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# CRT News

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**CRT Quarterly Public Meeting**  
**Wednesday,**  
**January 16, 2013**  
**12:00-1:00 pm**

## **Here comes the Trolley!**

Hear about the engineer's study supporting the proposed Historic Trolley to connect downtown Buffalo and the Discovery Center at Lee Street (at the Buffalo River)

**...also includes the Annual Meeting  
and election of officers...**



**Citizens for Regional Transit  
meets at:**

**237 Main Street at Seneca Street,  
Buffalo, NY**

Follow signs, to the second floor  
Mezzanine conference room

*Celebrate! Citizens for Regional  
Transit over the years...*

At its Annual Meeting, Jan. 16, 2013, the CRT will elect a new President and make changes to its Executive Board. New faces and new directions will build on the work of CRT over the years.

So what has the CRT accomplished?

Our goal is to extend Metro Rail.

Our strategy, over the past fifteen years, was to keep that dream alive-- to keep the conversation going-- to prevent any actions that would kill the dream.

And so we have...

--aroused public opposition to a superhighway through Lackawanna

--prevented sale of City Branch right-of-way (key to Southtowns route)

--testified many times before the NFTA and the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

--published a monthly newsletter with a known readership of 500+

--enlisted peer organizations to understand the benefits of public transit, and to join our powerful voices together as advocates for better public transit, including an expanded Metro Rail.

We have kept the dream alive.

Let's celebrate!

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## **CRT is on Facebook!**

**Friend us! and visit our website, [citizenstransit.org](http://citizenstransit.org)**



## AARP Report: a Critique

by Lynn Magdol

AARP recently issued a policy brief on the travel patterns of the post-WW II generation, *Impact of Baby Boomers on U.S. Travel, 1969 to 2009*. This large birth cohort has influenced social patterns throughout its life and will continue to do as it ages. Their travel needs in the coming years will influence spending patterns for infrastructure as well as consumer options.

Baby boomers came of age at a time when suburbs were growing and automobile ownership grew correspondingly. Women joined the work force in large numbers, leading to the prevalence of two-car families and an increase in trips to purchase goods and services such as prepared meals and child care.

In the coming years, changes are expected in travel patterns among this generation. Some of their travel needs will decline as their children leave home and they retire. However, they will travel more for health care, social activities, and recreation. As their health declines, they will have to rely less on driving and will need to consider alternatives.

The report's policy recommendations tend to emphasize automobile-oriented solutions, but also consider public transportation. To increase the use of public transportation by seniors, routes should be extended to suburban areas. Seniors will also need service throughout the day, as well as evenings and weekends. New housing developments for seniors will need to be located within walkable distance from public transportation.

The report can be found online at <http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/liv-com2/policy/transportation/articles/impact-of-baby-boomers-on-us-travel-1969-2009-AARP-ppi-liv-com.html>

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## Citizens for Regional Transit invites You...

### Join us!

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!

corporate \$150.

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

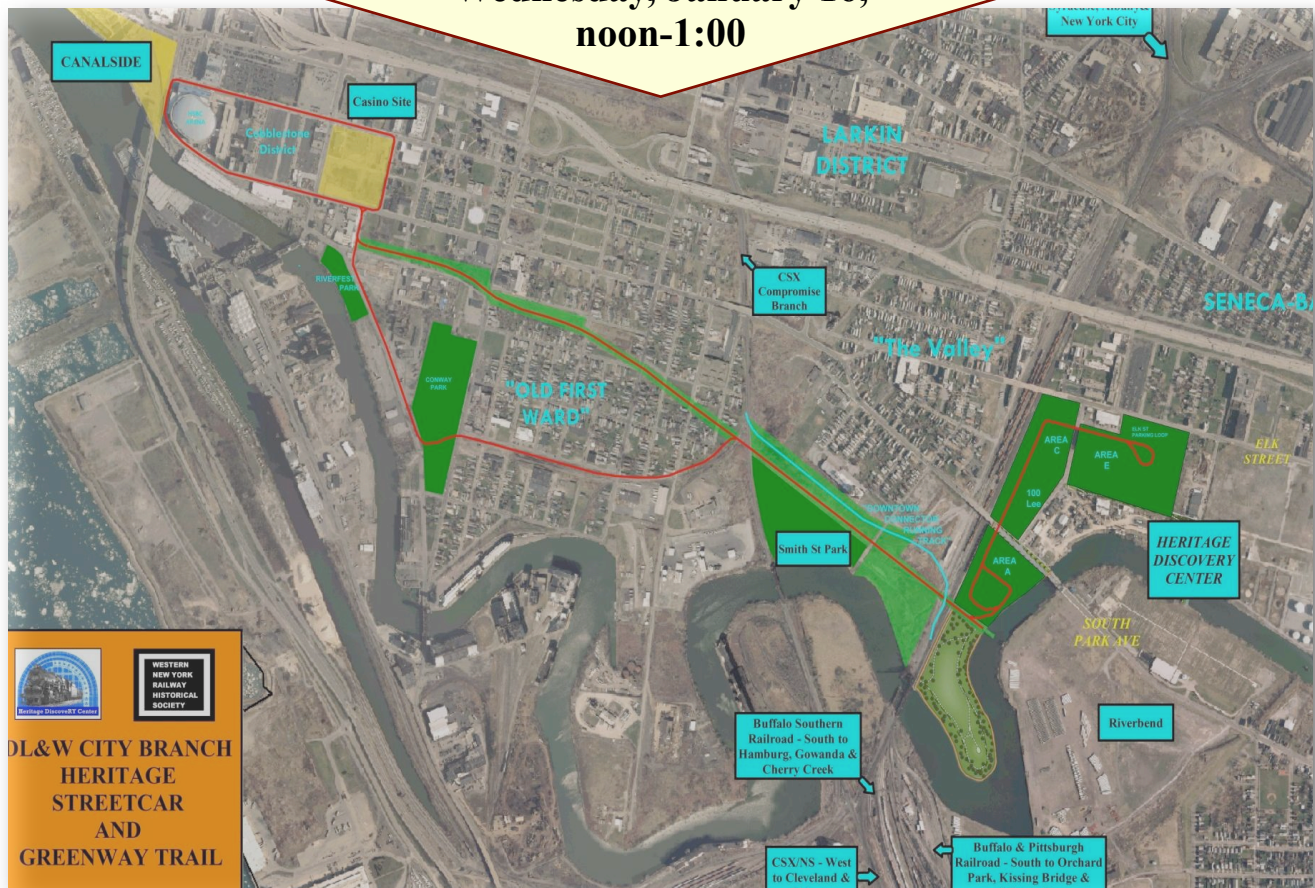


**Hooray!**  
**The Historic Trolley**  
**report is ready to be presented**  
**to the public!**

**Joe Kocsis, President, WNY Railroad Historical Society, will**  
**present the finished**  
**“Buffalo Historic Trolley Connection Report”**  
**at the January 16 meeting of CRT.**

**This engineer’s report is the first step--**  
**WNY is on the way to building an historic trolley!!**

**Come and hear, and celebrate!**  
**Wednesday, January 16,**  
**noon-1:00**



...rendering of proposed historic trolley route (thin red line....

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## Easy Transit Access-- via Apps!

*by Jim Gordon*

Getting from place to place is easier than ever. Your computer and your smart phone can help you optimize your travel plans. Here are three applications you can use to get around Buffalo. You may not need paper schedules ever again.

The first app is TransitTime (\$3.99 for Google Android, \$4.99 for iPod). TransitTime provides suggested route information, bus and metro rail times and maps. This app's interface looks very nice. TransitTime figures out where you are. All you have to do is tell it where you're going and TransitTime does the rest. There are options for setting arrival and departure times. You can choose from street maps or satellite views. Your location is updated on the map in real time. You can save favorite trips and stations. When you zoom in on the map you see all the bus stops. The app's web site says that in Toronto and a few other cities you will see GPS-based real-time markers for buses and subway cars, but real-time GPS is not enabled for Buffalo. The only down-side I see to this app is that TransitTime doesn't seem to factor in Metro Rail in its route suggestions unless you are near a rail station.

Another cell phone app that I've tried is SmartTransit (Free for Google Android). SmartTransit also lets you save favorite locations and displays street maps. SmartTransit also figures out where you are and shows you a complete list of upcoming bus, and metro rail connections based on a radius that you can set in TransitTime preferences. It is very "real-time" in that the arrival times you see are constantly updated based on your location and the current time. Save a stop to your map, and when you click the marker, the next arrival is displayed. When TransitTime runs, it is great. Its main downside is that it crashes very

often. Sometimes the maps show my current location correctly, but often it thinks I am in the Pacific Ocean east of Africa. The first time you run TransitTime, you may have to wait a half hour for the schedule times to download, but after that it is pretty snappy.

The grand master of getting from one place to another is Google maps. For laptop, iPad and tablet users, this is the way to go. Visit [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com) and choose the public transportation icon (zoom in to an urban area first). Click the Get Directions button and then enter departure and destination information. Then click the big blue Get Directions button (the dumb interface has two Get Directions buttons) to display the map and directions. Google maps offers suggested routes and optimizes for time. It does the best job of this because it includes metro bus, metro rail, and even Amtrak. Clicking the share link lets you grab a URL to email or an embed link for inclusion in a web page or Facebook posting. Google Maps knows how to get me to my friend's house in Seattle from my house in Buffalo using public transit. It suggests NFTA metro routes, Amtrak Lake Shore Limited and Empire Builder, and also Seattle's Sound Transit buses.

Remember-- check your phone or computer the next time you want to go to a game or conference in Buffalo, Chicago, NY or practically anywhere. Try transit apps-- and leave the hassle of parking and traffic behind!



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# Transit is for Everyone!

## What I Discovered on the Bus

*by Douglas J. Funke*

I have always used the park-and-ride lot at LaSalle Station and Buffalo's light rail when attending meetings and events downtown but recently discovered the joy and convenience of also using the Number 34B (Niagara Falls Blvd.) bus to connect with the light rail.

The trip downtown takes an extra 20 minutes with the bus compared to driving to the park-and-ride. But I have discovered many advantages for the additional 20 minutes on transit. They are: (1) I get exercise (a pleasant ½ mile walk in the fresh air); (2) I get an extra 30 minutes of reading time; (3) I support Buffalo's transit system; (4) I save wear and tear on my car; and (5) I cut down on the air pollution I create. Also the bus / rail trip cost is only \$1 dollar more than the train ride alone (\$5 for a day pass vs. \$4 round trip on light rail). In fact, when you consider the cost of gas for my car (10 miles round trip at 30 MPG) I actually break even. Add in the wear and tear on my car, and I am ahead.

The Number 34B bus runs about every 30 or 40 minutes and Metro Rail runs every 12 minutes or so. This means that the return trip might take an extra 15 to 30 minutes if I have to wait for the bus. Nevertheless, the extra time reading and relaxing more than makes it worthwhile. Plus-- no hassles about parking or traffic.

Yes, I enjoy taking the bus as well as the train to go downtown.

from a letter by Valerie Moliterno

This donation is made in memory of Nora Bergasseo, Frank Moliterno's mother who died recently at age of 101.

Nora took the **trolley** as a youth and then the **bus** to her post as teller at the Liberty Bank. Had it not been for public transit her family would indeed have suffered.

### 9-24-12 a day on Metro Rail

by Gladys Gifford

Caught a rebuilt **Metro Rail** car-- still smells new. Spending the day downtown, various meetings, relax at the library...

People on the train... some odd, most ordinary. Diversity abounds: bi-racial couple next to me, gay couple across from me. Earlier in the day three men with large bags of recyclables, got off at Utica station. Later all is quiet, on a car full of commuters at the end of a long day. A sample of life in the city...

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***Happy Holidays!***  
*from the CRT Executive Board*



Holiday party included Board members and spouses.

Pictured are: Scott, Jack, Doug, Joan, Alvin, Dick, Betsy, Carl, Betty, Dolores, Gladys, Lynn.

Not pictured: Ed, Elnor and Seth.

*Calendar*

**Jan. 2, 9:30 am**

Planning & Coordinating  
Committee of GBNRTC,  
NFTA Board Rm.,  
181 Ellicott St., Bflo

**Jan. 16, 12-1 pm**

CRT Annual Meeting,  
trolley presentation, Joe Kocsis  
237 Main St., Buffalo

**March 4-5, 2013**

Transit Awareness Day, Albany  
sponsored by New York Public  
Transit Association  
[nytransit.org/taa12](http://nytransit.org/taa12)