



CACT Membership Dues

The Membership Dues forms have been emailed and are due March 31, 2016. We appreciate your support. www.cact.info for membership forms.

March 2016 Newsletter

Issue 3

2014-2016

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*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*



A Successful Annual Legislative Breakfast

More than 100 people registered for the Wednesday, February 23, CACT and WTS Annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol. WTS President Sandra Dumas welcomed everyone and thanked the various sponsors. Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Tony Guerrero jokingly said he was nicknamed the “toll man”, but spoke about the importance of passing the lockbox resolution, “we have to assure the public no one will get their hands on the transportation revenues.” Rep. Steinberg said with a lockbox “we have an opportunity to make a difference in transportation”. Rep. Christine McCarthy thanked everyone for their efforts in making transportation successful.

Keynote speaker DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker provided a comprehensive overview of what CTDOT has accomplished in 2015 including :Metro North ridership is up 1.9%; the Q-Bridge \$200 million under budget and 8 months early; the success of optimized local project delivery; 405 M8 rails cars delivered; new rail stations in Branford and Old Saybrook; building CT’s bike and pedestrian multi-use trail system; a statewide transit system: CTrides, CTTransit, CTRail, CTfastrak: received the Distracted Driving Grant; Champ Program with 16,500 motorist assists, one every 6 minutes during peak times; implementing Enterprise Teams; traffic counting done with automation; and 2/3 of Let’s Go CT for state of good repair and operating expenses and 1/3 for enhancements and expansions to name a few. (<http://www.ct.gov/dot/>)

CACT Executive Director Mary Tomolonius gave a brief overview of bus operations, noting the importance of passing the “lockbox so it can be on the November ballot.

Copies of the CACT ““Connecticut’s Connections: Shaping the Economy Through Transportation” are available at www.cact.info or email mary.cact@yahoo.com for digital copies.



CACT Member Highlight

Andy Burke, General Manager, First Transit

Andy Burke is the General Manager at First Transit in Hartford, CT. As the contractor for Greater Hartford Transit District's Paratransit Service, Andy oversees a call center for reservations and customer service, dispatching, operation and maintenance of a 140 vehicle fleet. Andy and his staff of over 200 employees provide over 1900 trips daily throughout the greater Hartford area.

Before arriving in Hartford, Andy served as General Manager for Transdev. There, he managed transportation services for the Essex County, NJ division of senior service. Previously, he was a General Manager at Ride Right where he oversaw multiple paratransit operations in Pennsylvania and New York. Andy's start in public transit came at UMass Transit Services where he served as the Special Transportation Supervisor while he earned his bachelor's degree. Having grown up in western Massachusetts, he is excited to be bank in New England and says "It's a blessing to be close to family again."

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; 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.

Lockbox Public Hearing

On Monday, Feb. 29, the Transportation Committee held a public on the Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 1 "A Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund" that requires all moneys designated for the Special Transportation Fund be used for transportation purposes only. Governor Malloy's General Counsel Karen Buffkin began with "we need to seize this moment....voter's should be allowed to decide {on the lockbox}..and the lockbox is a commitment to our citizens". "I am in full agreement of having a lockbox, it's an investment Commissioner Redeker said there have been to many years of unpredictable funding. Rep Joseph Serra was concerned the lockbox funds wouldn't stay locked up."

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

ENHANCED INSTALLATION OVER SUSPENDING SYSTEM - IMPROVED RIDE PERFORMANCE

ENHANCED SUPPORT - FLANGE PLATE REINFORCING WELDS - HELD IN PLACE TO FRAME OF CHASSIS

ENHANCED ENGINE HOOD - BEHIND SMOOTH SURFACE - NO BUMP - NO RESONANCE

ADDITIONAL GUSSET STRUCTURE - 2X STRENGTH - 2X WEIGHT REDUCTION

FLY WHEEL SUPPORT W/ MOUNT - 4X STRENGTH

FLANGE ATTACHMENT POINTS - TO GAUGE LATER ON - EASY TO USE

SERIAL - LIFT - LUBRICATION - LINE - FOR SUPPORT STRENGTH - AND MAINTENANCE

W/ OVER PROTECTION - THE W/SET - HELD IN - W/ WITH AN - ANTI - COLLISION - PROTECTION - SAFETY - AND LIABILITY

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CACT Golf Scholarship

The first CACT *Golf Scholarship* will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. Established in 2016, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a CACT member or family member, who enrolls in a transit related course, and demonstrates the desire to use his or her talents to enhance their career interest in the transportation industry. Applications will be blindly reviewed by the CACT Executive Board and the award will be presented at our Annual Meeting on June 22, 2016. The applications will be available on line in mid-March or you can contact Mary Tomolonius at mary.cact@yahoo.com for an application.

Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

The Annual CACT Meeting & Awards Luncheon will be at Indian Hill Country Club on Wednesday, June 22 so make your calendars.

Calendar

- **Wed. Mar 9, 2016, 9:00 am-11:30 am** *Labor & Employment Law Issues to Watch for in 2016-2017*, Greater New Haven Transit District Garage, 1014 Sherman Ave, Hamden (registration 8:30)
- **Thurs. Mar. 11, 2016, 8:30 am**, *CT Congressional Delegation Transportation Breakfast sponsored by CCI*A, Best Western Plus, North Haven, I-91, Exit 12, 201 Washington Ave, North Haven (registration 7:30 am) **Register required!** chall@ctconstruction.org or online at www.ctconstruction.org/Congressional Breakfast. No charge
- **Thurs., Mar. 17, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Wed., Apr. 20, 2016, 9:00 am** *Understanding ADA workshop*, Greater Hartford Transit District Conference Room, 1 Union Place, Hartford
- **Thurs., Apr. 21, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Thurs., Apr. 25, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CTRTAP Spring Conference*, DOT Conference Room, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington
- **Thurs., May 19, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Thurs., Jun. 16, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Wed., June 22, 2016, 11:30 am**, *Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon*, Indian Hill Country Club, 1 Golf Rd, Newington
- **Tues., Sept. 20, 2016, 9:00 am**, *CACT Annual Golf Tournament*, Blue Fox Run Golf Course, 65 Nod Rd., Avon (registration 8:30 am)

Lockbox

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"It is well established that Connecticut's aging and inadequate transportation systems are an impediment and are hampering all modes of travel. The state's mounting transportation problems, left unaddressed, will become a significant hindrance to safe travel, economic development, protecting the environment, and sustaining the quality of life across the state" said Don Shubert, President, CT Construction Industries Association. It was noted that 74% of CBI members support the resolution.

Recently Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin's Hartford Courant Op Ed noted "...what is unequivocally clear about the {lockbox} language in this amendment is what goes in cannot come out."

"Home values performed 42 percent better on average if they were located near public transportation with high-frequency service."

Website: Apta.com

Lockbox Press Conference

The room was packed as transportation advocates held a press conference on Feb. 26 with Governor Malloy in support of a constitutional lock box. "It will provide reliable, long-term funding to allow for the planning and completion of projects" said Transit for CT Coordinator Karen Burnaska. "We need to stop diverting transportation revenue for non-transportation programs" said Mary Tomolonius, CACT Executive Director. CRCOG Executive Director Lyle Wray noted "We must invest today for opportunity tomorrow." "We know the situation, what needs to be done, and how to get there" said Don Shubert, President, CCI. (to view the bill www.cga.ct.gov)