



Citizens *for* Regional Transit

CRT News

**A Quarterly Publication of Citizens for Regional Transit
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Help us achieve CRT's Transit Prime Directive:

Make Transit a competitive alternative to driving for everyone!

President's Column

By Douglas Funke, CRT President

I am pleased to announce our nominees for the 2026 CRT Board of Directors:

**President: Douglas Funke
Vice President: Seth Triggs
Treasurer: James Gordon**

**Secretary: Rebecca Reilly
Member: Anthony Carter
Member: Thomas DeSantis**

Member: Carl Skominski

CRT Members will have an opportunity to vote on the slate of nominees at the upcoming CRT Annual Meeting on 21 January 2026 at 6:00 pm. On line “Doors open” at 5:45 pm.

Upcoming Event

CRT Annual Meeting

21 January 2025

6:00 – 8:00pm

(Sign-in opens at 5:45pm)

Speakers:

Doug Funke, President, Citizens for Regional Transit
Voting for 2026 Board nominees, Summary of 2025 Annual Report and
2026 Priorities

Seth Triggs, Vice President, Citizens for Regional Transit
Did Metro Rail Kill Downtown as some contend?

Instructions for attending the meeting

Meeting access is virtual only:



[Click here to join meeting](#) or use QR code
“Doors open” at 5:45 pm on Jan 21
Meeting starts at 6 pm

Meeting ID: 261 891 975 644 53

Passcode: mE3SK22K

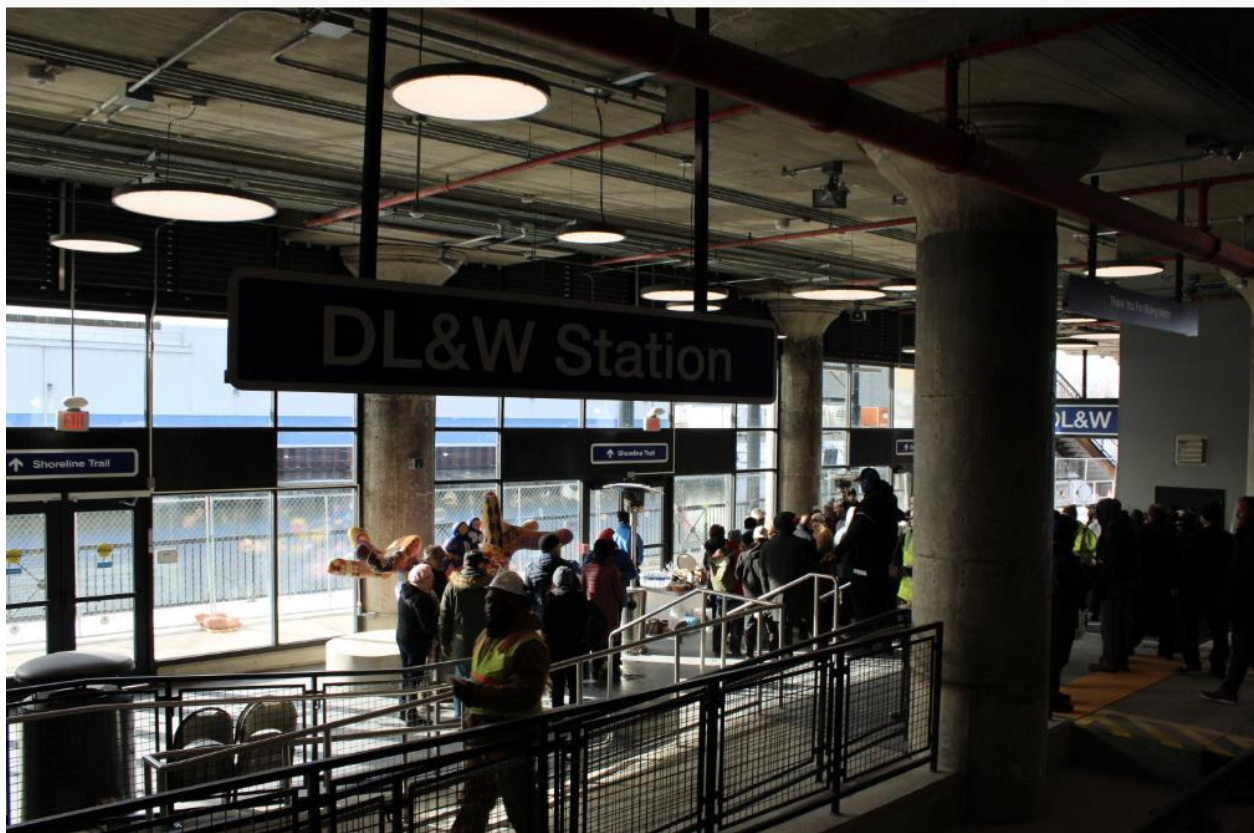
Dial in by phone

+1 929-229-5913

Microsoft Teams. [Need help?](#)

WNY Transit News

DL&W Station is now open and operating!
See pictures from the December 8th Grand Opening below.







As NFTA Executive Director Kim Minkel noted at the DL&W Grand Opening, this extension is exciting and momentous for many reasons:

- It is the first Metro Rail extension since the 1980's.
- It is a necessary step that enables other future extensions to the east (East Side and airport), and south (Highmark Stadium).
- Because this DL&W Station is an indoor station, Sabre's fans will no longer be stuck outside in the cold waiting for trains after games.
- There will be room in the station for trains to queue up for immediate boarding and quick departure.
- In the very near future, the DL&W station will connect to the KeyBank Center via an indoor walkway.
- NFTA plans include expansive second-floor space for retail and vendors.
- The station is adjacent to the Buffalo River Walkway that connects to the NYS Erie Canal Trail system. It also provides convenient access to all the Canalside attractions (e.g., Buffalo's historic ships, the carousel, etc.)
- It is steps away from Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino and the Cobblestone District.

Even more exciting, there are additional extensions planned:

- **Amherst Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in September for public review.** With over 750 responses to the NFTA and 87% in favor,

there is strong public support for this extension. The next step will be the final EIS and final design. The project will need to get funding from the Federal government so get your “Extend Metro” yard sign! Your continued support is needed. If successful, construction is expected to start in 2028!

<https://www.nftametrotransitexpansion.com/>



Donate and get a free yard sign!

<http://www.citizenstransit.org/YES.Extend>

If you're near the Amherst corridor, we'll drop your sign(s) off. We can supply any quantity desired.

the plan <https://baileyavebrt.com/>.

- **Bailey Avenue bus rapid transit.** This project is already fully funded and is expected to open in 2028! Final design is already underway. Here's a link where you can see

CRT Work Highlights

October 2025 - December 2025

Community Outreach and Education.

- UB Students Small Built Works presentations on LRRT Belt Line Rail and East Side/Airport downtown station concepts.
- 10/6/25. Attended Believe in Black Rock Community Block Club to promote restoration of Humboldt Parkway.
- 10/11/25. Tabled at Central Terminal Fall Festival.
- 10/17/25. Met with the new NFTA Transit Director, Michael Pal.
- 10/21/25. Attended Niagara Falls Local Waterfront Revitalization Program webinar.
- 10/27/25. Met with NFTA Commissioner Reverend Blue. Reverend Blue oversees the NFTA Transit Operations.
- 10/27/25. Attended the Buffalo Bills Transit Hub proposal meeting. Both Doug and Jim spoke. The Bills NFTA plan is for a covered transit hub that can hold 10 buses. This is an improvement over the current bus operation. We pointed out that 18-buses can carry 720 people, a tiny fraction of the 60,000 fans who will need to get to the stadium. The rest will still have to drive and pay for parking like today. We call for the Bills and NFTA to implement light rail as identified in the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).

- 12/2/25. Attended NYSDOT's Kensington Project listening session as part of the restarted EIS process. Expressed our opposition to the proposed tunnel in favor of full restoration of Humboldt Parkway.
- 12/4/25. Voted at the Partnership for the Public Good Community 2026 Agenda meeting.
- 12/4/25. Submitted comments on draft NFTA 2026-2027 budget. Could not attend the Public Hearing in person this year due to an illness on our Board. Our comments this year focused on learning why so many buses are being cancelled, sometimes including low frequency buses.
- Received answers from our comments on last year's NFTA draft budget.
- 12/12/25. Small Built Works presentation. UB School of Architecture Student presentations on possible new Metro Rail stations.
- Continued supporting UB's Small Built Works Program that is designing potential Buffalo Metro stations along Buffalo's "Belt Line" and airport extensions. A new class of UB architecture students are building on the work completed last year. Jim, Carl, and Tom are supporting for spring 2026 semester. Jim Gordon was interviewed on WBEN "Free Range" by Vonn Miller summarizing this program.
- Served on Scajaquada Community Coalition advocating for Region Central implementation in conjunction with Kensington Expressway removal and Humboldt Parkway restoration.
- Continued to support the East Side Parkways Coalition.
- Various ongoing Activities and Meetings. Continued to attend meetings of local public organizations, including the NFTA, GBNRTC, and Buffalo Place. Also served on the Erie County Climate Change Task Force (ECCTF) representing transit issues and on NFTA's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Opportunities and Upcoming Events

Keep CRT On Track. To join as a new member, renew your membership, or make a donation please click on: <http://citizenstransit.org/join>. Thanks.

A special edition of this newsletter is planned. Keep an eye out for it. It will answer the question often asked: did Metro kill down? CRT VP, Seth Triggs, will provide a preview at the Annual Meeting.

Can You Help Us? We are looking for volunteers to help us be more effective. Can you help us plan and staff tabling events? Can you help us update and prepare outreach material? Can you help us with data entry tasks (e.g., maintaining our email lists)? Can you help us write grant applications? Please contact us at CRTC@citizenstransit.org if you want to help.

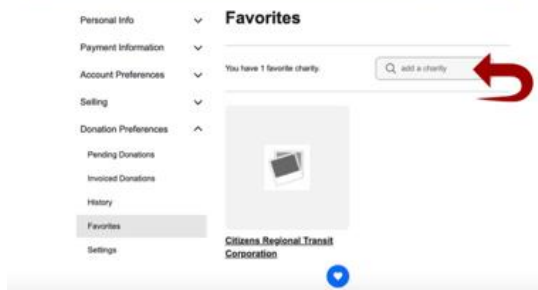
If you use



In the upper left click your name then **Account Settings**

Under **Donation Preferences** choose **Settings**

Under **Favorites**
Add a Charity enter **Citizens Regional Transit Corporation**
and click **Add**



Sign up for CRT on EBAY

When shopping online at eBay you're prompted to donate to a charity you probably never heard of. You can change the charity to CRT. Follow the instructions to the left.

Even if you don't donate, if you change your charity to CRT it increases the chances for CRT to be displayed for others.