



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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September, 2007

It seems to me...

Of course we have to fix the dangerous bridges and roads - One quarter of the nation's bridges, including the one that collapsed in Minneapolis, have been classified structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. One third of our major roads are judged by federal transportation officials to be in poor or mediocre condition.

According to the GBNRTC, their new Master Plan envisions spending \$6.1 billion on improvements and upgrades in this area through 2030.

I do hope "improvements" doesn't mean widening and expanding highways. If it does, a fair share of those dollars should be used instead for Metro Rail expansion..

One member of congress wants to increase the Federal gas tax by a penny for roads and bridges. I say, increase it by two cents and use the other penny to support intra-city mass transit and inter-city high speed rail.

It's time our elected officials and the people who vote for them woke up and smelled the roses.

We cannot continue to be addicted to automobiles. And, buses aren't the answer. Light rail rapid transit is. Car owners won't leave their cars in the garage to ride a bus, but they will use park-and-ride facilities to use rail transit.

If you agree with me , write or e-mail your congressmen and senators, and Hal Morse, Executive Director of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council.
Contact at www.gbnrtc.org.

Joe Radder

Past Chair, CRTC

CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, September 18
12:00 Noon**

"Metro Rail Helps Raise Property Values" a presentation by Daniel B. Hess, Ph.D.

Dr. Hess will discuss his recent study: "Metro Rail Helps Raise Property Values: A Quantitative Exploration of House Values and Proximity to LRRT Stations in Buffalo, New York."

Daniel Baldwin Hess is Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University at Buffalo. His research centers on public transit operations and finance and the interaction between travel behavior and urban form. He won the 2004 Chester Rapkin Prize from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and the 2005 University at Buffalo Exceptional Scholar Award. He recently received an Emerging Scholar Grant from University Transportation Research Center to investigate walking access to bus stops for older adults over age 60.

Join us!

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.

Support Grows for Feasibility Study

Thank you to members and supporters!

...on Track, here and there...

[Tri-State] Campaign attended the groundbreaking for the **Yankee Stadium [NYC] Metro-North station** last month [July]. On game days, service will be provided by the Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven Lines; on other days only the Hudson Line will stop at the station.

...advocacy of groups like the Campaign and allies like Save Our Parks, New Yorkers for Parks, and Good Jobs New York, helped solidify support for construction of the long coveted station.

...[**New York State**] is still struggling to find a bidder for the [proposed] parking garages [included in the project].

8-15-07 www.tstc.org

...a new, revised Environmental Assessment has been issued by the City of **Buffalo** and Buffalo Place regarding the proposed "Cars Sharing Main Street" project, to comply with directives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). No ruling has been made as yet by the FTA.

8-29-07 *Buffalo Place oral report*

...Efforts to start commuter rail service from Westmoreland County into **Pittsburgh** keep chugging along as local transit officials this week [8-17-07] received a \$500,000 state [PA] grant to study whether the project is feasible.

8-17-07 *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

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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Thank you!!

Progress on the Cobblestone Loop Proposal

CRTC continues to raise funds for the feasibility study, to be prepared by Stone Consulting. Our goal is \$9,750. We have raised nearly \$3,000 since mid-April. As soon as the money is in hand, the work will begin and is expected to be completed in about three months.

Help us reach our goal!

Send your donation to the CRTC treasurer, ASAP!

For more information, see the CRTC web page, citizenstransit.org.

State To Fund \$22M For Higher-Speed Rail Program

...NYS DOT 9-5-07

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Astrid Glynn today [9-5-07] announced a \$22 million program as a first step in bringing reliable, higher-speed rail service to New Yorkers throughout the state.

The funding would provide \$4 million for rock slope stabilization near the George Washington Bridge. Other initial investments under the program are expected to extend the existing platforms and canopies and construct a fourth track and related signal work at the Albany-Rensselaer Station and reconfigure the Hudson Station.

"The state is committed to building a modern, efficient higher-speed rail system," Governor Spitzer said. "A higher-speed, more efficient rail system is a critical component to connecting our communities for tourism and economic development purposes."

"Reliable, higher-speed rail is an important component of a multi-modal transportation network geared to meeting the mobility needs of New Yorkers and the demands of a growing economy in the 21st century," Glynn said. "The state Department of Transportation welcomes the challenge of leading this endeavor. Together, we have already made more progress in one month than in all of the past year."

In addition, today an initial meeting was taking place on a critical study into issues of "unity of control." That analysis will seek to optimize both freight and passenger service by the four rail operators -- CSX, Canadian Pacific, Metro-North and Amtrak -- in the important New York-to-Albany corridor.

The higher-speed rail plans also would establish a working group, led by NYSDOT and comprised of the Capital District Transportation Committee, the Senate High-Speed Rail Task Force and the four railroad operators, to advise the NYSDOT in developing a higher-speed system that provides a clear public benefit through improved on-time performance, increased frequency of service and reduced travel time.

Blue Bikes at UB

...8-23-07 UB Student Affairs

The University at Buffalo has developed a new program 'Bicycling at UB' to encourage greater bicycle use by the university community. New bike racks have been installed on the front of the UB buses allowing riders to carry their bikes between and within campuses and additional racks have been placed across campus. A free registration is required for all campus bikes. In partnership with Buffalo Blue Bicycles, individuals can borrow bikes from various sites on campus. The Buffalo Blue Bicycles program has installed hubs on all UB campuses (3-North Campus; 3-South Campus; 1-Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus).

Celebrate World Carfree Day on September 22

Let World Carfree Day be a showcase for just how our cities might look like, feel like, and sound like without cars... 365 days a year. As the climate heats up, World Carfree Day is the perfect time to take the heat off the planet, and put it on city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport, instead of to the automobile.

For more information, visit <http://www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd/>.
Locally, visit <http://www.goodgoingwny.com/default.aspx> for options of bike or bus routes or carpools.

Public Transit ridership, NFTA, 1st Quarter, 2007

First quarter ridership figures for 2007 show 94,000 weekday riders carried by NFTA buses, light rail and on-demand services. Of that total, 21,200 riders were using Metro Rail's 6.2 mile route and 72,400 riders were using Metro Bus's 1,305 directional miles of road.

Put another way, Metro Rail's single line carries 30% of the total transit ridership on a weekday, or 1,709 riders per mile of rail.

Metro Bus's many routes carry 55 riders per mile of road.

Transit customers love Metro Rail. Shouldn't we expand Metro Rail?

Third Annual Environmental Summit

**Saturday, September 29, 2007
8:30 AM-3:00 PM**

Daemen College, Wick Center

“Energizing Western New York”

**Join us to explore how our region’s natural resources
can energize Western New York.
See how working together we can harvest these resources
to provide for a better, sustainable future.**

**This summit will explore the possibility of lower,
more stable energy costs
and the potential of energy related jobs
through renewable energy developments.**

Topics will include:

- The Steel Winds project at the former Bethlehem Steel property • The future of ethanol in Western New York
- Solar energy developments
- LEED certification and energy efficient buildings
- New jobs in renewable energy
- Financing opportunities available for renewable energy projects

**Valuable leadership event for business and industry,
government officials and the community!**

Get energized! Be there!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

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

return service requested

CALENDAR

**Sept. 18 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main Street, Buffalo**

Sept. 22
World Car-Free Day (p. 3)

Sept. 27-28 Hyatt Regency
“High Road Runs Through the
City” economic justice conference

Sept. 29

Oct. 3 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC meeting
NYS Thruway

Oct. 6 Solar Homes Tour
10:00 AM press conference ,
Darwin Martin House
www.wnysustainableenergy.org

**Oct. 16 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main Street, Buffalo**