

Citizens for Regional Transit Annual Meeting

21 January 2021

**By Doug Funke
President, Citizens for Regional Transit**



Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & Announcements
- Nominations
- 2021 Budget
- Review of Accomplishments and 2021+ Goals
- Speaker:
 - Hal Morse, Exec. Director, Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC)
 - 2021+ Transportation Budget Expectations
- Adjourn



2021 CRT Nominations

CRT Executive Officers:

President – Douglas Funke

Vice President – Seth Triggs

Treasurer – Jim Gordon

Secretary – Rebecca Reilly

CRT Executive Board:

Douglas Funke

Gladys Gifford

Elizabeth Giles

Jim Gordon

Rebecca Reilly

Carl Skompinski

Seth Triggs

Maddie McCaully (new / returning)



2021 Budget

Budget Items	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed Budget	Notes
2020 Balance Close			810.56	<- End of 2020
INCOME				
Donations	500.00	178.70	200.00	Includes Amazon Smile
Dues	1,500.00	609.00	600.00	We will resume corporate member solitations after pandemic
Grants	0.00	50.00	50.00	
Income Totals	2000.00	837.70	850.00	
EXPENSES				
Copy & Printing	200.00	20.74	50.00	Reduced, since no need to print brochures
Office Supplies & Postage	150.00		50.00	
Festival Registration	100.00		100.00	
Conferences	1,065.00	611.52	350.00	Covers part of Rail-Volution and Transit Awareness Days (TAD) registration. Assume TAD will be virtual.
Ads	150.00		0.00	
Memberships	135.00	90.00	135.00	NYPTA \$90 and Preservation Buffalo \$45
Miscellaneous	200.00		0.00	
Web hosting		165.00	165.00	
Expense Totals	1800.00	887.26	850.00	
Difference between income & expenses		(49.56)		
Proposed ballanced 2021 budget			850.00	



Some of “Our” Accomplishments

- Averted sale of DL&W ROW
- Light rail extensions (worked on for 40 years!)
 - Amherst extension in engineering design
 - DL&W Terminal extension under construction
 - Study of east and south Metro rail extensions added to the NFTA long range plan
- World’s greatest waterfront (when connected by transit)
 - Trolley in Niagara Falls (CRT WNYEA plank)
 - Border-crossing customs restrictions removed
- Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) passed. Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) proposed.
- **New multimodal train station in Buffalo (CRT PPG plank, 2016)**
- WNY State Delegation Support for increased transit budget (STOA, capital funding)
- Legislation disallowing IDA forgiveness of Mortgage Recording Tax
- Pedestrian safety actions (e.g., Niagara Falls Boulevard)
- Successful petitions and Community Support
- Proposed gondola study



Mike Desmond, WBFO, shared with permission



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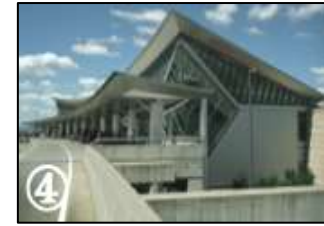


Source: NFTA Rail Expansion Draft EIS. December 2019



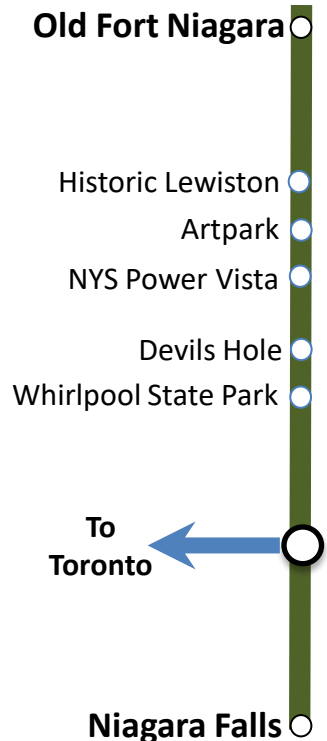
Source: NYS Buffalo Billion Website.
<https://buffalobillion.ny.gov/dlw-station>

Our Goal Remains Connect Buffalo-Niagara with Transit as Originally Planned!

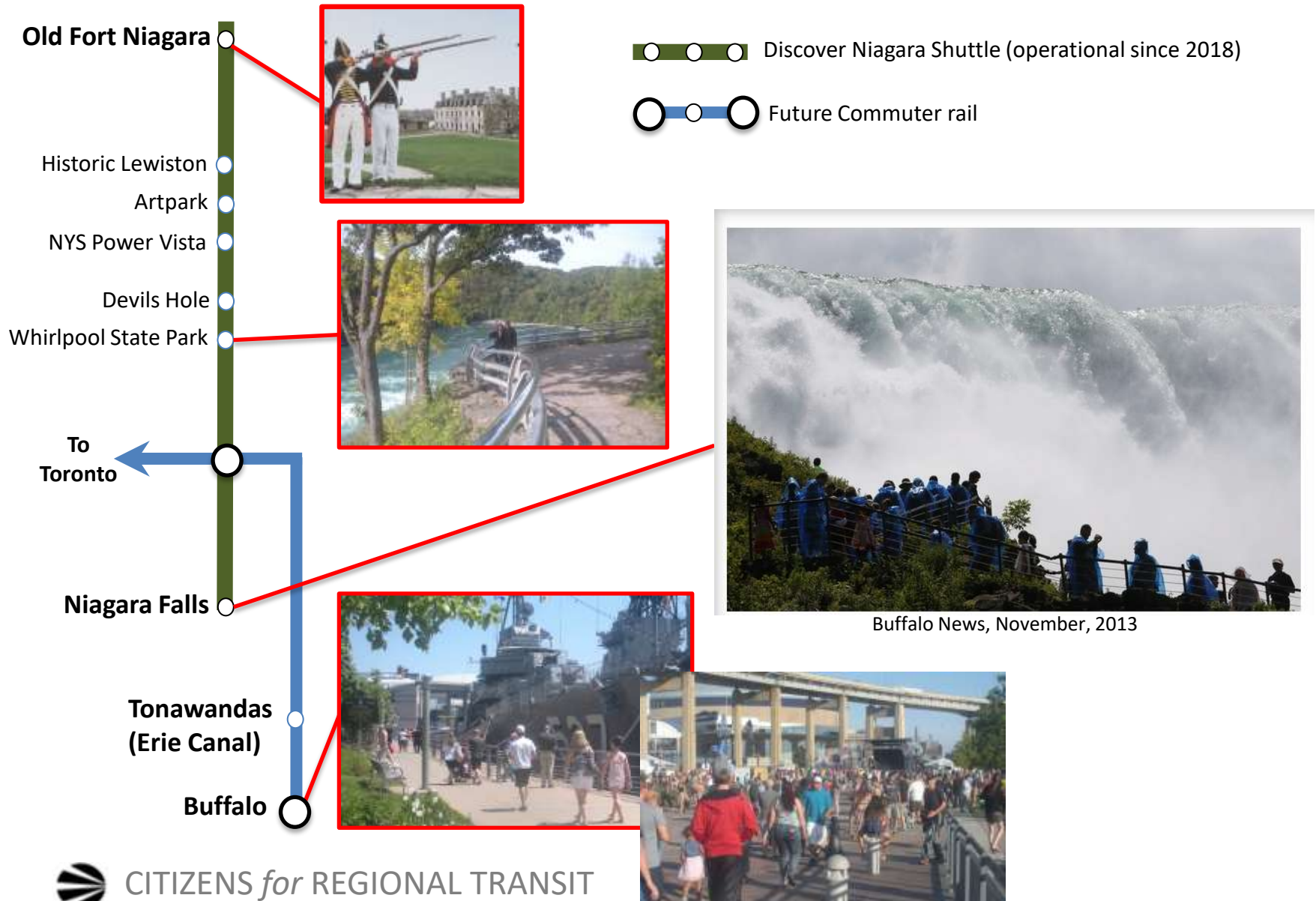


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Our Goal Remains Connect Our Waterfront



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 - NFTA committed to electric buses
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CRT Petition Calling for a Transit Revolution

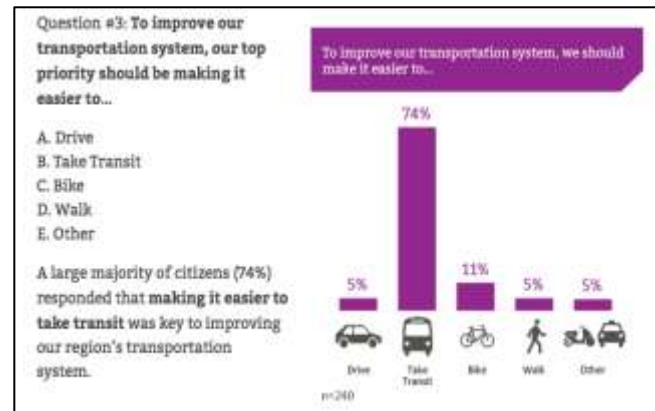
1. **Extend Metro Rail along highest demand corridors**
2. **Provide inter-modal connectivity**
3. **Establish long-term sustainable transit funding**

Organization Signers

18 Business leaders

56 Community organizations

One Region Forward Survey



Community Leaders Who Have Joined with Us to Demand a Transit Revolution!

City of Niagara Falls
(Aug 2016)
- Mayor Paul Dyster
- NF City Council



City of Tonawanda
- Mayor Rick Davis
(Mar 2015)



Erie County
- Executive Mark Poloncarz (July 2018)



City of Buffalo
- The Buffalo Common Council
(Dec 2015)



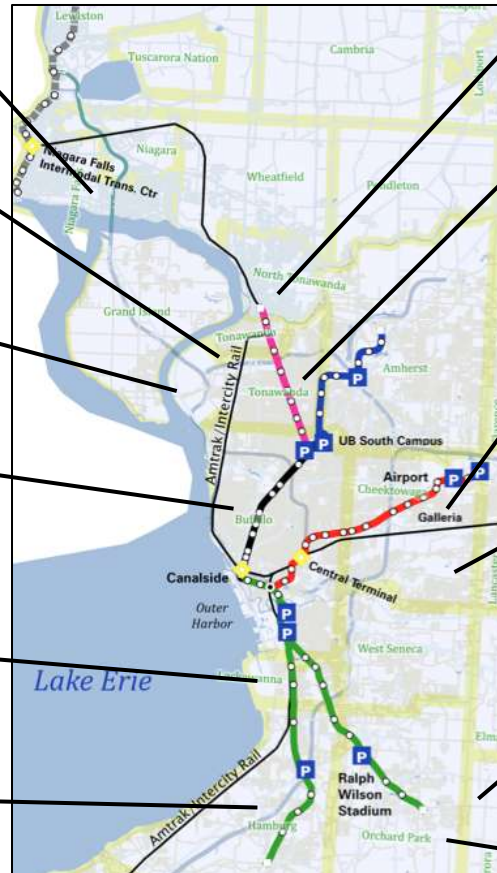
City of Lackawanna
- Lackawanna City Council (Sep 2018)



Village of Hamburg
- Mayor Tom Moses (Feb 2018)
-- Village Council (Nov 2015)



1. Extend Metro Rail along highest demand corridors
2. Provide inter-modal connectivity
3. Establish long-term sustainable transit funding



City of North Tonawanda
- Mayor Arthur Pappas
(Dec 2015)



Town of Tonawanda
- Supervisor Joseph Emminger (Feb 2019)
- Town Board (Feb 2019)



Town of Cheektowaga
- Town Council
(Oct 2015)



Town of Lancaster
- Town Council (Dec 2016)



Village of East Aurora -
Mayor Alan Kasprzak (Oct 2015)



Village of Orchard Park

Village of Orchard Park -
Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton (Oct 2015)



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT

2021+ Priorities

- Improve Buffalo-Niagara Transit (period!)
 - More frequent, more reliable, more convenient
 - Mobility justice
- Establish stronger financial foundation for transit
 - State:
 - Maintain STOA and Metro Rail Capital Commitment
 - **NYS join TCI legislation***
 - Repeal NYS Stock Transfer Tax Forgiveness
 - Federal:
 - **Follow-on CARES act***
 - **Infrastructure bill for transit investment**
- Expand Metro Rail
 - Amherst, DL&W,
 - Eastside / Airport
 - Work with Cornell “High Roads” fellow to document Eastside extension potential
- Expand Niagara Falls Trolley to Buffalo
 - Establish Buffalo-Niagara Falls as a Regional Tourist Destination!



* Working with the Partnership for the Public Good (PPG)

Business Expectations and the NFTA Mission are in Perfect Synch

What businesses expect

“This is a new world, a new era in Western New York so **when businesses come in... they look for how vibrant public transportation is**. So you have a growth public transportation combined with growth in the water front it's just a perfect combination,”

- **NFTA Spokesperson, Helen Tederous**, 2019

NFTA Surface Transportation Mission

“... providing the highest level of safe, clean, affordable, reliable transportation through a coordinated and convenient bus and rail system...” and “**... to achieve a reputation as the best transit system in the United States.**”

To jumpstart the economy now, **we will commence the most aggressive construction and transportation development program in the country: new air, road and rail systems upstate and downstate**; more affordable housing; and economic development to create jobs, jobs and more jobs.

- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo**, State of the State Address, 11 Jan 2020



The Vision Is Connecting our Region with Transit



Image courtesy for Dan Leonard, Economic Development Director at the Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo-Rochester

Population = 9 million

GDP = \$450 billion



CITIZENS for REGIONAL TRANSIT

Hal Morse, Executive Director, Greater Buffalo
Niagara Regional Transportation Council
(GBNRTC)

