

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Presentation

Riding the Bus:

The Pace of Investment in Public Transportation

Held on Thursday, February 24, 2011

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) in conjunction with Connect-Ability, a federally funded project bringing together Connecticut employers and people with disabilities, and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), hosted the 2011 legislative breakfast forum. *"Riding the Bus: The Pace of Investment in Public Transportation,"* was the second in the 2011 series of forums geared to improve and increase transportation choices for persons with disabilities by increasing awareness of existing transportation options, networking, advocacy, and exposure to Connect-Ability and CACT.

"Riding the Bus: The Pace of Investment in Public Transportation," was held on February 24, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol in Hartford. The legislative breakfast forum was designed to provide participants with an opportunity to network, learn about the public bus services in

Connecticut, and determine the service needs they may wish to advocate.



Alan Naudus, CACT President

Alan Naudus (CACT), Glendine Henry (Connect-Ability) (who was unable to attend but sent some remarks which were read by Mary Tomolonius from CACT) and Shawna Bartkus (WTS) welcomed the guests on behalf of their organizations. Each leader introduced the audience to her organization by discussing the organization's mission, current activities and encouraging the audience to learn more about the organizations by visiting their display tables, helping themselves to literature and attending upcoming events.

The Presentation

The presenters at the forum were James Redeker, DOT Bureau Chief of Public Transportation, and Mary Tomolonius, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT).



James Redeker, DOT Bureau Chief, Public Transportation

Bureau Chief Redeker reported on the progress of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) work to develop a 21st Century Transportation System in Connecticut. He highlighted several recent accomplishments in rail improvements, the purchase of fuel cell buses, the New

Britain-Hartford Busway, and the purchase of 38 more rail cars. Redeker concluded his presentation with a brief discussion about the investment hurdles that must be overcome to maintain Connecticut's existing infrastructure and to continue to build viable transportation system. He identified for the audience many investment issues that are still to be addressed such as the federal surface transportation reauthorization; and the state investment for completion of the New Britain-Hartford Busway. He also discussed Governor Malloy's proposed budget and its impact on transportation initiatives.

Mary Tomolonius, executive director of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT), presented the 2011 CACT paper, *"Riding the Bus: The Pace of Investment in Public Transportation"*. The CACT paper is an analysis of the Connecticut Department of Transportation data for the state fiscal year ending on June 30, 2010 and a discussion of the policy issues.



2011 Legislative Breakfast Attendees

Ms. Tomolonius used PowerPoint to present the policy issues that affect bus services in Connecticut, not only the current services but also the need for new and expanded services. Ms. Tomolonius's provided the audience with visuals that illustrated the issues raised regarding bus services in Connecticut, current services as well as the services needed.



State Representative Gail Lavielle attended the breakfast and consented to speak about her commitment to public transportation and the challenges faced in these difficult economic times. She briefly outlined the various bills before the Transportation Committee.