



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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January, 2005

Poll Says: WNY Supports Metro Rail Expansion

The New Year has already brought good cheer to the CRTC, in the form of a recent poll commissioned by Business First. The survey, conducted in mid-November by Goldhaber Research Associates, asked 601 randomly selected adults in Erie and Niagara counties whether a second Metro Rail line should be built to connect downtown Buffalo with the airport.

This poll was an unexpected confirmation of the CRTC petition effort, completed November 1, 2004. The petition result, 10,093 signatures, provided informal evidence that the public wants Metro Rail expansion. But the scientific framework of the poll gives reliable evidence to all community leaders to show that people of WNY from diverse walks of life and backgrounds support expansion of Metro Rail to the airport from downtown Buffalo.

Results were published (12-29) as follows:

Residence: City of Buffalo residents 67% in favor, 25% opposed; Erie County suburbs 47% in favor, 35% opposed; Niagara County 46% in favor, 26% opposed.

Age: 18-to-21-year-olds 78% in favor, 17% opposed; 70 or older 44% in favor, 33% opposed.

Race: Whites 49% in favor, 32% opposed; blacks 67% in favor, 27% opposed; Hispanics 79% in favor, 21% opposed.

Income: \$25,000-\$35,000 per year, 64% in favor; \$50,000--\$75,000 per year, 47% in favor.

The poll's margin of error was four percentage points. View the entire Business First article on the web at: <http://buffalo.bizjournals.com/buffalo/stories/2004/12/27/daily24.html>

The public has spoken. But the NFTA has not responded to the CRTC's petition drive. We await the courtesy of a reply.

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Courtesy
the League of Women Voters--Buffalo Niagara

**Friday, Jan. 21
11:30 AM**

**“State of the Region, Buffalo and Erie County” by
Charity Vogel and Jay Rey**

Ms. Vogel and Mr. Rey write on regional issues for the Buffalo News
Luncheon is \$12.00, at the Scotch & Sirloin.
Call 633-7069 to reserve.
Discussion begins at about 12:00 noon.

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**Wednesday, Jan. 26
10:30 AM**

“Are Today’s Suburbs destined to become Tomorrow’s Slums?”

**screening of “The End of Suburbia”
with discussion to follow**

Suburban sprawl has exploded in the last 50 years. Many scientists warn that the supply of available oil has peaked. This film explores the prospects for the American way of life as demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. The consequences in the face of this global crisis are enormous. How will Americans react to the collapse of suburbia?

Bring a Bag Lunch!

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American Voters Willing to Pay for Transit

...www.tstc.org 11-8-04

Congress Update

...www.apta.com 12-4-04

Citizens Regional Transit Corp.

aims to improve and expand bus and rail transit for all of WNY through citizen involvement and education.

Join us! Membership dues are fully tax-deductible:

- corporate \$100.00
- household 35.00
- individual 25.00
- student 5.00

send check to:
CITIZENS REGIONAL TRANSIT CORP.
c/o Alvin J. Schuster, treasurer
174 Capen Blvd., Amherst, NY 14226

Beware Anti-Rail Lobbyists...

Recent "another voice" article in the Buffalo News was by Wendell Cox, cited as a member of the Amtrak Reform Council, 1999-2002. For a complete resume of Mr. Cox's activities as a highway lobbyist, see cfte.org/news/reports.asp

Cultural Tourism Strategy to be Released

...bncti@buffalo.edu

“A Cultural Tourism Strategy: Enriching Culture and Building Tourism in Buffalo Niagara,”

a report by the Buffalo Niagara Cultural Tourism Initiative,
will be released to the public on

Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 9 a.m.

in the auditorium of

**The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society,
25 Nottingham Court, Buffalo.**

The Cultural Tourism Initiative is an effort led by the Institute for Local Governance at UB to organize the region for improved quality, cooperation, marketing and impact for its cultural resources.

“A Cultural Tourism Strategy” proposes a structure to reinforce and align the building blocks of the cultural tourism system: 1) asset development, or investment in cultural, arts and heritage resources to strengthen them organizationally and improve visitor readiness, and, 2) targeted, research-informed marketing that both supports coordinated programs and is connected to current and planned asset development efforts.

Designed as a three-year implementation pilot, this proposal recognizes the different but complementary natures of marketing and asset development, and that each must be improved if appealing cultural tourism experiences are to be developed to allow cultural tourism to reach its potential in the Buffalo Niagara region.

At the January 13 unveiling, the strategy and particularly the proposal for its implementation will be presented in detail. Copies of the final report will be available. Public input and perspective will remain a critical part of this effort, especially as important aspects of implementation continue to evolve, including funding and leadership issues.

Buffalo Niagara Cultural Tourism Initiative
c/o Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth Phone: (716) 829-3777
Fax: (716) 829-3776 E-mail: BNCTI@buffalo.edu

CALENDAR

Jan. 11 7:00 PM
PLWNY, 1000 Main St., Buffalo
“The Greying of WNY”
Pam Krawczyk, Erie Co.

Jan. 12 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC meeting
NFTA Board Rm, 181 Ellicott, Bflo.

Jan. 13 9:00 AM
Buffalo Historical Society,
25 Nottingham Ct., Buffalo
Buffalo Niagara Cultural Tourism
Initiative releases 2-year report

Jan. 18 7:30 PM
CRTC Annual Meeting
3330 Main St., Buffalo
Notice:

At the CRTC Annual Meeting,
members will vote on proposed
changes to CRTC By-Laws.

Jan. 21 11:30 AM
LWVBN, Scotch & Sirloin,
3999 Maple Rd., Williamsville
“State of the Region” Buffalo News
reporters C. Vogel, J. Rey

Jan. 26 10:30 AM
LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Ave., Bflo
“The End of Suburbia” video and
discussion; bring bag lunch

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return service requested