



# inroads

October 2010

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### Wethersfield Repair Facility

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Wethersfield, CT 06109  
**860-529-0500**

### Norwich Repair Facility

171 Salem Turnpike  
Norwich, CT 06360  
**860-885-2153**

### New Haven Repair Facility

140 Pond Lily Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515  
**203-397-4590**

### After Hours Emergencies

Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)  
Your call will be answered through the Department of Environmental Protection Dispatch Office, which will assist you.

### Online

Go to [www.das.state.ct.us](http://www.das.state.ct.us) and click on **FLEET OPERATIONS** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

How long is the extension cord? Not too many years ago that may have been the response to the suggestion of an electric car. But as Bob Dylan wrote, “the times they are a changin’.” Advancements in battery and design technology, along with commitments by manufacturers and political leaders that embrace green solutions are quickly turning the possibility of practical electric vehicles into a reality.

## Electric Vehicles



In Connecticut, Governor Rell has been a strong advocate for the use of electric vehicles (EVs). Her vision and initiative were the force behind Executive Order 34 and the creation of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council. Its mission: to prepare Connecticut for the introduction and integration of the new generation of electric cars, thereby positioning our state as a national leader in this emerging industry. The council was made up of both public and private groups representing manufacturers, service providers and government officials. They worked to develop recommendations for “implementing an innovative yet prudent course of action such that our citizens, businesses and communities can experience the potentially significant environmental, economic and energy benefits EVs offer” and recently submitted their final report.

Here is a link: <http://www.ct.gov/dpuc/lib/dpuc/ev/evfinal.pdf>.

It is too early to predict when electric vehicles might begin to arrive at DAS fleet. However, with a goal to have 25,000 EVs registered in the state by 2020 and a commitment by the state to be a leader in this advancement, green technology won't be too far down the road. Challenges that we are currently faced with include the lack of a recharging infrastructure, vehicle cost and range. But the glass is half full, as a number of manufacturers (both foreign and domestic) are diligently working to bring new vehicles to market. And to help with the increased price of EVs over gasoline powered vehicles, there is currently a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500. Finally, there is support from both the public and private sectors to develop the charging stations necessary to support the vehicles that will soon be on the road. Since the vast majority of DAS vehicles are being operated in close proximity to the locations at which they are parked each night there will no doubt be plenty of opportunities for us to make good use of EVs, and enjoy the benefits of lower operating costs and no carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide emissions. *Stay tuned!*

## Can We Share?

There are probably people in your agency who could benefit from reading *Inroads* each month. We encourage you to forward the Fleet *InRoads* newsletter to fellow employees involved with fleet administration and /or driver management, or direct staff who work with your fleet to go to the Fleet Operations section of the DAS website each month to read the latest Fleet news. Want to refer to an old *Inroads*? No problem, we have archived all issues on the website.

## DOT Fuel Station Closings

Don't forget that almost all DOT-operated fueling stations will be closed on Friday, October 8 so that these employees may observe an alternate furlough day. Please note that the stations on Buckingham Street in Hartford and at DOT in Newington will be open on October 8 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Also, the fuel station at the DAS garage in Norwich (171 Salem Turnpike) will be open on October 8 from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For the past ten years Fleet Operations has used a software product called Fleet Anywhere to help maintain, control and bill for our 3,300 leased vehicles. A decision was made a number of months back that the annual fee for support and software updates was not worth what we got in return. After much deliberation, we chose to utilize the resources of the DAS MIS team to write a program that could replace Fleet Anywhere and assist with the management of all aspects of the fleet.

Since then significant progress has been made. In July we held a meeting with the ATA's of several agencies to review what had been done to date, and to solicit feedback. Many positive ideas came out of that session and have been incorporated into the new program. We also received a major benefit when, after reviewing a demonstration of the new fleet management software, the Comptroller's office agreed that we could move to an on-line billing process with the implementation of the new system. Before long the entire fleet bill will be paperless, except the one-page transfer invoice page that the agency's authorized approver will sign and forward for payment.

By mid-October we expect to be able to offer all ATA's the chance to preview the new billing screens and comment back. This is part of the next phase of development and will allow us to identify and iron out any bugs before going live.

We are hopeful that everyone will agree that the new billing review and approval process will be a faster, better and easier way to validate and pay for your leased and rental vehicles – while not jeopardizing accuracy or integrity.

## Home Garaging

If there are employees in your agency who drive a DAS-owned vehicle home each day they must submit a new request for permission to home garage on an annual basis (this form is located on the DAS/Fleet page). We are currently in the process of completing our annual audit as required by EO 22.

Please follow up with any employees that have home garaging privileges to be certain that they have submitted this paperwork.