

---

# CRT News

---

**CRT Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 18, 2012**  
**12:00-1:00 pm**

**Transportation Planning at Buffalo  
Niagara Medical Campus**

by Bill Smith,

**Director of Campus Access at the BNMC**

Mr. Smith manages transportation and parking services as well as works to improve access to the Campus through innovative and sustainable transportation initiatives. Prior to working at the BNMC, Bill received his Masters in Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo while working for the Urban Design Project.

**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**

*TOD in Buffalo?*

Transit oriented development (TOD) has a long history in many cities where modern light rail and streetcar systems have been built. In Buffalo, most development along Metro Rail has been done without deliberate attention to transit as an asset to the site.

However, planners at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) have begun to use TOD as an essential part of their vision for the future of their organization. As reported to the GBNRTC on 12-12-11, the campus will add more than 7,000 employees by 2017. But there is no space for additional employee parking.

*What to do?*

Orient employee access to the Allen Street station of Metro Rail. The station is just two blocks away from the campus. Create attractive foot paths. Offer incentives to leave cars at off-site parking areas. Use on-campus shuttles as needed.

CRT will hear the full details of this TOD-style planning at the April meeting, straight from the source.

Be there!!

As of February 15, 2012, monthly meetings are in the second-floor 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.

## Rail Transit Moves ahead in Pittsburgh, Toronto

Starting March 25, for the first time in **Pittsburgh's** storied history, people will travel under a river, in twin tunnels bored about 20 feet below the bottom of the Allegheny. The 1.2-mile North Shore Connector will link a new Gateway Center Station at Liberty Avenue and Stanwix Street, Downtown, with an underground station near PNC Park and an elevated station near Heinz Field...

The new section, under construction for 5 1/2 years, will bring fundamental changes for riders. All service on the Blue and Red lines will continue from Downtown to the North Shore, with cars changing directions at Allegheny Station (like they currently do at Wood Street).

The authority has launched an ad campaign called "T-Plus" to emphasize that it won't be necessary to change cars to ride the new section. Service will operate every four minutes during weekday peak hours, to encourage commuters to park in North Shore garages and lots and ride to Downtown.

Rides will be free for at least three years, underwritten by the Steelers, the casino, Alco Parking and the Pittsburgh Stadium Authority. The expanded free-fare zone from Allegheny Station to First Avenue Station includes six stops. The new stations all have center platforms, allowing riders to board trains in either direction.

*Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
By Jon Schmitz, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

**Toronto** has recently endured a debate over the fate of their Transit City light rail project; once effectively cancelled but now revived through action of the City Council. The original proposal would serve areas within the enlarged City of Toronto whose long bus routes cannot move rapidly. Bus routes in these areas compete for space on existing roads with automobile traffic and serve transit-dependent neighborhoods.

Rob Ford won the municipal election, 11-10, and cancelled light rail in favor of subway. Months later, the provincial government was re-elected and reaffirmed its commitment to fund transit. Then a legal ruling stated that the future of Transit City was the responsibility of the city council, not the mayor.

*Congress has delayed again!*

*The Federal transportation act was extended yet again--for the 9th time... until June 30, 2012*

*no new Transportation Act since September, 2009...*

*Is there hope for a bipartisan bill?*

*see [blog.tstc.org](http://blog.tstc.org) 4-4-12*

Effective public support for the Transit City plan gave the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) chair courage to voice opposition to the mayor. She convinced the city council to reaffirm the Transit City plan, with some minor changes.

One result of these complex debates is the restructuring of the TTC. Previous commitments were honored: to increase the board from nine to eleven commissioners and to include four citizen representatives.

Current construction plans are for three light rail transit lines: Eglinton Avenue (under way), Sheppard and Finch.

*Above information gleaned from Transfer Points, newsletter of the Toronto Transportation Society, Feb. 2012, issue. See also thestar.com, 3-23-12*

### Up next in NYS Legislature: a \$4.5 billion transportation bond act for 2013

Assemblyman Jim Brennan has introduced legislation to place a proposal before the voters in November 2013 to help fund the future infrastructure needs of the state.

Included in the \$4.5 billion is \$230 million for non-MTA public transit.

**League of Women Voters-Buffalo Niagara  
presents**

**"Transportation: WNY Path to the Future"  
May 9, 2012, 4-6 pm**

Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY

Forum will suggest ways to foster sustainable transportation for the future in WNY.

Panelists: **Amy Weymouth-Michaux** and **Kelly Dixon**, transportation analysts with the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council;  
**Dr. Wende A. Mix**, Buffalo State professor in Planning and Geology;  
**Senator Timothy M. Kennedy**, 58th District, member NYS Senate Transportation, Commerce, Agriculture committees;  
**Sam Hoyt**, Empire State Development Corporation, former NYS Assemblyman

Discussion to follow presentations by panel.

**Event is free and open to the public.**

---

*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



## Green Options Buffalo *presents*

# Complete Streets Forum April 19, 5:30-7:30 pm

## Asbury Hall, 341 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

Buffalo Complete Streets Summit is a two-day symposium highlighting the role of Complete Streets in promoting sustainability and economic development in the Buffalo metro region.

The implementation of Complete Streets policies ensure that communities will continue to evolve and develop in sustainable ways and create opportunities for all transportation modes--by car, bike, transit, or our own two feet.

This public forum features:

Tavis Dockwiler – Green Infrastructure  
(*Viridian Landscape Studio, Philadelphia, PA*)

Commissioner Peter McLaughlin – Elected Official  
(*4th District, Hennepin County, MN*)

Jeff Olson – Designer and Past NYS Pedestrian & Bicycle  
Program Manager (*Alta Planning and Design, Saratoga Springs, NY*)

Sam Zimbabwe – Transit and Sustainable Development  
(*District Department of Transportation, Washington, DC*)

**The forum is free and open to the public.**

### Calendar

**Apr. 10, 6:15-8:30 pm**

Buffalo Green Code, ECC city

**Apr. 18, 12-1 pm**

CRT monthly meeting,  
237 Main St., Buffalo

Speaker, Bill Smith, Buffalo  
Niagara Medical Center

**Apr. 19, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Complete Streets Summit,  
Asbury Hall,  
341 Delaware Ave.. Bflo.

**May 2, 9:30 am**

Planning & Coordinating  
Committee of GBNRTC,  
Carnegie Bldg, Niagara Falls

**May 9, 4-6 pm**

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

Citizens Regional Transit Corporation  
617 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

*return service requested*