



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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March 2009

Remembering Joe

Another of the stalwart champions of Metro Rail expansion has fallen.

Past chairman of CRTC, Joseph H. Radder, died February 12, 2009. He was 88 years old, full of accomplishments and treasured by all who knew him.

Joe worked closely with Lew Harriman, first as co-chairman and then chairman of the Citizens Rapid Transit Committee. He shepherded the organization through its early years, guiding the CRTC from an informal gathering of light rail fans to its present form as a civic organization with clear purpose and strong public presence.

In recent years, Joe championed a proposal for a Vintage Trolley, and guided the CRTC's efforts to produce a lively video on the subject in March, 2002.

He contributed several "It seems to me" columns for this space. The editor of the CRTC newsletter consulted with him frequently for advice and assistance.

At meetings of the CRTC, Joe's resonant voice will be missed. Unafraid to speak out, he frequently reminded the group of its core mission, expanding Metro Rail. No other efforts should distract the CRTC, no matter how worthy.

On February 20, 2007, the CRTC honored Joe with a certificate of recognition for his long service to the organization.

Joe wrote numerous letters to the editor of the Buffalo News advocating for Metro Rail expansion.

The April 15 meeting of the CRTC will be dedicated to the memory of Joe Radder, with a special emphasis on the Cobblestone District and its relationship to the Vintage Trolley proposal championed by Joe.

We hope that Joe would be pleased.

CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, March 18
12:00-1:00 PM**

Expanding Metro Rail: a Buffalo City Council resolution

Special guest, Timothy Vonderempen, legislative assistant for Buffalo City Councilman Joseph Golombek, Jr., will share details on the recent action by the Buffalo City Council in support of Metro Rail expansion.

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.

**Public Transit
Advocacy in Albany**

“Transit Awareness Day” was held March 2 in Albany by the New York Public Transit Association. Organizations set up displays in the Legislative Office Building (the Well). CRTC joined with the Straphangers Campaign, League of Women Voters NYS, and Empire State Transportation Alliance to represent transit riders at the shared display table.

Also on hand for the day were all transportation agencies from across the state, plus the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Two members of CRTC and seven members of VOICE-Buffalo visited three NYS legislators: Senator Ranzenhofer and Assemblymen Hayes and Schimming. They urged the legislators to allow no cuts for transit funding in the proposed NYS budget.

**Higher-Speed Rail on Track:
Get Connections ready!**

by Gladys Gifford, CRTC President

Lead article and opinion pieces in the Buffalo News on March 9, 2009, indicate a strong push by Congressional and NYS legislators to build the necessary infrastructure for higher-speed passenger rail linking Buffalo and Albany.

The basis for optimism is that the Obama administration has named several high-speed rail corridors in the stimulus bill (ARRA), including the New York City to Buffalo run.

As a participant in the “Transit Awareness Day” on 3-2, as well as in the legislative breakfast held by the League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara on 3-6, I witnessed a wondrous thing: state politicians agreeing on a project! Left or right, Democrat or Republican --all were on board with high-speed rail.

What wonders does Federal funding bring!

Next month:
How expanding Metro Rail makes high-speed train work for metro Buffalo

CALENDAR

**March 18 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo**

April 1 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC at NYSDOT
100 Seneca St., Buffalo

**April 15 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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aims to improve and expand bus and rail transit for all of WNY through citizen involvement and education.

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Thank you!

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