

The Northeast Passenger Transportation Association recognizes members of the organization who have made outstanding contributions to the transit industry. For consideration into the Hall of Fame, members must be; in good standing, have made significant contributions to the transit industry, and have served a minimum of 20 years in the industry in the northeast region. On December 1, 2016 Michael A. Sanders, CTDOT Transit & Rideshare Administrator was honored by NEPTA and a large gathering of transit professionals in Providence, RI. The CT Department of Transportation Commissioner, James P. Redeker spoke highly of Mike's contributions to the agency. In addition, CTTTransit General Manager, David Lee spoke fondly of Mike's accomplishments. He stated that everyone will remember CTfastrak as Mike Sanders' most enduring legacy. However, he went on to state that In 1994 something remarkable happened. For the first time, CTDOT hired a Transit and Ridesharing Administrator who was not only an outsider, and not only a transit advocate, but a transit professional. And what happened next was rare in large organizations generally, and almost unheard of in large governmental agencies. Almost overnight, there was a total transformation of the department's mission and vision for transit. Lee said that in nautical terms, you'd call it a sea change, and in geological terms, you'd call it a tectonic shift. For example, the old attitude said, "If we lose money on every passenger, why would we want more of them?" The new vision said, "We want to grow ridership and serve new markets. We want to close gaps in the statewide system to make transit more attractive to customers." The old attitude said that technology was bad. Nothing ever works the way the salesman says it will. What you call old fashioned, we call tried and true. The new attitude was to embrace technology and be a technology leader for the industry. Use technology responsibly to make transit more efficient and provide a better customer experience for the riding public. And, finally, the old attitude said that transit management was really only expected to do three things: Count the beans. Tighten the screws. And stay out of the newspaper. The new attitude said we want to publicize our successes. We want to engage with the communities we serve. And, most importantly, what we want from transit management is partnership, not stewardship.