



## Connecticut Transportation Updates

### Transit Roundtable in Bridgeport



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On Wednesday, October 30, 9:30 am – 12 noon, AARP, CACT, GBT, Norwalk Transit and Transit for CT co-sponsored a Transit Roundtable at Bridgeport City Hall Annex, as part of an on-going effort to “put a face” on the growing demands for transit, mobility needs and the investment needed to both sustain and expand bus service. The panelists: Nora Duncan (AARP), Joe Carbone (The Work Place, Inc.), Jonathan Rubell (The Kennedy Center), Doug Holcomb (Greater Bridgeport Transit), Louis Schulman (Norwalk Transit District), Brian Bidolli (Greater Bridgeport Regional Council), and Mike Sanders (ConnDOT) discussed topics ranging from “Complete Streets” to transit investment. AARP recently did a “Complete streets” audit of the East Main Street area in Bridgeport and found major deficits including curb cuts & sidewalks not lined up; navigating the viaduct area, aesthetic issues, driver behavior and identified action items to address these issues. Joe Carbone noted that 12 years ago they received a \$50,000 grant to begin a pilot program which has grown to a \$600,000 operation providing 1.5 million rides a year getting people to their jobs. Jonathan Rubell said that “probably 90% of their customers would not be able to get around without public transportation and if routes or hours are reduced, people can’t get to jobs.” Doug Holcomb spoke about the significant increase in riders, from 5.2 million to 5.7 million in the last five years. “Norwalk Transit started service in 1978 with 18 buses and today operates 100 buses with fixed route, ADA services, contract services, rail shuttles and Dial-A-Ride services”, said Louis Schulman. Brian Bidolli noted the importance of looking long term and thinking holistically about transit. Panelists, legislators and audience members all noted the importance of transit funding for operations and capital improvements. As Rep. Gail Lavielle summed up, we “need more legislative advocacy....and the need to make the argument for new financial investments for transit.”



### **Anniversary Celebration**

Norwalk Transit District is celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Congratulations to the staff for their dedication in providing outstanding public transportation to their customers.

*"We have some real political differences among us, but we all share the same goals: clean air and water, injury free workplaces, safe transportation systems, to name a few of the good things that can come from regulation."*

Fred Thompson  
American Politician

## Webinar on Coordinated Planning

CTAA is offering a webinar on Nov. 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. on "Improving the Participation of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in coordinated planning" The Webinar Link is: <http://ctaa.adobeconnect.com/r21fdfgaejd/>

## Save The Date

CACT and WTS are pleased to announce that Commissioner Jim Redeker will be the featured speaker at their Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 at the Old Judiciary Room at the state capitol. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the program runs from 9:00-10:00 am. A continental breakfast will be served. So mark your calendar. The event provides legislators, transit agencies, vendors, DOT staff and others interested in public transportation the opportunity to network and get the latest information on the upcoming legislative session and transportation budget.

## There's a New Bus in Hartford

CTTransit's downtown free shuttle bus service, Star Shuttle, has a new name and a new logo. The "dash" bus is bright orange with the logo prominently on the side of the bus. Dash stands for downtown area shuttle. This free shuttle has been in operations since 2005.

## Buses Saved the Day

When Metro North was disabled due to an electric feeder cable failure, and 125,000 rail riders were wondering what they were going to do, CTTransit buses were dispatched so commuters could get to work. They were able to "accommodate some of the 50% of commuters unable to take trains."



## CTfastrak Update

Build it and they will come, and that's exactly what is happening as a result of the CTfastrak project. As reported last month, New Britain has several new shoppes opening up and developers continue to express interest in the redevelopment of properties in the downtown area. Downtown Hartford is planning for mixed-use and residential development, adding more than 400 housing units.

DOT is conducting CTfastrak Progress Meetings to update citizens about the progress and how the system will work. The meetings are scheduled for Nov. 13 at Newington Town Hall from 5-7 pm; Nov. 15 at CCSU DiLoreto Hall from 11:30 am-1:30 pm; and Nov. 20 at the Elwood Community Center from 5-7 pm.

[www.ctfastrak.com](http://www.ctfastrak.com)

## Your Voice Needs to be Heard

Have you articulated your vision for transportation in Connecticut yet? The DOT TransformCT project needs your input. As transit advocates it's important to share your thoughts, visions and opinions on public transportation.

[www.transformct.org](http://www.transformct.org).

## Royalty Rides the Bus

Princess Kate and Prince William surprised commuters when they boarded a public bus, going from a London station to the Kensington High Street station on November 7 as part of the London Poppy Day charity appeal.



### CACT Member Highlight

#### David White - Coordinated Transportation Solutions

David L. White is founder and President of Coordinated Transportation Solutions, a Connecticut based not-for-profit Corporation organized in 1997.

Throughout his career White has been active on the state and federal level promoting continued, expanded or new funding for quality and coordinated transportation services; these services enable at-risk citizens to access needed medical care whether they are receiving Medicaid, Medicare, Veterans or other state or federally funded health care benefits.

White has focused the efforts of CTS on the innovative application and provision of mobility management services for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and Special Education customers as well as consulting solutions for small urban and rural transit providers.

CTS is now managing the non-emergency medical transportation needs of 200,000 Medicaid recipients in Maine; 60,000 Medicaid recipients in New York City and Westchester Counties, New York; 10,000 Medicare recipients in Massachusetts; and an additional 45,000 Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligible members in New Hampshire. The company also provides hundreds of special education trips per day throughout the state of Connecticut. CTS uses a network of nearly two hundred for-profit, not-for-profit and public transportation operators to provide its services.

Prior to founding CTS, White occupied a number of executive level positions with not-for-profit and public transit agencies throughout Connecticut.

Mr. White is the past President and Treasurer of the CTA and currently a member of its Board of Directors. He is a member and past Vice-President of the Executive Board of CACT and a member of NEPTA.

### 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](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

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