
CRT News

CRT Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
12:00-1:00 pm

Dr. Wende Mix

Buffalo State Transportation Issues

Current status, suggestions for improvement

Dr. Mix has a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the University at Buffalo, Department of Civil Engineering (1987) and a M.A. in Geographic Information Systems, University at Buffalo, Department of Geography (1983). Dr. Mix currently is an Associate Professor in Geography and Planning at Buffalo State College. She currently serves as the chair of the college's Parking and Transportation Committee.

Citizens for Regional Transit meets at:



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

Follow signs, to the Mezzanine conference room

CRT meetings are free and open to the public

As of February 15, 2012, monthly meetings are in the Mezzanine conference room,
237 Main Street.

The building is on the east side of Main Street, next to Metro Rail's Seneca Street station.
Signs will be posted, to guide attendees.

Restore, rebuild, Go!

What will it take for metro Buffalo to become a public transit mecca?

Build on our assets, of course.

We have a significant percentage of the population that is transit-dependent. Many others would choose to use public transit if it were more convenient for their daily routines.

The NFTA is investing in Metro Rail cars, so that the whole fleet will be serving the region reliably for the next generation of transit riders.

Governor Cuomo has heard us, and is bringing renewed leadership on the NFTA Board of Commissioners.

And investment continues in the urban core, from the waterfront to downtown to the medical campus--investment that gives people reason to take public transit, as the best mode for access to live, work, learn and relax in Buffalo.

We came together to support restoration of vital public transit routes. Now, let us all work together to build on that effort, and support expanded and improved public transit in metro Buffalo.

Transit Advocacy Days--Huge Success!

February 12-14, transit advocates gathered in Albany, for the first state-wide conference by the New York State Transit Equity Alliance (NYSTEA).

Civic groups from the Bronx to Buffalo, from NYC to Rochester sent advocates.

Metro Buffalo sent ten people: six came by Amtrak-- on time and relaxed. These attendees represented CRTC, Voice-Buffalo, Coalition for Economic Justice and Partnership for the Public Good. Buffalo CarShare brought four more, in a car that averaged 40+ mpg. Housing was in a downtown motel. Transportation between venues was by bus--both charter and public.

Monday's conference events were held in the Albany Public Library.

Forums of the day included: transit funding issues, transit rider organizations, transit labor issues, and transit as an economic driver.

NYSTEA joined forces with New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA) for a rally in the Legislative Office Building, at lunchtime on Monday.

We flashed our bright yellow totes and our blue tee shirts in solidarity with our demands, which were:
--more NYS funding for public transit!
--a lock box for NYS gas tax!
--a transit rider representative on transit authority boards with voice and vote!

CRTC brought letters from constituents in support of increased NYS funding for public transit. During Monday's rally,

CRT delivered 72 letters to Gov. Cuomo's representative.

Tuesday was the day to visit the NYS Legislature. CRT made the rounds and delivered 80+ letters to WNY legislators.

This conference was the first to be organized by NYSTEA, and is intended to be an annual event in cooperation with NYPTA. We were heartened by this new direction, when transit authorities recognize transit advocates as partners rather than irritants.

We learned much, and we enjoyed building relationships with transit advocates across NYS.

Go, NYSTEA!

by Gladys Gifford



photo courtesy New York State Transit Equity Alliance

The delegation from Western New York included: Duane Diggs, Micaela Shapiro, Alvin Schuster, Gladys Gifford, Megan Connelly, Sara Gales, Creighton Randall, William Yelder, Sandy Lape and Dollinda Coleman.

NFTA's Rebuilt Rail Cars have Inaugural Run

Rebuilt Metro Rail car, 3-9-12



photos and article by G. Gifford

Friday, March 9, was a great day for Metro Rail. Two rebuilt rail cars were unveiled and made their inaugural run, carrying passengers and dignitaries and NFTA staff from LaSalle Station to Theater Station.

CRT was represented by Gladys Gifford, President, and Alvin J. Schuster, former board member. Other groups represented included Independent Living and the Blind Association. Several riders attended who had won tickets through a contest posted on the NFTA website, the "inaugural ride sweepstakes."

Participants attended a celebration in Shea's lobby, where Mayor Brown and NFTA officials gave remarks and refreshments were served.

Kim Minkel, NFTA's executive director, lauded the clean, green features of Metro Rail and said that the whole fleet of rail cars will be rebuilt, over the next three years.



new equipment for driver, automated station announcements

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

WE WON!!

House Bill HR-7 Scuttled

In a positive turn for mass transit advocates, the U.S. House's transportation bill seems well and truly dead, with House Speaker John Boehner indicating he would look at using the Senate's two-year transportation proposal as a basis for action after next week's recess. ...narprail.org, 3-9-12

WE were HEARD!!

NFTA Holds Next Public Hearings re Fares

The NFTA heard loudly from the public, January 30-February 2, 2012, that the previous plan was unacceptable. Therefore, the NFTA Board of Commissioners now proposes modest fare increases and service "adjustments."

Public hearings on the revised plan to offset a \$7.1 million gap in the 2012-2013 NFTA budget will be held:

March 21, 2012 Niagara Falls City Hall Chambers – 6 p.m.
March 22, 2012 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Auditorium – 6 p.m.

For details on fares and service changes, see nfta.com

Calendar

Mar. 21, 2012, 12-1 pm

CRT monthly meeting, 237 Main St., Buffalo

Speaker, Dr. Wendy Mix, Buffalo State College

Mar. 21, 2012, 6 pm

Niagara Falls City Hall

Mar. 22, 2012, 6 pm

Buffalo Central Library

NFTA Fare and Service Adjustment Public Hearings

Apr. 4, 2012, 9:30 am

Planning & Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC, NYSDOT

April 19-20

Complete Streets Summit, details TBA

May 9, 2012, 4-6 pm

League of Women Voters forum "Transportation, WNY Path to the Future"