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*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*

Connecticut Transportation Updates

Annual Legislative Breakfast

On Wednesday, February 20th, CACT and WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) are co-sponsoring their Annual Legislative Breakfast in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol. This well attended and popular events' attendees include legislators, transit operators, engineers, construction firms and others interested in transit. The event begins at 8:30 am with registration and a continental breakfast allowing attendees the opportunity to network. The program runs from 9:00-10:00 am and features keynote speaker DOT Commissioner James Redeker. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to: mary.cact@yahoo.com.



Audience at 2012 Annual Legislative Breakfast.

Commissioner James Redeker

Easter Seals Project ACTION

A team whose members link the interests of transit and disability has been formed and efforts are under way to improve access to public transportation for people with disabilities in Southeastern CT and Estuary.

LEARN hosted a two day conference for the coalition on November 13 and 14, 2012. "The event was designed to bring our community together to develop a plan to strengthen the availability and accessibility of transportation services locally," Lois Eldridge said. "An important way to do that is through a cross-agency approach and we intend to continue our cooperative efforts." Easter Seals Project ACTION staff facilitated the two-day coalition event, which resulted in the development of an action plan to increase accessible transportation options.

"We are a coalition of educators, transportation and human services professional addressing the transportation needs of students as they transition to employment, higher education, and independent living....and are committed to improving communication within the school setting to families, educators, and students about transportation options" as stated from the coalition. We have already grown as a coalition and have made some advances in improving transportation options, this is a very exciting time" said Lois Eldridge.

Sponsor of the event and funding the community's participation is Easter Seals Project ACTION—the acronym stands for Accessible Community Transportation in Our Nation—which is funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. ESPA promotes cooperation

Tolls in Connecticut?

The Legislature is looking into the issue of adding tolls back to Connecticut highways.

<http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/General-Assembly-to-mull-tolls-on-Conn-highways-4208776.php>

Transportation Committee Bills

The 2013 Transportation Committee bills can be viewed at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>

Website

The Office of the State Comptroller has launched a new website

<http://www.osc.ct.gov/>

Getting People with Disabilities To Work

Rutgers School of Planning and Public Policy conducted a nationwide survey to “research alternative funding sources and strategies that can empower community transit operators to develop better mobility options for people with disabilities.”

<http://policy.rutgers.edu/vtc/new/index.php>

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.

between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for all people under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Established in 1988, ESPA is administered by Easter Seals Inc.

LEARN, a Regional Educational Service Center (RESC), serves 25 school districts in southeastern/shoreline Connecticut. Established in 1967 by local districts, LEARN is one of the six RESCS in the state. The purpose of each RESC is to enhance the quality of education and provide solutions to identified needs through a wide range of programs and services. The next coalition meeting is at LEARN on Feb. 13, 1-3 pm. For more information about this initiative contact Lois Eldridge leldridge@learn.k12.ct.us



Some members of the ACTION Coalition Team at the November 13-14 Workshop.

NEPTA Conference Coming To Hartford

The 2013 NEPTA conference will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Marriott Hartford Downtown and the Connecticut Convention Center. For further information: www.nepta.org or 800-637-8201.

CACT Membership Dues

The Annual CACT Dues Letters and Forms are being mailed to members. If you are interested in becoming a member, the information and Membership Dues Forms are available on our website: www.cact.info.

Golf Anyone...

CACT will be hosting their first Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 24 at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington. If you are interested in volunteering to help please contact Mary Tomolonius at mary.cact@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual CACT Meeting & Awards Luncheon will be held on Wed. June 26 at the Indian Hill Country Club in Newington.

CPTC 2012 Annual Report

The Connecticut Public Transportation Commission released their 2012 Annual Report and Recommendations which includes items such as maintaining adequate funding levels and restoration of funding for the 2014 State Matching Grant Program, to securing DOT's help to make the CPTC website more accessible to the public. http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/CPTC_2012_Annual_Report.pdf

Transportation spending is a win-win proposition.

- Tim Bishop

NAPTA Conference

The Center for Transportation Excellence will hold its biennial Transit Initiatives and Communities Conference on June 23-26 in Atlanta, GA. Sessions are interactive and provide extensive case studies. TIC is an excellent opportunity for networking and practical learning. Visit CTE's website for more information: www.cfte.org.

Commuter Tax

Congress recently passed a bill that increases the commuter tax benefit from \$125 per month to \$240 per month. The measure is retroactive to December 31, 2011 and extends through 2013.

Ridership Report

According to APTA "for every \$1 billion invested in public transportation 36,000 jobs are created and supported. Additionally, public transportation plays an important role in providing access to jobs." APTA recently concluded a ridership report: <http://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Pages/ridershipreport.aspx>

Webinar

Stop Announcements: Guideposts on the Path to a Successful Trip

Date: February 13

Registration Deadline: February 11

Whether automatic or spoken by an operator, stop announcements help many people, including those with visual impairments, successfully navigate public transportation systems. This webinar will cover the regulations that govern the use of stop announcements and best practices to ensure that riders are able to find their way. Presenters will discuss policies as well as methods to train operators and monitor the effectiveness of systems. For more information, please [contact Rik Opstelten by email](#) or by phone at (800) 659-6428. To register, please email your name, ZIP code, phone number, email address, organization, and job title to registration@easterseals.com with "Stop Announcements" in the subject line.

CACT Member Highlight



David Lee

David Lee is General Manager of CTTRANSIT which operates the State-owned fixed-route bus transit systems serving the greater Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford areas. CTTRANSIT operates a fleet of 417 buses, employs over 930 drivers, mechanics, and office personnel, and administers an annual budget of over \$100 million. Dave joined the management team in Connecticut as Assistant General Manager for Administration in 1983, and also served as AGM for Transit Operations before being promoted to General Manager in 1995. In addition, Dave serves as Area Vice President for First Transit in the New England region.

Prior to coming to Connecticut, Dave served four years as Director of Planning and Development for the Metropolitan Transit Commission in Minneapolis-St. Paul. He began his transit career as an intern with the former Urban Mass Transportation Administration (now Federal Transit Administration) where he later held positions as project manager, grant representative, and senior policy analyst. He also worked for two years as Director of Planning and Policy Analysis for the American Public Transit Association.

Dave is a past president of the New England Passenger Transportation Association and former board member of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation. He is a long-standing member of the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transit Management and Performance, and a former chair of the TOPS Committee that oversees the Transit Cooperative Research Program.

Originally a native of the Chicago area, Dave holds a Bachelor's Degree from Colgate University and a Master's Degree in political science from The George Washington University.

FTA Drug and Alcohol Conference

The 8th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference will be held in Phoenix on April 9-11. For further information <http://transit-safety.fta.dot.gov/DrugandAlcohol>

LaHood Stepping Down

Ray LaHood, Transportation Secretary announced he will be stepping down from his position although he would stay until a new Secretary is confirmed. Under LaHood's leadership he supported high speed rail, transportation project funding for \$50 billion, and worked to highlight the damages caused by distracted driving. LaHood noted "Everyone knows what needs to be done in transportation in America. But the debate will be how to pay for it."

CACT's Legislative Agenda

The CACT Legislative Committee developed the following agenda for the upcoming legislative session: 1. Provide and maintain sufficient, steady, stable and predictable funding to accommodate current operations; 2. Provide funds for investment and expansion in new markets to meet the demands of increased ridership. Suburban markets continue to be underserved by public transportation options; and 3 .Provide reliable and predictable funds in the Municipal Grant Program and service for riders under ADA.

Emergency Preparedness & Customer Service Workshops

CACT's next workshop will be on Tuesday, March 12 at the Greater Hartford Transit District Meeting Room. Workshop 1: *Dispatcher Customer Service* by Walt Adams from 10:00-12:00 noon and Workshop 2: *The Citizen Preparedness = Community Resilience*, by Dan Scace and *Emergency Management – How your region works for you*, by Bill Perkins from 1:00 – 3:00. This informative and exciting workshop has limited space so sign up today. Cost \$35/person. For further info: mary.cact@yahoo.com.

National Transportation Updates

Massachusetts Proposed Investment in Transportation

"If we are serious about improving our transportation system for a generation, then we have to be willing to make the necessary investments. We must invest in transportation, not for the sake of transportation itself, but for the jobs and economic opportunity it creates" said Governor Patrick about a plan to invest in transportation. <http://www.metro.us/boston/boston/article/1159721--governor-patrick-on-long-term-transportation-plan-i-choose-growth>

It's Not Pretty Just Pretty Effective



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- Floor frame of 11 gauge steel Z members.
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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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