



Taking the Bus to the Cathedral

For those who woke up early on Friday, April 29, to watch the nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton (editor's note: yes I got up at 4 am), it should be noted that many of the royal family members did in fact take mini buses to the cathedral.

Connecticut Transportation Updates

The New Britain-Hartford Busway Receives Funding!

CACT, other advocates for better public transportation, and Connecticut residents and workers received very exciting news on April 4, 2011 when Governor Malloy announced his decision to pursue construction of the New Britain-Hartford Busway project. Funding for the project came in quick succession to his announcement: on April 13, the Federal Transit Authority announced a \$6.3 million grant to fund engineering services and property acquisition for the Busway, and on April 29, the State Bond Commission approved nearly \$90 million to pay for the project. To date, \$23 million has been spent on design and acquisition of the property, out of an estimated \$460 million that the federal government has allocated for the project.

The New Britain-Hartford Busway has the support of many state officials, including: State Rep **Tim O'Brien**, Hartford Mayor **Pedro Segarra**, New Britain Mayor **Tim Stewart**, Newington Deputy Mayor **Scott McBride**, CRCOG Executive Director **Lyle Wray**, New Britain Downtown District Executive Director **Gerry Amodio**, Transit for Connecticut Coordinator **Karen Burnaska**, Metro Hartford Alliance President **Oz Griebel**, CT League of Conservation Voters Executive Director **Lori Brown**, RPA Vice President **David Kooris**, Tri-State Transportation Campaign CT Coordinator **Ryan Lynch**, CCSU President **Jack Miller**, CACT, Laborers Local 611 Business Manager **Jeffrey Merrow**, New Britain Chamber President **William Millerick**, Jasko Development President **Avner Krohn**, CT League of Women Voters President **Cheryl Dunson**, and Interim Executive Director for the CT Coalition for Environmental Justice **Tom Colligan**, to name a few.

Legislative Updates

-The House and Senate voted to approve Governor Malloy's budget this week.

-Governor Malloy's proposed three cent a gallon gas tax was removed from the budget after discussions with legislators.

-*Proposed Bills:*

--*SB 1063. AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDS FOR EVENING BUS SERVICE. Purpose:* To provide funding for evening bus service in order to enhance access to educational, job training and employment opportunities and to promote economic development. *March 31:* Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Fiscal Analysis. Report by 4/5/11. According to Barbara Kalosky, General Manager, North East Transportation, CTDOT is applying for CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funding, a

program authorized through SAFETEA-LU that allows the recipient (CTDOT) to start up new projects upon approval for a three year trial period. If approved this funding would enable evening bus service.

--SB 700. AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY WHO ARE SIXTY OR MORE YEARS OF AGE. This bill died in committee. According to Michael Sanders, CONNDOT Transit and Ridesharing Administrator state funded Dial-A-Ride is out, and municipal grants are reduced by 25% from customary expenditures.

Gas Prices Aren't High Enough

Robert Thorson, professor of geology at the University of Connecticut recently published an editorial in the *Hartford Courant* regarding his belief that gas prices aren't high enough. He noted: "*Were the right policies in place: Mass transit would be the default choice for most sectors of society...*"

CACT News

30 Years of Providing Public Transportation

Congratulations to the 9 Town Transit (Estuary Transit District) which celebrates 30 years of public transportation in the Shoreline region on Friday, May 13. The District was formed in 1981 "to provide local, coordinated public transportation for residents of the area." The district provides shuttle service with timed spots, flex route service, transit on call, and Dial-A-Ride. The nine towns include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

Former CACT Executive Director

Former CACT Executive Director, **Gloria Mills** and her husband Wendell spent some well-deserved vacation time this winter traveling in the southwest. Following the trip, Gloria announced they had purchased a home in Austin, Texas and were selling their Granby house. As reported last month, Gloria was honored with the Rosa Parks Diversity Award at the WTS banquet on April 27. CACT Board Chairman **Alan Naudus**, CACT member **Donna Carter**, CACT Executive Director **Mary Tomolonius** and Transit in Connecticut Coordinator **Karen Burnaska** were in attendance to applaud Gloria's acceptance of this prestigious award. As Gloria noted in her acceptance speech, her experience as a "transit kid" strengthened her belief in the need for public transportation. Best wishes Gloria, and many thanks for your years of service, dedication and promotion of public transportation in Connecticut.

CACT Conferences

Mobility Choices in CT Workshop Is a Success

Panel Speakers: **Jim Travers**, Acting Director, New Haven DOT Traffic & Parking; **Lisa Rivers**, CT DOT Transportation Supervising Planner; **Keleigh Arian**, Mobility Information Specialist for the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium; **Nancy Krodel**, Deputy Director for Operations, Senior Resources – Area Agency on Aging

Moderator: CACT Vice President **Jonathan Rubell**

On April 28, CACT Chairman **Alan Naudus** introduced CACT Vice President **Jonathan Rubell**, who moderated a panel of speakers at the workshop *“Mobility Choices in Connecticut: Making a Difference.”* Jonathan began the workshop with the notion that the transit options available to people in Connecticut are often determined by where they live in the state. Panel speaker **Lisa Rivers** then explained the parameters of the New Freedoms Program which utilizes \$1.1 million in federal funds yearly (application deadline was April 29, 2011.) While the monies can be utilized for such purposes as to make disability enhancements beyond ADA, to support mobility management, and to set up GPS or GIA, Lisa noted that unfortunately this year Lisa “money was left on the table.” **Keleigh Arian** discussed the guide for transportation options called *“Getting Around Eastern Connecticut 2011”*, which she developed, printed and mailed. She is now working on a chart of the barriers people face for transportation, developing a vehicle inventory, and working on getting agencies to work together to share rides. **Jim Travers** discussed the Streetcar project in New Haven. He sees New Haven as a transportation hub, a cultural center and a mecca for dining, shopping and living and believes that the structural changes with the Route 34 project offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the transportation infrastructure in New Haven. Jim believes the streetcar creates a sense of permanence, increases property values, encourages development within 3 blocks of the route, increases mobility, attracts residents and compliments existing services. **Nancy Krodel** rounded up the workshop by discussing the challenges facing the 56 region town in eastern Connecticut that she works with (i.e., limited bus routes, limited service, transit availability). Nancy said that the lack of funding makes the problems so profound. To help people in this region, she also developed a transportation guide that incorporates user friendly information. Nancy said she always thinks of a comment DOT Transit & Ridesharing Administrator Mike Saunders said, “The reality is, our mission is defined by the monies we get from the state.” Many thanks to our panelists for their participation.

The Kennedy Center Workshops

The Kennedy Center is offering workshops on *“Understanding Public Transportation”*. The workshops are free and open to the public. There are two remaining workshops: Tuesday, May 17th at the Farmington Library and Wednesday, June 8th at the Wethersfield Library. To register email: lbarney@kennedyctr.org or call Lisa Barney at 203-365-8522 ext. 270.

Upcoming CACT and Connect-Ability Workshops

CACT and Connect-Ability have scheduled their next three workshops *“Understanding Public Transportation in the Waterbury Area”* on June 16, *“Understanding Transportation in the Shoreline Area”* in Clinton on June 21 and *“Understanding Public Transportation in the Danbury Area”* on June 29. The workshops are free and open to the public but registration is required. (Flyer Attached as a pdf)

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. To register, please visit <http://cfe.org/TIC/TIC2011.asp>.

CACT Administrative

CACT Annual Meeting

The CACT Annual Meeting is Wednesday, June 22, 11:30am-3:30pm at the Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf Street, Newington. The flyers were emailed to CACT members, legislators and others interested in transportation. This exciting event is an excellent opportunity to network and support the awards recipients. So please be sure to register today! (*Flyer Attached as a pdf*)

CACT Membership Dues

The annual CACT Membership Dues Invoices were compiled and mailed by CACT Treasurer **Tami Ostroski** (thanks Tami!) in mid-April. We greatly appreciate the members who have already responded and sent in their dues. 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. (*Flyer Attached as a pdf*)

News

If you have news of interest, please email a brief update to mary.cact@yahoo.com.



A United Voice for Public Transportation in Connecticut

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