



Join the SICTA:
Membership applications
available on the website or
by calling (609) 263-3784

Board of Directors

- Gary Egnasko (609) 263-6359
- Zack Lilienfeld (609) 487-7757
- Jim Malloy (609) 263-6208
- Pete & Sally McWilliams (856) 589-2081
- John & Marye Ruzila (973) 742-4724
- Greg Schoultz (609) 263-0094
- Deanna & Rocco Parise (609) 263-7965
- Dan & Mike Tumulo (609) 263-6213
- Bonnie O'Brien (609) 263-0393
- Mike Stein (610) 446-3898
- John Fee (609) 263-6817
- Tom Gillen (609) 263-5567

Your SICTA Officers

- President**
Tom Henry
(609) 263-3784
- Vice President**
Open
- Recording Secretary**
Mary Helen Hoffman
(215) 368-2207
- Treasurer**
Ben Tartaglia
(856) 983-7665



2007 SICTA Meeting Dates

Public Safety Building Commissioner's Meeting Room
ALL MEETINGS ARE ON SATURDAYS

Oct 13, 2007	1:00 PM	General Meeting
Nov 10, 2007	1:00 PM	Board Meeting
Dec 8, 2007	10:00 AM	Board Meeting

**** All members are invited to attend the Board Meetings**

Please check www.sicta.org for announcements or last minute changes.

A BUDGET TIME BOMB



In the past year and a half, the former City Commissioners approved numerous resolutions and contracts that will drastically increase taxes. These items include salary increases (estimated to cost a minimum of 5% per year), a fringe benefit package that costs \$25,000 per year and expected to increase by 7% per year, extremely liberal leave policies. An example of the latter point would be the four employees who received a total of \$ 170,000 in 2006 but did not work a day.

The City's 2008 budget will also see a significant increase in the amount to be paid into the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS). The estimated PERS contribution is \$ 286,262 and the estimated PFRS contribution is \$ 372,957.

To learn more about the City's budget problems, please attend SICTA's Fall Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 13th at 1:30 PM in the Community Lodge.

HOW ARE SIC BRIDGES?

The NJDOT Bridge Review



On August 9th, the Commissioner of Transportation issued an interim report on the **safety status of bridges in NJ**, in response to the Governor's directive following the tragic collapse of the Minneapolis Bridge. The report gives bridges a sufficiency rating from 0% to 100%, where 100% indicates a bridge is entirely sufficient and 0% indicates a bridge is entirely insufficient or deficient.

The following are the specifics of the **three bridges into Sea Isle City**, all of which are under the authority of Cape May County.

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The bridge in Strathmere is categorized as **"Structurally Deficient"**, the **sufficiency rating of the bridge is 12.4%**. This categorization means the bridge's decks, superstructure and/or substructures are deteriorated, but per the Commissioner of Transportation, this does **not** mean it is unsafe to travel on. This bridge was last inspected on Oct. 05 and is scheduled for re-inspection in Oct. 2007.

The Townsend's Inlet Bridge is categorized as **"Structurally Deficient"**. **This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 2%**, and is the subject of a priority

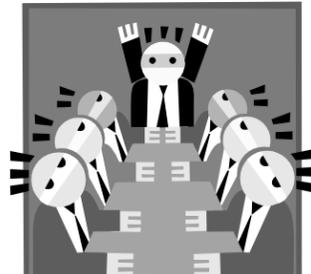
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letter regarding extensive steel corrosion on the bascule span, bearing and bearing plate issues, fender system condition, and location of severe scaling in some piers. This bridge was last inspected in Oct. 05 and is scheduled to be re-inspected in Oct. 07.

The Sea Isle City Bridge on Ludlum's Bay is categorized as "Functionally Obsolete". This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 49.1%. This indicates * the deck geometry, load carrying capacity, clearance and/or approach roadway alignment has reduced its ability to adequately meet traffic needs below accepted design standards". The bridge was last inspected in June 06 and is scheduled for re-inspection on June 08.

We note that the county ratable base has nearly quadrupled in the last 10 years. In the past two years, the ratable base has gone up 50%. During this same two year period, the county has funneled money back to the municipalities. Last year \$3.8M went back to the municipalities via the Municipal Public Joint Venture Program. This year the county is using bond money for municipal improvement, preliminarily, for the next three years. The most recent events make us wonder if this money would not be better spent on bringing up the sufficiency ratings of our bridges.



SICTA Board Elections Coming Up

At our October 13th General Membership meeting (see meeting announcement in this newsletter), SICTA Board of Director elections will be held, with all SICTA members attending the meeting to cast their votes for our 20 Board positions. Please note that any SICTA member in good standing for one year is eligible to run for this election, with SICTA actively looking to broaden representation on the Board. So if you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact SICTA's President, Tom Henry (263-3784) for how to throw your hat in the ring.



Beach Replenishment Update

Last year at this time a federal beach replenishment project for Sea Isle beaches was a long shot. The Great Egg Harbor- Townsends Inlet (GEH-TI) project was not included in the House and Senate versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and the chief engineer's report had not been finalized. But what a difference a year can make. Many of you responded to our e-mail alert last September by e-mailing your senators and congressmen. Some of you responded to the flyers handed out by SICTA at Family Fall Festival, by calling your representatives. And a number of you who read our article in the October SICTA newsletter took the time to write your legislators. Most of you have probably seen the "Before and After" pictures of other beach replenishment projects that have been posted on the SICTA website.

In our February newsletter we told you that the Chief Engineer's report had been completed. At this time, we can report that significant progress has been made.

- GEH-TI Project was included in the WRDA which was passed by the House and Senate this past Spring.
 - House Apr 19th Yes 394 No 25 (HR 1495)
 - Senate May 16th Yes 91 No 4
- Bill includes authorization for beach restoration for Strathmere and Sea Isle City as well as funding for periodic replenishment for the next 50 years.
- Bill provides for \$54M Total (\$35M Federal) for the restoration portion and \$203M Total (\$101M Federal) for the 50 year periodic replenishment of our beaches.
- Bill has emerged from conference committee, with the GEH-TI project intact, and on August 1st the House passed the bill 381 to 40. The Senate adjourned for their August break without acting on the conferenced bill. Signs are positive that this bill will make it to President Bush's desk this year. However the Office of Management and Budget has expressed strong objections to the bill which totals some \$21Billion worth of projects. The White House has threatened to veto this bill.

Our thanks go out to all of you who have made calls or sent letters and e-mails to your representatives, senators and local government officials expressing your support for the Great Egg Harbor-TI Project. We also want to thank Congressman LoBiondo, Senator Lautenberg, and Mayor Desiderio for all that they have done on behalf of GEH-TI.

The progress has been amazing, but there is a great deal of work to be done before we see the sand hit our beaches.

- The Senate needs to pass the final conferenced WRDA bill which will go to the President.
- The President must sign the WRDA bill
- WRDA only authorizes our project. We need to keep the pressure up to make sure we are at the head of the line when funds are actually appropriated.

Please consider contacting Senator Lautenberg and Representative LoBiondo and thanking them for their efforts on behalf of GEH-TI, and please let the President know how important the WRDA bill is to you.

Sen. Lautenberg Toll Free: 1-888-398-1642; to e-mail go to <http://lautenberg.senate.gov/contact/>

Rep. LoBiondo Toll Free 1-800-471-4450; to e-mail go to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Pres. Bush 1-202-456-1111; or send e-mail to comments@whitehouse.gov