



2014-2016

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*A United Voice for Public  
Transportation in Connecticut*

## Connecticut Transportation Updates

### Transit Roundtable in Hamden



CACT, Transit for Connecticut, AARP, GNHTD and SCRCOG sponsored the latest *Transit Roundtable: Successes, Challenges and Your Community* on Tuesday, November 18 at Greater New Haven Transit District. The audience was welcomed by Mayor Jackson who noted it's important to "try to create the right connections". Donna Carter (GNHTD) noted their service was complimentary to CTTransit New Haven, noting the ridership demographics have changed. GNHTD recently started a 501 (c)3 to "help seniors and people with disabilities continue to ride with GNHTD." They kicked off the new initiative with an "Every 40 cents makes a difference!" campaign. Jonathan Rubell (The Kennedy Center) said they are providing more travel training to help people use the best transit options for them. Some issues he noted are lack of sidewalks and the timing of transit. The Kennedy Center is also looking into volunteer driver programs for the Greater New Haven area. "Our challenge is with timing issues for medical appointments and procedures", said Paul Doyle (Estuary Council of Seniors Inc). He works mostly with people with serious illnesses, utilizing a host of volunteers and 2 paid drivers. Carl Amento noted the most shocking statistic is "jobs sprawl". Only 27% of New Haven residents utilize public transportation to get to work with an average 90 minute commute. "Buses need to improve their images" said Carl. Tony Rescigno (Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce) represents 15 communities with 2500 businesses and would like to see more parking at Union Station and increased flights from Tweed Airport because the New Haven to New York corridor provides opportunities for businesses looking to grow in New Haven. Joe Carbone (The Workplace) said he lives near Tweed Airport and would like to see more flights from there since it's so convenient. Joe noted that more than 40% of jobs are part time and resources should be spent on public transportation. Mike Sanders (CONNDOT) said "we all need to become mobility managers...transportation is mobility, transportation is access." Buses are a key to getting people to jobs, etc., and not "rolling urinals". Mike is working on new technologies such as smart cards, etc. He noted that where new service has been added in the last 5 years, it's been successful. Following the panel's comments there was a question/answer period.

### Governor's Rescissions

OPM announced \$54.6 million in rescissions from state agencies recently. Of significance is the \$126,433 TEIP funds cut from the DSS budget. CACT is working with various statewide groups to have these funds restored.

### New CEO at Norwalk Transit

Kim Morton, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services for Greater Hartford Transit District was selected from a national search as the Norwalk Transit District CEO. Kim will replace long time Administrator Lou Schulman.



### CACT Member Highlight

**Nicole Rohan**, *Assistant General Manager of Administration for CT Transit's Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions*

Nicole Rohan has more than twenty years of progressive experience and increased responsibility in the Public Transit Industry. Nicole's extensive and diverse background includes 15 years in paratransit and fixed route management positions at the Worcester Regional Transit Authority in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 2007, she was recruited to be the Deputy Administrator of Operations for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTa) in Springfield Massachusetts. While her position at PVTa included oversight of fixed route and paratransit contracts, she enjoyed the expanded role which included facilities management, capital planning, Claims, Environmental Compliance, Safety & Security.

Nicole is proud of her accomplishments during her time at PVTa including:

- Implemented Fixed-route Rider Forums and Paratransit Advisory Committees to open and maintain direct line of communication with riders and advocacy groups.
- Developed and Implemented PVTa's Mobility Management Travel Training program.
- Directed PVTa activities for multi-year Transit Security Administration (TSA) audit, resulting in obtaining TSA's Gold Standard award.
- Served as Project Manager for major projects, including numerous facility renovation projects and procurements for 60+ buses (including PVTa's first articulated buses), which greatly expanded capacity for PVTa's northern service area.

In March of this year, Nicole became the AGM of Administration for CT Transit and is excited about the new challenges and working with such a dedicated, well-regarded group of people. Nicole received a B.S. in Psychology from North Adams State College and has a passion for lifelong learning. Nicole enjoys spending time with her family especially outdoors skiing, walking or taking in sporting events.

### CACT Member Highlights

If you or a staff member would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, please send your bio and a jpeg photo to Mary Tomolonius at [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

### Advertising in the CACT Newsletter

The rates are full page \$300; ½ page \$150; and ¼ page \$100. CACT members receive a 10% discount. All ads must be submitted prior to the last week of the month to [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

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-APTA Website

### Online PASS Training

PASS Training is Now Available Online! The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is excited to announce PASS Basic, the online alternative to its passenger assistance training. Simply by going to <http://training.ctaa.org> you can access the virtual classroom experience through six audio/visual modules which will prepare your drivers to attend the hands-on aspect of PASS training and attain full PASS driver certification.

-CTAA Website

## Calendar

**Thursday, Dec. 4.** NEPTA Annual Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker, Dr. Beverly A. Scott. FTA will host an Update Panel, followed by a reception and the NEPTA Annual Holiday Dinner Meeting. [www.nepta.org](http://www.nepta.org)

**Wednesday, Dec.10, 10:30 am.** DOT Quarterly Meeting, DOT Headquarters, Newington.

**Thursday, Dec. 18, 9:00 am.** CACT Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Middletown Area Transit Meeting Room.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 9:00 am.** Wheelchair Securement Training, Middletown Area Transit, 91 North Main St. Space limited. For info and to reserve a spot contact DJ Gonzalez at [DJGonzalez@ghtd.org](mailto:DJGonzalez@ghtd.org)

**Thursday, Jan. 15, 9:00 am.** CACT Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Middletown Area Transit Meeting Room.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 9:00 am.** CACT Annual Legislative Breakfast, co-sponsored with WTS at the Old Judiciary Room at the state capitol. DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker will be the main speaker. Registration 8:30 am. To register email: [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com). Space limited.

### Lou Schulman Retiring



On November 19, a retirement party was held for longtime Norwalk Transit District Administrator Lou Schulman. Lou’s accomplishments were lauded by mayors, elected officials, transit agencies and his wife and daughter, along with some very funny stories. Lou is a former CACT Chair and member of the Legislative Committee. His encyclopedic understanding of transit is legendary, along with his total devotion to providing the best service for his riders. Many thanks Lou for all you’ve done to advance public transportation in Connecticut.

### Congratulations to NTD



Norwalk Transit District recently announced the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Final Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Richard Bangs, Jr., CPA, Director of Finance and Administrative Services for Norwalk Transit District received the award.

### CTfastrak & an Airplane

CTfastrak recently had an airplane use its road as a runway. Fortunately no one was hurt and there was only some slight damage to the fence