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148 Bahre Corner Road  
Canton, CT 06019  
860.693.0368  
[www.cact.info](http://www.cact.info)

*A United Voice for Public  
Transportation in Connecticut*



*Audience at 2013 Annual Legislative Breakfast. Commissioner James Redeker*

## **Connecticut Transportation Updates**

### **Annual Legislative Breakfast A Huge Success!**

On Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, CACT and WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) co-sponsored their Annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol. More than 100 people attended including a number of legislators. Commissioner Redeker spoke about his core values for DOT and the progress made in 2012 including the Service Plazas on the highways; Bridge Repairs; 200 M8 rail cars; new electronic fareboxes; hybrid buses; mobile apps on website; CTfastrak progress; and transit oriented development in Stamford and New Haven. Redeker noted that DOT is "leaner and smarter" and DOT is becoming nimble and responsive. Senator Andrew Maynard began his remarks by joking he was late because the train was late. Maynard spoke about Connecticut being a place of innovation that needed to rebuild its aging infrastructure. He was encouraged "to see the amount going into capital and operations...and the new transit initiatives along the shoreline." Senator Maynard said the Transportation Committee would be holding a Public Hearing on tolls and there is "a whole new set of tolling options today." CACT Executive Director Mary Tomolonius gave a power point presentation on the 2012 public bus transportation expenditures, transit accomplishments, and noted the significant increase in ridership.

### **NEPTA Conference Coming Again To Hartford**

The 2013 NorthEast Passenger Transportation Association (NEPTA) conference will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Marriott Hartford Downtown and the Connecticut Convention Center. Please direct all questions to Carol Tally, NEPTA Executive Director at 508-698-0331 or email: [membership@nepta.org](mailto:membership@nepta.org)

### **Governor Malloy's Proposed Budget**

The Governor's proposed budget: eliminates TEIP funding within the DSS budget by \$3,187,240; eliminates state funding by \$576,361 for the non-ADA-Dial-A-Ride Program; increases bus fares to \$1.50 on January 1, 2014; ADA Paratransit fares on DOT operated routes will increase on Jan. 2014 thereby reducing the growth rate of the subsidy for ADA Paratransit. In FY 2014 by 30,771 and FY 2015 by -\$61,541; and operating capitol support for rail operations is reduced by \$2 million. [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

***"26,503,000 Hours of Delay in the Bridgeport/Stamford Area"***

*Texas A&M 2012 Urban Mobility Report*

## CCSU Sustainability Symposium

The 6th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium: Transportation, Human Mobility, and Sustainability will be held on Thursday, April 4th, at Central Connecticut State University. Workshops Include: "CTfastrak and Walkable, Sustainable Communities" and "Transportation, Migration and Sustainability in Four Worlds." The event is free and open to the public.  
<http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=11065>

## RPA's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Assembly

Regional Plan Associates' "A Resilient Region" is on April 19, at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, 8:30-4:00 pm followed by a reception. Registration is available at:  
[www.rpa.org](http://www.rpa.org)

## The Magic Carpet

Enfield Transit began the Magic Carpet Fixed Route Bus Service on January 14, 2013. The buses will operate from 7 am – 11 pm Monday through Friday and from 7 am to 9 pm on Saturdays. More information is available at  
[www.enfield-ct.gov](http://www.enfield-ct.gov)

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The newsletter is emailed during the first week of each month. Email your ad to:  
[mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

## CACT Membership Dues

The Annual CACT Dues Letters and Forms were mailed to members last month and we want to thank everyone who has sent their dues in to date, and remind everyone else to please mail in your dues. If you are interested in becoming a member, the information and Membership Dues Forms are available on our website: [www.cact.info](http://www.cact.info).

## Golfers, Volunteers & Sponsors Needed

CACT will be hosting their first Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 24 at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington. Golf Chairman DJ Gonzalez from Greater Hartford Transit District needs volunteers and golfers. He can be contacted at [DJGonzalez@ghtd.org](mailto:DJGonzalez@ghtd.org). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Mary Tomolonius at [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

## CONNDOT APPS

Connecticut Traffic Advisor, RoadAhead, InriX, iTrans Metro-North, and Amtrak apps for iPhones and Androids are now available via the CONNDOT website. The apps provide updated traffic information, bus schedules and routes, and much more. Commissioner Redeker noted in a DOT January 29, 2013 press release "These apps give us another way to communicate with travelers and get them the best information quickly..."

## Connecticut Bus Survey Results

CACT and Transit For Connecticut recently conducted a survey of transit operators and the results indicated a significant increase in bus ridership including a 41% increase for CTTransit in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford. People take public transportation to get to work, medical appointments, connect to rail stations and to save money. Operators noted the need to improve evening and weekend bus service, intercity service and service to employment centers.

## CTfastrak Informational Nights

CONNDOT will be holding Informational nights about CTfastrak in Newington on Monday, March 4, Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, 5:30-7:30 pm and in West Hartford on Thursday, March 7, Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Avenue, 5:30-7:30 pm. Click here for more information and other dates:  
<http://ctfastrak.com/index.php/en/news-center/open-houses>.

## CTfastrak & Economic Development

Gerry Amodio, the Executive Director of the New Britain Downtown District, said; "We are already seeing the impact of the related Transit Oriented Development in New Britain's Downtown. Real estate buyers from out of our normal locale, those from Boston, New York and New Jersey are not only looking at properties in Downtown, but they are buying properties and renovating them, even putting some long ago empty properties back in use. We have seen some new restaurants open up, our new Police Department complex has been strategically placed close to the Downtown CTfastrak station, our local college CCSU is looking at deepening its engagement with Downtown by relocating more departments and classes here, and we are seeing more investors planning additional housing close to the station. Clearly the CTfastraks project will be an economic boost for our Downtown, and the greater urban setting overall"

*"Transit Fact: "76% of public funding for transit is spent creating and supporting hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs"*

American Public Transportation Association

## Sign Up Today for March 12<sup>th</sup> Workshops

CACT is holding Workshops on March 12, 10 am-3 pm at Greater Hartford Transit District. The classes are: 10am - noon - *Dispatcher Customer Service* by Brenda Clark; 1-3 pm - *Citizen Preparedness = Community Resilience* by Dan Scace. *Emergency Management—How your Region Works for You* by Bill Perkins; and *Introduction to Regional Emergency Support Function 1 (Transportation)* by Karen Olson. To register, contact Mary Tomolonius at [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com) Workshop fee is \$35/person.



## CACT Member Highlight



**Ed Paquette**

Ed Paquette is the Supervisor for the Town of Manchester Senior, Adult & Family Services Division. In this role, he shares responsibility for Manchester’s paratransit services for Seniors and Adult Disabled residents. Each year, the Manchester Dial-a-Ride program provides over 10,000 rides to more than 500 residents. Ed is very proud of the fact that Manchester’s Dial-a-Ride program consistently receives high satisfaction ratings from more than 95% of its riders. Previously, Ed worked for 15 years in the HIV field where he was heavily involved in Ryan White transportation services that provided a critical link to medical care and social supports for disenfranchised people living with HIV/AIDS. Ed is interested in new and innovative transportation models that can contain costs, increase utilization and maximize efficiency. CACT quarterly meetings and workshops have been especially helpful with these goals. Ed is a proud resident of Windsor where he lives with his partner, children and a menagerie of rescued dogs and cats.

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

**FWVSS 210 SEAT INSTALLATION ON EVERY BUS ACTS AS A SIDEWALL GUSSET FOR ADDED PROTECTION**

**EXPANDED LATERAL GUSSETS AND IMPROVED LONGITUDINAL SUPPORT - 11 GAUGE PLATE REINFORCEMENT WELDED DIRECTLY TO FRAME OF CAB**

**FRP OR CARPETED INTERIOR**

**LAMINATED WALL FOR STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY SMOOTH SURFACE-NO RIVETS-1.5" INSULATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL GRADE EXTRUDED ALUMINUM WITH AN ANODIZED COATING**

**CURB SIDE SAFETY VIEW WINDOW - 491 SQ."**

**11 GAUGE INTERIOR SEAT RAIL 18 GAUGE EXTERIOR CRASH RAIL**

**SIDEWALL EXTENDS BELOW FLOOR LINE FOR SUPERIOR STRENGTH AND IMPACT PROTECTION**

**ROLL OVER PROTECTION - SIDE IMPACT PROTECTION - WELDED/LAMINATED CONSTRUCTION = DURABILITY - SAFETY - RELIABILITY**

**AUTOMOTIVE WEATHER PACKED CONNECTIONS PLUG AND PLAY BODY WIRING**

**DIE-CAST POWDER COATED ZINC WITH STAINLESS STEEL HINGE PIN**

**FULL ROLL CAGE CONSTRUCTION GALVANIZED 1.5" SQUARE STEEL TUBES WELDED ON 25.5 CENTERS**

**HIGH STRENGTH LOW ALLOY STEEL WITH 50,000 PSI YIELD STRENGTH = 66.7% INCREASE IN YIELD STRENGTH WITH A .06% INCREASE IN WEIGHT**

**3/4" EXTERIOR PLYWOOD OVER METAL SUBFLOOR**

**FLOOR FRAME OF 11 GAUGE STEEL "Z" MEMBERS**

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