



# CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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P.O. Box 1186, Buffalo, NY 14231-1186  
crtc@citizenstransit.org http://citizenstransit.org/

Volume #8 Issue #2

February 2007

## Money that looks so Good

Expand Metro Rail?  
Where will the money come from?

Governor Spitzer's budget proposal for 2007 includes about \$2.8 billion in new appropriations for public transit. Of that amount, \$2.4 billion is slated for NYC's transit system, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Outside of the MTA, all other transit systems in New York State will share a total of \$405 million in new appropriations in 2007-08.

So far, so good.

But the portion for the rest of the State will be shared by a dozen urbanized areas who have transit services. Some have greater needs than others. Much of the proposed share for WNY will be used by the NFTA to purchase needed new buses.

So far, not so good.

New York State has made several notable commitments to reducing air pollution and to conserving green space. NYC has been touted as a "green" city, largely because of its heavy use of public transit.

Likewise, Buffalo has the potential to be a leader in "green" practices, especially since the city still boasts a concentrated urban infrastructure which can make good use of better transit service.

Therefore, the State should be putting its money where its mouth is--expanding public transit in Buffalo, to promote WNY as a leader in 21st-century urban living.

Let the MTA in NYC have its billions--but make sure that the NFTA in Buffalo has its millions, to expand Metro Rail and to let Metro Bus improve service.

When that money comes, it will be sooo good....

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## CRTC Monthly Meeting

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

**"Levels of Service:  
How Often and Where should  
Metro Buses and Metro Rail Cars  
Pick up Passengers?"**

**Robert Gower, NFTA  
Manager of planning for Metro Bus and Rail**

Robert Gower is the long-time manager of service planning at the NFTA. He will explain how the NFTA decides on frequency and locations of transit service. Discussion will center on opportunities to improve service frequency and on policy decisions regarding future transportation corridors.

**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."

**CRTC meetings are free and open to the public.**

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## Car Sick: Solutions for our Car-addicted Culture

...book review by Lynn Magdol

For those of us who advocate travel alternatives, the task of changing behavior often seems daunting. A recent book by Lynn Sloman, Car Sick: Solutions for our Car-addicted Culture (Chelsea Green, 2006), provides some hope and some interesting ideas.

Sloman reports on surveys asking drivers why they chose to drive. There were three kinds of reasons, in a ratio of 40:40:20.

About 40% of trips were taken by car for "subjective" reasons, beliefs and attitudes of drivers. These included drivers' not knowing when and where the bus/train could take them or believing the bus/train would be uncomfortable, unsafe, or too slow. Another 40% of trips were taken by car for "objective" reasons, inadequate services. These included inconvenient schedules, inconvenient routes, and long waiting times at transfer points. Finally, 20% of trips were those for which the car was the only reasonable alternative. These included conveying large or heavy items and giving rides to older relatives.

These studies suggest that a large majority of trips taken by car could potentially be done in another way.

Sloman offers some ideas on how to increase this potential. To counter the subjective reasons, information about schedules and routes can be widely disseminated. Marketing campaigns can counter misperceptions about cleanliness, comfort, and safety. To change the objective reasons, improvements can be made in services: extending routes and schedules to accommodate need.

Would drivers actually change their behavior?

About half said they were interested in finding out about alternatives and changing their travel modes. If 80% of car trips could be done in another way, and half of drivers could change to another way, then about 40% of current car trips could be eliminated. That would be a tremendous first step in reducing our dependence on automobiles and saving the planet.

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### Save Our Theater District Station, aka S.O.S.

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### Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

P.O. Box 1186  
Buffalo, NY 14231-1186

*return service requested*

## CALENDAR

Feb. 12 5:30 PM  
"Climate Change" lecture  
by Mohammad Reza Salamat  
International Institute and  
WNY Sustainable Energy Ass'n  
864 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

**Feb. 20 Noon**  
**CRTC Monthly Meeting**  
**3330 Main St., Buffalo**  
**(corner NF Blvd & Main)**

Mar. 3 9:30 AM  
PCC meeting of GBNRTC  
Erie Co. Public Works Dept.

**Mar. 20 Noon**  
**CRTC Monthly Meeting**  
**3330 Main St., Buffalo**  
**(corner NF Blvd & Main)**

Mar. 22 11:30 AM  
"Transportation and Waterfront  
Long Range Planning"  
David Stebbins, ECIDA, and  
Hal Morse, GBNTC,  
presented by LWVBN  
1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo