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Connecticut Transportation Updates



Right: CACT Chairman Jonathan Rubell presenting Alan Naudus with Service Award. Left: Attendees enjoying lunch.



CACT Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

The Annual CACT Meeting & Awards Luncheon was a great success. Many thanks to our sponsors Shepard Bros., Inc. (Paul Hubbard), CDM Smith (Paul Schmidt) and AccuCOMP USA, LLC (Tom Silengo); our program designer and publisher Gretchen Gregg from CTTransit and her staff who also provided the Sponsor signage; and to the CACT Board members who assisted with registration. The **Friends of Public Transportation Awards** were presented to Senator Maynard (who was unable to attend) and Steven Higashide from Tri-State Transportation Campaign. **Excellences in Transportation Awards** were presented to Abram Aviles, Rose-Marie Dean, Francis "Lee" Finley, Lori Lausier, Henry Lukasik, Isabel Ramirez, Shedrick Robinson, Susan Rubinsky, Lisa Scapin, Vivilyn Smith and Robert Wingate. MAT Administrator Andy Chiaravallo noted the CACT Awards are a great opportunity to recognize and honor employees who've really made a difference. So start thinking about who you would nominate next year. (See page 4 for more Awardee photographs)

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

CRCOG and the Partnership for Strong Communities hosted "How The Knowledge Corridor's Towns Can Make TOD Work For Them" on June 5th. CRCOG Chair and Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman noted "Hartford is poised to be transformed with the CTfastrak and New Haven Hartford Springfield rail projects." Cleveland's Bus Rapid Transit "Health Line" opened in 2008 and connects major employment centers adding 5000 new jobs and \$5 billion in new development. "There is not a single recipe for TOD success," Speaker Sujata Srivastava, Strategic Economics said. Northeastern University Associate Director of Research Stephanie Pollack noted that land nearest stations needs to be "reserved" for development that needs to be near transit: multi-family housing and especially rental housing (both market and affordable); walkability matters as much as transit services and transit rich neighborhoods aren't for everybody. The US Bureau of Transportation statistics indicate that travel patterns are changing and people are driving less. "TOD is not about transit, it's about economic development" said Stephanie. For more info: www.pschoosing.org/news/tod-crog-forum

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: mary.cact@yahoo.com

Al Roker's Dad

NBC weatherman Al Roker spoke about his DAD, a NYC bus driver and noted "He was the best driver there was and he took a lot of pride in what he did." Al noted that he cherished his time riding the bus with his Dad and sharing sandwiches for lunch.

Thanks to our Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon Sponsors

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Roadeo 2013

The weekend for the annual Connecticut statewide transit Roadeo emerged as a sunny, clear respite bracketed by rain storms and heavy downpours. When the nearly 60 contestants, the volunteer judges, their families and co-workers gathered on Sunday June 9, 2013 at the Buckland Park & Ride lot in Manchester it turned out to be a nearly perfect summer day.

The annual Roadeo provides a showcase for Operators to exhibit their driving skills, adherence to safety protocols, and ability to stay steady through the mental challenge of navigating the course in the allotted time. A mix of seasoned Roadeo veterans and "Roadeo rookies" competed for the top prizes. Sixteen Operators drove in the Body-on-Chassis class, representing seven agencies. The 35-foot bus competition saw 19 Operators test their skills on the course, and 17 Operators took their turns in the 40-foot event.

Sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT), the statewide Roadeo is supported by the efforts of many volunteer judges, scorekeepers, along with state and community public safety organizations. Judges staff each obstacle on two courses, watching to make sure each tap of a cone or nudge of a barrel is duly noted. Onboard scorers keep track of elapsed time, adherence to safety announcements, and determine smoothness of operation. As the Operators progress from one obstacle to the next their safe driving skills and ability to negotiate narrow spaces, calculate turns without contact to markers, and poise under pressure honed each day on their jobs becomes clear.

Yvonne DeMatteo of Greater New Haven Transit District (GNHTD) won the Body-on-Chassis event, her first place finish this year a significant improvement from her tenth place standing last year. At the Saturday practice session, Al Naudus coordinator for Roadeo at GNHTD, expressed high confidence in his teams' ability to shine this year. Ms. DeMatteo proved worthy of that confidence and was clearly elated as she was awarded her first-place plaque. First-place winners go on to represent the state at the national Roadeo competitions.

Overall, the Body-on-Chassis event reflected tight completion, with a mere 14 points separating fourth from first place, and a single point difference between GNHTD's DeMatteo and the second place finisher, Daniel Rangel of HARTtransit. Rangel and the HARTtransit team won the overall team award for the Body-on-Chassis event. In third place, Joaquin Lopez of the Greater Hartford Transit District also was named "rookie" winner for 2013 with his successful first time at Roadeo. The fourth place award in Body-on-Chassis was presented to Raphael DeJesus, of GBT Access.

Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT) excelled in the 35-foot bus competition, with Oscar Mera securing first place (for the second consecutive year), James Gantt Jr. only four points behind in second place, and Dean Farmassony officially in fourth. There was a tie for third place year, and when this occurs the Operator's elapsed time on the course is used to break the tie. This resulted in third place being awarded to Silvio Tenesaca of HARTtransit. GBT was awarded the team prize in this category. Middletown Area Transit Operator Allen Agostos was presented with the Rookie award for the 35-foot bus event.

In first place in the 40-foot transit bus event, Juan Carpio of CTTRANSIT Hartford and will go on to represent Connecticut in Kansas City at the APTA National Roadeo in 2014. This year's second place award was earned by Robert Lopez of GBT. CTTRANSIT Hartford Operator Alvin Waugh won third, and Dave Papcunik of HARTtransit took

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“Mobility management starts with the creation of partnerships among transportation providers in a particular region, so as to expand the range of viable options that communities have for transportation. Communication is also a critical component of mobility management, as the general public must be made aware of these options.”

American Public Transportation Association

Roadeo 2013

fourth place. The CTTRANSIT Hartford team, including Carpio, Waugh, and Maria Maldonado scored the total points to win the team award in this event. Roadeo newcomer Jean Florian from CTTRANSIT’s Stamford Division was designated the Rookie winner.

Each year, the Edward Dwyer award is presented to the contestant with the highest overall driving score. GBT’s Oscar Mera was the Dwyer award recipient for the second consecutive year; Mera’s name now appearing four times (2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013) on this recognition of driving excellence. *(Submitted by Gretchen Gregg, CTTransit)*

CACT Member Highlight



Brandon Foster

Brandon joined Greater New Haven Transit District in September 2000 as an Operations Supervisor.

His knowledge in supervision and communications was carried over by his previous experiences with American Medical Response of CT where Brandon started as a driver, then communications dispatcher and finally Operations Supervisor.

Brandon is currently the Manager of Administration and oversees the Human Resources Department.

Brandon was elected to the CACT Board for a one-year term to replace long time Board member Alan Naudus at the Annual Meeting on June 26th. Congratulations!

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Congratulations to the 2013 CACT Awardees

Photos by Pegi Brandt, Norwalk Transit District

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A sign on the green (sponsor provides a jpeg logo)

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Tues. Sept. 24, 2013

Blue Fox Run Golf Course, Avon, CT

8:00 am Registration, Putting Contest

9:00 am Shotgun Scramble

CACT Golf Tournament

2013 Golf Registration

\$125 includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, BBQ lunch & salad, 1½ hour open bar

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For more info contact: DJ Gonzalez: 860-247-5329 x3080 or DJGonzalez@ghtd.org OR Mary Tomolonius: 860-693-0368 or Mary.cact@yahoo.com

Some or all of the proceeds will assist CACT in their ongoing effort to raise awareness of Public Transportation needs and offer Training Opportunities.