



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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March-April, 2011

Want Cars on Main Street?

Do it Right!!

The longer the Cars on Main Street projects drags on, the more CRT realizes there are serious flaws in the current design of this project.

The current design for the 600 block of Main Street eliminates the Theater Station, thereby denying equal access to current users of that station.

The current design funnels vehicles onto the rails used by the trains, thereby degrading the operations of the whole Metro system.

CRT has no objection to the concept of vehicles on Main Street in downtown Buffalo. After all, the street is 99' wide--wide enough to accommodate all modes of transportation. (See p. 2 for details.)

But motor vehicles should operate in a vehicle-only, separate lane, between the current rail tracks and the sidewalk.

Furthermore, completion of the project depends on Federal and NYS funding. That funding has dried up. Therefore, the current effort may see only the 600 block completed for many years to come.

The future belongs to the next generation who will migrate to cities with excellent mass transit. Therefore, metro Buffalo must enhance, not hobble, the success of Metro Rail--and the whole Metro system.

City of Buffalo and Buffalo Place and the NFTA should take a few more months to adjust the design for the 600 block.

Keep the Theater Station.
Put vehicles in dedicated lanes.
Take the time to do this project right!

Citizens for Regional Transit Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 16 12:00-1:00 PM

Cars on Main Street: Next Steps!!

Wednesday, April 20 12:00-1:00 PM

UB connects with NFTA

The University at Buffalo and the NFTA have agreed on a pilot rail-pass program to allow staff and students to better utilize Metro Rail between the South Campus and the downtown campus. Chris Austin, assistant director of UB transportation services, will explain the program and discuss future possibilities.

All are welcome!

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.

Due to technical difficulties, the conceptual rendering of the 600 block could not be transmitted electronically.

Print editions of the newsletter show the diagram on page 2.

Electronic editions will have the diagram transmitted separately.

CRT apologizes for the inconvenience.

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

Above is a conceptual rendering to show how the various elements in the 600 block of Main Street could fit together.

The Theater Station is retained, but has a slightly narrower footprint than does the existing station.

Lanes for motor vehicles have room between the rail tracks and the sidewalks. The lanes curve slightly, thereby having a “calming” effect on traffic.

UB, NFTA to Provide "Greener" Transportation to South, Downtown Campuses

.....UB news release, 11-18-10

CRT welcomes special guest, UB's Chris Austin, to our April 20 meeting, to report on the progress of this pilot project.

The University at Buffalo has entered into an agreement with the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to implement a pilot Metro Rail pass program that will provide UB students and faculty and staff members with discounted passes to make travel to the university's South Campus and Downtown campus safer, easier and more environmentally friendly.

The pilot program will allow UB to purchase up to 3,000 student rail-only passes for \$10 per semester for South Campus residents and students living around the South Campus to travel to the South Campus or to work and classes on UB's Downtown Campus. In addition, UB will purchase up to 300 faculty/staff rail-only passes at \$30 per year for transportation between the campuses.

Under the agreement, the university also could purchase up to 100 daily round-trip rail passes per month for members of the university community. The university will have access to space within the LaSalle lot for overflow and event parking, as well.

The NFTA's Board of commissioners unanimously passed the resolution at its meeting, November 22, 2010.

NFTA Commissioner Eunice A. Lewin said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to partner with the students and faculty of UB, because everyone benefits. Metro Rail is zero-emission transportation and provides a convenient connection to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The more people use public transportation, the better it is for the whole community."

The new transportation alternative is expected to decrease the number of vehicles brought to campus by individuals who reside near the rail and to ease traffic congestion into and out of downtown, ultimately reducing the university's carbon footprint.

The agreement underscores the university's commitment to green initiatives and campus sustainability, a primary institutional priority that was formalized when UB President John B. Simpson in 2007 signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. The commitment pledges the university to achieving "climate-neutrality" by reducing or offsetting all of its greenhouse gas emissions.

"The pilot program will support use of the NFTA's rail system, provide connectivity between our campuses, decrease the number of vehicles coming to campus, while reducing the University's carbon footprint," said Maria Wallace, director of UB Parking and Transportation Services. "It is another step forward towards greening UB."

Metro Rail will continue to utilize parking facilities on the South Campus for use by its rail and bus customers.

...additional info below from NFTA Board of Commissioners meeting, 11-22-10...

The agreement runs from January 2011 to August 2012. UB passes will be available to students with clear connections to the South Campus and/or the UB downtown campus. Passes for UB faculty/staff will be available for individuals working on the downtown campus.

The agreement includes a commitment by UB to eliminate the current UB Blue line shuttle bus between South Campus and downtown. Additionally, UB and the NFTA are to develop joint marketing plans and work together on safety/security.

Successful Forum in Rochester; But Congressman Mica Postponed Date

In view of an impending hearing scheduled by Rep. John Mica, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, transportation advocates organized a forum, February 17, in Rochester, NY. Dubbed the "Transportation Equity Town Hall," more than thirty people from the area discussed transportation challenges and policies important to the region. Representatives from the Tri-State Transportation Campaign facilitated the meeting.

At the last minute, Rep. Mica postponed the hearing scheduled for February 18 because of a vote in Congress. The date had been the only such hearing to be held for the whole Northeast. A new date has not yet been scheduled.

**Bigger
Better**

Earth Day Expo

**Walden Galleria Mall
Cheektowaga**

April 30, 2011
10 am - 6 pm

featuring: eco-art show
 green fashion show
 lively kids zone
 strawbale construction
 dozens of displays (including CRT)

Yes, Metro Bus takes you to the Galleria Mall

Go Green--Take Transit!!

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

617 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

return service requested

CALENDAR

March 16 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
“Do Main Street Right”
617 Main Street, Buffalo

April 6 9:30 am
GBNRTC PCC meeting
NYSDOT, 100 Seneca St., Buffalo

April 20 12:00 noon
CRTC Monthly Meeting
“UB Rail Passes”
617 Main Street, Buffalo

April 30
Earth Day Expo,
Galleria Mall, 10 am- 4 pm
Cheektowaga

June 1-3, Hyatt Regency
Buffalo, NY
New York Public Transit
Association conference

Oct. 16-19 Rail-Volution
Washington, DC