

Saturday's Weather  
Mostly clear

Daytime highs in the upper 50s, dropping to the lower 40s after sunset.

### Boat Ride Available to State Host Night Lobster Feast

The Hartford Belle, with room for up to 45, will make two runs to the Host Night Dinner tonight at Riverside Park. The first departure will be at 5:45 p.m. and the second one will be at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to walk, it will take about 20 minutes on the walkway along the Connecticut River. Grab a jacket. The tents at the dinner will be heated. Directions are available at the AASHTO Registration Booth in the Marriott lobby. Reservations are not needed and the boats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.



### Tomorrow's Highlights

The Plenary Session opens Sunday at 9 in Ballroom A (*a change from the original location*). Keynote speakers will be GM's Larry Burns and Tom Madison of the Federal Highway Administration. Connecticut DOT Commissioner Joe Marie will give a brief presentation on the building of the century old Bulkeley Bridge – the bridge being rededicated later in the day at Riverside Park.

## A Time for Bold Leadership

By Pete K. Rahn, AASHTO President

As we gather here in Hartford, I must say thank you to the literally thousands of men and women across the country who volunteer their time, talents and energy to the work of AASHTO.

This year we have been exceptionally busy on the development of a far-reaching authorization proposal that represents bold reform for our federal transportation programs in 2009. It calls for a program focused on truly national objectives, and one which is both outcome-driven and performance-based. The proposal will be considered by the Board of Directors on Monday, and once in place, will enable AASHTO to take a leadership role in shaping the future of highway and transit programs in America.

As witnessed by the recent Highway Trust Fund crisis this fall, one of the key concerns for authorization is to ensure the solvency of transportation's primary funding source for the future. Our financial proposals identify a wide range of options for Congress to consider. But bold leadership will be needed, and that leadership must come from those who know transportation best – the state DOTs which build, improve and maintain the system on which America depends. Whether in your community or in your legislatures, do not hesitate -- your voices must be heard!



## AASHTO 2008 Trade Fair Opens

Wielding a giant pair of scissors and with his ears still ringing from the Lancraft Fife and Drum Corps of North Haven, AASHTO President Pete Rahn cut a blue ribbon Friday to open the AASHTO 2008 Trade Fair. He was flanked by AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley and Connecticut DOT Commissioner Joe Marie. Dozens of exhibitors representing every aspect of the



transportation industry are taking part in the show. The fife and drum corps marched through the Connecticut Convention Center and through the doors into the show after the ribbon was cut.



## Delegates Tour Bradley and New England Air Museum

AASHTO delegates got a peak behind the scenes during a tour Friday of Bradley International Airport and the New England Air Museum. The museum features a fascinating collection of vintage planes and other aviation gear, memorabilia, documents and artifacts. The airport, owned and operated by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, is named for an Oklahoma airman who was killed in a training accident at the old air field in the 1940s.



## Reaching Tomorrow's Engineers

ConnDOT's TRAC Program and AASHTO's National TRAC Program are partnering in the 2008 Transportation Design Challenge for Connecticut high school and middle school students to be held at 11 a.m. in the Trade Fair today.

With cities and towns focusing on smart and responsible growth, and more livable and walk-able communities, the "Design Challenge" for students was to consider transportation as the backbone for growth in their communities. The students researched, analyzed and designed a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) project that might some day work in their community. Six finalist teams, made up of three team members and a coach, will display and present a model of their TODs for judging to determine the winners.



## AASHTO Delegate Spouses Head to Historic Mystic, Connecticut

The historic whaling village of Mystic, Connecticut, was the destination for AASHTO delegate spouses on Friday. As it happened, the hour-long ride to and from Mystic Seaport doubled as a fall foliage tour on a spectacular autumn day.



Mystic's Museum of America and the Sea is regarded as the nation's leading maritime museum. More than 300,000 people visit Mystic Seaport annually.

Visitors can explore American maritime history firsthand as they climb aboard historic tall ships, stroll through a re-created 19th-century coastal village or watch a working preservation shipyard in action.



## AASHTO Delegates Tour Pratt & Whitney



A dozen AASHTO delegates toured the super-secure Pratt & Whitney jet engine manufacturing plant on Thursday, the opening day of AASHTO 2008. Pratt & Whitney is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft engines, space propulsion systems and industrial gas turbines. Pratt & Whitney was founded in Hartford in 1925 by Frederick Rentschler. Pratt & Whitney's first aircraft engine was the 410 horsepower, air-cooled Wasp, which delivered unprecedented performance and reliability for the time, and transformed the aviation industry. Pratt & Whitney builds engines for front-line fighters, like the F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-22 Raptor and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, as well as the C-17 Globemaster III military transport. The company is a subsidiary of United Technologies.