



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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June 2008

...it seems to me by Joseph Radder

President Bush isn't paying attention. Weeks ago, he called for any ideas to solve the nation's problems. I wrote to him the following letter, but received no reply:

Here's an idea to relieve the oil shortage and stop our dependence on foreign oil.

It's an idea that is so obvious, yet we never hear it from the White House or Congress.

It involves an alternative form of transportation: passenger rail.

Electrified inter-city high speed rail and electric intra-city rail rapid transit would take millions of cars off the road, and replace many buses and trains powered by diesel fuel.

Here in Buffalo, our light rail line is powered by hydro-power. Only six miles long, it takes over 20,000 cars off our streets every weekday.

In Europe and Japan, governments subsidize trains that run 200 mph or faster. Why is the US lagging behind the rest of the world when it comes to rail travel?

Think of it! If I could take a train from Buffalo to New York City and get there in four hours instead of nine, for \$150 less than the cost of driving --when car depreciation and gasoline is considered-- why would I drive? (driving: 50c per mile, 500 miles= \$250. train= \$100)

To me, substantial Federal subsidy of high speed electric rail, both inter-city and intra-city, is a no-brainer.

When are we going to hear some sensible talk along this line coming out of the White House and Congress?

CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Friday, June 20, 2008
12:30 PM**

Public Spending vs. Public Good: Real Cost of Highways vs. Light Rail

Discussion led by CRTC President, Gladys Gifford, based on recently published papers. Clearly, highways--especially expressways--are not "free." How do capital costs and maintenance costs for light rail projects stack up against highways when all the costs of highways-with-cars are included?

Results of this discussion will help in formulating papers for distribution to the public.

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.

On Track....

...According to scoping update documents released in February, this month [May] NYS DOT will decide whether to run bus rapid transit, commuter rail, light rail, or a combination of modes on the **I-287 corridor in Rockland and Westchester Counties [Tappan Zee Bridge]**.

But as June approaches, the agency has offered little indication about when or how the announcement will come and has not released updated ridership and cost estimates for the transit alternatives being studied, despite requests from advocates and elected officials. *...tstc.org, 5-22-08*

...after Tampa International Airport converted two economy parking lots to six-story garages, congestion remained a nightmare. But help might be on the way in **Tampa [FL]**...

The airport set aside a 3.5-mile corridor on airport property for a light-rail system that it wants built to ease traffic.

"We don't want to continue building more and more and more parking," Tampa Airport executive director Louis Miller said. "We're totally out of room." *...USA Today, 5-29-08*

NYS Rail Plan offers "Workshops"

NYS DOT is holding three workshops on the draft State Rail Plan. This includes passenger and freight rail.

They are as follows:

June 16 NYC -- NYMTC Office, 199 Water Street, Manhattan -- Begins at 1PM - expected to end by 4:30 PM

June 18 Amherst -- SUNY Buffalo, Student Union, Room 145 - Begins at 1 PM- expected to end by 4:30 PM

June 24 Binghamton State Office Bldg, 144 Hawley Avenue -- Begins at 1 PM - expected to end by 4:30 PM

Save the Date---Could the Central Terminal be 're-used' as a stop for Amtrak?

Re-Use of Central Terminal at Gusto at the Gallery Albright Knox Art Gallery August 22, 2008

CALENDAR

June 18 1:00-4:30 PM
NYS DOT Rail Plan meeting
UB North Campus, Student Union,
Room 145

June 20 12:30-1:30 PM
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main St., Buffalo

July 2 9:30 AM
PCC meeting of GBNRTC
Niagara Co. Public Safety Bldg

July 18 12:30-1:30 PM
CRTC Monthly Meeting
3330 Main St., Buffalo
Sam Magavern,
Partnership for the Public
Good, special guest

Aug. 22 Gusto at the Gallery
"Re-Use of Central Terminal"
Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Aug. 23-24 Green Options Buffalo
at Allentown Art Festival

Sept 6-7 Train Show at Central
Terminal

Sept. 20 Central Terminal
"Mobility across the Ages"
regional transportation event

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return service requested