

Thursday, October 16, 2008



You're here at a great time of year!
Take some time to enjoy the colors.

Introducing ConnDOT

- 3,300 employees
- 5,700 two-lane miles of state highways
- Bradley International Airport plus 5 regional general aviation airports
- State Pier in New London plus three deepwater ports
- New Haven Commuter Rail Line – 36 million passenger rides per year
- Shore Line East Commuter Rail Service New Haven to New London
- CT Transit bus services – 37 million rides per year

Free Star Shuttle service has been expanded for AASHTO 2008 attendees!

The service will operate:
6AM-1AM Thursday through Sunday
and 6AM -11PM on Monday.
Circulating through the city's hot spots, the Star Shuttle is the easy way to get around.
See the map in your packet for details.



Governor Rell Welcomes AASHTO Delegates

Welcome to Connecticut and our Capital City, Hartford! It's a beautiful time of the year to visit New England.

I know you have some important business to take care of, but I hope that while you're here, you will take the time to get to know our state a little better. Connecticut offers so much – from the historic Capitol and the Mark Twain House, to beautiful Colonial homes, the Connecticut River and a spectacular coastline. The City of Hartford is known for its fun attractions, fabulous restaurants and a friendly hospitality unmatched in the Northeast.

My office and staff are eager to work with you to produce the best possible federal transportation funding reauthorization bill in Washington, and I look forward to learning of your progress toward that end during this year's AASHTO Annual Meeting.

Thank you again for choosing Hartford and Connecticut – and best wishes for a successful conference!



Greetings from Commissioner Joe Marie



The Connecticut Department of Transportation and its 3,300 employees are delighted to welcome you and to host the Annual Meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. It's an honor (and a pleasure!) to have America's top transportation thinkers and opinion-shapers right here in Hartford.

This year's Annual Meeting is packed with provocative meetings and programs and it will be a challenge to absorb everything. And, while much will be going on inside the conference, I hope you will have an opportunity to see some of Hartford and our great state.

Connecticut has a rich transportation history and our DOT is truly multi-modal – overseeing not only thousands of miles of roads and bridges, but also Bradley International airport, a State Pier and three deep-water ports, the New Haven Line commuter railroad and ever-growing freight rail service, ferries and an expanding network of bike and pedestrian trails and crossovers.

I have every confidence that your stay in Hartford and the Annual Meeting will be professionally and personally rewarding.

Getting Around Hartford

Downtown Hartford has an incredible variety of things to see, places to eat and plenty of cultural attractions and nightlife options.

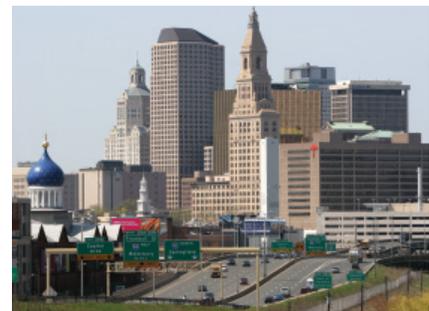
For ideas about what to see and do – whether you have an hour or an afternoon – visit:

The Hartford Welcome site:

www.hartford.com

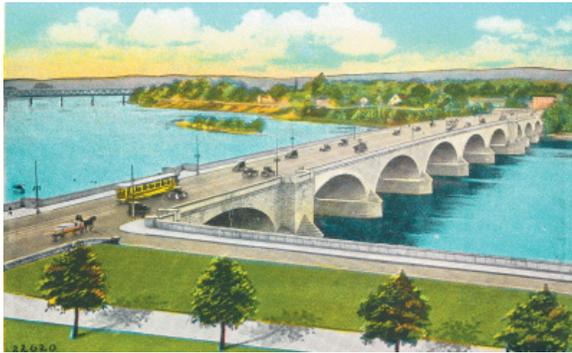
The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism:

www.ctvisit.com



For information about transit services, including the free Star Shuttle in Downtown Hartford, visit: www.ct.gov/dot and click on "AASHTO 2008 Hartford" (highlighted in yellow on the site) and then click on "Transportation" in the left-hand navigation bar. For information on parking see: www.hartfordparking.com

Convention Highlight: Bulkeley Bridge Rededication and 100th Year Celebration



One of the highlights of this year's AASHTO Conference will be the rededication of the century old Bulkeley Bridge. The ceremony – Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. – will feature the unveiling of a massive bronze plaque commemorating the bridge's 100 years of history and service. Named for Governor,

U.S. Senator and Hartford Mayor Morgan G. Bulkeley, the bridge carries Interstate 84 over the Connecticut River, linking Hartford and East Hartford. It has earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

The rededication ceremony will include displays showing how transportation has changed over the century, historic photos, music, refreshments and a vintage baseball game. See you there!

Need Assistance? Looking for the Right Conference Room? Ask a Volunteer.

Dozens of Connecticut DOT employees have volunteered to staff the AASHTO 2008 Annual Meeting and have a single focus: to help you in any way you can. As you navigate the Connecticut Convention Center and the Marriott Hotel next door, keep an eye on the signs and look for the navy-shirted volunteers with the distinctive Hartford AASHTO logo. They'll be happy to point you in the right direction.



AASHTO Pumpkins to Cheer Hospital's Kids

In the spirit of the Fall season, the Hospitality Committee along with AASHTO and ConnDOT have chosen a donation of pumpkins to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) as the community project for this year's annual meeting. The pumpkins are scheduled to be delivered to CCMC's foundation director, Mr. Robert Nolan on Monday, October 20th. Representatives from AASHTO, FHWA and ConnDOT are expected to participate in this event that will bring some cheer to the hospital's young patients.



An Inviting Trade Show Awaits

The 2008 trade show featuring numerous exhibitors will open Friday, October 17, in Exhibition Hall B in the Connecticut Convention Center. There will be a ribbon cutting at noon and a Colonial-style fife and drum corps helping get things under way. A complete listing of the exhibitors is included in the Annual Meeting program book.



Connecticut Facts

- Our name comes from the Native American word meaning "Beside the Long Tidal River" – Quinnehtukqut (In fact, there is over a 2' tide in Hartford)
- Connecticut is "The Constitution State"
- State Flower: Mountain Laurel
- State Animal: Sperm Whale
- State Song: Yankee Doodle
- State Insect: Praying Mantis
- State Tree: White Oak
- State Bird: Robin
- State Hero: Nathan Hale
- Capital: Hartford
- Population: 3.5 million
- Amazing Connecticut fact: There are more horses per square mile here than any other state in the nation.