



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

published by Citizens Regional Transit Corporation
617 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203
contact: crtc@citizenstransit.org http://citizenstransit.org/

Volume #11 Issue #5

May/June 2009

Cars "Sharing" Main Street ??

...excerpts from the CRTC response to the Environmental Assessment, for the Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project in downtown Buffalo, NY.

This project, as currently designed, has a cumulative negative impact on downtown Buffalo as a vibrant urban community.

This project is discriminatory and regressive, especially toward the very young and very old.

This project in no direct way influences construction of private development projects in the Central Business District.

This project is blind to the advantage of the LRRT on Main Street as a catalyst for transit-oriented development in downtown Buffalo.

This project ignores the clear findings of the American Public Transit Association, whose presentation (Appendix J, Final Design Report, 8-24-06) states that allowing vehicles on the trackbed will cause delays to the whole NFTA transit system, i.e. "travel time volatility"-- a sure disruption which violates the basic need of transit riders--reliability.

This project neglects a fundamental concern of public safety since September 11, 2001, by allowing vehicles to drive under the HSBC Tower.

Downtown Buffalo is a vital transportation hub for the whole region. Any project to enhance multi-modal access and economic revitalization along Main Street must incorporate elements that magnify the benefits of the Light Rail Rapid Transit feature for downtown activity....Simply adding vehicles to the project area will not accomplish the stated objectives, whereas the money spent to retrofit the pedestrian-transit mall for vehicles will impede and disrupt the entire NFTA transit system.

CRTC Monthly Meetings

**Wednesday, May 20
12:00-1:00 PM**

Light Rail in the USA--Recent Trends

A presentation by CRTC Vice-President, Seth C. Triggs, Ph. D.

**Wednesday, June 17
12:00-1:00 PM**

Central Terminal--High Speed Rail Connection?

A presentation by Central Terminal Restoration Corp. Vice-President, Mark Lewandowski

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.

At the NFTA--

**Public Transit Strategic Study
begun by NFTA**

At the May 6 meeting of the GBNRTC, a report by Robert Gower, NFTA planner, revealed that the Public Transit Strategic Study is underway.

Consultants have been gathering data, and will be updating the Strategic Transit Assessment (2001). Public outreach begins in June.

**NFTA seeks to sell Southtowns
Corridor route**

According to an article in Business First, 5-8-09, the NFTA has put out to bid former Conrail right-of-way parcels purchased by the authority in 1988 for the Southtowns Corridor light rail expansion route.

Bids are due back to the NFTA by June 15.

**May 16 Deadline!!
for comments on
Cars Sharing Main Street**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the City of Buffalo "Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project," aka **Cars Sharing Main Street** has been released.

The EA evaluates the environmental and cumulative impacts of the proposed project to return vehicular traffic to Buffalo's downtown Main Street between Tupper and Scott streets.

View the EA at: the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning (920 City Hall, Buffalo, NY 14202); Buffalo Place, Inc. (671 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203); and the NFTA (181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203).

The EA is also available in electronic form at www.nfta.com/mainst.asp.

The deadline to submit comments is this Saturday, May 16, 2009.

Written comments should be sent to:

Kimberley Minkel, NFTA,
181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203.

CALENDAR

May 16 "Cars Sharing Main Street" deadline for public comments due at NFTA

**May 20 12:00 noon
"Light Rail Updates"
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo**

May 28 9-11 AM
GBNRTC Policy Committee
Quality Inn, Niagara Falls, NY

June 3 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC at Thruway
Authority,
181 Ellicott St., Buffalo

**June 17 12:00 noon
"Central Terminal--
High-Speed Rail"
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo**

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: **CITIZENS REGIONAL TRANSIT CORP.**
c/o John K. Howell, treasurer
289 Ashford Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150-8563

Thank you!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

617 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

return service requested