
CRT News

Next CRT Quarterly Public Meeting:

Wednesday, April 17

12:00-1:00 pm

The State of Public Transit in Buffalo How are we doing? Where are we going?

**a discussion led by Douglas J. Funke,
CRT President**

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**

Blunders and Bouquets...

When will the City of Buffalo learn how to take advantage of its great asset, Metro Rail?

On the one hand, the combined power of UB and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Center (BNMC) has begun planning to make the Allen Street station into the centerpiece for access to the BNMC campus. Spokesperson Patrick Whelan recently rode the length of the subway, and declared it to be a wonderful asset for the city-- and the essential element in BNMC planning, to reduce need for parking.

On the other hand, the designated developer unveiled a design for that space which totally ignores the Erie Canal Harbor station as the natural entry point for "HarborCenter". Surely the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. could follow the lead of the BNMC, and encourage people to park their cars away from the waterfront, use Metro Rail whenever possible, and enjoy this unique urban space as pedestrians.

Success in the 21st century depends on excellent public transit which supports vibrant urban centers.

Metro Rail is Buffalo's greatest asset for the future. Let's build on it, not ignore it!

CRT is on Facebook!

Friend us! and visit our website, citizenstransit.org

Farewell to the Theater Station

February 14, members of the CRT Board gathered at the Theater Station, to honor its passing. We placed flowers and cards and teddy bears, and were joined by passers-by.

CRT Vice-President Seth Triggs was interviewed by Channel 4 TV, on Sunday, Feb. 17. He noted that CRT protested removing the station, especially at a time when more people are living in downtown and rely on Metro Rail.

For more photos, see the both the CRT website, citizenstransit.org, and our page on Facebook...



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!

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



The World’s Greatest Waterfront: When Connected with Transit

by Douglas J. Funke, CRT President

On February 19th, the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) met to hear proposals for Greenway funding. The NRGC allocates funds from the NYS Power Authority to selected projects along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

The proposals as a group had one thing in common: they lacked a transportation plan. This is understandable since each had a focus other than transportation – to build a boathouse, design a heritage attraction, or otherwise make our regional waterfront more attractive or usable. Most assumed that there would be a way for people to travel to and from the sites once built and that there would be available parking for those who arrived by car.

But this assumption is not justified. Cars no longer offer a complete solution. A car-only solution would turn our waterfront into parking lots with congestion and pollution. This defeats the purpose of an attractive greenway. In addition, 30% of Buffalo residents do not own cars. Like the Lorax who speaks for the trees, someone needs to speak for transit. I think this is our job. There needs to be a transportation plan for the greenway that includes transit.

But it’s more than just advocating for transit, as important as that is. It’s connecting the greenway to create the world’s greatest waterfront, a waterfront that extends from Buffalo to the Tonawandas to Niagara Falls, Artpark, Lewiston, and Fort Niagara.

No one else in the world can offer a waterfront as varied and grand as ours. Niagara Falls attracts 12 million visitors each year – the 8th most popular tourist attraction in the US. (By comparison, Disney World’s Magic Kingdom attracts 17 million.) But very few Niagara Falls visitors also visit Buffalo or the many other attractions along the river. They leave quickly for other destinations.

We need a convenient transportation system capable of carrying large numbers of visitors between the many destinations along the Niagara River. This will encourage visitors to Niagara Falls to extend their stay and experience the whole region, not just the falls.

Shame on us if we don’t take advantage of our unique regional asset, our regional waterfront! Shame on us if we don’t provide a convenient and attractive transit system that can move visitors along the Niagara River Greenway! Shame on us if we don’t build on the success of Niagara Falls by encouraging longer stays in the Buffalo-Niagara region by providing convenient and efficient transportation!

When connected with transit ours will be the greatest waterfront in the world. Let’s not miss this opportunity.

CRT is involved--

- 1-30 attended public information meeting on Ohio Street Redesign
- 2-19 attended the Niagara River Greenway Commission meeting
- 2-21 attended “Year of the City” lecture
- 2-22 participated in the Green Code transportation stakeholders group, City Hall
- 2-28 will attend NFTA Board meeting

Transit Awareness Day & Conference

**March 4-5, 2013
Albany, NY**

**sponsored by NYS Transit Equity Alliance
and New York Public Transportation Association**

CRT Board members will participate in the conference and make visits to legislators, as a member of both the NYS Transit Equity Alliance (NYSTEAL) and New York Public Transportation Association.

Our delegation will travel to Albany via Amtrak.



Our message to legislators will be: invest in transit-- as a boost to the economy, to improve quality of life, and to reduce harmful impacts on the environment.

Calendar

Mar. 6, 9:30 am

Planning & Coordinating Comm.,
GBNRTC, Rath Bldg, Bflo.

March 4-5, 2013

Transit Awareness Day, Albany
New York Public Transit
Association [www.nytransit.org/
events-and-training/2013-transit-
awareness-day](http://www.nytransit.org/events-and-training/2013-transit-awareness-day)

April 17, 12-1 pm

CRT Quarterly Meeting,
237 Main St., Buffalo

April 20, Earth Day

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
cleanups various times and
locations see [bnriverkeeper.org/
get-involved/cleanups/](http://bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/cleanups/)

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation
617 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

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