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April 2015 Newsletter

Issue 4

2014-2016

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*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*

Connecticut Transportation Updates

Stand Up For Transportation

Please Join Senator Chris Murphy, Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, Governor Dannel Malloy, Lieutenant Nancy Wyman, CTDOT Commissioner Jim Redeker, along with stakeholders and transportation advocates to support a well-funded, multi-year, federal surface transportation bill that provides for robust transportation growth.

Thursday, April 9th, 10:30 am. Great Hall at Union Station



CTfastrak Opening Ceremony & Inaugural Ride

Following years of planning, design, construction, procurement and marketing, CTfastrak was officially opened in front of a huge crowd on Friday, March 27, 2015. Various transit officials and supporters left the state capitol in two CTfastrak buses and rode to the Downtown New Britain Station where they were welcomed by New Britain Mayor Stewart and Hartford Mayor Segarra.

DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker welcomed the gathered, thanking staff for their hard work and noting that CTfastrak came in "on time and under budget".

Governor Malloy, Acting FTA Administrator Therese McMillan, Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman praised the opening of the first bus rapid transit system in Connecticut during their remarks.

The festivities included the high school marching band, handing out CTfastrak t-shirts and bags and officials noted that for the first nine days, riding CTfastrak would be free.

Congratulations to Mike Sanders and other CONNDOT staff and David Lee and the CTTransit bus operators.

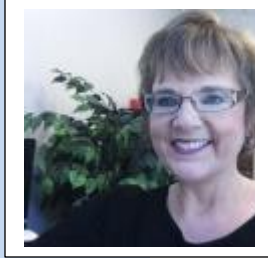


Left photo: CACT Executive Director Mary Tomolonius; CCIA Executive Director Don Shubert; and Lyle Wray, Executive Director CRCOG.

Middle photo: DOT Transit Administrator Michael Sanders and Anna Barry, Deputy DOT Commissioner.

Right photo: CTTransit General Manager David Lee and RPA Connecticut Director Amanda Kennedy.

CACT Member Highlight



Kimberlee Morton, CEO Norwalk Transit District

Kim Morton was appointed the new Norwalk Transit District CEO, and replaces long time Norwalk District Administrator Lou Schulman who retired on January 2, 2015.

Prior to this appointment, Kim served for 13 years at CTTransit as Assistant General Manager of Administration at Connecticut Transit (CTTransit).

And before CTTransit, Kim served as Director of Paratransit Services, Director of Administrative Services, Chief Operating Officer and Acting General Manager at Greater Bridgeport Transit for 15 years.

Kim served on the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation board and belongs to the American Public Transit Association, Employers Association of the North East, Society of Human Resource Managers and the Women's Transportation Seminar.

Upon being selected as the CEO of Norwalk Transit, Kim noted "It's a transit system that has an impeccable reputation. There's some great leadership and people to work with, and I'm looking forward to working side by side with them and looking at new ideas for growth. I'm truly humbled by their decision, because (Schulman) has such a great reputation, not only at the state but also at the federal level. I have some very big shoes to fill."

Norwalk Transit provides bus and other public transportation services including shuttle services for the disabled and elderly, the Norwalk-Milford Coastal Link, the Norwalk-Danbury Link, and Route 41 service from Norwalk to Stamford.

CACT Member Highlights

If you or a staff member would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, please send your bio and a jpeg photo to Mary Tomolonius at mary.cact@yahoo.com.

Advertising in the CACT Newsletter

The rates are full page \$300; 1/2 page \$150; and 1/4 page \$100. CACT members receive a 10% discount. All ads must be submitted prior to the last week of the month to mary.cact@yahoo.com.

Amtrak Service

Recently the House of Representatives passed a bill to improve Amtrak service and study high speed rail service between New York and Boston. Unfortunately no stops are planned in Connecticut and Governor Malloy noted the plan needs to be amended to include Connecticut or it's "dead on arrival" as far as he's concerned.

It's So Much More Than The Sum Of Its Parts.

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Connecticut Public Transportation Commission Hearings

CPTC Public Hearings will be held at the following locations, beginning at 7:00 pm “for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of rail, bus, motor carrier and other public transportation facilities, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 13b-11c”.

Tuesday, May 5

Norwich City Hall
Room 335
100 Broadway
Norwich, CT

Wednesday, May 13

Plainville Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Room 304
1 Central Square
Plainville, CT

Wednesday, June 3

Hamden Government Center
3rd Floor Conference Room
2750 Dixwell Ave.
Hamden, CT

CACT Excellence in Transportation Award

The CACT *Excellence in Transportation Award* is presented each year at the Annual Meeting in June. You may nominate more than one employee. Awardees will be recognized at the luncheon and presented with a plaque for their service.

Calendar

- **Thursday, April 9, 10:30 am. APTA Stand up for Transportation Day.** 1 Union Place, Hartford.
- **Tuesday, Apr. 21, 1:00 pm. Public Transit 101 by The Kennedy Center,** Southeast Mental Health Authority, 401 West Thames, Bld. 301, Old Lyme. [Registration info contact pmanzi@kennedyctr.org, \(203\) 365-8522 EXT. 273.](#)
- **Thursday, May 7, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. FTA Bus Safety Oversight Program,** Greater New Haven Transit District, 1014 Sherman Ave., Hamden
- **Tuesday, June 2 & June 3, 1 ½ day workshop. Developing a Transit Emergency Management Plan.** (June 2, 8:30 registration, 9-5 workshop. June 3, 8:30 registration, 9-12 noon workshop) Greater New Haven Transit District, 1014 Sherman Ave., Hamden. The event is free, so sign up today. Mary.cact@yahoo.com or call 860-693-0368.
[Registration Link: https://eventbrite.com/event/15555713558/](https://eventbrite.com/event/15555713558/)
- **Sunday, June 7, The 2015 Annual Connecticut Statewide Bus Rodeo,** Manchester Commuter Lot. [Registration www.crtap.org](http://www.crtap.org) or call 860-348-8879.
- **Mon. June 22 & Tues. June 23. 9:00-5:00. Certified Safety & Security Officer Program Training- A Two-Day Course.** [To register Email: mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com) to register.
- **Wednesday, June 24, 11:30 am. CACT Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon.** Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf St., Newington, CT.
- **Tuesday, September 22, Annual CACT Golf Tournament.** 18-hole tournament, Blue Fox Run Golf Course, Avon.

Legislative Update

The Transportation Committee sent two important bills to the General Assembly on March 18, the “lockbox bill” and a bill allowing for electronic bills on our highways.

Understanding ADA Workshop Postponed

Unfortunately our April 1 Understanding ADA workshop has been postponed. If you are interested in attending this class in the future, please send an email to mary.cact@yahoo.com and you will be added to the list.

NEPTA Conference a Success

NEPTA attendees had the opportunity to attend the Metro-Hartford Alliance Breakfast prior to the conference and featured speaker DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker noted “there hasn’t been a transit vision for 12 decades” in Connecticut, but with Ctfstrak he said “we just got it”.

The conference featured a variety of workshops from *Transit of Tomorrow* to *Innovative Transit Technologies*. A Vendor Expo was held in the Convention Center.

During the luncheon, the FTA presented their Innovative Technology Challenge Awards. Ctfstrak received the New Service Innovation Award and Greater Hartford Transit District received the Customer Service Award.

“Access to bus and rail lines reduces driving by 4,400 miles per household annually.”