

Rhodework Review

Fall 2023

In Memory of Tim Scanlon:

Our valued executive director since 2014.



Construction Industries of Rhode Island

President's Message

On a mission to expand our capabilities and membership.



Michael D. D'Ambra
CIRI President



Welcome to our
new members.

Cullion Concrete Corp.

875 Phenix Avenue
Cranston, RI 02921
401.783.4650 tel
401.216.6450 fax
Mark Cullion, President
mark@cullion.com
kara@cullion.com

Lindon Group, Inc.

310 Bourne Avenue
Bldg 67F
Rumford, RI 02916
401.272.2081
Mindy Penney, CEO & Owner
mpenney@lindongroup.com

Since 1975, CIRI has always looked for ways to anticipate and serve the evolving needs of its members. Especially today, this is a multifaceted challenge. On one hand, we need to continue our traditional support for members on both the project and advocacy levels. CIRI is also focused on leveraging the technologies and opportunities provided by the digital age. Some initiatives we launched or furthered during 2023 include:

Free executive training sessions for upper managers.

In February and March, CIRI will again sponsor free executive training sessions presented by FMI — a leading consulting firm serving construction and related industries. We're currently conferring with FMI to determine the most beneficial followup set of topics for our members.

Working to adopt the latest technologies. Companies of all sizes are looking to embrace technologies and tools that can make their operations more efficient and profitable. We're working to move the creation of a CIRI Technology & Innovation Committee to the next step to help members leverage the most promising innovations.

A continual focus on jobsite

safety. CIRI-sponsored safety programs are a crucial advantage for our members. Our yearly schedule of winter programs includes specific courses to help employees earn or renew key certifications, along with the Dig Safe seminar event we co-sponsor with Managing Underground Safety Training (MUST).

Helping to expand and rejuvenate the workforce.

CIRI will continue to expand and augment our recruitment activities. The focus for 2024 is to develop ways to amplify our core social media effort via additional channels — while actively engaging our members to help us spread the word about the advantages and promise of our industry.

As always, we welcome ideas and perspectives on any other ways CIRI can help. We also encourage you to reach out to associates and partners about the benefits we offer.

Respectfully,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, representing Michael D. D'Ambra.

Michael D. D'Ambra

2023 Henry J. Sherlock Scholarships awarded.

CIRI provides six students with grants toward college studies.

Marking the 12th year of its scholarship program, CIRI has awarded \$3,500 to each of six students to apply to their college studies. Since its inception in 2011, the program has awarded a total of 61 scholarships.



Attending the CIRI Spring Dinner to receive their awards were Nathan Fortier and James O'Connor.

This year's awards were presented at the CIRI Annual Spring Dinner Meeting on June 1 at the Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick. The scholarships were renamed in 2014 in honor of Henry Sherlock, executive director of CIRI for 37 years and a lifelong advocate for the pursuit of higher education.

Any senior high school student graduating in 2023 who is the child or grandchild of a present employee of a CIRI member company — and will be enrolling in a two-year or four-year accredited college or university — was eligible to apply for

consideration. The winning 2023 graduates who received this year's scholarship grants are:

Sofia Bostock • A graduate of North Attleboro High School who resides in North Attleboro, Sofia is beginning a four-year program at Fairfield University in biology. She hopes to become a physical therapist or a physician's assistant. Sofia's father, Jeffrey Bostock, is employed by Aetna Bridge Company.

Isabella Bruno • A graduate of St. John Paul II School in Hyannis, Isabella resides in Bourne, MA. Beginning a four-year BS program at Fairfield University, Isabella is a biology major on a pre-medical track. After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend med school to become a dermatologist. Her father, Nicholas Bruno, is employed by Barletta Heavy Division.

Nathan Fortier • A graduate of Cumberland High School, Nathan resides in Cumberland. He is beginning a four-year GDS BS program at New England Tech: an advanced course of study in game development, simulation programming and implementation. His father, Gary Fortier, is employed by GM2 Associates, Inc.

Ava Morin • A Ponagansett High School graduate who resides in Coventry, Ava is beginning a four-year course of study in visual communication design at the University of Hartford. She is looking to enter the graphic design field while also implementing her photography skills. Ava's father, Steven Morin, is employed by Cardi Corp.

James O'Connor • A graduate of South Kingstown High School who resides in Wakefield, James is beginning a four-year program at Syracuse University to earn a BS in civil engineering. He is looking to join the workforce immediately after graduation as a civil engineer. James' father, Scott O'Connor, is employed by JH Lynch & Sons.

Morgan Rainville • A graduate of Burrillville High School who lives in Burrillville, Morgan is beginning a four-year program at Worcester State University to become a registered nurse, while also completing a minor in forensic science. Her goal is to work as an RN in a hospital trauma or psychiatric unit. Morgan's father, Richard Rainville, is employed by Milton CAT.

RI heavy and highway sector performance highlighted at CIRC Spring Dinner Meeting.

RI Governor McKee and FHWA's Derek Torrey were featured speakers at June 1 event.



CIRC President Mike D'Ambra with Governor McKee and Derek Torrey.

The partnership and synergy among key stakeholders in Rhode Island continue to be a boon to our state's overall infrastructure and the economy at large. During the 2023 Spring Dinner Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, a pair of prominent guest speakers spoke to the recent successes driven by the RhodeWorks program — while complementing the integral involvement of CIRC and its member companies.

In his brief introduction, CIRC President Mike D'Ambra spoke to McKee's longstanding support of the RI construction industry — dating back to his tenure as Lieutenant Governor during the Raimondo administration.

"We're all familiar with RhodeWorks and what it's done for our industry," D'Ambra said, "Governor McKee has been a real champion for all industry,

for business." He also prefaced how the Governor and General Assembly have stepped up to prevent funding gaps while monies from the RhodeWorks truck tolling program are being jeopardized by a federal appeals challenge.

The event's featured speakers were:

Dan McKee **Governor of Rhode Island**

Governor McKee began his address by speaking about recent strategies undertaken to keep funding for the RhodeWorks program intact — despite the unfortunate federal court ruling which brought the state's innovative truck tolling program to a standstill.

These strategies include judicious use of budget surpluses, while partnering with the General Assembly for allocations to offset

revenue shortfalls over the next two years. This is also generating a multiplier effect across communities in Rhode Island, as many of its 39 cities and towns are putting substantial dollars into local road construction and rehabilitation.

"I have 39 flags in the rotunda of the State House," McKee stated. "Because what happens on the local level is equally important — if not more important — than what happens on the state level. The idea is to invest those dollars in one-time types of investments that provide us decades of value."

A former small business owner, the Governor provided a recap of other budget initiatives to help aid business and grow the economy both now and in the future. One example is how McKee worked with the General Assembly to eliminate the vehicle tax, which enables businesses to save tens of thousands of dollars. He also invited event attendees to reach out with any ideas to eliminate other "unlevel playing fields" to make Rhode Island more competitive with Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Derek Torrey **Federal Highway Administration** **(FHWA) RI Division Administrator**

Named to the post of RI Division Administrator in December 2022, Derek Torrey's early career in Washington DC included advising

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Tim Scanlon (1948-2023)

A tribute to his nine-year tenure of leadership and achievement.

The past nine years have been a period of outstanding progress for heavy and highway construction in Rhode Island. During that time, our organization benefited greatly from the in-depth knowledge and astute leadership of Tim Scanlon as our Executive Director.

CIRI played a major role in helping to champion the landmark RhodeWorks legislation in 2016, which paved the way for an unprecedented source of dependable funding for the projects our members undertake. In the face of the pandemic and other shifting conditions, we also took a number of crucial initiatives to a new level including education and safety programs, the advocacy efforts of the CIRI PAC, recruitment outreach, bond referendum campaigns to gain voter approval, and a dynamic corporate rebranding.

Building a notable career through service and excellence.

Honorably volunteering to serve his country, Tim Scanlon was a US Army veteran who conducted over 50 missions during the Vietnam War. Upon graduating magna cum laude from Bryant College, he began his professional career as a CPA at Price Waterhouse. Tim later served as Director of Finance for the City of Warwick; Vice President, Controller of Gilbane Building Company; and Executive Director of Tillinghast Licht, LLP for nearly 20 years.

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Shown here with his beloved wife Barbara of 55 years — along with son Jamie and daughter Heather — the photo collages here and on the cover depict Tim across the various facets of his life and work.



The path that led Tim to CIRI.

Tim's initial involvement for CIRI was as a resource for Government Strategies, Inc. — a registered political lobbying firm that has continuously served our organization for several decades. Tim transitioned to the role of CIRI Executive Director in mid-2014 upon the passing of Henry J. Sherlock, who had held that position for 37 years since our founding in 1975.

"Henry was certainly a tough act to follow," says Mike D'Ambra, CIRI president, "and Tim was more than up to the task from day one. He already had decades of advocacy experience on our behalf under his belt. Tim had an incredibly sharp mind, great insight and superior managerial skills. CIRI was very fortunate to have Tim in our corner during a period when our industry was transforming itself in so many ways."

All of us at CIRI offer our sincere and deepest condolences to Tim Scanlon's loving family, along with the numerous people in his circle of friends and associates. His energy and guidance made a genuine difference in our organization: an impact that will reverberate for years to come.

Free FMI executive training returning due to popular demand.

Followup series of courses being planned for February/March.

Last winter, 59 management-level employees from CIRI member companies took advantage of our free offering of courses conducted by FMI, a leading consulting firm serving construction and related industries. We're currently working with FMI to outline a 2024 series of four courses — for the dates of February 28 & 29 and March 6 & 7.

Once the topics have been finalized, announcements and response forms will be emailed to our main contacts at CIRI member companies. In the meantime, any interested parties are invited to contact the CIRI office at 401-738-8530 or exec@ciri.net with any questions.



The FMI coursebook customized for CIRI in 2023.

CIRI recruitment effort evolving for 2024.

Exploring ways to augment social media effort.

The CIRI recruitment effort to date has been targeted to three distinct audiences: 1) high school graduates and young workers; 2) parents and educators; and 3) twenty-somethings in the workforce who need to find a better long-term career path.

While there has been some response from the latter two audiences, it has been particularly difficult getting the younger element to engage.

CIRI is currently looking at ways to amplify and expand the effort, including traditional

media channels and outside-the-box strategies, to drive more inquiries to our established leads collection system from a variety of directions. We will keep our members posted on developments and results as they transpire.

Rich Juliano of ARTBA to address CIRI Fall Dinner Meeting.

Event scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 15.

The annual CIRI Fall Dinner Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 15 at the Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick. We are pleased to welcome Rich Juliano CAE, IOM as our guest speaker. Rich is General Counsel and Managing Director for ARTBA, serving the Contractors and P3 Divisions.

As usual, an announcement and response form will be mailed to all CIRI member companies. For more information, feel free to call the CIRI office at 401-738-8530, email us at exec@ciri.net — or click here to [download a response form](#).



Ernie Carlucci is new CIRI Executive Director.

Has extensive knowledge of business, labor and legislative affairs.

Serving most recently as Deputy Policy Director for Dominick J. Ruggerio, RI Senate President, Ernie Carlucci's acquired knowledge and depth of experience are especially suited for his new position as CIRI Executive Director.

After beginning his career as a small business owner, Ernie has held a number of managerial and executive positions in municipal, state and federal government. These include tenures as Chief of Staff for the City of Cranston and RI Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin, a position in the Congressional office of Rep. David N. Cicilline, and serving as Parking Administrator for the City of Providence.

In addition to his background with government and legislative affairs, Carlucci has in-depth experience with labor relations. As a key staff member for the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 1033 for public employees, he was instrumental in the negotiations process for five collective bargaining units.

CIRI member companies are invited to reach out to Ernie for an introductory conversation, and with any questions, concerns or ideas they may have.

ecarlucci@ciri.net
401-738-8530



RIDOT makes significant progress on RhodeWorks priorities.

2023 program includes large projects and substantial resurfacing activity.



After three very productive prior quarters, RIDOT is looking to wrap up the 2023 construction season in an equally effective and efficient manner. The agency has also remained focused on being a diligent and careful steward of transportation funding. Heading into the fourth quarter, more than 95% of RIDOT projects were on time and on budget.

Major road/bridge projects in motion or nearly complete include:

Route 6/10 Connector. Working toward completion, RIDOT is in the last stages of this \$410 million project. The massive effort has included a new flyover ramp connecting Route 10 North to Route 6 West, replacement of 7 structurally deficient bridges, along with numerous community and quality of life improvements.

Washington Bridge. The majority of remaining construction is focused on reopening the Gano Street off-ramp for I-195 West while reconstructing the wall along its right side. Concrete substructure and bridge deck repairs continue on the bridge itself. A \$25 million federal BUILD grant, obtained through the efforts of the RI congressional delegation, enabled the expanded

Henderson Bridge project linking Providence to East Providence.



Demolition work on Route 37 bridge abutment in Cranston.

project to include a new exit to Waterfront Drive in East Providence — providing access to dozens of acres of developable land.

Providence I-95 Viaduct. RIDOT successfully opened a new bridge from I-95 North to Route 146. With traffic now flowing smoothly on the new structure, a portion of a new collector-distributor (C/D) is being built in the footprint of the old Route 146 bridge. A major project milestone, this C/D along the right side of I-95 will be completed in by the end of 2023. It will eliminate the weaving conflicts and congestion that plague the confluence of approaches involving the 6/10 Connector and downtown on-ramps to the Route 146/State Offices interchange.

Henderson Bridge. For this significant bridge linking Providence to East Providence, RIDOT has finished curing the

concrete deck while paving the east approach to the Henderson Bridge. Next steps involve drainage, curbing and electrical work for the second half of the Massasoit Avenue roundabout — while paving the new road alignment on Waterman Avenue. Upon completion, a 75% reduction in the project area structure footprint will free up 25 acres of land for economic development. Also included is a shared-use bike path connecting existing networks for East Providence, Providence and the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Route 37 Connector. RIDOT has received a \$25M Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the third and final phase of improvements along Route 37. Estimated to cost \$100 million, this phase includes the rehabilitation, replacement or elimination of eight bridges — including the replacement of a deficient bridge with an at-grade intersection at Post Road. RIDOT has received more than \$66 million in federal grants across this multiphase project.

I-95 Resurfacing in Southern Rhode Island. This \$19.3 million resurfacing effort broke ground with the kickoff of the 2023 construction season in mid-April. this project will cover nearly 18 miles of I-95 from the Connecticut state line in Hopkinton to the Baker Pines Bridge in Richmond. It is part of RIDOT's second year

of investing nearly \$500 million in paving projects statewide — made possible by the federal bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

For the most up-to-date information on RIDOT programs and projects, visit: www.dot.ri.gov/RhodeWorks



Additional Route 37 Connector work includes paving/resurfacing and precast arch bridge construction.

Continued from page 4

on transportation policy to New England members of the US House of Representatives where he helped develop federal highway funding bills. His eight-year tenure with FHWA also began there: first as Legislative & Policy Analyst, followed by two years as Special Assistant to the Administrator.

Torrey stated he's pleased to be serving Rhode Island, after spending years on the federal level getting money out to states for their projects. He pointed out that Rhode Island received just over \$412 million from the Biden-backed bipartisan Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act (IIJA) — up from the \$300 million from the previous highway bill two years ago.

"I'm really excited to finally be here in a state where you guys are actually doing the work," Torrey said, "building the projects that make such a difference really in every aspect of our lives. One of the first things I noticed is that Rhode Island's really getting a lot done. But it all can only happen because of everybody here in the room."

Torrey added that a lot of other states are having trouble using their federal money — and have had to slow down projects — since their construction sectors don't have enough people to carry them out.

"You guys have stepped up to the task, and I applaud you for that," Torrey concluded. "Because the only way we can keep this funding coming is to use it, and to use it well."

Year-round protection for your interests:

Why the CIRI PAC needs your contribution.

The CIRI Political Action Committee (PAC) continually advocates for the interests of our industry and our state. Especially during the Rhode Island General Assembly — when scores of potential new laws and regulations are introduced. Many, if passed, will affect the operation and profitability of our industry in negative ways. The CIRI PAC also provides financial support to help elect candidates who understand and advocate for our industry and the RI economy.

Contributions welcome anytime. We'll put them to good use.

Please consider a personal contribution today for any amount you feel is appropriate.* To help enable our effort to keep our



message front and center with legislators at the RI State House. And to support candidates who can have a positive effect on our industry and your business.

Please mail contributions to:

CIRI Political Action Committee
615 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 207
Warwick, RI 02886-1357

***NOTE:** *Rhode Island State Law prohibits the acceptance of any corporate or business checks for campaign contributions. Only personal checks are an acceptable form of contribution. Donations are not tax deductible and are limited to \$2,000.*

CIRI T&I Committee exploring ideas and level of interest.

Technology & Innovation Committee reaching out to company managers.

Our proposed Technology & Innovation Committee is intended to help members stay ahead of the curve in terms of applications, methods and best practices.

CIRI is appealing to upper managers and supervisors for ideas and information on the most promising tools they're using or considering. We're also encouraging them to identify IT-savvy team members who may

be good candidates to lend their time and expertise.

To share information on potential candidates and/or for more details, contact either:

Jeff Bostock
jbostock@aetnabridge.com
401.256.5403

Ernie Carlucci
ecarlucci@ciri.net
401.738.8530

36th RI Transportation Forum held at URI on October 27.

CIRI's Mike Gammino recognized for outstanding contribution and support.



Prominent speakers at the event included (l-r) Nisa Pistacchio, Projects Director for U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse; URI President Dr. Marc B. Parlange; and Pamela Cotter, RIDOT Administrator of Planning.

At the 36th Rhode Island Transportation Forum, CIRI once again served as a sponsor with several member companies also providing additional program and financial support.

Our organization was well represented throughout at the podium and beyond. Longstanding CIRI board member Michael A. Gammino III was honored with a Recognition of Outstanding Contribution and Support award. The 2023 winners of scholarships from CIRI, Narragansett Improvement and The Hudson Companies were also acknowledged.

A wide variety of participants and pertinent topics.

Co-hosted by RIDOT and the RI Transportation Research Center (RITRC), the one-day Rhode Island Transportation Forum was created by URI's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering in 1992. It attracts international attendees from all facets of the field, including construction industries, consulting firms and academia — along with federal, state and municipal agencies.

Plenary speeches were delivered by Prof. Amy Epps Martin of Texas A&M Transportation Institute, president of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (AAPT); Prof. Joseph F. Coughlin, PhD, Director of the MIT AgeLab at the Center for Transportation & Logistics; and Prof. Michael A. Knodler, Jr. PhD, Director of the UMass Transportation Center.

Topic areas presented/discussed included sustainable pavement design, green infrastructure, cold in-place recycling, warm mix asphalt and lifecycle cost analyses for different methods. The event included numerous podium presentations by New England faculty and researchers — along with poster presentations by URI researchers and students.



Pierre Gouvin, President of Geo-Instruments, Inc. with URI Professor K. Wayne Lee, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE, director of the RITRC.

CIRI Safety Committee readying for annual winter trainings.

Dates and locations being determined for 2024 sessions.

A popular and highly utilized membership feature, our free safety training courses enable employees of CIRI member companies to boost their knowledge and certifications during the less-active winter season. Our offering will again include a four-hour Dig Safe® MUST seminar in early February. Co-sponsored by CIRI, this seminar will cover

numerous key topics including potential utility damage hazards, regulations and techniques for pre-marking and marking, and the enforcement process for violations.

For scheduling details, contact:

Peter Robbins
probbins@d-ambra.com

2024 Training/Certifications

dates/locations TBD except where noted below

CIRI/MUST Dig Safe Event February 6 Bally's Twin River Lincoln	Highway Work Zone Safety Supervisor & Technician Courses
OSHA 10-Hour Training	HAZWOPER Refresher
Excavation Competent Person	

Save 20% on Safety Apparel & Accessories.

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Jamestown, RI 02835

Kerry Sheehan
401.603.6470
kerry@safety1.co

Want others in your company to get our emails?



CIRI is looking to expand its members emailing list to increase the digital circulation of the Rhodework Review and other general communications about progress, news and events. If there's anyone you'd like us to include, at various levels of your organization, reach out to the CIRI office at: exec@ciri.net



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