



## FEBRUARY 2012 Newsletter

### CACT Annual legislative Breakfast

The CACT Annual Legislative Breakfast co-sponsored with Women's Transportation Semiar (WTS) is Thursday, February 23, 2012 and features Key Note Speaker, DOT Commissioner James Redeker. 8:30 am Registration, 9:00-10:00 am Information Session. Please be sure to register and invite your legislators to attend. *(Flyer on Page 3)*

### CACT Website

CACT has been working with Greenhouse Graphics LLC from Winchester, CT on redesigning our website so it's more lively, informative and easy to navigate. If you want to be on our Quick Links page, or have helpful information, please email Executive Director Mary Tomolonius at [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com). Be sure to link in on our LinkedIn account (top of website home page).

### CACT Committees

The CACT Executive Board decided to consolidate committees and is looking for members for the Legislative Committee, Membership & Finance Committee and the Outreach & Coalition Committee. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact either CACT Board Chairman Alan Naudus at [Anaudus@gnhtd.org](mailto:Anaudus@gnhtd.org) or 203.288.6282 or CACT Executive Director Mary Tomolonius at [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com) or 860.693.0368.

### Save the Date for the CACT Annual Meeting

The CACT Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 11:30 am. CACT will be awarding Excellence in Transportation and Friend of Public Transportation Awards and information and nomination forms will be sent later this spring. So start thinking now about employees who've excelled at their jobs and for an individual who has demonstrated leadership and dedication to the enhancement of public transportation.

### Connecticut Transportation Updates

#### Connecticut Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium

The 2012 Winter Training Session will be held on February 28, 2012, at the CTTransit New Haven Division Training Center, 2601 State Street in Hamden and will feature two sessions: Drug and Alcohol Program Manager 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; and Reasonable Suspicion 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. To register, either fax or email your Name, Organization, Phone Number and Session(s) attending to Kim Dunham at (860)549-3879 fax, [kdunham@hartfordtransit.org](mailto:kdunham@hartfordtransit.org).

#### Connecticut's Transportation Future Forum

On Friday, January 20, 2012, a dynamic and informative forum featuring Keynote Speaker Emil Frankel, featured speakers Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and DOT Commission James Redeker was co-sponsored by the Capitol Region Council of Governments, Connecticut Association for Community Transportation, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, O'Neill Endowed Chair at Central Connecticut State University – Legislative Policy Program, Regional Plan Association, Transit for Connecticut and Tri-State Transportation Campaign. Supporters include Connecticut Citizens' Transportation Lobby, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, Keep CT Moving and League of Women Voters of Connecticut. More than 160 attended. The recurring theme by the speakers was the need for a "dedicated revenue stream" for transportation. The event is available for viewing on CTN-on demand. According to CACT Board Chairman Alan Naudus, the forum provided attendees with "a better understanding of the challenges facing the State in the coming years" and how important "out of the box thinking for projects" was necessary to meet the transportation challenges. This can be viewed on [www.ctn.state.ct.us](http://www.ctn.state.ct.us). On Demand Jan. 20, 2012.

#### New ADA regulations

At the last CACT Executive Board meeting, Chairman Alan Naudus discussed the new ADA regulations for paratransit providers. There is no longer a standard definition for the common wheelchair and the 600 pound weight limit for a passenger who uses a wheelchair has been eliminated. ADA now requires paratransit providers to transport a passenger in a wheelchair if the vehicle and lift can accommodate the passenger's equipment. Most newer vehicles can now accommodate up to 1100 pounds on the lift.

## **Accordion Buses**

They may look a bit strange, but the “bendy buses” (articulated) now in service in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford increase passenger seating and utilize the latest hybrid-electric technology. <http://www.cttransit.com/>

## **National Transportation Updates**

### **Commuter Benefits**

The monthly transit commuter benefit extension did not pass Congress before the December 31, 2011 deadline and therefore the \$230 transit benefit has decreased to \$125 per month per person while the parking benefit is indexed up to \$240 per month. You can contact your Congress representative at <http://capwiz.com/napta/home/>

### **Transportation Plan Working**

According to a Hartford Courant article on January 16, 2012, Governor Malloy noted “What people are used to thinking about with transportation is each project standing by itself, not interconnected” and that the state is “transforming how it manages its network of highways, rail lines, bus routes and shipping ports.”

### **Urbanized Area Formula Program**

The latest information concerning the Fuel Provision for the Urbanized Area Formula Program, Section 5307 is available on the website: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077\\_14291.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_14291.html)>[http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077\\_14291.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_14291.html). You must complete the SF-424 Supplemental Form for Fuel as a Capital Expense and submit it as an attachment to the electronic application in Grants.gov by February 15, 2012.

## **CACT Updates**

### **Welcome Pegi**

CACT is very excited to have our newest executive board member, Pegi Brandt, Manager of Special Services at the Norwalk Transit District. Pegi replaces long time CACT Board member Ron Kilcoyne who moved to Oregon for a new job. Prior to joining the Norwalk Transit, Pegi worked as the General Manager of the Valley Transit District. Pegi’s hobbies and interests include Ballroom Dancing, Horseback Riding and Photography.

## **Opinions & Opportunities**

### **Quality of Life**

Nicole Strack recently wrote a Fresh Talk Column for The Hartford Courant and noted “I’m spending a growing percentage of my life in traffic jams...there’s the egregiously high cost of living in Connecticut that is perpetuated by high energy and transportation costs”. [http://articles.courant.com/2012-01-25/news/hc-op-fresh-talk-strack-make-connecticut-livable-0-20120125\\_1\\_young-professionals-healthy-city-connecticut](http://articles.courant.com/2012-01-25/news/hc-op-fresh-talk-strack-make-connecticut-livable-0-20120125_1_young-professionals-healthy-city-connecticut)

### **Transit Leaders Needed for Study Team**

The TRB’s Transit Cooperative Research Program is seeking nominations for an International Transit Studies Program. <http://www.tcrpstudymissions.com/>. This year they will be studying *Protecting Passengers, Employees, and Property: Building a Safety Culture*. Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 24 and selected members will be notified by March 9, 2012. If you have questions, contact Kathryn Harrington-Hughes at 443.385.0300.

### **Do You Have News or Updates?**

If you have news of interest, please email a brief update to [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com).

**CACT BOARD MEMBERS:** Al Naudus, Chairperson, *Greater New Haven Transit District* ; Jonathan Rubell, Vice Chair, *The Kennedy Center*; Joseph Comerford, Secretary, *Estuary Transit District*; Tammy Ostroski, Treasurer, *Northwestern CT Transit District*; Ella Bowman, *South East Area Transit District*; Tom Cheeseman, *Middletown Area Transit District*; Barbara Kalosky, *North East Transportation Co., Inc.*; DJ Gonzalez, *Greater Hartford Transit District*; Pegi Brandt, *Norwalk Transit District*. **CACT Executive Director:** Mary Tomolonius



Advancing Women in Transportation  
Connecticut Valley Chapter

In appreciation of your work and concern  
for Connecticut's public transportation system  
and the effective movement of people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,

*You are cordially invited to join*

Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT),  
and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)

*for our*

## **ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

*Featuring Key Note Speaker*

**DOT Commissioner James Redeker**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**8:30 Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 to 10:00 Information Session**

**Old Judiciary Committee Room, State Capitol Building, Hartford, CT**

RSVP by February 20, 2012 to Mary Tomolonius, CACT Executive Director  
(860) 693-0368 or email [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com)

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*You are an important participant in the discussion of Connecticut's public transportation challenges  
and their impact on providing people with an affordable mobility choice that aids employment, reduces congestion,  
and pollution, strengthens the economy and sustains livable communities.*