

# Inside CTDOT

An e-Newsletter for Employees of the Connecticut Department of Transportation

Fall 2016

Dozens of DOT employees were recognized for their performance and teamwork ... the annual state employee Campaign for Charitable Giving came to a very successful ending ... the Q Bridge has won a national award ... the state is buying 60 more M-8 rail cars ... a mammoth track-laying machine is working on the CTrail Hartford Line ... we have begun lighting the Q Bridge at night ... new developments on CTfastrak, the Walk Bridge and I-84 Hartford Viaduct projects ... and, depending on whom you believe, we're either in for an "ice-cold, teeth-chattering and snow-filled" winter season (Farmer's Almanac) ... or something much milder.

Here are the headlines for this edition of Inside CTDOT (scroll down or click on headline for the full stories).

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## Employees Applauded for Teamwork, Performance, Safety and Service



*Commissioner Redeker presents the Employee of the Year Award to Wally Lugli.*

Dozens of CTDOT employees were recognized in October at the Fifth Annual Employee Recognition awards ceremony. Wally Lugli, chief financial officer for the department, was named Employee of the Year – chosen by the Employee Recognition Committee from numerous nominations. Commissioner Jim Redeker selected Chief Engineer Tom Harley as the recipient of the Commissioner's Choice Award.

There were also 10 awards for Performance, one for Safety, six for Teamwork and one for Customer Service. Plus, dozens of longtime employees were recognized for their

years of service – topped by Harry Rome with 45 years and Stephen Delpapa with 40!



*Tom Harley receives the newly minted Commissioner's Choice Award.*

Photos by Tina Franco

[View the program here.](#)

# Inside CTDOT

## Q Bridge Wins National Grand Prize from AASHTO

Photo courtesy of District 3a



Lit for the 4th of July in red, white and blue.  
See larger photos.

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge project won the Grand Prize in AASHTO's national 2016 America's Transportation Awards competition. The "Q," as it's informally known because it carries I-95 over the Quinnipiac River in New Haven, emerged the winner from a field of 84 entries. [See Award letter here.](#)

"This newly constructed bridge is a landmark in Connecticut. Completed ahead of schedule and under budget, it is a truly remarkable accomplishment in our ongoing effort to ensure that the

residents of Connecticut have a best-in-class transportation system that boosts our efforts to grow jobs, attract new businesses, and improve the quality-of-life in our state," said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. [More on the competition here.](#)

[Read Governor Malloy's full statement here.](#) The award came with a \$10,000 check from AASHTO that will be contributed to the New Haven Promise, ([www.newhavenpromise.com](http://www.newhavenpromise.com)) a charity that offers college scholarships to New Haven youth.

In June, the Q was recognized with an "Innovation Award" in a national competition highlighting "excellence in construction projects that improve travel safety, reduce roadway congestion and provide more mobility options." [Read more on this award from NASTO here.](#) The Q Bridge/I-95 Corridor project, which began in 2000, is now substantially complete. It is the first extradosed

cable-stayed bridge

in the United States and its replacement, at nearly \$2 billion, is the largest, most comprehensive project ever undertaken by CTDOT. The bridge now provides four additional lanes and much needed congestion relief in one of the most heavily traveled segments of the northeast corridor between New York and Boston. It accommodates traffic volumes in excess of 140,000 vehicles per day – more than three times the 40,000 vehicles per day its predecessor was designed to carry.

"This project is a great example of a bold step in making a modernized transportation system a reality. Our economic future depends on these kinds of major upgrades, and our residents deserve nothing less,"

Governor Malloy said.



A driver's view of the Q's towers and stays.

[More on the completion of the project here.](#) We have begun lighting the Q Bridge every night, with special red, white and blue lighting on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day (September 11), Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Memorial Day.

Approaching the flag-inspired lighting on Pearl Harbor Day.  
[See larger photo.](#)



AASHTO awarded the Department its **Grand Prize - Best Project** in the nation.



The Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, still referred to as the "Q," is New Haven's signature structure.

Photo courtesy of District 3a

# Inside CTDOT

## Charitable Giving Campaign Wraps Up

The annual state employee Campaign for Charitable Giving has wrapped up. It has carried the theme of “Caring for Connecticut ... and Beyond” with more than 700 individual charities through which CT state employees have “chosen to make a difference.”

Events this year included:

- Chili Cook-Off
- Pizza sales
- Costume Contest and Bake Sale
- Cutest Pet Contest
- Putting Contest
- Vendor Fair
- Silent Auction

[Check out the winners and get updates here.](#)

Thank you to everyone who supported the Campaign for Charitable Giving this year. Here is an update of how we did!



*Dozens of bakers contributed their creations to help the cause.*



*Photos courtesy Michelle Armetta*

*Creative costumes added to the Halloween fun and the Campaign's totals.*

[See larger photo.](#)

The winner of Coin Wars was Finance and Administration! Coin Wars raised \$495.05.

In total, our Special Events raised over \$5,800! We raised almost \$25,000\* in pledges and one-time gifts. (\*This amount does not include on-line contributions.)



*Everyone loves cute pets.*

Coordinators/committee members are Michelle Armetta, Maria Kozikowski, Rachel Higgins, Carrie Cyr, Maritza Kobylack, Donna Weaver, Saroj Bhandari, Ashlee Beaupre, Kimberly Medley (Dist. 1); Lynn Warzecha (Dist. 2), Maureen Miller (Dist. 3) and Bonnie Murone (Dist. 4).

Thanks for all their hard work and to all who contributed to the campaign!

## Policy & Planning's Program Receives National Award



Policy & Planning's Maribeth Wojenski recently received the 2016 Distinguished Managerial Service Award for her contribution to the new state-of-the-art fully electronic Crash Records System recently established at UConn. Congratulations, Maribeth!

Governor Malloy announced in September that the program had won national recognition and had won the Peter K. O'Rourke special achievement award in the field of highway safety. [More on that here.](#)



*Maribeth Wojenski, Robbin Cabelus and UConn's Eric Jackson, [principals](#) in the Program's success.*

# Inside CTDOT

## Progress Picking Up on Hartford Line



*The massive track construction machine lays ties and fastens the rails atop them without stopping.*

Progress continues on the expansion of the Hartford Line between New Haven and Springfield. A big part of the program is double-tracking the entire 62-mile corridor and, in October, a massive, 250 ton track-construction machine was in operation in Meriden.

“Launch of the Hartford Line will provide an opportunity for Connecticut to join in a regional vision to make rail a more convenient and faster option for travelers,” Commissioner Redeker stated. “Expanded rail service will strengthen transportation infrastructure in Connecticut and the region.”

The CTrail Hartford Line service will provide more frequent, convenient and faster passenger rail service between New Haven, Hartford and Springfield by increasing the number of round trip trains from six daily Amtrak intercity and regional trains to a total of 17 round trip trains a day to Hartford, and 12 trains per day to Springfield. The expanded service and new stations are expected to increase ridership, improve travel times, expand intermodal transportation options, encourage economic development and create more livable and sustainable communities.

[More on the track machine with video here](#) and, for updates on the overall project, visit [www.nhhsrail.com](http://www.nhhsrail.com).

## State Purchasing 60 More M-8 Rail Cars

CTDOT is purchasing 60 more M-8 rail cars, with an option to add 34 more to the order. The New Haven commuter line, the busiest in the country, already operates exclusively with M-8 rail cars as a result of the purchase of 405 of them in recent years. Ten of the next 60 cars being ordered will be café cars (popularly called bar cars).

The new purchase was approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in November. [More on the action here](#).

The M-8 cars are the most technologically sophisticated in Metro-North’s fleet. They have third rail shoes that can receive 700- to 750-volt direct current to power the trains between Pelham and Grand Central Terminal, and the capability to run under two types of alternating current from overhead wire, known as catenary. The New Haven Line and its New Canaan Branch use 60 cycle, 12.5 kilovolt power. The cars can also operate at the higher, 60 cycle, 25 kilovolt power, which is used on the Shore Line East route east of New Haven.



## More Rail News

Over the summer, we announced that commuters on the New Haven Line would be able to purchase train tickets using a smartphone app. Once on board, commuters will simply need to show the digital ticket on their smartphone device to the conductor.

Governor Malloy also announced that bike racks are now available on every New Haven Line train. [More here](#).

The administrative offices of the New Haven Office of Rail were recently moved into the top floor of the Component Change-Out shop in the New Haven Rail Yard.

[Pictures of the facility are here](#).



*The Component Change-Out Shop*

# Inside CTDOT

## Cool Visitors to Headquarters Parking Lot



Photo by Lisa Rivers

Tom turkey shows off their plumage for a hen.

On September 28, an American Bald Eagle was spotted in the CTDOT Headquarters parking lot in Newington, near the north entrance along the Berlin Turnpike. Our parking lot seems to attract all kinds of birds – with dozens of species seen and heard in, around and flying above the facility. Of note, besides the eagle, hawks frequent the air above and a tom and hen turkey raised a band of five youngsters who are now the size of the hen. Wood turtles, deer and lots



Photo by Amy Hare

A hawk looks in from the window.

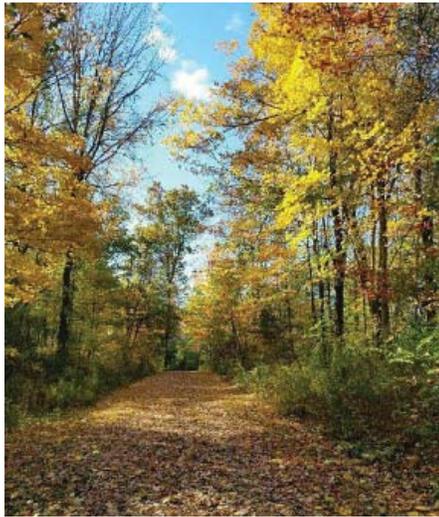


Photo by Jamie Thibeault

Fall colors fill the hillside behind the Headquarters Building

of woodchucks have been spotted on the campus as well. We've all seen evidence of the Canada geese that enjoy our grass.

The eagle sighting prompted several employees to submit pictures they had taken in recent years. Thanks to Judd Everhart, Derrick Ireland, Lisa Rivers, Amy Hare and Jamie Thibeault.



Center Photo by Derrick Ireland

The visiting American bald eagle was seen by several employees.



Photo by Judd Everhart

## Anna Barry Profiled in APTA Newsletter



Deputy Commissioner Anna M. Barry was featured in Passenger Transport, the newsletter produced by APTA – the American Public Transportation Association, [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com). She was chosen in her role as Chair of APTA's High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee.

"The committee serves as a thought leader," she said. "We strive to communicate with our APTA colleagues, the industry and the general public to educate them about high-speed and intercity passenger rail."

Read the [APTA newsletter here](#).



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## Connecticut Seat Belt Usage Hits 89.4 Percent – a New Record

The Department's Transportation Highway Safety Office announced that Connecticut's 2016 seat belt rate has increased to a record 89.4 percent, up from 85.4 percent in 2015.

"We have been working diligently with our traffic safety partners, including law enforcement, to move the needle, and this increase is significant," said Commissioner Redeker. "For many years, Connecticut was one of the top compliant states, and after a five year slide, we're encouraged to know that more people are buckling up at a higher rate than last year. The fact is, seat belts save lives – and can be the difference between life and death in a crash."

[More on this success story here.](#)



## New Section of Cheshire Trail Opens; Bridge Ribbon Cuttings



*The ribbon is cut opening a new section of the East Coast Greenway in Cheshire.*

Commissioner Redeker. "In fact, Connecticut is committed to enhancing all modes of transportation across all segments of our transportation infrastructure – from roads and bridges to trails, buses, trains and airports. This beautiful trail in Cheshire is an excellent illustration of our commitment

In November, Commissioner Redeker and the Town of Cheshire celebrated the opening of a new section of a bike/ped



trail – part of a continuous 23-mile section of the East Coast greenway between New Haven and Southington. The new segment is also part of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail.

"We are committed to completing the East Coast Greenway through our state," said

to our state's transportation and economic future." [Look here for additional observations on the Cheshire project from Project Engineer Vitalij Staroverof.](#)

[Find the press release on the new trail here.](#)

Earlier this year, we also celebrated the newly completed connection between the Air Line and Hop River trails in Windham.

[More on that here.](#)

*Another water crossing opens. This one, Route 44 over Wappoquia Brook in Pomfret.*



*Another water crossing opens. This one, Route 44 over Wappoquia Brook in Pomfret.*

A ribbon was cut in late spring for the newly completed bridge at the intersection of Main Street and Ferry Road in Chester. [See more on that here.](#)

And, in November, we marked the completion of a new bridge in the Higganum section of Haddam. The bridge carries Route 154, locally known as Saybrook Road, over Candlewood Hill Brook. [Pictures by Sharon Waters of that event here.](#)

In August, Commissioner Redeker joined local officials in Pomfret to cut a ribbon marking the completion of a new Route 44 (Pomfret Street) bridge over Wappoquia Brook.



*A new bridge in Haddam is opened.*

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## Taste of Diversity Event



Even though it has been a few months since the Taste of Diversity was hosted, it feels like it was yesterday. [See photos here.](#) This biennial event celebrating the Department's rich ethnic and cultural offerings, could not have been accomplished without the overwhelming support that was received from everyone at Headquarters and at Districts 1 and 2. Thank you to all who participated and contributed their time and hard work in making this an



[See larger photo.](#)

absolute success. The camaraderie, the drive, and dedication were amazing and felt throughout. Featuring foods from around the world, historical displays, cultural traditions, ethnic music, art, etc, employees were so interested in not only the food but definitely what the artifacts were and what they meant. It was



Photo courtesy of District 2



awe-inspiring. We sincerely believe that we would not have had the amount of success this event produced without each and every one who participated. See you all at the 2018 Taste of Diversity.

- Ada Alvarez, DOT Diversity Council Chairperson



## Walk Bridge Update



The public comment period regarding the Walk Bridge replacement project [Environmental Impact Evaluation](#) was

extended for several weeks to allow more time for comment on the "preferred alternative" the Department selected for new bridge. There seemed to be new interest in a fixed bridge, as opposed to the vertical lift bridge that DOT engineers prefer. Our analysis of a [fixed bridge is here.](#) More on the full project at [www.walkbridgect.com](http://www.walkbridgect.com).



# Inside CTDOT

## Yep! We're Ready!

The annual barrage of media questions about whether we're ready for winter started weeks ago. And the answer, as always, is a resounding "Yes!" Depending on your source for forecasts, we're either in for a doozy of a winter, or something less challenging. ([www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com) or [www.farmersalmanac.com](http://www.farmersalmanac.com))

In November, we showcased our newest equipment for clearing the roads ... the new "tow plow" that is towed behind one of our standard plow trucks. It swings out from behind the truck and clears a second lane of the roadway. We initiated a pilot program with one tow plow last winter, using it primarily on the Q Bridge in New Haven and around the I-91/I-95/Route 34 interchange. Two more of the \$100,000 plows will arrive in December.



"It's our goal to be prepared for severe weather events the best we can, and the addition of these tow plows will increase our efforts to safely clear the roads so that schools and businesses can re-open more quickly and emergency services can reach those who need them," said Governor Malloy at a press event at the East Hartford Maintenance Garage. The tow plow was later deployed at Rentschler Field to give TV cameras the opportunity to see it in action

[Read the press release here](#)    [More pictures & video here.](#)

## Michael Sanders, Transit Administrator, Inducted into Hall of Fame

Michael Sanders, CTDOT Transit Administrator, has just been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Northeast Passenger Transportation Association – a non-profit association of transportation professionals in the public and private sectors. Nice going, Mike!

The announcement was made at NEPTA's annual holiday dinner meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. The award was presented by Commissioner Jim Redeker and NEPTA President Vicki Shotland, executive director of the Greater Hartford Transit District.

Mike's 39-year career in public transportation has included any number of highlights and milestones, not the least of which was the planning and launch of CTfastrak, which has been a phenomenal success by any measure. CTfastrak, now consistently hitting 20,000 passenger trips a day, will mark its second anniversary of operations in the spring.

"I cannot think of a more deserving guy than Mike for this very significant honor," said Commissioner Redeker. "He has devoted his career to the advancement of public transportation and it's terrific that he has been recognized by his peers."

"It was a great honor, but more importantly it was a recognition of the DOT team. We don't succeed on our own. We succeed only when we can marshal the forces toward common goals," said Mike. I thank our senior management team for their support, and my office team for their efforts and for making me look good."

David Lee, General Manager of CTtransit co-nominated Mike and is also a member of the NEPTA Hall of Fame. [See Awards program here.](#) More about CTfastrak at [www.ctfastrak.com](http://www.ctfastrak.com) and more about NEPTA at [www.nepta.org](http://www.nepta.org).



Deputy Comr. Anna Barry, CT Transit's David Lee, Hall of Famer Mike Sanders, Comr. Redeker and Public Transportation's Bureau Chief Rich Andreski at the Award Ceremony. [See larger photo](#)

# Inside CTDOT

## Contributions from Your Fellow Employees

### **Elissa Velez**

Earlier this year, more than 1,200 enthusiastic high school students gathered at the New Life Church Wallingford Campus (formerly known as the Mountainside Resort) to participate in the 5th Annual Construction Rodeo High School Career Days hosted by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut. [More on that here.](#)

### **Vicki Arpin**

Vicki Arpin, Human Resources Administrator and Scott Hill, Engineering Administrator participated in a Domestic Scan program requested by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), with funding provided through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). The purpose of each scan is to accelerate beneficial innovation by facilitating information sharing and technology exchange among the states and other transportation agencies, and identifying actionable items of common interest.

[Read the full article here.](#)

### **Elissa Velez and Gregory Funk**

The circular loop of requiring a job to get experience and needing experience to get a job has frustrated many new graduates. Two students from UConn have taken a step to bypass this lack of experience problem. Wyatt Gibeault, a Senior, and Sarah Cadet, a Junior, recently completed an 80 hour internship with the Bureau of Engineering and Construction's Division of Bridges through the Department of Transportation's Unpaid Internship Program administered by Elissa Velez, Human Resources Associate, in Human Resources. [More on that, including pictures, here.](#)

### **Chester Lau**

About 20 CTDOT employees participated in the Cora J. Belden Library (Rocky Hill) road race over the summer, organized by Transportation Engineer Mena Shehata. Proceeds went to the library's programing and summer reading activities. [Picture here.](#)

### **Eric Feldblum**

On September 9, 2016, 236 golfers participated in the Department's 5th Annual CTDOT Fall Golf Classic tournament. This year the DOT golf tournament proceeds are being donating to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford. In the past we have also donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer foundation in the memory of Lisa Maynard and the Heart Disease foundation in the memory of James Matulis. The money raised this year totaled \$12,000! In all the CTDOT Fall Golf Classic has donated a total of approximately \$50,000. The golf tournament committee consisting of Eric Feldblum, John Hanifin, Matthew Easdon, Philip Scarozzo, and John Giannini would like to give a special thanks to all the volunteers that took a day off of work to make this happen!

### **Brad Overturf**

A new button has been added to the DOT external homepage to highlight our Research efforts and facilities. The page includes a link to a UConn analysis of CTfastrak and its economic impact. [Check it out here.](#)

### **Roger Cornwell**

Retired DOT employee Roger Cornwell (CORE CT Support and formerly District 3 Construction) recently donated a binder of dozens of vintage postcards showing Connecticut bridges. It is a fascinating look at some of our state's oldest and most recognizable bridges. Some are now long gone. Many of the postcards are signed with quaint messages and adorned with one-cent postage stamps. See Judd Everhart (Room 2126) to view the collection.

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## OEP Staff Aid in 12,000 Plantings at Hartford CTfastrak Site

Amanda Saul and the team from the Office of Environmental Planning's Water/Noise Compliance and Water/Natural Resources units spent four days working with landscape contractor All Seasons to install over 12,000 native wetland and upland buffer plantings at the CTfastrak wetland mitigation site along Flatbush Avenue in Hartford. The construction of CTfastrak involved temporary and permanent impacts to inland wetlands and watercourses. In order to off-set the impacts along the corridor a large wetland mitigation site was designed on Flatbush Avenue near the I-84 on/off ramps. The areas which were planted at the mitigation site in June consist of nearly 10 acres of wetlands flanking the Park River and nearly



4.5 acres of upland buffer.

OEP staff and District Inspectors worked closely with the contractor to hand-place all of the plantings in areas which would support their growth as some species prefer wetter conditions than others. OEP will oversee 10 years of long-term monitoring of the success of the plantings and the wetlands for reporting the Army Corps of Engineers and DEEP as a condition of the permits. Staff involved with the planting included (Water/Noise Compliance) Kevin Carifa, Andrew Piraneo, Paul Dickey, Christine Tedford, Caroline Kieltyka, Mark Marseglia, and Jeremy Willcox. (Water/Natural Resources) Amanda Saul, Chris Samorajczyk, Michael Salter and Alex Finch. [More photos here.](#)

Photos courtesy of Amanda Saul



[See larger photo.](#)

## Peace Tree Welcomes Visitors

Carrying on a tradition since 1995, the Peace Tree was erected at the the Headquarters Building. There are many transportation-related ornaments for visitors to see as they enter the building. Stop by to check them out. Many thanks to all who helped with decorating the tree and the Holiday villages in the lobby cabinets.

Photos by Sandy Armstrong



## CT's Roundabout 'Craze' Featured in National Engineering Magazine

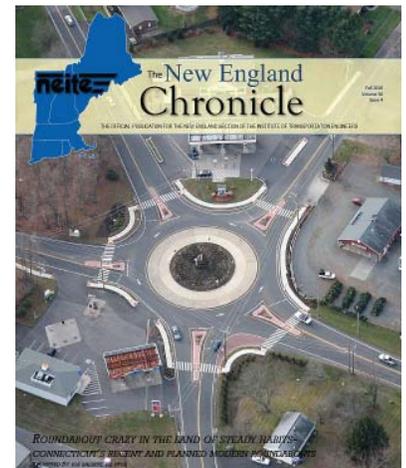
The New England Conference of the Institute of Transportation Engineers recently featured an Ellington roundabout on the cover with the headline, "Roundabout Craze in the Land of Steady Habits."

The article features several existing and planned roundabouts, described as the "ultimate



Routes 80 and 81 meet at this [roundabout](#) in Killingworth.

traffic calming device" and quotes Will Britnell and Scott Bushee in our Highway Design unit. Nice going, gentlemen!



[Click here to view the "Chronicle."](#)

# Inside CTDOT

## Happy Anniversary CTfastrak



An articulating CTfastrak bus pulls up at Flatbush Station.

Many of the awards, certificates, plaques and news features relating to progress on the CTfastrak project are on display in the CTDOT building lobby showcase.

During October, over 489,000 passenger trips were taken in the CTfastrak corridor with over 19,000 passenger trips counted each weekday. The growing popularity of CTfastrak can be seen as in October 2015, there were just over 420,000 passenger trips taken in the corridor with over 16,000 trips counted each weekday. In fact, from May 2016 – October 2016 ridership in the CTfastrak Corridor is 20% higher than in 2015 during the same period. Over time, the CTfastrak system also showed its flexibility by creating special services based upon community requests and consumer demand. A University of Connecticut Football shuttle to Pratt & Whitney Field in East Hartford was created as well as a weekend shuttle to the New Britain Bees' baseball games at New Britain Stadium. (You can read more information about the ridership numbers at [www.ct.gov/dot/ctfastrak](http://www.ct.gov/dot/ctfastrak)).

During the summer of 2016, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, CTfastrak hosted a Farmer's Market at the Downtown New Britain Station. The Farmer's Market ran through October 28 and was very successful. Additionally the DOT participated with DECD and the City of Hartford in a pilot program at the CTfastrak Parkville station. Space at the station was programed from August – October with different music events from Latin Jazz Fusion and Samba to Mexican



616 New Park Avenue - proposed TOD

and Spanish folk music as well as other events. On some occasions, troops performed traditional dance from many countries including Albania, Ireland, and Laos. "Kids Day" included bands and a magic show. Sea Tea Improv even entertained on a bus. [See story here.](#)

CTfastrak communities -- Hartford, West Hartford, and New Britain -- have been actively studying and have started to implement strategic Transit Oriented Development campaigns around each CTfastrak transit station in order to create new residential and business opportunities. The corridor has an abundance of older single family homes, but lacks sufficient good quality multi-use buildings. But, that's beginning to change. [Learn more here.](#)

Believe it or not, the CTfastrak Bus Rapid Transit system will be celebrating its second anniversary in several months. Since the start of operations on a cold, snowy day in March 2015, CTfastrak has earned a variety of industry awards and surpassed projected ridership goals thanks to the dedicated efforts of the combined CTDOT, CTtransit, contractor and subcontractor team.



CTfastrak's Alicia Leite with New Britain Bees and CCSU Blue Devils mascots.

[See larger photo.](#)



Governor Malloy at the Farmer's Market.



The community enjoys another colorful CTfastrak event.

Photo courtesy of CTfastrak

Photo courtesy of CTfastrak

# Inside CTDOT

## Stamford TOD Project Scrapped – At Least for Now

After three years of negotiations, CTDOT and OPM concluded in October that it would not be in the best interest of the state to proceed any further with negotiations regarding Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at the Stamford Transportation Center. It was an unfortunate end to what had been a very promising and exciting project.

We are now initiating the design of a new 1,000-space garage that will be built on South State Street. The new facility will have walkways connecting to all platforms at the station.

[More on the project here.](#)



## I-84 Viaduct Update



The I-84 Viaduct Project ([www.i84hartford.com](http://www.i84hartford.com)) is still in the design phase but public outreach is well under way.

Check out the [latest project newsletter here.](#)

Recently, Randal Davis and Rosmery Rodriguez were on Spanish-language radio station WPRX discussing the project.

Rich Armstrong, who is spearheading the I-84 Viaduct project, recently shared a thank-you/commendation he received following the Spanish-language outreach session from Dave Stahnke, Principal/Senior Vice President at TranSystems, the Program Management consultant: *I also want to commend the work done by the young Spanish speaking CTDOT engineers. To come onto a project of this complexity with very little experience and undertake the work of absorbing all project knowledge, translating materials, producing video and presentations and then representing the project on radio and in front*

*of the public was a massive undertaking. And they pulled it off with perfection. This would have*



*Randal Davis and Rosmery Rodriguez on WPRX.*

*been a major undertaking for the most experienced engineer. I hope they are acknowledged and commended within the Department for this effort.)*

The Spanish-language team was also recognized during the Employee Recognition ceremony. [See the Award Program here.](#)

Governor Malloy discussed the project in September. [More on that here.](#)

## This is YOUR Newsletter

You are encouraged to suggest ideas for stories or to send us a draft article for consideration. Send them to the ConnDOT Office of Communications, [judd.everhart@ct.gov](mailto:judd.everhart@ct.gov)

*The Department of Transportation is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer.*

Photo by Tina Franco

Photos courtesy of WPRX