Coast Greenway and project 76-217, currently under construction. The new trail's bridge over Camp Meeting Road clearly illustrates Connecticut's commitment to developing transportation alternatives.

12:55-1:40 *Bus to Salem – Scenic & historic route; including traditional 'New England Greens'.*

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1:45-2:10

Salem Roundabout

This project updated a historic but confusing crossroad, while creating a valuable mitigation site for wildlife and water quality. The landscaping includes everything from wetland species, to those suitable for splitter islands.

2:15-2:45

Bus to East Haddam

2:50-3:30

East Haddam

Home to the famous Goodspeed Opera House, this historic river town is on most tourist's itinerary and CSS is a part of all planning & decision making.

3:35-3:40

Bus to Haddam

3:45-4:00

Board the RIVERQUEST for a private chartered boat ride

This amazing company has a long history of supporting Non-Profits and teaching residents and tourists alike about Connecticut's natural resources.

4:00-6:00

Enjoy a scenic 2 hour boat tour of the nation's first and only 'Blueway' up the Connecticut River Valley from Haddam Landing to Middletown.

Topics to be discussed on board the Riverquest:

Valley Railroad State Park Economic Impacts Study

Adjacent to the river, this historic & scenic transportation corridor has an important role to play in the future development of the area.

The Salmon River Cove

Learn why the Nature Conservancy considers this estuary one of the most ecologically important areas in the Northeastern United States.

How to remove a traffic signal from an expressway

William W. Britnell – Principal of Highway Design, ConnDOT

Prior to arrival in Middletown, we will learn about this collaborative effort to transform an outdated transportation system in conjunction with a major waterfront development.

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- 6:00** **Disembark at Harbor Park**
Welcome from Daniel Drew – Mayor, City of Middletown, CT
- 6:10-6:30** Walking between the Connecticut River & Main Street constitutes a site visit to the projects described on board, which are just getting off the ground.
- 6:30-7:55** **Dinner at Fiore II** - Main Street, Middletown, CT
- 8:00** **Bus back to Hotel**
- 8:30** **Arrive back at Homewood Suites** - Hartford, CT

Wednesday, August 9

- 7:30-10:00** **TRB Committee Business Meeting**
- 10:00-10:15** **Break**
- 10:15-11:55** **TRB Committee Business Meeting**
- 12:00** **Adjourn meeting**