



# CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

published by Citizens Regional Transit Corporation  
P.O. Box 1186, Buffalo, NY 14231-1186  
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## Light Rail Roll Call

The Community Transportation Association of America publishes a quarterly, Rail. The magazine's tag line, "Connecting Communities by Moving People," affirms their core belief that all forms of passenger rail serve to move people "efficiently and effectively" and to build vibrant communities. The Fall, 2005, edition highlights light rail systems in North America as prime examples of passenger rail that fulfill these roles.

Leafing through beautiful full-color pages, the roll-call of expanding and improving light rail systems is impressive: Dallas, Sacramento, Boston, Denver, Minneapolis, San Diego, Edmonton, Ottawa, Pittsburgh, Hoboken, Salt Lake City, Portland, Los Angeles.

Each example offers a model for WNY to emulate. **Dallas** has thoroughly involved all parts of the community in every decision in the process of building light rail, and then guided economic development along the routes. **Sacramento** is connecting to the nearby city of Folsom, emphasizing transit-oriented development at the new stations. **Boston** is rebuilding North Station and putting an elevated section of the Green Line underground. **Denver**'s expansion includes a new maintenance facility. **Minneapolis** will connect commuter rail to its new Hiawatha line. **San Diego** now connects the trolley to the university.

**Buffalo**'s light rail line, Metro Rail, is an asset to our community. Let's build on our asset, and join the roll call of progressive cities.

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## CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, December 20  
12:00 Noon**

### “Rail Rights-of-Way: an Essential Asset”

**Currently, Buffalo is a major center for rail freight. Historically, Buffalo was a major center for passenger rail. Many of the discontinued rail rights-of-way are still intact, and are essential elements in the CRTC's proposal to expand Metro Rail. What is the current status of those rights-of-way assets?**

**Tim Trabold, from the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council, will show where these assets occur, explain their ownership, and help evaluate their availability for light rail expansion.**

**Join us!**

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**Citizens Regional Transit meets at:**

**3330 Main Street, corner NF Blvd., Buffalo**

University Presbyterian Church education wing  
Enter through the parking lot door, take elevator to "ML."

# Citizens Regional Transit Reached Out in 2005, Announces Plans for 2006

...Gladys Gifford, CRTC President

During 2005, the CRTC was busy!

We visited two new elected officials: Assemblyman Jack Quinn and Congressman Brian Higgins.

We briefed mayoral candidates Brown, Einach, Gaughan and Higgins.

We participated in several PCC meetings of the GBNRTC and submitted detailed comments on the current TIP.

We participated regularly in meetings of Buffalo Place.

We brought our display to the April meeting of "Why Not Buffalo?" and to the Earth Day Expo in August.

We helped Partners for a Livable WNY sponsor the November "Smart Growth is Smart Business" event, to hear transportation expert Jim Charlier.

We took our power point presentation to the WNY State legislators in November, and were invited to testify before the State Assembly Transportation Committee in December.

Plus, we published ten newsletters.

In 2006, the CRTC will continue to meet monthly and to publish our newsletter. In addition, the CRTC plans to raise our visibility in the community through these new efforts:

\* work closely with the Wellness Center of Buffalo, to promote Healthy Transportation Week in May. Planning for that publicity begins in January. Estimated cost: \$2,000.

\* take our power point presentations to community and business groups as well as to towns and villages, to gain support among stakeholders for expanding Metro Rail along the Airport Corridor. Estimated cost: \$500. (mileage)

\* continue our search for office space, in cooperation with like-minded nonprofit groups. Estimated cost: \$15,000.

\* upgrade our website, to make it fully interactive. Estimated cost: \$2,000.

All of these plans need your support. Please help us, with a generous contribution, today!

## CALENDAR

Dec. 14 9:30 AM  
GBNRTC PCC meeting  
Donovan Bldg, 125 Main St.,  
Buffalo

**Dec. 20, 12:00 Noon  
CRTC monthly meeting  
3330 Main St., Buffalo**

Jan. 11, 9:30 AM  
GBNRTC PCC meeting  
NFTA, 181 Ellicott St., Buffalo

**Jan. 17, 7:30 PM  
CRTC Annual Meeting  
3330 Main St., Buffalo**

**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

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### Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

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*return service requested*

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