

Citizens for Regional Transit Annual Meeting

16 January 2020

**By Doug Funke
President, Citizens for Regional Transit**

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Announcements
- Nominations
- 2020 Budget
- Review of 2019 Accomplishments and 2020 Goals
- Speaker:
 - Kelly Dixon, Greater Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council (GBNRTC)
 - One Region Forward progress and plans
- Adjourn



2020 CRT Nominations

CRT Executive Officers:

President – Douglas Funke

Vice President – Seth Triggs

Treasurer – Jim Gordon

Secretary – Lynn Magdol

CRT Executive Board:

Douglas Funke

Gladys Gifford

Elizabeth Giles

Jim Gordon

Lynn Magdol

Rebecca Reilly

Aidan Ryan

Carl Skompinski

Seth Triggs



2020 Budget

Budget Items	2019 Accepted Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
INCOME			
Donations	1,000.00		500.00
Dues	1,400.00		1,500.00
Grants	400.00		0
Totals	2,800.00		2,000.00
EXPENSES			
Copy & Printing	900.00	1,458	100.00
Office Supplies & Postage	180.00		150.00
Festival Registration	150.00		100.00
Conferences - Tickets, Transp. etc.	770.00		1,000.00
Ads	300.00		150.00
Memberships	300.00		300.00
Miscellaneous	200.00		200.00
Totals	2,800.00		2,000.00
Difference between income & expenses			
CK Bal Dec 18, 2019		789	
Proposed balanced 2018 budget	2,800.00		2,000.00



Our 2019 Advocacy Work...

Operational Monitoring

- NFTA Board
- GBNRTC
- NRG
- Buffalo Place
- NRG

Legislative Advocacy

- Meet with legislators
- Support proposed legislation
- Position papers
- NY Transit Day

Public Education

- Newsletter
- Website, Facebook, Twitter
- CRT public meetings
- Letters to the editor
- Doug's road show
- Table at shows

Research

- Transit trends (e.g., TOD)
- Investments in other cities
- Technical and financial issues
- Attend conferences

Serve on Committees

- NFTA CAC
- NFTA Project Committees (Amherst study, DL&W extension)
- GBNRTC 1RF
- NRG Transportation Committee
- Mayor's Train Station Siting Committee

Advocacy Building

- Petitions
 - Individuals
 - Organizations
 - Mayors & Councils
- Attend public meetings and hearings

Partnerships

- PPG
- WNYEA
- VOICE Buffalo
- CEJ / BTRU
- NYPTA



Celebrating Our Successes

- Averted sale of DL&W ROW
- Light rail extensions (worked on for 40 years!)
 - Amherst extension in planning
 - DL&W Terminal extension starting
- Trolley in Niagara Falls (CRT WNYEA plank)
- New multimodal train station in Buffalo (CRT PPG plank)
 - Served on Mayor's site selection committee
- Unanimous WNY State Delegation Support for increased transit budget
 - Averted \$10M NFTA deficit (2018)
 - Increased STOA
 - Increased capital funding
- Legislation disallowing IDA forgiveness of Mortgage Recording Tax
- Proposed gondola study



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- ...

Please Join Us!

(Membership forms in the back)

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- Transit trends (e.g., TC
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- Technical and financial issues
- Attend conferences

Partnerships

- PPG
- WNYEA
- VOICE Buffalo
- CEJ / BTRU
- NYPTA

- NRG Transportation Committee
- Mayor's Train Station Siting Committee

and hearings



2019 Accomplishments

- Transit Awareness Day – met with 12 NYS legislators in Albany
- Continued Petitions for a TRANSIT REVOLUTION
 - Organizations petition – 57 community organizations, 18 businesses, 11 municipalities
 - 2019 Individuals petition – Over 400.
- Continued Bus Cubes Projects
- **Developed Eastside / Airport Fact Sheet**
- **CRT Plank Selected for PPG 2019 and 2020 Agendas**
- **Testified at NYS Assembly / Senate Joint Hearing on Public Transportation**
- Continued Pedestrian safety advocacy (served on NYSDOT stakeholder committee)



2019 Accomplishments

- Provided inputs to NFTA
 - Served on NFTA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - **Attended NFTA 2020-2021 Budget Hearing and Submitted Written Comments**
 - **Provided detailed comments on NFTA long range plan**
 - Opposed Metro Rail station naming rights plan and offered recommendations.
- Provided inputs to GBNRTC
 - Provided written comments on draft 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
 - Provided written comments on transit-related 2019 TIP amendments



2020 WILL BE A PIVOTAL YEAR!

2020 Will Be a Pivotal Year! (cont.)

- Metro Rail:
 - Amherst Metro Rail extension!
 - Draft EIS, public meetings, final EIS this summer
 - **Preliminary engineering starts in fall!**
 - DL&W work begins now!
 - **Opens in 2021 or 22!**



2020 Will Be a Pivotal Year! (cont.)

- Regional Connectivity:
 - Amtrak pre-clearance on US side could begin this year!
 - **All legal foundations in place!**
 - GoTrain could follow!
 - Senator Schumer:
“Our goal is to have regular dynamic commuter rail service between WNY and the Toronto metropolitan area.”
 - Governor Cuomo forming NY High Speed Rail committee

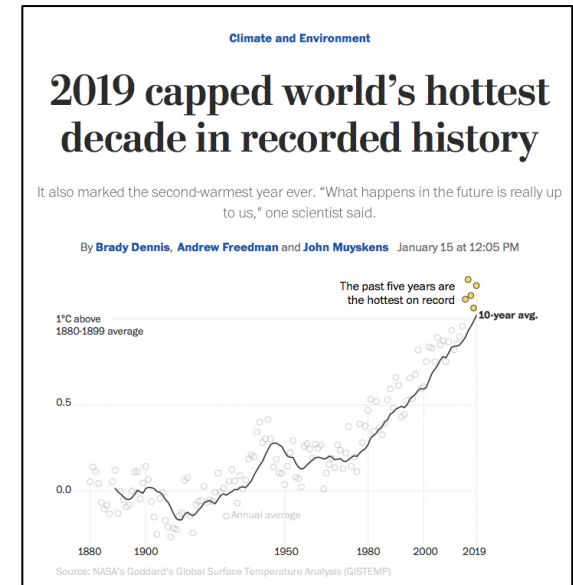
2020 Will Be a Pivotal Year! (cont.)

- Key Buffalo-Niagara decisions in the works:
 - Skyway coming down?
 - New Buffalo convention center discussions
 - New Era Field decisions
 - Scajaquada and Kensington Expressway downsizing projects
 - Buffalo-Niagara Freight Hub (will increase demand for rail and road)
- **All have public transit implications.**



2020 Will Be a Pivotal Year! (cont.)

- Transportation Is Key to Solving the Climate Emergency:
 - **Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI)**
 - 12 states (ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, NY, NJ, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA)
 - Working to reduce GHG emissions from transportation
 - NYS Passed the **Climate Protection and Community Protection Act (CPCPA)**
 - 40% GHG emissions by 2030
 - 85% GHG emissions by 2050
 - Transportation largest GHG contributing sector



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

New York just passed the most ambitious climate target in the country

Carbon-free electricity by 2040 and a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

By David Roberts | @drvox | david@vox.com | Updated Jul 22, 2019, 8:56am EDT

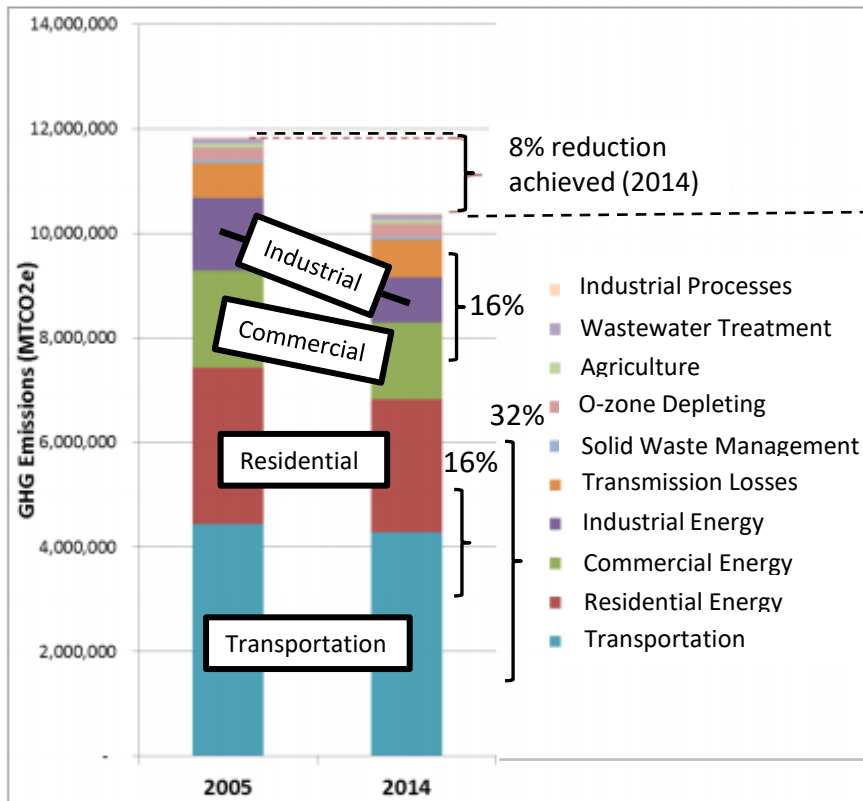
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Erie County Commits to Paris

NYS CLCPA Commitments



Erie County GHG emissions by sector
(Reference 1)

5 % additional
reduction
needed by
2020

16% more
by 2025

Paris / Erie
County
2020 goals
(17%
reduction)

Paris / Erie
County 2025
goals
(26-28%
reduction)

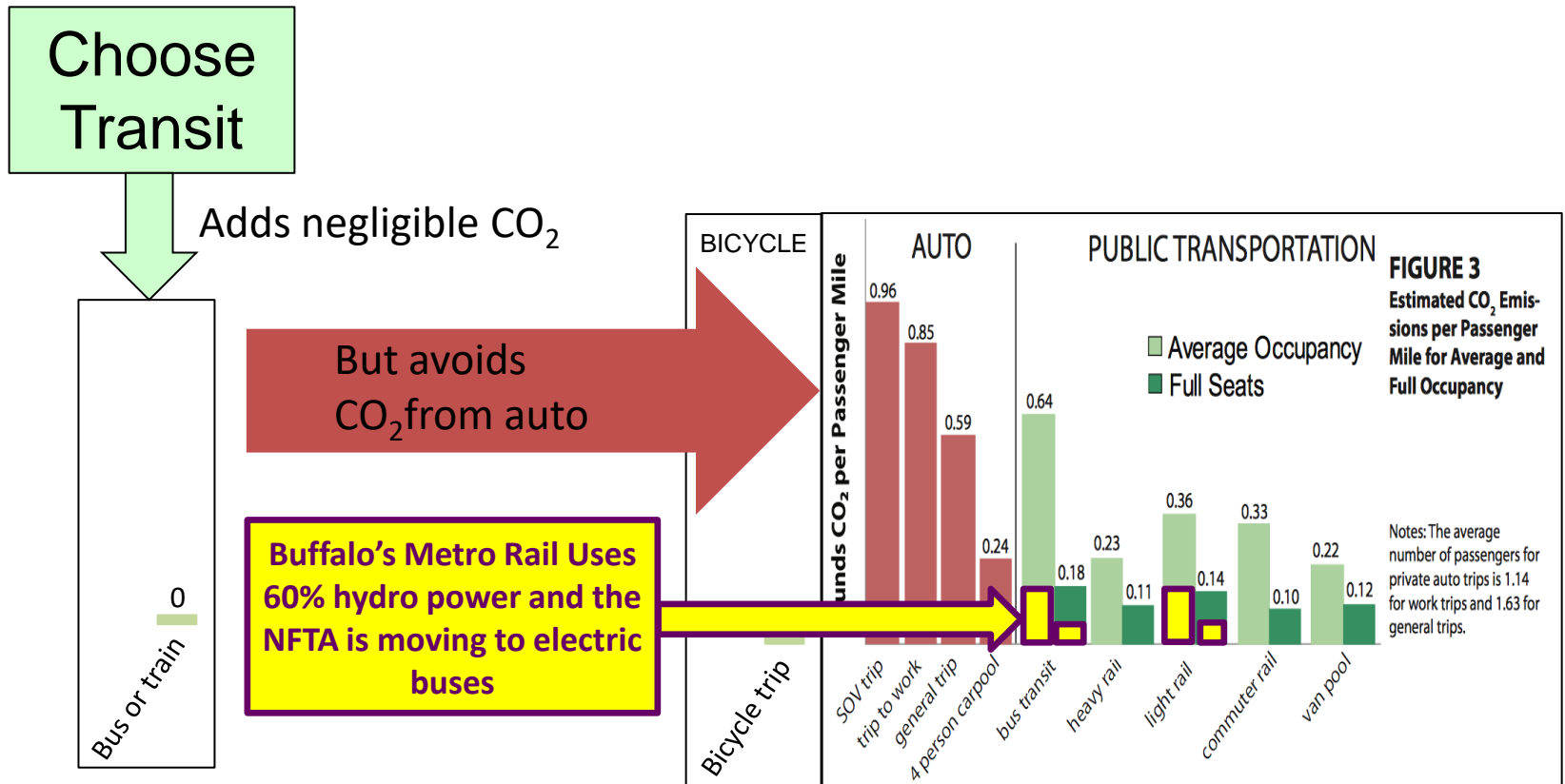
1990
2015
NYS GHG
emissions
(Reference 3)

8% reduction
achieved (2015)

32%
additional
reduction
needed by
2040

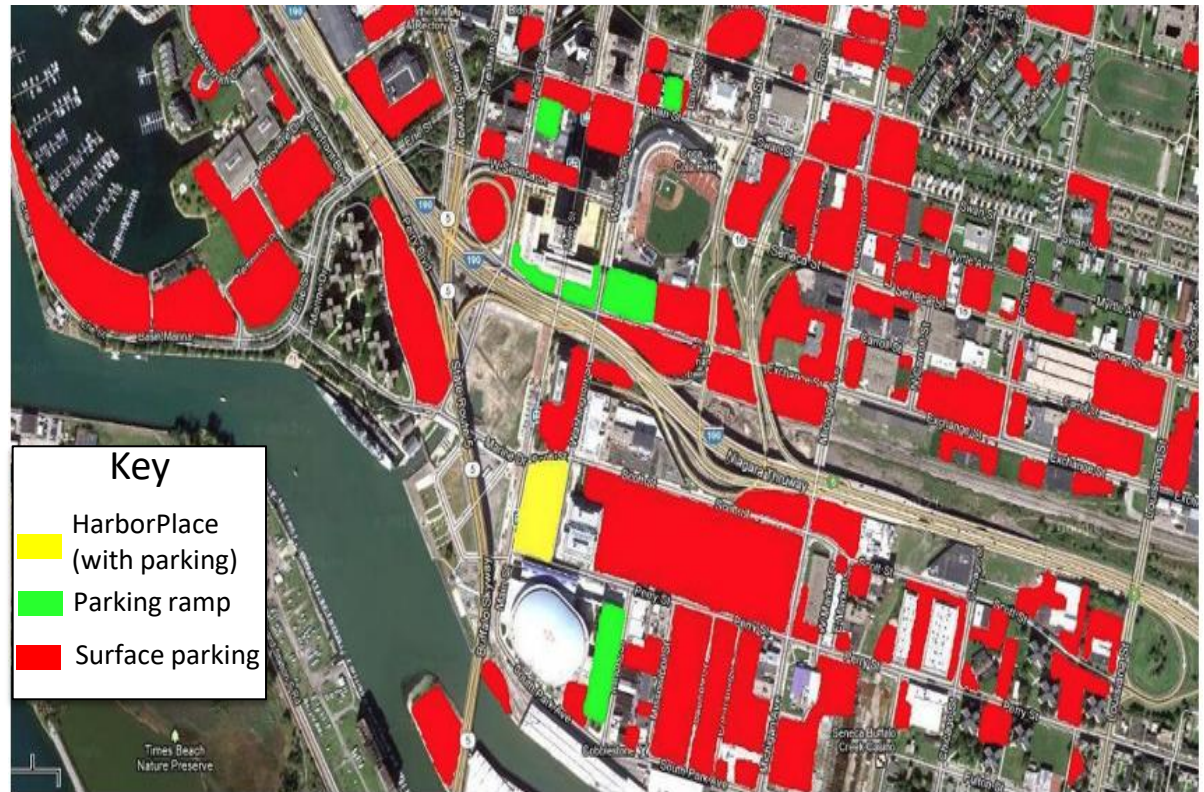
45%
more
by
2050

2030
2050
NYS CLCPA
(40% reduction
from 1990 levels
by 2030 and 85%
by 2050)



<http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/PublicTransportationsRoleInRespondingToClimateChange2010.pdf>

Buffalo's Waterfront (Zoomed-Out): without transit, a congestion and parking magnet



Courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites

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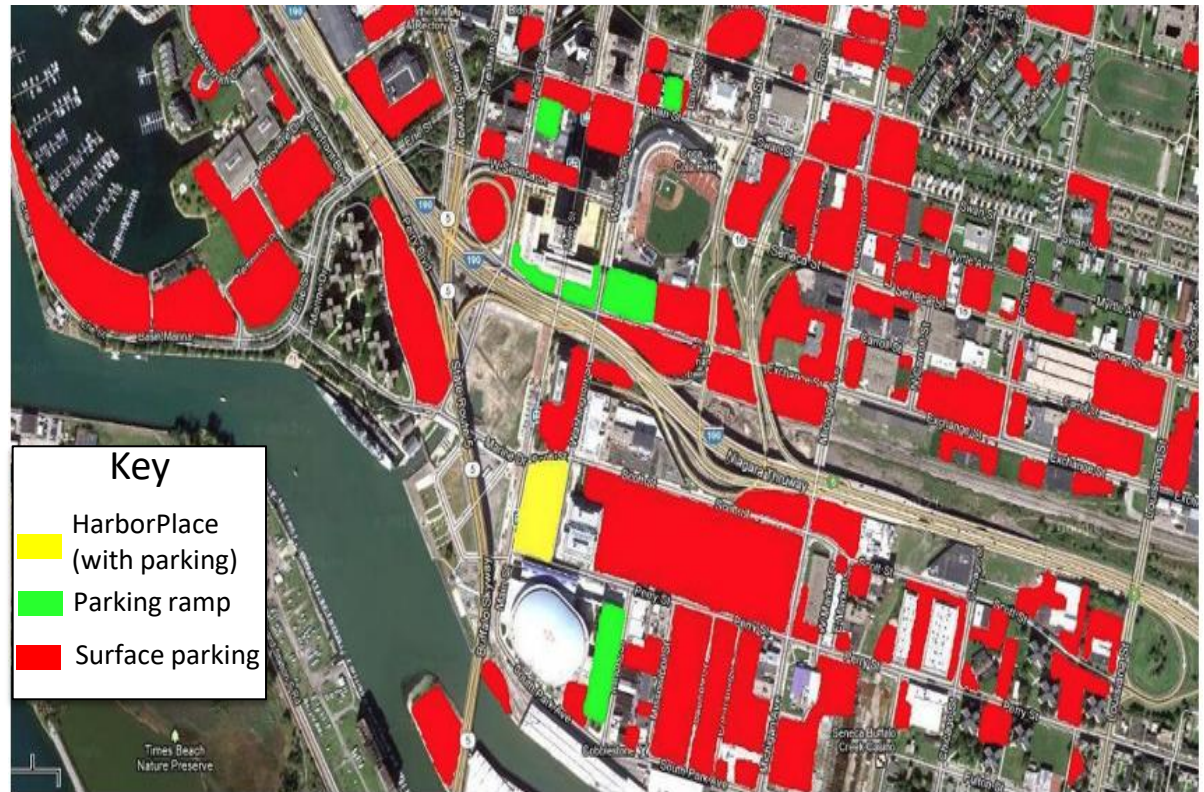


Electric Cars to the Rescue?

What if we all drove electric cars?
Won't that solve the problem?



Not Exactly...



Courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites

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The Math Is Simple

What does it take to move 560 people?

1 train (Four cars)



8 buses



Anywhere from 140 to 560 cars* (270 shown here)



**Every 10 minutes!
In each direction of
service!**



Adapted from: Transport Sydney Trains (<http://www.sydneytrains.info/about/environment/>)

* From "RAILFAN GUIDES of the U.S"> Todd's Railfan Guide to the Buffalo, NY NFTA Light Rail System (<http://www.railfanguides.us/ny/buffalo/lightrail/index.htm>)



Let's Connect our Region with Transit



Image courtesy for Dan Leonard, Economic Development Director at the Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo-Rochester

Population = 9 million

GDP = \$450 billion



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