



## JUNE 2011 Newsletter

### **CACT Annual Meeting**

The CACT Annual Meeting is Wednesday, June 22, 11:30am, at the Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf Street, Newington. There is still time to register, so don't delay; send your form in today. You don't want to miss out on all the fun. *(PDF Flyer Attached)*

### **Connecticut Transportation Updates**

#### **The Bus Rodeo is Coming!**

Bus drivers are gearing up for the Annual Connecticut Statewide Bus Rodeo which features an obstacle course that contestants must complete in seven minutes. The top four finishers are awarded prizes in each of the 40 and 35 foot bus categories and the body on chassis paratransit category. CTTRANSIT organizes the event on behalf of CACT and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The event will be held on Sunday, June 12 from 8am to 1pm at the Buckland Park and Ride lot in Manchester (exit 62 off of I-84).

#### **Hybrid Electric Buses**

CTTRANSIT added 14 new hybrid electric buses in New Haven this spring, which will result in both a reduction in operating costs and a significant savings for the environment. CTTRANSIT introduced its first hydrogen fuel cell bus in 2007 and now has five in operation.

#### **Final Report**

The "Economic Importance of Investment in Public Transportation" report for Transit in Connecticut outlines the need for continued transportation capital and operational expenditures and the tremendous benefits that public transportation provides. [http://ctenvironment.org/PDFs/Economic Importance of Investment in Public Transportation.pdf](http://ctenvironment.org/PDFs/Economic%20Importance%20of%20Investment%20in%20Public%20Transportation.pdf)

#### **Security Grant Funding**

A Transit Security Grant Program, estimated to fund 75 discretionary grants in 2011, was announced by the U.S. Homeland Security Department. Funding is available to towns, cities, state, county and special district governments. According to FEMA, "The program provides funds to owners and operators of transit systems (which include intra-city bus, commuter bus, freight rail, ferries, and all forms of passenger rail) to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disasters and other emergencies." <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/tsgp/index.shtm>

#### **Say Something**

You've seen the billboards, you've seen the buses, you've seen the ads – "If you see something, say something", a new statewide CONNDOT campaign aimed at protecting "the state from terrorism." It's a reminder to all citizens to stay alert and to report anything suspicious. <http://www.cttransit.com/>

#### **CACT Updates**

##### **We'll Miss You, Ron**

Long time CACT member, present CACT Executive Board Member and transit advocate Ron Kilcoyne was appointed the new General Manager for the Lane Transit District in Eugene, Oregon. In 2007 Ron won the APTA Innovation Award for his implementation at GBT of the ZipTrip Fare Program. Ron's been a transit leader and educator. We will all miss him, and we greatly thank him for his contributions to public transportation in Connecticut.

<http://www.registerguard.com/web/updates/26293334-55/kilcoyne-ltd-transit-bridgeport-manager.html.csp>

## Transportation Commission Meeting

CACT Chairman Al Naudus was the featured speaker at the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission meeting on June 2 at the CONNDOT headquarters. Al spoke about Greater New Haven Transit District's pilot hydrogen hybrid vehicle and their accessible taxi program. The next meeting is Thursday, July 14, 1:30 pm at the Legislative Office Building.

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=259240>

## CACT Conferences

### Understanding Public Transportation Workshops

CACT and Connect-Ability have scheduled their next three workshops in June. All are free and open to the public, although registration is required ([jerenberg@kennedyctr.org](mailto:jerenberg@kennedyctr.org) or 203-365-8522 x273). These workshops will help participants better understand present service, how to increase services in your area, trip planning, and accessibility of vehicles to passengers with disabilities.

- *Understanding Public Transportation in the Waterbury Area*  
**Thursday, June 16, 1-3 pm:** The Waterbury One Stop Employment Center, Rm. 18,249 Thomaston Ave., Waterbury
- *Understanding Public Transportation in the Shoreline Area*  
**Tuesday, June 21, 1-3 pm:** Clinton Town Hall, The Green Room, 54 E. Main St, Clinton
- *Understanding Public Transportation in the Waterbury Area*  
**Wednesday, June 29, 1-3 pm:** Elmwood Hall, 10 Elmwood Place, Danbury

## Transportation Conference

The Center for Transportation Excellence is holding their 2011 Transit Initiatives and Communities Conference in St. Louis, MO at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark on June 20 - 22, 2011. <http://cfte.org/TIC/TIC2011.asp>

## CACT Administrative

### CACT Membership Dues – Have you mailed yours in?

We greatly appreciate the members who have already responded and sent in their dues. BUT, we are really looking to have a 100% renewal rate, so, if you haven't sent them in yet, please do it today. IF you are not a member, why not join. Working together we are building a strong voice for public transportation in Connecticut. We appreciate your continued support. If you have a suggestion for a workshop, legislation, etc. please contact CACT Executive Director **Mary Tomolonius** at 860-693-0368 or CACT Chairman **Alan Naudus** at 860-288-6282. (PDF Flyer Attached)

## Opinions & Opportunities

### Transit Needs Density

Hartford Courant columnist Tom Condon recently opined about the need for density around transit in his column on Sunday, June 5. He cited the Hartford-New Britain busway, New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail project as examples of positive directions, along with towns that are seeing a "resurgence of their downtowns in the past decade..."

<http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/courant-columnists/hc-op-condon-column-transit0605.0.981958.column>

## 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/>

## 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*; Ron Kilcoyne, *Bridgeport Transit District*.

**CACT Executive Director:** Mary Tomolonius