
CRT News

Save the Date!

**next CRT Public Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**



at
237 Main Street, Buffalo, NY

Speaker TBA

Citizens for Regional Transit

meets at:

237 Main Street at Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY

Follow signs, to the second floor Mezzanine conference room

CRT meetings are free and open to the public

Change is coming... Get Ready!

by Gladys Gifford, editor

Planning, planning, planning-- yes, we're at it again. And this time the planners are offering fresh options that include listening carefully to the public.

Two major listening sessions occur in November: One Region Forward and the Amherst Corridor Transit Options.

Many community groups, including CRT, have been working regularly with the One Region Forward process, to pull together and refine a regional vision for the future. These efforts build on the many studies that have been done previously and incorporate new realities-- such as a shrinking population that consumes more land and demands more infrastructure. Please take part in these sessions-- details on back page.

The transit options to be discussed for the Amherst corridor vary widely: see the link to the flyer, below. Led by the NFTA, this study is the first step toward completion of the long-awaited connection with UB North. Be there!

[Amherst
Corridor Transit](#)

[Options Planning Meetings](#)

Public meeting/workshops will be held:

Tuesday, November 19th at St. Leo the Great School, Amherst

Wednesday, November 20th at University at
Buffalo South Campus, Allen Hall

Both workshops will begin at
5pm with presentations
at 5:30 and 7pm.

**...coming to Buffalo:
Congress for New Urbanism
June 4-7. 2014**

Yes, the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) will hold its 2014 national meeting in Buffalo!

The annual Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is the leading venue for new urbanist networking, collaboration, and education.

CNU members come from far and wide to discuss development practices and public policies, learn from recent innovative work, and advance new initiatives to transform our communities.

FIND OUT MORE (and view the video-- “ Buffalo: America’s Best Designed City”)
[<http://www.cnu22.org>]

National Support for Transit Grows

---apta.com

A survey recently released by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) shows that there is growing support for expanding public transportation. The survey, Americans Support for Public Transportation conducted by the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), shows that nearly 74 percent of respondents agreed to use of their tax dollars to create, expand and improve public transportation in their community. This number increased from 69% to 74% since 2012, showing a shift toward more Americans supporting transit investment.

The association noted that the results for the survey were consistent with the growing support on the local level. In 2012, 49 out of 62 public transit ballot initiatives were passed which represents a nearly 80 percent passage rate.

Click here to see the full survey and read the results: <http://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/APTA-Survey-Americas-Support-Public-Transportation.pdf>

Become a CRT member!

Benefits include: receive timely member alerts, support advocacy efforts, participate in education outreach.

CRT mission is to improve bus transit and to expand rail transit for all of Western New York through citizen involvement and education.

Membership dues are fully tax-deductible!

- group \$50.
- household \$35.
- individual \$25.
- student \$5.

Membership payable by check or via PayPal.

Send check to:
Citizens Regional Transit
c/o John K. Howell, treasurer
289 Ashford Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150-8563



Get Ready for a New Future in Transportation

by Douglas J. Funke, President

In 2012, US public transportation ridership hit record levels as Americans took 10.5 billion trips!

This is the second highest ridership since 1957, according to Michael Melaniphy, CEO of the American Public Transportation Association. Similarly, Amtrak boardings rose 55% between 1997 and 2012, more than double that of domestic aviation according to a Brookings Institute report (“A New Alignment: Strengthening America’s Commitment to Passenger Rail” reported in NARP News, Vol 47 (3), April 2013).

So what is driving these dramatic shifts in transportation behavior and what do these trends say about priorities for public transportation?

An important contributor to these trends is changing demographics. In particular, but not exclusively, the millennials (those born between 1980 and 2000) are rejecting the auto-centric society we have lived with since the 1950s. They are choosing, in large numbers, to live in cities rather than suburbs, and are demanding alternative transportation options like bicycle and public transit.

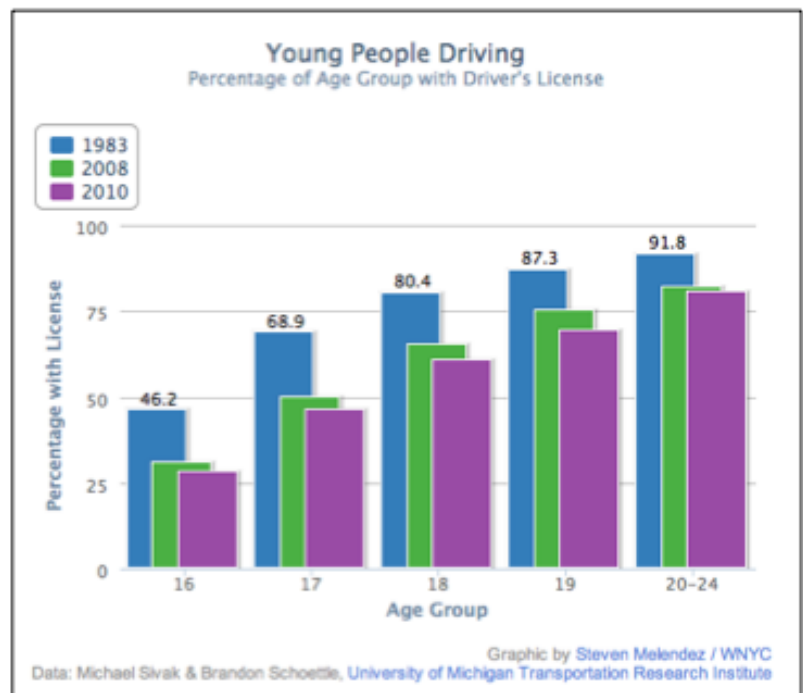
Clear evidence of this shift shows up in a decreasing interest in obtaining one’s drivers license. The chart below summarizes this dramatic shift, just since the 1980s.

These trends are driving new investments in public transit being made across the country. For example, cities like Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Memphis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Denver, Salt Lake City, Houston, Dallas, Philadelphia, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Atlanta, Tampa, and many more, are investing in light rail expansions. Regions that want to be successful in the 21st century need to follow the lead of these cities. This is especially true in the Buffalo-Niagara region where until very recently investments in public transit have been lagging.

The GBNRTC’s One Region Forward initiative, the NFTA’s ongoing Amherst Alternatives Analysis and cobblestone district study are good first steps and we strongly support them. But more needs to be done.

CRT stands ready to work with the GBNRTC, the NFTA, and leaders from across the region to find financing and resources to forge a public transportation network that will serve this area in the decades ahead. For example, work needs to be done to plan for extending our light rail to the airport.

It takes time to plan and arrange financing for infrastructure projects, especially in today’s very difficult financial circumstances, so there’s no time to waste.



from: Sivak, Michael and Schoettle, Brandon. “Update: Percentage of Young Person’s with a Driver’s License Continues to Drop”. Traffic Injury Prevention. Vol 13 (4). 20 July 2012.



One Region Forward

a Week of Community Workshops

for more info: www.oneregionforward.org/get-involved

Nov. 12, 6-8 pm

Amherst High School, Amherst

Nov. 13, 6-8 pm

City Honors School, Buffalo

Nov. 14, 6-8 pm

Parkdale Elementary School, E. Aurora

Nov. 15, 6-8 pm

Starpoint Central High School, Lockport

Nov. 16, 12-2 pm

“Power Vista” Visitors Center, Lewiston

[Register to Attend a Workshop](#)

Calendar

Nov. 12-16

One Region Forward
community workshops (p. 4)

Nov. 19 Amherst Corridor
Transit Options public meeting,
St. Leo the Great school,
Amherst (p. 1)

Nov. 20 Amherst Corridor
Transit Options public meeting,
UB South Campus
Allen Hall (p.1)

Dec. 4, 9:30 am

Planning & Coordinating
Comm., GBNRTC,
at NYS Dept of Transportation,
100 Seneca St., Buffalo

Jan. 15, 12-1 pm

CRT Quarterly Public Meeting,
including election of officers
237 Main St., Buffalo

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation

617 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203

return service requested