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# CRT News

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## Connect the Dots!

### Take the Auto Tour of metro Buffalo's waterfront, Sat., June 29th, 10 am!

Come and see the Lake Erie waterfront,  
Buffalo's Outer Harbor!  
Gather at Dug's Dive, 1111 Fuhrmann Blvd., Buffalo,  
at **10:00 am**. Car-pooling, please.

Each participant will receive an auto tour guide with directions, to  
explore Gallagher Beach, Times Beach, proposed 21st Century Park,  
Coast Guard lighthouse, Ohio Street, D L & W Terminal, Pierce-Arrow  
Transportation Museum-- and more!

#### Why?

**to see the space, to check out access via Ohio Street,  
and to be informed about possible uses  
for Buffalo's unique waterfront...**

Tour goes, rain or shine.  
Event is free and open to the public.

RSVP by **June 15** to JoAnn Mecca, 884-5312,  
or Gladys Gifford, [schuford@earthlink.net](mailto:schuford@earthlink.net)

*Save the Date!*  
*next quarterly public meeting*

**October 16, 2013**



**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**

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## CRT is on Facebook!

Be a Friend, and find links to fun stuff...

## Vienna's train station West-- model for Buffalo?



*Bahnhof Wien West, Vienna, Austria*

*by Gladys Gifford, editor*

This spring my husband and I traveled by train in Europe. As expected, European trains were fast, efficient, clean and on time. But the surprise for us was in the train stations: large, busy, and full of shopping centers!

Our hotel in Vienna, Austria, was just a few blocks from the large train station (bahnhof) serving the west side of the city. Pedestrian access was easy, and bicycles were everywhere-- using dedicated bicycle lanes. The station itself contained a shopping mall, a post office, and various offices. Connections within the station allowed easy access to local subway, streetcars, inter-city trains.

Because Vienna suffered serious damage during WWII, the city has invested in many modern structures. The modern Bahnhof West is clear evidence that this European city understands the economic benefits of a multi-modal transit center. Buffalo, please take note!

## Become a CRT member!

Benefits include: receive 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



## We Need a Train Station

by Douglas J. Funke, CRT President

Later this year Rochester will break ground on a new multi-modal transportation center that includes a beautiful new Amtrak station. The new Niagara Falls International Train station, now under construction, will be complete and ready to serve Amtrak passengers next year.

These developments will provide proud gateways for visitors to these cities.

Where is Buffalo's new Amtrak station? Our downtown station is a disgrace! It is barely bigger than a pickup truck and hidden underneath an elevated expressway. And the Depew station isn't much better. There isn't even a platform to step onto! Buffalo has the only Amtrak stations between New York City and Toronto where passengers have to step down onto a stool when disembarking. And there is no easy way to connect to local transportation in Buffalo once here. We can do better than this!

Albany built a new Amtrak station ten years ago. Syracuse has a new Amtrak station which combines access to bus lines. Utica has a new Amtrak station which has attracted business tenants in the building. What about Buffalo?

CRT calls on our city and regional leaders to build a train station that works.

- build a station that says welcome to Buffalo (in a positive way)!
- build a station that says we are proud of our city!

Possible options include a grand new station downtown near the Buffalo waterfront (remember the great old D L & W?) and the historic Central Terminal restored to its former grandness and integrated with light rail that extends to the airport. In fact, Buffalo should commit to do both and then decide which station to build first.

Amtrak ridership is at record levels and growing. Plans for high-speed rail in New York State continue. Buffalo needs to be part of this future. We need a train station that can serve future needs of high-speed rail and makes a positive statement about who we are.

Where is our new train station? Let's build a new train station that says come to Buffalo!



*The Buffalo downtown Amtrak station isn't much bigger than a pickup truck and needs to be replaced.*



## **Save the Date!**

### **Light Rail Conference September 14, 2013**

**at**

**Montante Cultural Center, Canisius College**

**Theme:**

**How could light rail expansion be a catalyst  
for WNY economic growth?**

This event is in the planning stages,  
to include speakers, videos, forums  
and  
brainstorming around potential routes  
for light rail expansion

**Have ideas to add to the mix as we plan?  
Please contact CRT at**

**[crtc@citizenstransit.org](mailto:crtc@citizenstransit.org)**

**Thanks!!**

#### *Calendar*

**June 29, 10 am** Auto tour  
of Outer Harbor, sponsored  
by League of Women Voters  
(p. 1)

**July 3, 9:30 am**  
Planning & Coordinating  
Comm., GBNRTC, at Niagara  
Co. Public Safety Bldg., 5574  
Niagara St. ext., Lockport

**Sept. 14** One-day light rail  
conference, held at Montante  
Center, Canisius College (p.4)

**Oct. 16, 12-1 pm**  
CRT Quarterly Meeting,  
237 Main St., Buffalo