

OUT & ABOUT

News From CAT

This holiday season, we at CAT are especially thankful for you. We are proud to be yours in service, and we'd like to wish you and your loved ones a beautiful, safe holiday season.

'Tis the TDP

CAT has once again embarked upon its **Transit Development Plan** project. The TDP, as it is familiarly called, is a five-year strategic business plan that transforms CAT's long-range vision for public transportation into practical and incremental improvements for optimizing our service. It is a process by which we assess the needs of the communities we serve, analyze the potential for new services, and then design a plan to maximize our resources to address those needs.



This plan focuses on the relationships between public transportation and overall economic development in our area, and it helps us discover new ways to foster positive partnerships. The TDP creates a goal-oriented project management process based on a five-year operating and capital program that supports sound management decisions and prioritizes service improvements.

As our community and organizational stakeholders, an important part of the TDP is assessing your opinion of public transportation, as well as your service expectations and levels of support for various improvements. We determine this by conducting on-board

surveys to capture current CAT users and by taking feedback through our website and social media venues. We also gather input from non-users of our system in an attempt to better understand their choices and analyze ways to serve their needs, too. In addition, we have been holding a series of public meetings and workshops throughout Chatham County to provide everyone with an opportunity to voice their opinions. We even created a special email address just for the TDP: tdp@cathacat.org.

So please don't be shy. Come to a meeting! Send us an email! Imagine yourself as the CEO of CAT and tell us how you would run the company. We look forward to your input. We are also happy to provide more information or to speak at your next community meeting.

SHARING GOOD TIDINGS

Safety Tips for Drivers and Pedestrians

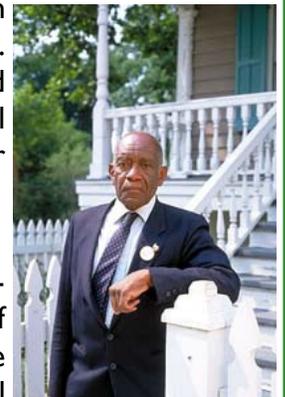
The holidays bring time off, special events, and lots of shopping. So with more of us out there looking for addresses, planning our parties, and thinking about gift lists, it's easy to be distracted. This season, let's celebrate safely:

- ◆ Look both ways before stepping off the curb.
- ◆ Leave the phone in your pocket while driving or even walking around.
- ◆ Be present in the moment...it only comes around once.

SPOTLIGHT: W.W. LAW

Savannah history forms a long and interesting chain of characters and events, and CAT is proud to highlight one of its public transportation links in this newsletter.

Westley Wallace Law, known as “Mr. Civil Rights,” was born in 1923 and died in July 2002. Earlier this year, to mark the tenth anniversary of his death, the W.W. Law Foundation and United States Postal Service commemorated his life and supported his legacy with a public awareness art campaign. A W.W. Law Special Cancellation Stamp was presented and prominently displayed on several of our buses for six weeks.



So who was W.W. Law and why would we feature him? Probably most well-known as president of the Savannah National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1950-1976, Law also created the King Tisdale Cottage, Negro Heritage Trail Tour, Beach Institute, Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, and the Black Heritage Festival here. He devoted 42 years of service as a mail carrier with the United States Postal Service, became a dear friend to public transit during the process, then lost that job because of his civil rights activities and had it restored to him through JFK’s intervention.

Never having obtained a driver’s license, Law used public transit as an independent means of handling his daily tasks. He even used the bus to carry out his mail carrier responsibilities. Law would board the Route 6 Broad Local (as it was called then), get off at Henry St. & W. Broad St. (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.), and retrieve the mail he needed to deliver from the green box located on the corner. This box, owned by the Postal Service, was one of several strategically placed around the city where supervisors would lock up his mail daily. And the Route 6 Broad Local conveniently traveled in a loop that allowed Law to perform his job effectively.

Veteran bus operator Freddie Lamar recalls the bus trips he took with Mr. Law, “He was always encouraging. He couldn’t help it; it was in his nature.” Fondly recalling the memories, Freddie says, “As long as he called me ‘Bubba,’ I knew that everything was good. But if he called me ‘Freddie,’ I knew that I was in trouble.” Their endearing relationship crisscrossed both CAT and the NAACP as Lamar was a member of the NAACP Youth Council under Mr. Law’s direction from 1962 – 1971.



CAT is thrilled to have participated in the campaign commemorating the legacy of Mr. W.W. Law. As our buses travel throughout the city, we hope they give younger generations the opportunity to discover his ideals and accomplishments. Law’s self-sacrificing spirit was admired and well-respected by the community, and we will always be proud that public transit was able to assist him along the way.