



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 #13 Issue #2

February 2011

Budget Matters

Gov. Cuomo released his proposed budget for NYS on February 1, covering 2011-2012.

Impact on transportation?

Holding steady.

The stated objective of the governor's budget is this: "Maintaining reliable transportation is critical to returning New York to economic prominence."

The Department of Transportation can expect support at about the same level as last year to fix roads and bridges, but is asked to streamline operations.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is expected to continue to rely on technology for more of its work, in order to streamline operations.

Transit systems will receive a small increase in cash, largely through redirected monies from other accounts.

As with all NYS government agencies, the transportation sector is required to reduce its operating costs by 10%.

Gov. Cuomo is correct to restrain deficit spending by NYS--after all, states are required to live within their budgets. States cannot manufacture money. Only the Feds can do that.

Therefore, advocates for public transit can be thankful that this budget maintains steady support for this essential service. But we must be watchful and urge NYS legislators to support strong and healthy funding for public transit throughout the budget process--right up to the April 1st deadline.

The budget process matters, showing through dollar figures where NYS priorities lie. Steady she goes...

CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, February 16
12:00-1:00 PM**

Cars on Main Street: Again!

a discussion led by

**CRT Board
with invited City of Buffalo representatives**

Discussions with NFTA representatives reveal new details for the Cars on Main Street project. The recent request for public comment shows that the design for the 600 block shows an interesting fact: Main Street is wide enough to accommodate all modes of travel, without forcing vehicles to ride on the Metro Rail tracks.

Will the City stand up for the public? Will the Theater Station be demolished?

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.

Interested in walkability, urban design, public transit, sustainability?

Take a look at Buffalo's Green Code, www.buffalogreencode.com/

The City of Buffalo is hosting a series of nine neighborhood workshops to help assemble the first detailed, citywide land use plan since 1977.

This land use plan will be the guide for public and private investment in the city over the next couple decades and will form the basis for a new, "green" zoning code.

This effort is a unique opportunity to make a difference in our region. An effort to overhaul a city's land use policies and zoning codes occurs literally only once every generation. In Buffalo's case, since 1977 for a land use plan, and 1951 for the zoning code.

Non-residents are always welcome, since Buffalo's design impacts the whole region.

CRT supporters should be involved, since zoning regulations should support transit-oriented development around future Metro Rail stations.

For excellent explanation and meeting schedule details, see www.buffalogreencode.com/

CALENDAR

February 15 6:30 p.m.
public educational forum on federal High Speed Rail project sponsored by NF Mayor Paul Dyster and Organizing for America
IBEW Union Hall, 8803 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls

Feb. 16 12:00 noon
"Cars on Main Street"
CRT Monthly Meeting
617 Main Street, Buffalo

Feb. 28, Mar. 1, Mar. 2, Mar. 3, Mar. 5: nine neighborhood workshops to shape Buffalo zoning code

Mar. 2 9:30 AM
GBNRTC PCC meeting
Erie Co. Public Works
95 Franklin St., Buffalo

Mar. 16 12:00 noon
CRT 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
289 Ashford Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150-8563

Thank you!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

617 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

return service requested