



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

published by Citizens Regional Transit Corporation
P.O. Box 1186, Buffalo, NY 14231-1186
crtc@citizenstransit.org http://citizenstransit.org/

Volume #8 Issue #10

December 2007

Winds of Change

Change is in the wind, throughout Erie and Niagara counties. The November election brought significant changes in leadership. Two major institutions are rolling out significant changes in direction. What do these changes portend for public transit in WNY?

We will have a new Erie County Executive, Chris Collins.
We will have new Mayor of Niagara Falls, Paul Dyster.

We will see a new attitude at NFTA , as the Board of Commissioners reexamines the possible expansion of Metro Rail.

We have already seen exciting new plans at UB, as consultants pour over all the aspects of expanding the campus by 10,000 students. Their work includes detailed discussion of all modes of sustainable transportation--including mass transit--both internally to improve circulation within each campus as well as externally to provide better access among the three campuses.

New leadership, new vision.
But our leaders want to know which way the wind is blowing.

The wind is energized by the public.
We are the wind, as we become active participants in these changes.

Let's mobilize, to insist that this potential for change is effective.

Let's speak up, to insist that every elected and appointed leader in Erie and Niagara counties works hard to ensure that public transit serves everyone.

Let's work within every planning meeting, to promote expansion of "green" transportation--Metro Rail.

Let's change the wind.

CRTC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 18
12:00 Noon

“Passenger rail in upstate New York-- the freight railroad viewpoint”

a talk by

Michael Conner

VP, Ohio Central Railroad System (recently retired)

Michael Conner is a native of Wellsville, New York, and a fourth-generation railroader. He is familiar with the Niagara Frontier as a graduate of Baker Victory High School, Lackawanna. While earning a BS in Transportation Management from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, he began his railroad career with the Buffalo Creek Railroad as a Car Inspector and Yard Clerk. After college graduation he joined the New York Central Railroad and advanced to Vice-President for Operations at Conrail's Operations Control Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Connor left Conrail in late 1983 to help form and operate the Cedar Valley Railroad and the Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad. In 1988 he joined the Ohio Central Railroad System as Chief Operating Officer for the Chief Market Office and then as Vice-President until his retirement in August 2007. He is now serving as Principal Railroad Consultant for Excelsior Transportation Management LLC, a Cleveland (Rocky River) OH consulting firm.

Connor is particularly proud of the fact that since leaving Conrail he has not participated in the abandonment of any railroad lines. In fact, he has been a principal in the reactivation and revitalization of over 1,500 miles of abandoned or to-be-abandoned rail lines.

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.

Have you heard?

**Funding for the
Cobblestone Feasibility Study
is rolling along!**

CRTC has raised #3,600. so far-----

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000!!

The CRTC proposes an extension of Metro Rail into the Cobblestone District, just east of the foot of Main Street, Buffalo. Suggested route is: S. Park Avenue to Louisiana Street, north to Perry Street, return to Main Street along Perry. In order to promote this project, the CRTC must have in hand realistic financial figures as well as a clear understanding of the procedures necessary to build this short 1.2-mile extension of Metro Rail. In other words, a plan of work, a.k.a., feasibility study.

Such a feasibility study is done by a professional consultant, showing the best alignment as well as recommended engineering details. The CRTC has selected Stone Consulting, an engineering firm who has wide experience in designing and building modern light rail and streetcar systems.

Help us reach our Goal!

Contributions to CRTC are tax-deductible!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation
P.O. Box 1186
Buffalo, NY 14231-1186

return service requested

CALENDAR

Dec. 10 9:00 AM
NFTA budget hearing
6th floor, NFTA bldg.

Dec. 12 1:30 PM
LWVBN information meeting
on Outer harbor/Route 5
Harlem Rd. Center

**Dec. 18 12:00 noon
CRTC monthly meeting**

**Jan. 15 12:00 noon
CRTC Annual Meeting**

Donations for the Cobblestone District Feasibility Study should be made out to: **Citizens Regional Transit Corporation**, and sent to:

Alvin J. Schuster,
CRTC Treasurer
174 Capen Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14226

Please write "feasibility study" on the memo line of your check