



AUGUST 2012 Newsletter

Connecticut Transportation Updates

CTfastrak

The construction continues and the contractor is now working on Rt. 9 and Rt. 72, with the bridge removal over Rt. 9 being scheduled for night work. For further construction updates and information go to <http://ctfastrak.com>.

TIGER Grant Awarded to the City of Hartford

The City of Hartford was awarded a \$10 million federal TIGER IV Grant as part of an initiative to fund the Intermodal Triangle Project that will link transit to the Greater Hartford area's housing and employment centers. "Taken together with the ongoing bus rapid transit and high speed rail projects in the area, this grant will help lay the foundation for a transportation network that will drive economic growth throughout the region," said Governor Malloy. This is part of Hartford's iQuilt vision. According to Senator Lieberman, "This important project will come at time when more commuters will be using the New Britain-Hartford Busway and the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line. In addition to helping these commuters get to work and back home, this is the type of investment in our infrastructure that helps to create jobs and keeps our economy growing."

DOT Awards RTAP contract

Transaction Association from Woburn, Massachusetts was awarded the DOT's CT RTAP program contract. Transaction Association presently manages the nationwide RTAP. They developed the National RTAP website which has training modules, technical briefs, resource library and website builder. All the services are free. Presently the company is trying to create a national calendar for the website. According to President Cindy Frene, the company will begin by determining the needs of Connecticut's rural transit districts and then develop a training schedule, provide technical assistance and scholarships and develop a CT RTAP website that will include scholarship registration, a Calendar of Events and a Resource Center. The Connecticut Staff person, Michelle Brooks (860-348-8879) will have an office in Berlin.

Norwalk Transit News

Norwalk Transit District President Lou Schulman announced recently that Nancy Carroll was appointed the Chief Operating Officer for NTD. Congratulations Nancy!

National Transportation Updates

MAP 21

SAFETEA-LU continues until September 30, 2012, and the MAP-21 bill which was signed into law on July 6 will take effect on October 1, 2012. CONNDOT is analyzing the impact of this legislation, while the FTA is developing guidelines for the changes. The 2013 estimates are available on the FTA website. www.fta.dot.gov

CACT Updates

Listening Sessions

Transit for Connecticut, AARP and CACT are discussing developing a series of "Listening Sessions" after the November elections to "receive input on needs and concerns from users and stakeholders". Transit for Connecticut has secured funding to update the financial information published in the 2007 Bus Needs Analysis. <http://www.ctenvironment.org/search/index.cfm>

Advertising in the CACT Newsletter

CACT is now accepting ads for our monthly newsletter. The rates are full page \$300; ½ page \$150; and ¼ page \$100. CACT members receive a 10% discount. All ads must be camera ready in either a tiff or jpeg format and received by the 25th of each month. The newsletter is emailed during the first week of each month. Email your ad to mary.cact@yahoo.com.

CACT Member Highlight: Mark Pandolfi



Mark Pandolfi, the General Manager of the Valley Transit District, has been in the transit industry since 1995. Prior to coming to the Valley Transit District Mark was the Assistant General Manager in the metro Newark NJ area for a firm contracted to provide paratransit service for ADA and DAR passengers for NJ Transit. He was responsible for overseeing the maintenance, dispatch, and scheduling departments for an operation that utilized a fleet of 100+ paratransit vehicles. Before his work in NJ, Mark was the Assistant General Manager of a firm that operated a 90 vehicle paratransit operation contracted to provide ADA and DAR service for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority.

Since 2008, Mark has been the General Manager of the Valley Transit District, which serves the communities of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, and Shelton. At VTD, Mark oversees an operation of 15 vehicles providing 80,000+ trips annually with a staff of 22 dedicated employees. Mark was instrumental in bringing a new dispatching and scheduling software system with mobile data terminals to the District and procuring a new fleet of vehicles. He is currently working with a team to rehab, upgrade, and expand the VTD facility. Looking ahead, Mark and the entire VTD staff are extremely excited about the future growth of the Valley Transit District.

Opinions & Opportunities

Do You Have News or Updates for the CACT Newsletter?

If you have news of interest, please email a brief update to mary.cact@yahoo.com.

CACT BOARD MEMBERS: Jonathan Rubell, Chairperson, *The Kennedy Center; Inc.*; Joseph Comerford, Vice Chairman, *Estuary Transit District*; Tammy Ostroski, Treasurer, *Northwestern CT Transit District*; Secretary Pegi Brandt, *Norwalk Transit District*; DJ Gonzalez, *Greater Hartford Transit District*; Henry Jadach, *Milford Transit District*; Barbara Kalosky, *North East Transportation Co., Inc.*; Kimberlee Morton, *CTTransit*; Alan Naudus, *Greater New Haven Transit*. **CACT Executive Director:** Mary Tomolonius

It's Not Pretty Just Pretty Effective



This cross section of our galvanized steel roll cage makes a bus "a bus". These steel sidewalls extend beneath the floor and when welded and bolted in place, provide added strength and safety in the event of an accident. It may seem strange, but we spend considerable time thinking about safety, because although your passengers take it for granted, we can't. That's why we build it in from the ground up, then test it—specifically the FMVSS 214 side impact test.

At a proving facility in Wisconsin, a 4,000 lb. steel sled approaching 35 m.p.h. slammed into the side of our bus. The concussion was mind blowing—the damage to the bus was minimal. In fact, we drove the bus back home! Steel cage design is unique to our buses and as noted above, it's not pretty, just pretty effective.



- Here are just a few more features:
- Low center of gravity that reduces rollover potential.
 - Floor frame of 11 gauge steel Z members.
 - Laminated walls for structural integrity.

For more information check us out on the web or call **Paul Hubbard at: 585-330-2402** or email: phubb18281@aol.com

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