



CACT Membership Dues
The Membership Dues forms have been emailed and are due. We appreciate your support. www.cact.info for membership forms.

April 2016 Newsletter **Issue 4**

**2014-2016
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*A United Voice for Public
Transportation in Connecticut*



**Transportation Breakfast Recognizes
the CT Congressional Delegation**

On Friday, March 11, more than 250 transportation advocates from business chambers, the building trades, construction industry, environmental groups, MPO’s, and transit organizations attended a breakfast at the Best Western in North Haven to honor and award the Connecticut Congressional delegation for their continued support and leadership in their efforts to provide stable federal transportation funds.

CCIA President Don Shubert welcomed the attendees, thanking the congressional delegation’s commitment to transportation. “One of the most important drivers of a robust transportation program is long-term stable funding. The FAST (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation) Act provides 5 years of predictability that will stabilize the Connecticut’s transportation programs and bring more certainty for planning new projects. We would like to thank every one of the members of our delegation for keeping transportation a priority in Congress.” Said Don.

The event began with a video from Senator Murphy who was unable to attend followed by comments from the rest of the delegation. Don presented each member with a plaque in recognition of their efforts.

“Great progress has been made on transit and intercity rail in the past five years and we owe a lot to the key support of our federal delegation. Their support going forward will be critical for transit upgrades and reconnecting the capital region to the Boston metro area with regular rail service. Thank you to our federal delegation!” said CRCOG Executive Director Lyle Wray.

Lockbox Clears Committee

The Governor’s lockbox resolution (Governor’s House Joint Resolution No. 1 “A Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund” that requires all moneys designated for the Special Transportation Fund be used for transportation purposes only) made it out of the Transportation Committee (22-11) on March 14.

“We cannot have it both ways — we cannot say we must fix our transportation system while also voting against the lockbox” said Governor Malloy.

“Overall, the FAST Act largely maintains current program structures and funding shares between highways and transit. It is a down-payment for building a 21st century transportation system”

Transportation.gov website

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: The Appropriations Committee budget will be out next week on either April 5th or 6th.

Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

The Annual CACT Meeting & Awards Luncheon will be at Indian Hill Country Club on Wednesday, June 22 so mark your calendars.

CACT Golf Scholarship



The first CACT *Golf Scholarship* will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. Established in 2016, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a CACT member or family member, who enrolls in a transit related course, and demonstrates the desire to use his or her talents to enhance their career interest in the transportation industry. Applications will be blindly reviewed by the CACT Executive Board and the award will be presented at our Annual Meeting on June 22, 2016. The applications will be available on line in mid-March or you can contact Mary Tomolonius at mary.cact@yahoo.com for an application.

CTfastrak Anniversary

The one-year anniversary of CTfastrak was celebrated on March 28 by riders, Governor Malloy, LT. Governor Nancy Wyman and DOT Commissioner James Redeker as they rode the 9.4 route. "Year one was a clear success as ridership soared" said Governor Malloy, "But we must continue to look forward — not backward — and to view this project as just the beginning."

Calendar

- **Wed., Apr. 20, 2016, 9:00 am** *Understanding ADA workshop*, Greater Hartford Transit District Conference Room, 1 Union Place, Hartford
- **Thurs., Apr. 21, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Mon., Apr. 25, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CTRTAP Spring Conference*, DOT Conference Room, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington
- **Wed., May 18, 2016, 9:00 am**, *Transit Roundtable*, Town Hall, Clinton
- **Thurs., May 19, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Sun., Jun. 12, 2016**, *CTRTAP Bus Rodeo*, Manchester Commuter Lot. Registration www.ctrta.org or call 860-348-8879
- **Thurs., Jun. 16, 2016, 9:30 am**, *CACT Executive Committee Board Meeting*, MAT Maintenance Facility, 91 North Main St, Middletown
- **Wed., June 22, 2016, 11:30 am**, *Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon*, Indian Hill Country Club, 1 Golf Rd, Newington
- **Tues., Sept. 20, 2016, 9:00 am**, *CACT Annual Golf Tournament*, Blue Fox Run Golf Course, 65 Nod Rd., Avon (registration 8:30 am)

Labor & Employment Law Workshop



Attorney Loraine Cortese-Costa began her "Labor and Employment Law Issues to Watch for in 2016-2017" with "don't use the internet to get your HR and employment information because it is not always correct or accurate."

Loraine has practiced employment law for over twenty years, representing various clients in the transit industry and provided the attendees with an assortment of information including:

- courts are really looking at employment contracts in terms of employees saying there were unfairly terminated
- employers have to be careful of how they write their employee handbooks and rules
- be aware of employee classification and exemptions
- for hourly employees you are only required to pay them for the hours they work
- employers may not request any means of accessing an employee's social media accounts
- fringe benefits only need to be paid if your policy or union contract requires it

Following the session many of the attendees said they would like to see this workshop offered on a yearly basis.

The Connecticut Department of Labor (www.ctdol.state.ct.us) provides forms and information for both employees and employers.

Many thanks to Greater New Haven Transit District for providing the space, set up, projector and staff for the workshop.