



## Transportation Projects in Connecticut and Florida Win Top National Awards



American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced the Connecticut Department

of Transportation has earned the Grand Prize and the Florida Department of Transportation was voted the People's Choice Award winner in the 2016 America's Transportation Awards competition.

Now in its ninth year, the competition attracted a record 84 project nominees from 39 state transportation departments plus the District of Columbia that competed in four regional competitions. The 12 projects receiving the highest ratings in the regional competitions competed for the final two awards. A panel of experts selected the Grand Prize winner and the project receiving the highest number of online votes earned the People's Choice Award.

"This year's Grand Prize winner, the new **Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge**—is another perfect example of what this competition is about," said Bud Wright, AASHTO executive director. "This spectacular new addition to New Haven's skyline is one of the largest projects in the Connecticut DOT's history. And it was delivered ahead of schedule and on budget, improving safety, relieving congestion and enhancing travel options for tens of thousands of daily commuters."

The \$554 million, Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge spans 42-hundred feet over the Quinnipiac River, connecting 140,000 vehicles daily to several major Interstates and the Gateway Terminal; one of the busiest intermodal ports in the country.

"America's Transportation Awards continues to showcase how state and local transportation agencies are using innovative approaches to tackle a broad range of transportation projects," stated Jill Ingrassia, managing director of government relations and traffic safety advocacy at AAA. "Whether it's repairing or replacing existing infrastructure, or implementing HOV lanes, this is important work that will help to reduce congestion, improve safety, and increase efficiency."

The Florida Department of Transportation's **Eller Drive Intermodal Container Transfer Facility Overpass** project earned 65,000 of the more than 220,000 online votes cast, making it the winner of the People's Choice Award. This \$42.5 million project improved safety and traffic flow to the Port Everglades cruise and container terminals through upgraded intersections, a new bridge, railroad crossing signals, and other major improvements.

"It is important to recognize the innovative and resourceful transportation infrastructure projects being done across the country," said Ed Mortimer, executive director of transportation infrastructure at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "Our organization is a co-sponsor of this annual competition because it demonstrates how these award winning transportation projects are the foundation for America's economy."

The Grand Prize and People's Choice award winners were each presented with \$10,000 cash prizes to be used to support a charity or transportation-related scholarship program of the agencies' choosing.

Learn more about the contest and this year's entries at [www.americastransportationawards.org](http://www.americastransportationawards.org).

Excerpt: [www.forconstructionpros.com/press\\_release/12278982/transportation-projects-in-connecticut-and-florida-win-top-national-awards](http://www.forconstructionpros.com/press_release/12278982/transportation-projects-in-connecticut-and-florida-win-top-national-awards)



# How Small Business Owners Can Navigate the Holiday Season



The holiday season brings with it a unique set of stressors that can test even the most seasoned small business leader.

Here are a few suggestions:

## Navigating holiday pay:

Private employers generally are not legally required to provide paid holidays to non-exempt employees. However, if you close for a holiday, exempt employees must receive their full salary as long as they work any part of the workweek. In some states, like Massachusetts and Rhode Island, certain employers may be required to provide premium pay to non-exempt employees who work on a holiday. Some things to keep in mind when considering how to treat holiday pay are applicable laws, your company's resources, business needs and practices in previous years.

## Creating time-off policies:

The holiday season is a popular time for employees to request vacation, so provide employees with instructions for requesting time off and clearly communicate how vacations will be granted (based on scheduling needs, seniority, first-come first-served or a combination of these factors). Some employers see a rise in unscheduled absences before and after a company holiday. Also, consider incentives to help limit unscheduled absences.

## Setting gift-giving standards:

During the holidays, vendors may give employees gifts, or employees may want to give clients gifts. Because gifts can raise concerns about conflicts of interest, consider establishing written guidelines around giving and receiving gifts. Many employers limit gifts to a nominal value and require employees to report gifts to the company.

To read more see Excerpt://www.entrepreneur.com/article/284551

## Tis the Season to Promote Your Business



Never start in December what you can put off until January seems to be the mantra in some corners of the construction industry. As a result, the winter holiday period runs the danger of becoming one of the least profitable months of the year. On the other hand, it can be one of the most productive times to market your company. With minimal expense and some team effort, you can turn the December doldrums into a winter wonderland.

**Follow the 10:30 rule**—It is a myth that once you perform work for a customer, the customer will always remember you. The 10:30 rule is about staying within 30 days of your top 10 customers. For example, send a New Year card in January. People receive many cards in December, but a card in January will make your name stand out. Here is a list of 12 ways to stay in touch:

January	send a card	July	make a phone call
February	personal visit	August	send info about a new product/service offering
March	e-mail, fax or mail a timely article	September	got calendars?
April	mail a company brochure	October	send a Thanksgiving or seasonal card
May	send a personal e-mail	November	a gift card for local restaurant
June	another personal visit	December	holiday newsletter

To read more see excerpt ://www.ecmag.com/section/your-business/tis-season-promote-your-business

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