



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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November, 2010

Clear Choices=Yes to Transit

Voters across America said "Yes" to public transit on November 2nd (p. 3).

The roll-call is impressive: Virginia, Rhode Island, Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio, San Francisco, Hawaii, California, and transit-related items in two Texan cities.

In each of these regions, the public was given a chance to speak clearly, through the ballot box. The mechanisms varied, from bonds to constitutional amendment, but the choices were clear: make improvements to public transportation, or allow this public service to wither.

These decisions will compel elected leaders to allow impressive projects to go forward in numerous communities across the country, backed by the assurance that the local electorate supports investment in public transportation.

Where was New York State?

The public was given no clear choice for public transportation in New York State--there was no referendum or resolution on better funding for transit agencies...

Yet the governor-elect, Andrew Cuomo, sends a strong signal (p. 4) that rail transportation is on his radar screen, i.e., high speed rail. CRT will support this effort, especially in the effort to make the local connections in Buffalo work well with Metro Rail.

How shall NYS, or Erie County, or Niagara County emulate these other regions, where public transit initiatives have achieved such success?

Let's find a way for the public of WNY to be heard in support of public transit...

...for when the public speaks, elected leaders are compelled to act.

Citizens for Regional Transit Monthly Meeting

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

Election Results Impact Transit

a discussion led by
the CRT Board

Changes in Congress,
new governor for NYS,
uncertainty in NYS Senate--

what does the mid-term election mean for public transit?

Join the CRT Board, in a discussion of strategy adjustments as we continue to advocate for better public transportation in WNY, including the extension of Metro Rail to the suburbs!

Citizens for 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.

Rail on the Move: Streetcars, High Speed Rail, New Locomotives for Amtrak

Streetcar Plans in DC

9-30-10 railwayage.com

Washington, D.C.'s District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has picked a team of companies to design a proposed 37-mile streetcar network. Portland, Ore.-based Shields Obletz Johnsen, will lead the private-sector management team driving the design, construction, and operation of the system. Shields Obletz Johnsen has worked on streetcar projects in Portland and Seattle, according to DDOT....

DDOT's Request for Proposals, released last March, stated in part, "DDOT recognizes that it does not currently have the capacity or capability internally to deliver this program ... It is seeking the advice and support of the private sector to deliver this program. DDOT anticipates needing support in: Program Management, Planning, Operations, Financial Planning, Legal Counsel, Strategic & Project Communications, Governance & Management, and Procurement."

The first two streetcar lines within the district, one located in Anacostia (southeast Washington) and the other along H Street Northeast, are currently expected to begin revenue service in 2012... Those two lines will cost about \$100 million. The larger system is expected to cost upward of \$1.5 billion.

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

HSR Planning Board, NF Facility Set

10-29-10 ny.gov/governor/press

Governor David A. Paterson was today [10-29-10] joined by Mayor Paul Dyster; NYS Senators Malcolm Smith and Antoine Thompson; NYS Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte; Acting Commissioner of the NYSDOT Stanley Gee; Bruce Becker of the Empire State Passenger Association and local stakeholders for a ceremonial bill signing establishing the **New York State High Speed Rail Planning Board**.

Governor Paterson also announced a \$2.5 million discretionary grant for a high speed rail (HSR) related facility in **Niagara Falls**.

The new HSR facility for Amtrak trains in Niagara Falls will provide benefits to the overall performance of passenger service within this portion of the Empire Corridor, including better maintained and cleaner equipment, safer inspection, maintenance and cleaning operations for Amtrak crews, reduced noise and emissions, and improved water quality. The project will also evaluate options for a facility close to the Niagara Falls station for storage and light maintenance of trains which stay overnight in Niagara Falls and will examine high tech equipment for monitoring and inspecting passenger trains.

This discretionary grant allocation builds on the recently announced Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant to the New York State Department of Transportation. The FRA awarded New York \$28.5 million in funding under the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program for three projects across the State. Included in the Federal grant is \$18.5 million for the final design and construction of improvements along the Empire Corridor—a project that will dramatically ease overcrowding and provide better service for passengers.

Amtrak Buys 70 New Electric Locomotives

10-29-10 amtrak.com

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As part of a comprehensive plan to modernize and expand its fleet of equipment, Amtrak is buying 70 new electric locomotives to provide improved performance and reliability for its Northeast intercity passenger rail services. The six-year, \$466 million contract was awarded to Siemens and will create 250 jobs primarily at a facility in Sacramento, California, but also at plants in Norwood, Ohio and Alpharetta, Georgia.

President and CEO Joseph Boardman explained that the first Amtrak Cities Sprinter ACS-64 electric locomotive is to be delivered in February 2013 and will operate at speeds up to 125 mph (201 kph) on the Northeast Corridor from Washington, D.C. to Boston and up to 110 mph (177 kph) on the Keystone Corridor from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, Pa.

They will replace locomotives in service between 20 and 30 years with average mileage of 3.5 million miles traveled.

see rendering below---



Rendering of Amtrak Cities Sprinter ACS-64 electric locomotive, to be produced by Siemens.

Voters Approve 77% of Transportation Ballot Measures in 2010 Over \$1 Billion in Transportation Investment Approved at the Ballot Box

.....www.cfte.org, 11-3-10

In 2010, voters continued to show their support for transportation investment by approving 77% of ballot measures. On Election Day, 22 out of 30 measures were approved in 13 states. For the entire year, the Center for Transportation Excellence found that voters approved 43 out of 56 measures. Nearly \$500 million in funding over five years was approved by voters on November 2. When added to funding approved earlier in the year, voters have supported over \$1 billion in transportation investment. Information on all the 2010 measures is available at www.cfte.org.

Voters across the country—from Hawaii to Rhode Island—approved measures on November 2 that demonstrate their commitment to improving transportation choices and increasing investment in their local infrastructure and services.

“Yesterday’s results at the ballot box reaffirm a decade worth of data demonstrating voters’ overwhelming support for investment in public transportation,” said CFTE Executive Director Jason Jordan. “Despite the economy and conventional political wisdom about opposition to taxes, voters acknowledged that thoughtful, targeted investments in their communities are vital to restoring and sustaining prosperity.”

Two counties in **Virginia** approved bonds totaling over \$150 million to support the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s Capital Improvement Program. In **Rhode Island**, more than 70% of voters approved a statewide measure for \$4.7 million to purchase and rehabilitate buses for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. Overall, 75% of bond measures were approved yesterday.

Property tax increases or renewals were successful in four **Michigan** jurisdictions, two **West Virginia** cities and two counties in **Ohio**. Overall, this was both the most popular type of finance measure on the November ballot and the most successful, with an approval rate of 78%.

Five out of seven counties in the **San Francisco** Bay Area voted to increase vehicle registration fees by \$10 to support transportation investments, making vehicle fees a new and noteworthy financing tool, with a 71% success rate.

Only 10% of measures yesterday were non-finance. **California** voters, statewide, showed support for transportation investment by approving Proposition 22, a constitutional amendment to close loopholes that allowed the state to fill budget gaps with money designated for transportation. In **Oahu, HI**, the electorate decided to create a public transit authority to oversee the construction and operation of the city’s \$5.5 billion rail transit project. When faced with a question of leaving the **Fort Worth** Transportation Authority and using their half-cent sales tax on other services, voters in Richland Hills, TX chose to stay with the T.

CFTE also monitored several measures that are not counted in the year’s total, but which demonstrate voter’s support for transit-friendly investment and decision-making. In **Austin, TX**, 55% of voters approved a \$90 million bond for mobility projects and complete streets investments. These projects will help make the region more transit-friendly. Also worth noting, Californians overwhelmingly defeated Proposition 23, with 61% of the voters rejecting the measure. Prop 23 would have suspended California’s landmark clean air legislation, AB 32—The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires that the state cut greenhouse gas emission levels to 1990 levels by 2020, and is slated to begin in 2012.

www.cfte.org

The Center for Transportation Excellence is a non-partisan research group based in Washington, D.C.

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“Livability means being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or post office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park, all without having to get into your car. Livability means building the communities that help Americans live the lives they want to live—whether those communities are urban centers, small towns, or rural areas.”

—Secretary Ray LaHood, U.S. Department of Transportation
quoted in sustainablecommunitiesandstates.org

Gov.-elect Cuomo makes Pitch for HSR

November 5, 2010

Hon. Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

High speed rail could be transformative for New York--with the potential to revitalize Upstate New York's economy with construction jobs now and permanent jobs created by the new high speed rail links to New York City, Toronto and Montreal in the future. That is why I made high speed rail a priority during my campaign, and that is why it will continue to be a top priority for me as Governor.

To date, New York has received only a small fraction of federal money for high speed rail, but we want to make it a success now, and my Administration will aggressively pursue all funding opportunities to make high speed rail a reality. Recent reports have stated that incoming Administrations in other states, particularly Ohio and Wisconsin, are seeking to cancel their high speed rail projects and the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid associated with those projects. Therefore, I would ask you to consider redirecting the federal funding to New York because the project is a top priority.

High speed rail could be the 21st Century Erie Canal for New York State and help rebuild Upstate New York's economy. Now is the moment to build. Thank you for the consideration and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate and call.

Best wishes,

Andrew M. Cuomo,
Governor-Elect

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

617 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

return service requested

CALENDAR

Nov. 13 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(registration begins at 8:15 a.m.),
City Honors High School, 186 E.
North Street, Buffalo, Western New
York Environmental Congress,
featuring Bill McKibben
info: www.GrowWNY.org

Nov. 17 12:00 noon

**“Election Results &
Transit”**

**CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo**

Nov. 18 6-9 p.m., Burchfield-
Penney Art Gallery, Buffalo State
College Center for Economic and
Policy Studies, economic impact of
Buffalo’s Canal Side project.

Dec. 1 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC meeting
NYSDOT, 100 Seneca St., Buffalo

Dec. 10 9:00 AM
GBNRTC Policy Committee meets
Niagara Falls Convention Center,
101 Old Falls St., Niagara Falls

Dec. 15 12:00 noon

“Smart Growth & Transit”

**CRTC Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo**