



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

2012-2014

CACT EXECUTIVE
BOARD OFFICERS

Jonathan Rubell

Chairperson
The Kennedy Center, Inc.

Joseph Comerford

Vice Chairman
Estuary Transit District

Tammy Ostroski

Treasurer
Northwestern CT Transit District

Pegi Brandt

Secretary
Norwalk Transit District

CACT EXECUTIVE BOARD

DJ Gonzalez

*Greater Hartford Transit
District*

Henry Jadach

Milford Transit District

Barbara Kalosky

*North East
Transportation Co., Inc.*

Kimberlee Morton

CTTransit

Alan Naudus

Greater New Haven Transit

CACT Executive Director

Mary Tomolonius

148 Bahre Corner Road
Canton, CT 06019
860.693.0368

www.cact.info

*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*

Connecticut Transportation Updates

Transit Forum in December

On December 10, 2012, the “*Transportation Funding in Connecticut: Where We Are and What is Next*” forum was held before a packed crowd. Governor Malloy began by saying that Connecticut had been ignoring transportation issues for years but he was very committed to transportation infrastructure and capital investments. “I have never seen so much uncertainty in my 40 years of working on transportation” said Jack Basso. He noted that America has an opportunity to do what Eisenhower and Roosevelt did - they went forward with a vision and had the power and ability to force investment in transportation. Voters will support clear programs with significant needs and the federal government must play a vital role, but grass roots advocacy is the key. Panelist Emil Frankel spoke about the need to develop new revenue sources to support transportation funding and how the impacts of reduced federal funding (70% of capital budget relies on federal funding) will further erode transportation efforts. Oz Griebel stated there should be a constitutional amendment to lock box transit funds and the need to have a broad range campaign to market the transit vision for Connecticut. Commissioner Jim Redeker said that none of the successful rapid transit projects were done without dedicated funds and it’s important to engage the state and the legislators in having a long term plan for transit. He wants a three unit plan: highway & bridges, bike & pedestrian and rail & buses. The event concluded with an air of renewed commitment to tackling the transportation funding problems and working together to find long term, sustainable solutions.



Karen Burnaska, Transit for Connecticut, welcoming the speakers and attendees.

Advertising in the CACT Newsletter

CACT is now accepting ads for our monthly newsletter. The rates are full page \$300; ½ page \$150; and ¼ page \$100. CACT members receive a 10% discount. All ads must be camera ready in either a tiff or jpeg format and received by the 25th of each month. The newsletter is emailed during the first week of each month. Email your ad to: maryl.cact@yahoo.com.

CTfastrak & Development in New Britain

Gerry Amodio, Executive Director, New Britain Downtown District announced that the Downtown District has exclusive rental offerings just 1 block from the New Britain CTfastraks terminal. Further info is available on *The Plaza of New Britain* facebook page or by contacting Gerry at 860-229-0878 or Gerry@newbritaindd.com.

Connecticut Legislative Session Starts

The 2013 Legislative Session begins on Jan. 9 and adjourns on June 5. For information on committees, bills, etc. see the website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

Fare Increases

While there was no increase in the bus fares, effective Jan. 1, 2013, there is a 5% increase on Shore Line East and the New Haven rail services. "This modest fare increase is the second in eight years," stated DOT Commissioner James P. Redeker.

Connecticut Transportation Updates

Principal Transportation Planner Job

The Capitol Region Council of Governments, located in Hartford, CT has an opening for a principal transportation planner, with experience in transit and 'complete streets' planning. To apply, please send a cover letter and your resume addressed to Lyle D. Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments, 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 or to kolson@crcog.org. Electronic transmission preferred, but hard copy will receive equal consideration. No phone calls please. **Cover letter and resume due by 1/4/13.** CRCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EOE MHF.

A Friend in Transportation

Recently elected Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty will be a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure committee in Congress, and most importantly with constituents in the 5th District, to ensure economic growth for all of our communities." <http://danburyplus.com/nnews/news.php>

Transportation Updates

United We Ride Funding Ends

Funding for the United We Ride ambassadors program under the National Resource Center for Human Service Transportation Coordination ended on December 31, 2012. At this time management for the new Center for Mobility Management has not been determined. "It has been an honor, a privilege and a delight to work with all of you....Your dedication, innovations, and hard work have made my efforts a pleasure!" said Beverly Ward, Coordination UWR Ambassador for Region 1.

House Bill 7001 Passed

The General Assembly passed House Bill 7001: AN ACT CONCERNING DEFICIT MITIGATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013. Only Representatives Bacchiochi, Sampson and Willis (140-3) and Senators Suzio, Markley and Guglielmo voted no (31-3). <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/site/default>

CACT Workshop a Success

The "Mobility Management & New Freedoms: Optimizing Your Funds" held on Nov. 29 featured Margaret Mixon, Alan Naudus, Lisa Rivers, John Roode III, and Moderator Jonathan Rubell. Some of the highlights included: SAFETEA-LU has been replaced with MAP-21; New Freedoms & 5310 (capital purchase of buses) are now combined under the new legislation; ECTC hired a Mobility Information Specialist using New Freedom Funds and produced the "Getting Around Eastern CT" Guide; New Freedoms monies will support the Volunteer Driver Program; Lisa Rivers is trying to find ways to expand the taxi voucher programs; CTAA has lots of data info for Mobility Management and DOT is working on having the 211 info line include more info on transit.



November 29th Mobility Management Workshop
(l to r) Jonathan Rubell, Alan Naudus, Lisa Rivers, John Roode III, Margaret Mixon.

Congratulations

CONNDOT employee Lisa Rivers was recently promoted to Transit Manager.

NEPTA Conference In Hartford

The 2013 NEPTA conference will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Marriott Hartford Downtown and the Connecticut Convention Center. For further information: www.nepta.org or 800-637-8201.

Register for 2013 Annual Legislative Breakfast

The Annual Legislative Breakfast co-sponsored by CACT and WTS is on Wednesday, February 20 in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol. Registration begins at 8:30. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to: mary.cact@yahoo.com.

From the CACT Board Chairman

Dear CACT Members and Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to share with you a difficult decision your board of directors had to make this fall. In order to continue to provide our members with high quality professional development and maintain our presence in the Capitol, it is necessary to raise membership dues this year. This is the first dues increase CACT has had to levy in the past seven years.

In light of the budget crisis facing Connecticut, CACT's work is more important than ever and transportation needs to have a strong voice in the legislature. Membership dues are currently our only source of revenue and this increase will allow us to continue supporting public transportation preservation, expansion, and improvement. In the coming year we are looking forward to offering some exciting new training programs for transit staff. We are also actively pursuing new funding streams to secure and diversify CACT's future.

On behalf of the board of directors I thank you for your continued support of CACT and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Rubell
CACT Board Chair



What's In Your Wall?

It's Not Pretty Just Pretty Effective

This cross section of our galvanized steel roll cage makes a bus "a bus". These steel sidewalls extend beneath the floor and when welded and bolted in place, provide added strength and safety in the event of an accident. It may seem strange, but we spend considerable time thinking about safety, because although your passengers take it for granted, we can't. That's why we build it in from the ground up, then test it—specifically the FMVSS 214 side impact test.

At a proving facility in Wisconsin, a 4,000 lb. steel sled approaching 35 m.p.h. slammed into the side of our bus. The concussion was mind blowing—the damage to the bus was minimal. In fact, we drove the bus back home! Steel cage design is unique to our buses and as noted above, it's not pretty, just pretty effective.

Here are just a few more features:

- Low center of gravity that reduces rollover potential.
- Floor frame of 11 gauge steel Z members.
- Laminated walls for structural integrity.

For more information check us out on the web or call **Paul Hubbard at: 585-330-2402** or email: phubb18281@aol.com

Street Smart Since 1895
Shepard Bros., Inc.
200 Eastern Blvd. • Canandaigua, NY 14424
tel 585-396-2690 • fax 585-396-1323 • www.shepardbrosinc.com