



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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Volume #11 Issue #2

February 2009

Transit Valentines

love me...
love me not...

Such are the anxieties of Valentine's Day.

...so let us consider the frenzy over the proposed Federal stimulus package as a kind of Valentine's Day card.

Keep in mind that the flurry of proposals sent in to the GBNRTC (see p. 2) come from municipalities and from the NFTA. They all have to try, to plead with the dispenser of goodies to throw some chocolates their way. Policies and planning fly out the window--go for the goodies!

So, for transit...

item: 16 new buses for NFTA--aw shucks, lets go for a whole new fleet of 110 buses
cost: \$68 million

For highways...

item: rebuild, yet again, the I-290/I-190 interchange and employ a few dozen skilled workers to pour expensive concrete
cost: \$19.5 million

For transit...

item: prevent the scheduled fare increase for NFTA riders, without any guarantee that such an increase would happen later
cost: \$5 million

For highways...

100+ items: various repairs, replacements, resurfacing--work that should be happening anyway
cost: \$90+ million

For transit...

item: railcar rebuild, an ongoing project that was already accounted for in the NFTA budget
cost: \$40 million

So far, transit and highways are about even, only in the Mad Hatter world of stimulus...

Happy Valentine's Day!

CRTC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 18
12:00-1:00 PM

Federal Stimulus Package-- What's in it for Public Transit?

The ins and outs of the Federal Stimulus Package as seen and heard through news media and the local planning organization, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC). Hear reports from recent GBNRTC meetings; discuss strategies for monitoring how this source of Federal money is spent.

Join us!

Citizens Regional Transit meets at:

617 Main Street, Market Arcade Building, Buffalo

Meeting space is available courtesy Preservation Buffalo-Niagara.

CRTC meetings are free and open to the public.

Transit in the News....

...**Buffalo News** ran article by **CRTC President, Gladys Gifford**, 2-10, on connecting "green" business with "green" transit.

...renewed interest in high-speed rail, Albany to Buffalo, promoted by Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, **Buffalo News**, 12-25, and also feature article in **Rochester Democrat & Chronicle**, 1-17.

...**Detroit Free Press**, 1-29, reported progress by Metro Detroit to organize their new regional transportation authority, expected in April, which... "would build and operate a transit system for metro Detroit."

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 \$150.00
- household 35.00
- individual 25.00
- student 5.00

send check to:
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GBNRTC Policy Committee

February 23, 9-11 AM

438 Main Street, Buffalo

The Greater-Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) will be meeting on **February 23** to receive the list of projects identified as eligible for support from the **Federal Economic Stimulus** proposal.

If the United States **Congress** has passed the **stimulus legislation** by that date, the Policy Committee will then approve the list, as as Major Amendment to the current document which authorizes construction of transportation projects: known as the TIP.

CRTC and other members of the Transportation Regional Advisory Coalition (TRAC) is analyzing the list of potential projects to be approved by the GBNRTC, to see which of those projects support the TRAC 2009 Agenda.

All interested members of the public are urged to attend the Feb. 23 meeting, to offer comments on projects included or excluded from the **stimulus** list.

TRAC recommendations will be available through the CRTC, at crtc@citizenstransit.org

CALENDAR

Feb. 18 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo

Feb. 23 9-11 AM
Policy Committee,
GBNRTC, 438 Main St.,
Buffalo (p. 2)

March 2 10 AM-4:30 PM
Transit Advocacy Day,
Albany

Mar. 4 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC at Erie Co DPW

Mar. 18 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo

May 12-16 National Solar
Conference, Buffalo

May 13 7 PM "Transit-Oriented Development" part of Reshaping Rochester series
Details at www.rrcdc.org

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