



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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617 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203
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Volume #12 Issue #2

March 2010

Transit in Albany Budget

The yearly battle over the budget is in full swing, despite the many skirmishes over the governor's behavior.

The New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA)-- CRTC is a member organization-- has provided an analysis of the proposed budget, which shows that the current proposal would reduce the total NYS operating assistance for upstate public transit systems by about 4%.

The total NYS budget is expected to top \$134 billion for 2010-2011, while total NFTA budget is set at \$127 million.

Revenue raisers (dare we say "taxes"?) for public transit currently proposed by the governor include a hike in the mortgage recording tax for certain real estate transactions. Amendments to the budget could extend this hike to all real estate transactions, thereby generating needed revenue for transit aid.

The rationale for using the mortgage recording tax to support transit is: access to public transit enhances the value of real estate, therefore property owners should support public transit. This rationale was confirmed by a recent study by Dr. Hess at UB which showed the positive effect for property values near Metro Rail stations.

Figures compiled by NYPTA show significant improved revenues for transit systems through a modest increase in the mortgage recording tax.

Message to Albany:
**increase operating assistance for public transit systems!
**find creative ways to increase revenues for public transit systems (such as mortgage recording tax)!
**make no cuts in public transit system funding!

CRTC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 17 12:00-1:00 PM

“Connecting Central Terminal with High Speed Rail”

a conversation with

Mark Lewandowski, Central Terminal Restoration Corp.

Citizens for Regional Transit has always promoted the Central Terminal as a stop on the proposed Airport Corridor extension of Metro Rail. Could Central Terminal also serve Buffalo as a stop on Amtrak's high-speed rail service?

Join us!

Citizens Regional Transit meets at:

617 Main Street, Market Arcade Building, Buffalo

Meeting space available courtesy Preservation Buffalo-Niagara.

CRTC meetings are free and open to the public.

UB Green presents:

Climate Talks
Allen Hall Theatre, UB South Campus
7 PM

April 13, 2010

“Creating a Sustainable Transportation Network in Buffalo-Niagara”

UB Green, the environmental advocacy group at UB, hosts a discussion among transportation providers followed by Q & A. Panel to include: Justin Booth, Green Options Buffalo; Creighton Randall, Buffalo Car-Share; Kelly Dixon, Center for Transportation Excellence; and a representative from the NFTA.

CALENDAR

Mar. 17 12:00 noon
**“Central Terminal and
High Speed Rail”**
CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo

Apr. 7 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC meeting
NYSDOT, 100 Seneca St.,
Buffalo

April 13 7:00 PM
“Climate Talks; transportation”
UB South Campus (p. 2)

April 17 10 AM- 6 PM
Buffalo Niagara Green Expo
Walden Galleria, Cheektowaga
<http://buffaloniagaragreenexpo.wordpress.com/>

April 21 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting

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
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Thank you!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

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return service requested