



## CACT Membership Dues

The Membership Dues forms have been emailed and are due March 31, 2015. We appreciate your support. [www.cact.info](http://www.cact.info) for membership forms.

## March 2015 Newsletter

## Issue 3

2014-2016

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*A United Voice for Public Transportation in Connecticut*

## Connecticut Transportation Updates



## A Successful Annual Legislative Breakfast

More than 110 people registered for the Wednesday, February 25, CACT and WTS Annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol. WTS President Sandra Dumas welcomed everyone and thanked the various sponsors. The talk turned to tolls when two of the Transportation Committee members gave some brief comments. "The gas tax isn't going to cut it anymore", said Rep. Tony Guerrero, noting the fed's are more than willing to give out waivers (for installing tolls). Rep. Steinberg then said tolls are needed to support transit projects.

## LET'S GO CT!

Keynote speaker DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker stated "We need to plan for the future not just fix existing problems". Jim explained that the 18-month strategic planning process, TransformCT resulted in Governor Malloy's *Let's Go CT* which includes a 5- year Ramp Up Plan and a 30-year Vision plan. The plan includes a 25% expansion of bus service, integration of services, trail program, urban walkability, Port & Maritime creating a statewide Port Authority, investment in municipal and state roadways, bridges, traffic signals and supporting Transit Oriented Development.

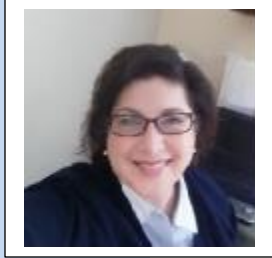
CACT Executive Director Mary Tomolonius gave a brief overview of bus operations, noting the importance of providing public transportation, the significant increase in ridership in 2014 and the need to maintain funding to support both the capital and operational projects.

Copies of the CACT "*Connecticut's Imperative: Expand Public Transportation to Grow the Economy*" legislative paper, CACT spring workshops, the Transit for CT & CACT "Buses Move Connecticut" flyer and WTS literature was available at a side table. If you want copies of any of these papers, please email [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com) for digital copies.

## CTfastrak to Open

Congratulations to all those who have worked for years to make CTfastrak a reality. The bus rapid transit system opens to the public on March 28. During the first nine days, riders will be able to ride for free. So take a ride on CTfastrak!

## CACT Member Highlight



**Michele Brooks**, Senior Associate, TransAction Associates, CTRTAP Program Manager

Michele Brooks is a Senior Associate at TransAction Associates, a provider of nationwide transportation solutions, specializing in developing public/private partnerships and implementing strategies to reduce demand on the roadways. She is currently responsible for the day-to-day management of the Connecticut Rural Transit Assistance Program. A Brandeis University graduate, she has worked for more than nineteen years in the field of Transportation Demand Management including serving as director of two Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), working with several Boards of Directors, conducting research projects, and providing training and education on transportation topics.

Michele has extensive experience in organizing large-scale transportation surveys and implementing on-site commuter programs that encourage employees to consider alternatives to driving alone. As a consultant to the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, she conducted specialized briefings to MetroWest area legislators, town officials and local citizens on the proposed Regional Transit Authority, which was formed in 2008. Michele has also established the commuter benefits programs at a number of large employers and worked with the Town of Acton to institute a commuter rail service and Dial-a-Ride shuttle. Additionally, she worked with the Town of Acton and surrounding communities to develop the first Central Dispatch Call Center for Councils on Aging in Massachusetts.

Michele was part of the TransAction team that was hired by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) to develop primers on Voucher and Emergency Ride Home Programs. The primers consisted of literature and on-line research, interviews with organizations that use vouchers or have ERH programs, conference calls with an expert panels, and preparation of best practices primers. Michele has mentored several other TransAction employees who currently manage Commuter Services Programs at 29 worksites that reach thousands of employees.

### 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; 1/2 page \$150; and 1/4 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).

## It's So Much More Than The Sum Of Its Parts.

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## Certified Safety & Security Officer Program

### A 2-Day Course

#### June 22 & June 23

Co-sponsored by CACT & CTRTAP, the CSSO training will be held at GNHTD, 1014 Sherman Ave., Hamden. The course will maximize your ability to provide safe and secure transit service.

Email:

[mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com) to register.

## Tolling in CT

The FHA recently approved a pilot program for Connecticut to install electronic tolls for value pricing.

## Farewell

Jonathan Rubell, Mobility Manager at The Kennedy Center will be leaving for a job at the Archdiocese of New York where he will be developing classes and professional development courses for 4000 staff members in the 5 boroughs in New York. He will be taking Metro North each day. Jonathan was a CACT Chairman and member and his input will be missed.

## CACT Excellence in Transportation Award

The CACT *Excellence in Transportation Award* is presented each year at the Annual Meeting in June. You may nominate more than one employee. Awardees will be recognized at the luncheon and presented with a plaque for their service.

## Calendar

- **Tuesday, Mar. 24, & Wednesday, Mar. 25, 9:00 am. NEPTA Conference and Expo**, Hartford Marriott, Hartford. **Registration and further information:** [www.nepta.org](http://www.nepta.org) or 800-637-8201.
- **Tuesday, Mar. 24, 10:00 am. Public Transit 101 by The Kennedy Center**, LEARN, 44 Hatchetts Hill Rd, Old Lyme. **Registration info contact** [pmanzi@kennedyctr.org](mailto:pmanzi@kennedyctr.org), (203) 365-8522 EXT. 273.
- **Wednesday, April 1, 9:00 am. Understanding ADA**. Greater Hartford Transit District. **(8:30 am registration, 9-1pm workshop)**. Reservations required since space is limited. The event is free, so sign up today. [Mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:Mary.cact@yahoo.com) or call 860-693-0368. **Registration Link:** <https://eventbrite.com/event/15555258196/>
- **Thursday, April 9, 10:30 am. APTA Stand up for Transportation Day**. 1 Union Place, Hartford.
- **Tuesday, Apr. 21, 1:00 pm. Public Transit 101 by The Kennedy Center**, Southeast Mental Health Authority, 401 West Thames, Bld. 301, Old Lyme. **Registration info contact** [pmanzi@kennedyctr.org](mailto:pmanzi@kennedyctr.org), (203) 365-8522 EXT. 273.
- **Tuesday, June 2 & June 3, 1 ½ day workshop. Developing a Transit Emergency Management Plan.**(June 2, 8:30 registration, 9-5 workshop. June 3, 8:30 registration, 9-12 noon workshop) Greater New Haven Transit District, 1014 Sherman Ave., Hamden. The event is free, so sign up today. [Mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:Mary.cact@yahoo.com) or call 860-693-0368. **Registration Link:** <https://eventbrite.com/event/15555713558/>
- **Sunday, June 7, The 2015 Annual Connecticut Statewide Bus Rodeo**, Manchester Commuter Lot. **Registration** [www.ctrta.org](http://www.ctrta.org) or call 860-348-8879.
- **Mon. June 22 & Tues. June 23. 9:00-5:00. CSSO Training** (see article in left column)
- **Wednesday, June 24, 11:30 am. CACT Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon**. Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf St., Newington, CT. **Registration Link:** <https://eventbrite.com/event/15617635769/>
- **Tuesday, September 22, Annual CACT Golf Tournament**. 18-hole tournament, Blue Fox Run Golf Course, Avon.

## APTA Conference Provides Valuable Information

APTA held its Annual CEO Conference February 7-10, 2015 in Phoenix, Arizona. More than 140 public transportation professionals gathered to engage in a highly interactive four day event focusing on industry challenges, sharing success stories and innovative ideas as well as building strong networking relationships.

Therese W. McMillan, Acting FTA Administrator, kicked off the conference with a discussion on aging infrastructure, growing service demand, workforce development and the critical need for a long term federal reauthorization bill.

Session topics included governance strategies for working with your Board of Directors, economic development benefits associated with transit projects, forward thinking management practices, building a stellar executive team and labor relation trends. Other sessions addressed asset and safety management, developing dynamic career pathways for front-line workforce staff and evolving American lifestyles that affect the success of Transit Oriented Development communities.

Attendance by CEOs and Deputy CEOs from across the country resulted in a highly successful event filled with collegial conversation, sharing common issues and exchanging ideas for solutions. The APTA Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 8-10, 2015 in Washington, DC. – *Kim Dunham, GNHTD*