



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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Summer travel easy, via rail

by Valerie Moliterno

Riding the rails made travel easy for me this summer.

Attending a graduation in Minneapolis in June, I rode their rails from the airport to downtown St. Paul where we had dinner. The line was well traveled, quick and safe. By contrast, we had to pay \$10.00 just for parking at the graduation. Rail was indeed a bargain.

Another graduation visit to Baltimore found me at Baltimore/Washington International Airport traveling to Baltimore on their rail line. Nice. The rail segment saved having the family pick me up at the airport--a trip in itself from Baltimore.

The CRTC trip to Cleveland in June to ride the rails took us through the highest valued real-estate in the area with a rail line in the middle of the action. Of course, they, too, have an airport line.

And Buffalo? Took the rail to a ball game on the 4th of July. What a deal!

In August we took a trip to Quebec City on their widely advertised scenic rail line from Niagara Falls to Quebec. Definitely a day trip but those rails were calling...

Get in the groove, Buffalo.

Passenger rail is the way to go!

Fast Facts----

In the last five years, transit use has increased faster than any other mode of transportation.

--crite.org

Citizens for Regional Transit Monthly Meeting

3330 Main Street, corner NF Blvd., Buffalo

September 19, 2006
12:00-1:30 PM

“Airport Corridor: Revised”

Help revise the CRTC presentation of the proposed Airport
Corridor extension of Metro Rail.

Citizens for Regional Transit meets in
University Presbyterian Church education wing,
across from the University Station of Metro Rail.
Enter through the parking lot door, take elevator to “ML.”

**CRTC meetings are free and open to the public.
Come on your lunch break, bag lunches welcome!**

New Light Rail Line Opens

...in an instance of "back to the future," in Newark, NJ, the Cedar Street Subway has been resurrected as a valuable link connecting the new mile-long Broad Street light rail transit (LRT) extension with New Jersey Transit's existing City Subway line. Opened on Monday, 17 July 2006, the extension adds about a mile to the 4.3-mile system, now called the Newark City Light Rail Line.
www.lightrailnow.org

NFTA Improves Airport Express

...the NFTA (Buffalo) has added nine round trips to its express bus Airport (BNIA) route, beginning 8-21. MetroLink express service is now available Monday-Friday starting at 6:18 a.m. inbound from Holtz Drive (at the airport) and outbound from the downtown transportation center at 6:16 a.m. The last trips of the day leave the Holtz Drive lot at 5 p.m. and downtown at 5:40 p.m. The adult fare is \$1.75.
www.nfta.com

page 2 **New Study Documents Dramatic Voter Support
for Transportation Ballot Measures**

...*cfte.org* 8-7-06

--*Washington, DC (August 7, 2006)*
The Center for Transportation Excellence (CFTE) has released a new report examining transportation-related ballot measures since 2000. The report, "Transportation Finance at the Ballot Box: Voters Support Increased Investment," outlines the striking rise in the use of voter-approved ballot measures to generate funding for transportation choices.

CFTE analyzed more than 200 state and local ballot measures related to transportation since 2000. According to the report, voters in 33 different states have approved 70 percent of all proposed transportation measures generating funding conservatively estimated in the excess of \$70 billion. Transportation measures have passed at twice the rate of all ballot measures.

"Few issues have consistently won the confidence and support of voters – regardless of region, community size, or party – as measures supporting public transportation, said CFTE Advisory Board Member Art Guzzetti. "A look at the track record clearly demonstrates the willingness of voters across the nation to support expanded choice and investment with their tax dollars."

The CFTE research also details trends in voter-approved financing for transportation. More than 80 percent of all transportation ballot measures since 2000 have specifically authorized financing. The report found support across the board for a variety of funding tools, including sales taxes, property taxes, bonds, and dedicated fees.

"This report makes plain the successful legacy and continuing value of the Federal – Local partnership embodied in federal policy," noted CFTE Advisory Board Member Janette Sadik-Khan. "Citizens seem to be ahead of elected officials. These findings should embolden policymakers at all levels to continue supporting transportation investment necessary to solve the problems people obviously care about."

Among the report's other findings are:

- More than 200 transportation ballot initiatives have been put before voters in the last six elections with the annual number of measures steadily increasing;
- Transportation measures have passed at a rate far greater than initiatives generally (70% to 34%);
- Sales tax proposals were the most common type of financing initiative, nearly 40% of the total;
- Property tax measures have the highest victory rate, winning more than 80% of the time since 2000.

CALENDAR

**Sept. 19 Noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main St., Buffalo
(corner NF Blvd & Main)**

Oct. 4 9:30 AM
PCC meeting of GBNRTC
NYS Thruway, 455 Cayuga Rd.,
Cheektowaga

**Oct. 17 Noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main St., Buffalo
(corner NF Blvd & Main)**

Nov. 5-8 (Sunday to Wednesday)
Rail-Volution 2006
Chicago, Illinois

CFTE is monitoring more than 40 proposed or pending ballot initiatives in 2006.

The full report and information on upcoming elections is available at <http://www.cfte.org>.

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return service requested