

CT Fastrak tour to New Britain

On the Saturday morning of November 7th, nearly twenty Asylum Hill residents met at the Sigourney Street Fastrak station to take a free ride. The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association in cooperation with the CT DOT organized a free tour of the new Ct Fastrak Bus service. Residents met with Randal Davis of the DOT to learn about the new buses.

They were first given a map and introduced to the many different places one could take the bus. After learning about a few different routes we moved on to learning about tickets. You can purchase various types of tickets from the kiosks including the popular ten-ride ticket, which has no expiration date. The DOT is also introducing a smart card system next year, like the Charlie Card in Boston or the Oyster Card in London that can be pre-loaded online.

Once the 101 bus to New Britain came, we all boarded. The DOT representative pointed out that at the Sigourney station as at all stations, the platform lines up with the bus for easy access boarding with no steps up. Once on the bus we spread out and enjoyed the ride. There is no ticket machine to insert tickets nor does the driver check tickets, but those caught on the bus without sufficient tickets is subject to a \$75 fine and a Transit officer escort off the bus. Once settled, Asylum Hill residents were pleased to learn that each bus can hold two bikes inside. They also enjoyed the different options for sitting or standing. What really surprised everyone was the free Wi-Fi onboard.

At the end of the line in New Britain residents split up. Some of us took the 15-minute walk to the New Britain Museum of American Art, which has free entrance from 10-12 every Saturday morning. Another resident stopped at Roly Poly Polish Grocery Store. Some even stopped at a Stop and Shop and did grocery shopping on the way home. All in all, the trip was a very fun time, the weather was great, and the DOT showed the Asylum Hill Residents how fast and easy the new CT Fastrak Bus is! For more information go to <http://ctfastrak.com/how-to-ride/routes-schedules> for more photos go to <https://goo.gl/photos/YhvhCQDmmqL8Nmjt9>

