



# CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT NEWS

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## Public Participation? Frustrated

Citizens for Regional Transit (CRT) aims to educate and advocate for an expanded and effective Metro Rail. Therefore, CRT has been an active public participant in all the meetings and comments set up for the Cars on Main Street project since its inception in 2000.

The process has been frustrating for over ten years. It is a classic example of the failed public participation process as described by David Motzenbecker (4-7-11, onthecommons.org).

*“...experts ruminates on an idea; which is then crafted into a plan or policy; this policy is then drafted and given to the “public” for their “input”. But that input is limited—it is received for only a short period of time, and is seen as data to be reviewed for relevance by the expert.*

*“This basically means that the decision rests with a public official, who weighs the experts’ plans and then reviews public opposition before making his or her own decision.*

*“Do you see anything wrong with this model? What I see is a process where the public’s sole role is reactive, attacking proposed changes. They have no say in actually creating the plans, no true integrated opportunity to express their ideas and visions.”*

No wonder that CRT and many others are so frustrated with the Cars on Main Street project!

The “experts” conjured up the plan in 2000, offered it to the public for comments in 2002, 2006, 2009, then began final design in 2011. Responses to public comments were reviewed. The decision made in 2003 was not modified in any way in response to public input.

Frustrated, indeed.

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## CRTC Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, May 18  
12:00-1:00 PM**

## Federal Transportation Policy: Delayed Decisions, Cuts to Transit

a report from the Transportation Equity Network (TEN) conference, held April 1-3 in Washington, DC, by

**Andrew Graham,  
VOICE-Buffalo**

TEN is a grassroots network of more than 350 community organizations in 41 states working to build a more just, prosperous, and connected America. VOICE-Buffalo is affiliated with TEN.

**Join us!**

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## 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.**

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## Partners for the Public Good

Buffalo's Green Code:  
an Historic Opportunity  
A PPG Forum

**Tuesday, May 17**  
4:00-5:30pm  
237 Main Street, Suite 1200

What should be done to ensure that the Green Code establishes firm environmental justice principles, encourages mass transit, biking, and walking, and promotes green infrastructure and urban farming?

For more info: [megan@ppgbuffalo.org](mailto:megan@ppgbuffalo.org)

(716) 852-4191 x110  
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## Buffalo Neighborhood Alliance

**Saturday, May 21**  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Buffalo Central Terminal

A neighborhood forum of workshops and presentations to "enlighten, inspire, and educate the public on a variety of issues of concern to city neighborhoods."  
For more info: 852-3300.

## CALENDAR

**May 17 4-5 pm**  
PPG forum, 237 Main St., Bflo

**May 18 12:00 noon**  
**CRT Monthly Meeting**  
**617 Main Street, Buffalo**

**May 21 8 am- 3 pm**  
Buffalo Neighborhood Alliance workshop, Central Terminal

**June 1, 9:30 am**  
PCC meeting of GBNRTC  
NFTA, 6th Floor, 181 Ellicott St., Buffalo

**June 1-3, times TBA**  
New York Public Transit Ass'n conference, Hyatt, Buffalo

**Oct. 16-19**  
Rail-Volution, Washington, DC

### Recent CRT actions..

--raised public awareness of issues surrounding Cars on Main Street project: met with City Council, 3-24; met with News Editorial Board, 4-19. President Gifford wrote articles for Buffalo Rising about Cars on Main Street

--staffed display tables for environmental fairs at: UB North campus, 4-12; Buffalo State, 4-19; Green Expo at Walden Galleria, 4-30.

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### 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.**  
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**Thank you!**

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### Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

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Buffalo, NY 14203

*return service requested*