

# Department of Construction Services



## *At a Glance*

**DONALD J. DeFRONZO, Acting Commissioner**

**Pasquale J. Salemi, Deputy Commissioner**

***Established - 2011***

***Central office - 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106***

***Number of permanent full-time employees – 155***

***(94 General Fund, 9 Federal, 52 Revolving Fund)***

***Recurring operating expenses – \$9.9 million (General Fund)***

***Organizational structure - Office of the Commissioner; Bureau of Design and Construction; Bureau of Regulatory and Technical Compliance; Bureau of Process Management.***

In 2011, Governor Dannel P. Malloy proposed, and the General Assembly enacted, a comprehensive reorganization of State government in order to restructure administrative operations, achieve higher levels of efficiency, eliminate duplication of effort and consolidate operations. The intent and the effect of this initiative was to reduce costs and streamline operations in order to deliver better value to the public while maintaining and improving the quality of services.

As part of this overall effort, Public Act 11-51 provided for the creation of a new agency, the Department of Construction Services (DCS) comprised of the following components:

- The Design and Construction Unit of the former Department of Public Works (DPW)
- The Bureau of School Facilities and Grants Unit of the state Department of Education (SDE)
- The building and life safety code and code enforcement units of the former Department of Public Safety (DPS)

## **Improvements/Achievements 2011-2012**

### Design and Construction

During fiscal year 2011- 2012, the Department of Construction Services (DCS) completed several significant construction projects:

- The new campus for Gateway Community College on Church Street in downtown New Haven. With a construction cost of \$152 million, this state-of-the-art 360,000-square-foot higher education project is targeted as gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). As a LEED project, the new campus features sustainable building construction and utilizes renewable and alternative energy technologies, including solar hot water, and photovoltaic arrays. The campus opened to students in August 2012.
- The new \$61.7 million Public Health Laboratory in Rocky Hill opened in July of 2012. This modern laboratory facility will replace the existing out-dated Public Health Lab in Hartford and will greatly enhance the State's ability to provide essential health-related information for the public.
- The \$38.3 million Norwalk Community College, Phase II, West Campus Development, known as the Center for Science, Health and Wellness, in Norwalk opened to students this summer. This project was the first state project to achieve a gold level LEED certification.
- The \$27.5 million (federally funded) Connecticut Army National Guard Regional Training Institute, Phase I, at Camp Rell in Niantic, opened for operation in the spring of 2012. This project received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut Building Congress.

During fiscal year 2011- 2012, DCS started construction on several significant construction projects including

- Additions and Renovations to HH Ellis Technical High School, Danielson. This \$50 million, three year project started in November 2011.
- Additions and Renovations to Wilcox Technical High School, Meriden. This \$52 million, three year project started in November 2011.
- Additions and Renovations to Eli Whitney Technical High School, Hamden. This \$70 million, three and a half year project started in August 2012.
- The new Quinebaug Valley Middle High School at Quinebaug Community College, Danielson. This \$16.5 million, new facility started construction May 2012.

- Fine and Performing Arts Center at WCSU, Danbury. This \$72.5 million new facility will be the new state of the art home for WCSU's arts program. Construction started February 2012.
- Academic Building at CCSU, New Britain. This \$23 million new building will house classrooms and faculty office space. Construction began August 2011.

During fiscal year 2011- 2012, DCS is preparing designs for several significant future construction projects including:

- Fine and Performing Arts Center at ECSU, Willimantic. This \$63 million new facility will be the new state of the art home for ECSU's arts program. Construction is anticipated to started spring of 2013.
- New Academic Laboratory Facility at SCSU, New Haven. This \$44 million facility will provide state of the art science facilities for SCSU students. Construction is anticipated to start spring of 2013.
- Data Center for DAS/Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology (BEST), East Hartford. This \$16 million facility will provide a new state owned facility to house the State's main data systems. Construction is anticipated in the summer of 2013.
- The new Litchfield County Courthouse in Torrington. This facility, which will be a design build project, has a \$60 million construction cost estimate. The anticipated construction start is the summer of 2013.
- New Residence Hall Facility at the CCSU. This new 7 story 637 bed facility has a construction budget of \$60 million. This facility, which will be a design build project, is expected to start construction in the spring of 2013.
- State Fire Training Facilities. Funding for several new fire training facilities has been approved. The anticipated construction budget is \$16 million. Construction is expected to start in the summer of 2013.

#### Regulatory and Technical Services

- On October 4, 2011, the Office of the State Building Inspector adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code into the State Building Code. This code includes new, higher efficiency requirements for new buildings and renovations.
- The DCS Energy Unit has worked in cooperation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's *Lead By Example* program as a technical resource for its programs and as an implementer for several program conservation projects.

- DCS technical staff worked with DAS IT staff to develop a more automated listing of DCS consultant selection and bidding notices. This work took advantage of DAS's existing BizNet. This improvement has eliminated manual processes previously done by staff. In addition, this new process creates a more centralized repository of DCS's requests for qualifications and contracts. Our advertisement notices are now automatically sent to our registered community on BizNet; thereby ensuring everyone gets notices and receives it within a day or less.

#### Process Management – School Grants Program

- The School Building Projects Advisory Council, appointed by the Governor and chaired by Deputy Commissioner Salemi, has begun its work to provide recommendations for improving the school grant process. The committee has received mountains of technical data and recently hosted a public hearing where it heard from a broad range of industry and governmental stakeholders on the current process and ideas for improving the process.