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*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*

Connecticut Transportation Updates



Transit Roundtable in Hartford

The next in our series of state-wide Transit Roundtables was held in Hartford on October 28th featuring panelists: Anne Hayes, *The Travelers*; Tom Phillips, *CT Workforce Partners*; Tia Murphy, *AARP*; Alyssa Norwood, *CT Legislative Commission on Aging*; Margaret Mixon, *The Kennedy Center*; Diana Deng, *Partnership for Strong Communities*; Lyle Wary, *CRCOG*; David Lee, *CTTransit*; and Mike Sanders, *CONNDOT*. Karen Burnaska, *Transit for Connecticut* and Mary Tomolonius, *CACT* moderated the event.

Anne Hayes provided an overview of Travelers transportation choices for employees to encourage use of public transportation. Anne herself has used public transportation to get to Travelers for the past 25 years. "There is a 23% decline in jobs in our cities and an 18% increase in suburban jobs" noted Tom Phillips (founding member of CACT), and it's "critical to keep public transportation affordable". Tia Murphy said she often gets calls from seniors who say there is "no way to get from point A to point B because I am stuck in my home". Connecticut is the 7th oldest state, and the need for senior transportation options is critical. Alyssa Norwood lives 3 miles from work and she can walk, drive, bike or take a bus to work, which is why she moved to West Hartford. "Livable communities are so important" said Alyssa and it's critical to embrace the notion of choice. "The Kennedy Center is a large human service agency that serves "people from the tomb to the grave", said Margaret Mixon, and their travel training service assists people in learning how to ride transit. As advocates for affordable housing, Diana Deng talked about the need to locate housing near transit. "Mobility, access and placemaking are the key points highlighted by Lyle Wray, noting that the challenge we face is how we finance transit.

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CACT Member Highlight

Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Since 2004 Lyle Wray has served as Executive Director of CRCOG. In this role, Dr. Wray serves as chief executive for Connecticut's largest regional planning organization serving metropolitan Hartford, Connecticut. Under new boundaries the region will include 38 cities and towns with a population just under one million. The region is in the midst of two major transportation upgrades: enhanced rail service from Springfield MA to New Haven and New York City in 2016 and CTFastrak a 9.4 mile bus rapid transit service under construction to serve the congested I-84 freeway corridor opening in 2015. With other agency partners launched the Corridor Advisory Committee of elected officials on the rail and rapid transit corridors. Dr. Wray has worked in the fields of citizen engagement as Executive Director of the nonpartisan Citizens League in Minnesota and as a board member of the National Civic League. He served as director of Ventura County Civic Alliance at the Ventura County California Community Foundation. He serves on the board of the Community Indicator Consortium. He co-authored the book "Results That Matter" on improving communities through citizen engagement and performance measurement and has published on these topics in ICMA's Public Management. He served as County Administrator and Human Services Director for Dakota County, Minnesota and as a division director in the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Dr. Wray holds a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and PhD in psychology from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. He completed the State and Local Government executive program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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.

New Staff at DOT

Richard Andreski is ConnDOT's new Bureau Chief for Public Transportation.

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

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“...the legislature has taken the first step by appropriating one half percent of the sales tax for that purpose (transportation). They’ve taken the second step of passing a legislative lock box. My administration has taken a third step and that is to post those proceeds as repayment of the bonds, which ties the state’s hands. Then, ultimately, we need to take the final step and have a constitutional lock box.”

Governor Malloy

Calendar

- **Thursday, November 5, CT. Public Transportation Commission**, 1:30 pm. DOT Headquarters, Conference Room B
- **Thursday, November 18, WTS Professional Development Session: MUTCD & Traffic Control: How to Mitigate Liability Exposure**. 3:00-5:00pm. \$20 Members / \$25 Non Members. Contact Shawna Bartkus, 860-513-4003, sbartkus@hwlochner.com
- **Thursday, November 19, Monthly CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting**. 9 am. Middletown Area Transit Maintenance Facility.
- **Wednesday, December 9, DOT Quarterly Meeting**. 10:30 am. DOT Headquarters, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington
- **Wednesday, December 16, Protecting Transportation Funding**. 9 am. Legislative Office Building, Room 2C.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2016 Legislative Session convenes**

Transit Roundtable continued from page 1

CTfastrak is the biggest transit project in Connecticut said David Lee and three new technologies are being implemented: AVL (automatic vehicle location) which provides real-time information about buses; APC (automatic passenger counter) which will provide accurate and reliable counts of passengers getting on and off the buses; and Account Based Smart Card which identifies a rider as a customer (similar to EZPass) and will calculate the most cost effective fare. Mike Sanders noted the common theme all the panelists mentioned was choice, which is what CONNDOT is striving towards. “Our mission is defined by our budget” said Mike. DOT is looking at opportunities for consolidating procurement or service delivery for more efficiency and effectiveness he noted. There is not a “transit system in the country that turns a profit”, in fact the New Haven Railroad, the busiest single commuter line in the country, has a 70% farebox with a 30% subsidy The panelists fielded several questions from the audience and left with a variety of literature and fact sheets from the various organizations.

NOTE: *CT-N Connecticut Network taped the event can be viewed at ct-n.com/ondemand.asp “Transportation Roundtable on the State’s Transit System: Successes, Challenges & Your Community”.*

Commuter Comments

Senator Chris Murphy is seeking comments from commuters because “I will take your stories to Washington to bring a human face to the debate over transportation funding and fight for investments that are smart and driven by you. Because it’s about time we fix this”. Send comments to www.murphy.senate.gov/fedup

CACT Board Vacancy

The CACT Board will be having a vacancy on the Executive Committee. If you are interested, please contact Joe Comerford, joseph.comerford@sbcglobal.net or (860) 510-0429 x1004.

JOB POSTING

Your Job Opening Posting Could Be in the CACT Newsletter

We are adding a new feature to our monthly newsletter: Job Postings. If you have an opening at your organization, let us know and we will include it in our newsletter. All postings must be emailed 7 days before the end of the month. The rates are full page \$300; ½ page \$150; and ¼ page \$100.