

# THE UPDATE

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*The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.*



## **GM'S BOLD OUT-OF-BOX APPROACH TO LAX SALES**

*GM CEO Rick Wagoner announced earlier this month that GM will unveil a drivable version of its hydrogen fuel cell-powered Sequel next month although mass production and sale of the vehicle is still a long way off. Obstacles to bringing the Sequel to market sooner include its high cost and short range as well as a lack of fueling stations. Delivering automotive products that more Americans will buy today still remains a challenge.*



## **RECYCLING COAL "FLY ASH" FOR A RUNWAY**

*Fly Ash represents approximately 5% of the coal that is fed into coal fired power plants which must be captured when coal disintegrates during combustion in the boilers of steam driven power plants and which was sent only to landfills. Some creative thinking by We Energies engineers helped shave 25% off construction price tag or \$50,000 when the Waukesha County, WI airport was faced with reconstructing a supplementary runway and some roadways at the airport. This was the result of using its fly ash waste to substitute for more costly Portland Cement to bind pieces of preordered, recycled asphalt together from the old runway. We Energies estimates its sales of fly ash totaled \$3.15M in 2005. Furthermore with demand now so high for its fly ash, We Energies has started removing fly ash from landfills.*



## **BECHTEL'S "BIG DIG" PROBLEMS CONCERN SAN JOSE**

*San Jose, CA reported last week that it would not*

***award Bechtel Infrastructure Group the contract to upgrade the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose Airport. The city's contract negotiations with the group allegedly broke down with regard to insurance concerns which included assignment of liability, how much risk Bechtel would assume if the construction was faulty and what the company would pay should construction become delayed. Bechtel was alleged to be facing potential hefty liabilities regarding its work on the \$14.6 B Big Dig project in Boston, MA.***



***DOT'S NEW 6-POINT PLAN TO IMPROVE CONGESTION***

***The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) earlier this month unveiled a 6-point plan to offer strategies for reducing traffic problems. It addresses the following 6 issues; namely: urban congestion, private investment, freight bottlenecks operational/technological improvements, a "corridors of the future" competition and aviation capacity. Specifically DOT hopes to create urban partnership agreements with certain cities to help them deploy demonstration programs, including those that implement congestion pricing or variable tolls to reduce traffic congestion.***

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