



# CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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October 2008

*...it seems to me* by Joseph Radder

Buffalonians love their Metro Rail.

A recent Buffalo News article headed "City (Buffalo) leads U.S. in increased rail use" noted that Buffalo commuters are leading the nation when it comes to riding light rail to beat the high cost of driving. Metro Rail ridership skyrocketed 45.9 percent in the second quarter of this year compared to 2007. From April through June 2008, nearly 1.8 million passengers rode Metro Rail, up from 1.2 million in the same quarter last year. That's approximately 20,000 passengers per day versus 13,000 last year.

The NFTA's Douglas Hartmayer said "(These figures) are validation for what Metro Rail can and does provide for the people who use it."

What better reasons do our elected officials need for funding Metro Rail expansion? Light rail service beyond the South Campus terminal to Amherst and the U.B. north campus, to the airport, and from the downtown terminus to the southtowns, would give us a true light rail **system** versus our current single line that's only six miles long. No more subway would be involved. All of these expanded routes could utilize existing surface rights-of-way.

Want to help? Here's how:

\* write or e-mail your congressional representatives and remind them that alternative fuels for automobiles are a good idea, but Metro Rail expansion would get more cars off the road, an even better way to conserve energy and reduce air pollution.

\* ask candidates who want your vote to support an expanded Metro Rail system that serves all of WNY, including the suburbs.

The resounding success of Metro Rail deserves our support, through our taxpayer dollars and our elected leaders.

All aboard, Western New York!

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## CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
12:00 noon**

## Strategic Planning for CRTC: Corridors and a Loop

Changes in the local attitudes toward the CRTC mission to extend light rail into the suburbs invite a rethinking of CRTC strategy. Discussion led by the CRTC Board will center on recent interest by the Town of Cheektowaga in the Airport Corridor, the push for the Amherst Corridor from the University at Buffalo, and the updating of the Strategic Transit Assessment begun by the NFTA.

How should these developments impact the work of the CRTC?

**Join us!**

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**Citizens Regional Transit meets at:**

**617 Main Street, Market Arcade Bldg., Buffalo**

Meeting room indicated by poster in lobby.

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

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## Mobility Across the Ages

**Sat., October 11, 2008  
3PM – 11pm**

### Buffalo Central Terminal

*Step into Western New York's transportation history, and discover its future, as Buffalo's Central Terminal, a behemoth of Buffalo's transportation past, comes alive with music, art, brews, and a sustainable future for all.*

**3 PM** Displays open

**3:30 PM** Forum of planners, policy makers, community members, academics, businessmen and visionaries to discuss an efficient sustainable transportation system.

**5:30 PM** Dinners available

Mobility Across the Ages is being put on by student chapters of Engineers for a Sustainable World from the University at Buffalo and the University of Rochester, in cooperation with the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation and Flying Bison Brewery.

**Tickets: \$5 presale at  
brownpapertickets.com  
\$8 at the door.**

## Vision for a Just Community

**Thur., Oct. 16, 2008  
7:00 PM**

**St. Martin de Porres RC Church, 555 Northampton Street, Buffalo**

Join VOICE-Buffalo, along with elected officials to create solutions for our community.

Areas of concern:

Housing

Comprehensive Regional Planning

Transportation

Community Policing

Neighborhood Revitalization

*For more info call VOICE at  
842-6571*

## CALENDAR

Oct. 11 Central Terminal  
"Mobility across the Ages"  
regional transportation event

**Oct. 15 12:00-1:00 PM  
CRTC Monthly Meeting  
617 Main St., Buffalo**

Oct. 16 7 PM  
VOICE Buffalo Public Meeting  
555 Northampton St., Buffalo

Nov. 4 Election Day!

Nov. 5 9:30 AM  
PCC meeting of GBNRTC  
Erie Co. Dept. of Public Works

**Nov. 19 12:00-1:00 PM  
CRTC Monthly Meeting  
617 Main St., Buffalo**

Nov. 19 UB 2020 Plan  
Public Forum

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### Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

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