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148 Bahre Corner Road
Canton, CT 06019
860.693.0368
www.cact.info

A United Voice for Public Transportation in Connecticut

Connecticut Transportation Updates

January 16th - CACT Quarterly Membership Meeting

The CACT Executive Board announces the next CACT Quarterly Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the Greater Hartford Transit District Meeting Room at 12:30 pm. Following the meeting will be an Employment Law Workshop (see further details in this newsletter). Attendees can bring a bag lunch.

February 20th - Annual Legislative Breakfast

On Thursday, February 20, CACT and WTS will be co-sponsoring our Annual Legislative Breakfast in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol. DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker will be the keynote speaker, articulating his core values for DOT and the progress made in 2013 along with an update on the budget.

Registration is encouraged and attendees can send an email registration with their name, phone number, employer and email address to: mary.cact@yahoo.com. Registration is at 8:30 am, the event runs from 9:00 – 10:00 am. Mark your calendars!

February 26th - ADA Webinar

Register now for the webinar “*Frequently Asked Questions on the ADA: Fixed Route and ADA Complementary Paratransit*” on February 26th. Easter Seals Project ACTION staff will discuss questions on ADA with regards to fixed route and complementary paratransit services. The webinar is 2:00-3:30pm EDT. For more information, contact Krystian Boreyko at webinars@easterseals.com or 800-659-6428.

- Easter Seals Project ACTION's monthly newsletter

32 Organizations urge Congress to Make Transit Benefit Equal with Parking Benefit

Transit riders received a not-so-welcome gift on January 1 when the maximum pre-tax contribution for transit dropped from \$245 a month to \$130 a month, resulting in a de facto tax increase not only for 700,000 transit users in the tri-state region, but for commuters across the nation. The monthly cost of a transit pass exceeds \$130 for riders on at least 24 transit systems, impacting commuting in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

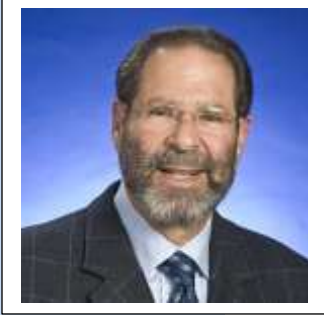
As Congress reconvenes in Washington for its first days of work in 2014, restoring parity to the commuter tax benefit for transit riders must be at the top of its to-do list. With an Appropriations Bill a top priority for Congress, there is an opportunity to restore the parity in the bill, and make the benefit permanent, in the next few weeks.

The expiration of parity for the transit commuter benefit means fewer dollars in transit riders' pockets -- and fewer dollars in the farebox too. When riders no longer have the option to use pre-tax dollars for transit passes, transit systems may face decreased ridership, which often leads to fare hikes and service cuts.

Just as the transit commuter benefit was slashed, the benefit for parking increased by \$5 to \$250 per month, which amounts to a federally-endorsed transportation policy that incentivizes driving, leading to more cars on the region's already congested and deteriorating roads. Restoring and enacting permanent parity for transit riders, and making that parity retroactive to January 1, establishes a balanced and progressive fiscal policy.

- Press Release written by Steven Higashide

CACT is one of the 32 supporting organizations that Called for Transit Commuter Tax Benefit Parity



CACT Member Highlight

Jonathan C. Colman, AICP – President & CEO, The Rideshare Co.

Mr. Colman has over forty years of public and private planning, land use and transportation demand management experience in elected and appointed senior management positions.

Mr. Colman has served as the President and CEO of The Rideshare Company since the corporation first became operational in 1980. He has very successfully guided The Rideshare Company to the point where the corporation is recognized as one of the best in the nation with a reputation for creating, implementing and operating unique and innovative transportation demand management programs and public/private partnerships.

Prior to joining The Rideshare Company, Mr. Colman was Assistant City Manager for Community Development and Planning for the City of Hartford. Mr. Colman was employed by the City for fifteen years and has an M.C.P from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Colman is a Charter member of The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is a member of The Urban Institute.

Mr. Colman served five terms as Deputy Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield and a member of the Bloomfield Town Council. He also served five terms as Chairman of the Bloomfield Town Planning and Zoning Commission and The Inland Wetlands Commission.

Mr. Colman has a key leadership role with the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG). He is Chairman of the CROG Transportation Committee and Finance/Personnel Committee and a member of the CROG Executive Committee and Policy Board. He chaired the Management and Stakeholders Committee for the preparation and adoption of the CROG Regional Transit Strategy. In this capacity, he played a leading role in guiding the region and its member communities in a unique land use community based approach to educating, evaluating and implementing transit investments and transit oriented development in the capital region.

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.

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.

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316 EXTERIOR PLYWOOD OVER METAL SUBFLOOR

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Employment Law: Discipline, Discharge & Wage Laws

Date: Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014 **Time: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm**
Greater Hartford Transit District, 1 Union Place, Union Station, Hartford

**CACT Quarterly Membership Board Meeting @ 12:30 pm **

This training is intended to educate employers on the various laws and union contract provisions that come into play when making decisions as to discipline and/or discharge of employees and best practices for avoiding challenges and adverse outcomes in arbitration, administrative proceedings and court. Special attention will be devoted to issues involving employees whose job performance and/or qualification may be limited due to a medical condition and what the employer’s legal obligations are in those situations. Wage and hour laws including those specific to Connecticut will also be covered.

Workshop Presenter Loraine Cortese-Costa is an attorney and Shareholder/Director of Durant, Nichols, Houston, Hodgson & Cortese-Costa, P.C. in Bridgeport, Connecticut where she has practiced labor and employment law for over twenty years. Loraine has represented many clients in the transit industry including several CACT members and has extensive experience in labor negotiations, union contract administration, interest and grievance arbitration, work rule and policy development, state and federal labor and employment laws and all types of litigation. Loraine comes from a thoroughly transit family (her grandfather, father and three brothers all had careers with the NYCTA) and has a keen interest in public transportation development.



• TO REGISTER

Contact: Mary Tomolonius

Email: Mary.cact@yahoo.com

**Sign up today.
Free Admission.
Workshop is open to the public.
Space is limited—registration is required!**

- Registrations will be accepted as space permits—first come, first served!
- Workshop is free.
- You can email your registration by Jan. 10, to mary.cact@yahoo.com
- 12:30 pm CACT Quarterly Meeting for Members. All members are invited to attend.
- www.cact.info

“Employment Law” REGISTRATION FORM

Name

E-mail address

Organization or Agency

Phone Number

Cell Phone

Special Needs—Check all that apply

Sign Language Interpreter

Hand-outs in Braille

Other—Please describe _____