



Initiatives

March 10, 2013

Community and Service

- Enhanced Express Bus Service Development
 - Enhanced Express bus routes have been implemented and are being monitored for customer feedback and service effectiveness. Additional marketing and outreach program is being developed for the routes in conjunction with the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus targeting enhanced ridership.
- Community Circulator Service Development
 - Staff is initiating evaluation of potential areas for development of a pilot community circulator route(s) to include Tonawanda and Niagara Falls. Evaluation will include potential ridership, transit dependent service areas and operational efficiencies.

Operational Efficiency

- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fleet and Facilities
 - 14 new PAL vehicles have been placed on order with CNG conversion, increasing the total of CNG compatible PAL vehicles to 31.
 - 4 fixed route CNG buses included in Niagara Street Livability grant.
 - Evaluation of modifications to Frontier Station for CNG operation required for code compliance is ongoing.
 - A notice of grant award in the amount of \$1.96M has been received for constructing a fueling facility and making modifications to existing buildings to accommodate CNG vehicle operations and maintenance.
 - A strategy for implementation of CNG fueling, facilities, and vehicles has been drafted and is contingent upon the direction of the facility consolidation which will come into focus in April 2013 allowing the strategy to be finalized.
- Facility Consolidation
 - Data gathering and development of the State of Good Repair ratings for existing facilities has been completed. Consolidation alternatives were presented and discussed at a workshop held on February 20, 2013. Consolidation scenarios will be developed based on the outcome of the workshop, operational analysis and cost evaluations for review.

Projects

- Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Rebuild

- Two vehicles have been rebuilt, 4 are remaining.
- Cars on Main Street
 - Construction has been initiated adjacent the track including the area of Theater Stations for the 600 Block of Main Street. Staff continues to pursue FTA approval for reallocation of funding for track replacement in this block and is pursuing design of this work pending final approval. Theater Station was permanently closed on Monday February 18th. Significant public outreach was developed and disseminated to the riders to communicate the impacts of the station closure and subsequent operations and associated rail service.
 - Design work associated with the 500 Block of Main Street is ongoing and scheduled for completion by the end of March 2013. NFTA is continuing weekly progress and coordination meetings with COB, consultants and Buffalo Place. Fountain Plaza Station enhancement design has been agreed to by all parties including the NFTA and final details are being developed in conjunction with staff review. Coordination of track replacement and roadway design is also ongoing.
- Alternatives Analysis
 - Project kickoff meeting was held with consultant (AECOM) and staff on February 7, 2013. Consultant will be developing their Project Management and Public Involvement plans for approval within the next sixty (60) days. Consultant will also be initiating work on developing problem statement, purpose and need, goals and objectives and screening criteria as well as reviewing and establishing project approach for modeling and cost estimating.
- Niagara Street Corridor
 - Site selection for transit facility is proceeding with a shortlist of acceptable parcels being advanced for the final transit center location. Design for the corridor aspects of the project (stops, shelters, signals and traveler information systems) are ongoing.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

- Fare Collection System Replacement
 - Project kickoff meeting was held with consultant and staff on February 25, 2013. Design and system selection work is proceeding.
- Technology
 - Transit ITS Strategic Plan has been initiated. Plan is anticipated to be complete in early 2013. Project is being developed concurrently with other technology based initiatives to address interoperability, integration and data sharing issues.