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# CRT News

A Quarterly Publication of Citizens for Regional Transit.

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## Citizens for Regional Transit Next Quarterly Public Meeting

**RESCHEDULED!!!! Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

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**5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:00)**

**First Presbyterian Church, 1 Symphony Circle**

**(Convenient to the 3, 7, or 22 buses)**

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**Connecting Buffalo-Niagara and the Larger Binational Region with  
Commuter Rail: What's Feasible? Where to Start?**

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**Featuring Congressman Brian Higgins  
with additional possible speakers TBD**

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**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



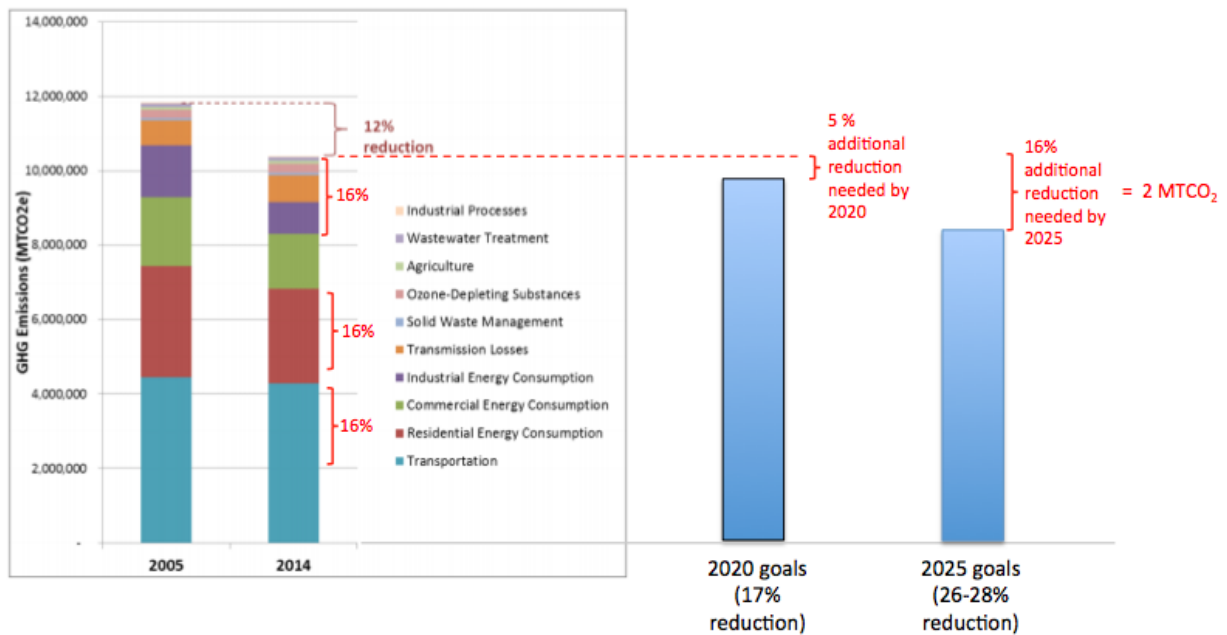
CRT President Doug Funke at Annual Meeting, January 2018



### President's Column: Transit and Climate Accord Commitments Doug Funke, CRT President

We commend Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz for committing to meeting the Paris Climate Accord goals at the county level and Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown for committing to the US Climate Mayor's Pledge and to develop a Climate Action Plan for Buffalo. Executive Poloncarz's *Executive Order #017, Enforcement of the Paris Climate Agreement*, lays out the county's commitment in no uncertain terms (<http://www2.erie.gov/exec/index.php?q=press/executive-order-017-enforcement-paris-climate-agreement>). Further, the initial planning document, *Erie County Commits to Paris: How Erie County Can Meet US Target Reductions for Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (ECCP) (<http://www2.erie.gov/exec/sites/www2.erie.gov.exec/files/uploads/pdfs/Erie%20County%20Paris%20Climate%20Report%20Jan%20202018.pdf>) takes an excellent first step towards meeting the goals committed to by the Paris Climate Agreement.

The ECCP lays out countywide sources of greenhouse gas generation (GHG) as a way to identify where reductions are most needed. The report indicates that since 2005 (the Paris agreement baseline year) we have reduced GHG countywide by 12%. With the goal of 25% reduction by 2025, we need another 16%. By comparing the 16% reduction bracket to the GHG emission sources, it is clear that transportation has to be a major place to cut. The report lays out several approaches and specifically recognizes the importance of transit for meeting the goals. The report states the County's intention to work with the NFTA and CRT in developing and implementing plans for meeting the Paris goals. CRT has already met with Erie County senior leaders to start the collaborative planning process.



**What can you do to help?** First, take transit. Every trip on a bus or train already in service adds a negligible amount of GHG and avoids the GHG that would have been generated by your car. Second, call Governor Cuomo (716-474-8390), Erie County Executive Poloncarz (716-858-8500) and Mayor Brown (716-851-4841) now to thank them for their commitment to meeting the goals of the Paris agreement and stress the importance of investing in transit for meeting them. For those not living in Buffalo, call your local mayor or town supervisor and encourage them to support the NYS and county efforts.



### CRT at Work for Western NY: January - March 2018

**We held our quarterly public meeting** in January. The annual business meeting included election of officers and Executive Board members (<http://citizenstransit.org/leadership>). CRT President Doug Funke presented his annual report (<http://citizenstransit.org/node/124>). Hal Morse, Executive Director of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), presented an overview of regional transportation plans, looking ahead to 2050 (<http://citizenstransit.org/sites/default/files/Morse-CRTC%20Annual%20Meeting%20Jan18.pdf>).



**We met with state, county, and town elected officials.** CRT Board members attended Transit Awareness Day in Albany on January 23 to advocate for more transit funding for Western New York and statewide. They met with our WNY representatives in the State Legislature and attended a rally sponsored by the New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA). We held meetings with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning to strategize about the County's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement's reduction targets (see President's Column, this issue). We met with Hamburg Mayor Thomas Moses and with the Lackawanna City Council, to brief them on transit issues and to request their support of our petition (<http://citizenstransit.org/metropetition1>).



**We appeared in the media.** CRT Vice President Seth Triggs was heard on radio station WXXI in Rochester as part of a panel discussing transit funding for Western New York.

**We wrote letters.** We wrote to our representatives in Albany, supporting NYPTA's budget recommendations. We also wrote a letter in support of a tax on ride-hailing companies as a direct contribution to transit funding, and supporting Assemblyman Sean Ryan's proposal for funding the NFTA Metro Rail system. We sent public comments to the GBNRTC about funding for various NFTA projects (rail car rebuilds, DLW Terminal Station, new fare collection system, escalator upgrade, Compressed Natural Gas bus purchase and fueling station). We submitted detailed comments on the GBNRTC's Moving Forward 2050 plan. Letters from CRT Board members about the Paris Climate Agreement (2/6/18) and alternatives to parking in downtown Buffalo (2/11/18) were published in the Buffalo News.

**We staffed information tables and presented talks.** Board members attended a wellness fair, Building a Healthy Buffalo and WNY, representing CRT with an information table. President Doug Funke gave a presentation at the Annual Congress of the Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA), cosponsored by PechaKucha.

**We attended meetings of transportation agencies and community organizations,** including Buffalo Place, Buffalo Transit Riders United, Clean Air Coalition, GBNRTC, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Niagara River Greenway Commission, WNYEA, and Western New York Land Conservancy.



*Calendar*

April 10 - Public Meeting, GBNRTC's Draft Regional Transportation Plan (Moving Forward 2050), Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls, 5pm – 7pm.

April 12 - Public Meeting, GBNRTC's Draft Regional Transportation Plan (Moving Forward 2050), Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, 5pm – 7pm.

May 1 - CRT Quarterly Public Meeting, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church.

Citizens for Regional Transit (CRT) seeks to educate the region about the benefits of a comprehensive transportation system including an expanded Metro Rail.

[www.citizenstransit.org](http://www.citizenstransit.org)

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Please support our efforts with your dues and donations. Send your payment by [PayPal](#), or mail to Citizens for Regional Transit, 617 Main St., Suite #201, Buffalo, NY 14203.

Suggested donation levels:

Corporate: \$250.+ (name/logo will be on our website)

Group/organization: \$50.

Household: \$35.

Individual: \$25.

Student, senior, unemployed, etc.: \$5.

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CRT is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.