

NFTA- Metro Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Transportation

November 14th, 2012 – 5:30 PM



Newsprint Notes – CAC Feedback

Old Business

- Governance Document – section 2, item 4 – The committee should have the opportunity to comment on the addition or removal of members.
- Meeting materials should be delivered sooner.

New Business – Initiative Report

- Yes to the initiative report as a standing item with some time for discussion and comment.
- Promote a guarantee ride home program to support the enhanced bus service.
- The bus fees are still not competitive with downtown parking.
- Has there been a conversation with Buffalo Parking to incentivize transit use?
- The 204 express route is overcrowded if the timing of the buses get off track.
- What about enhanced service to other regional job centers, not just downtown?
- Compressed natural gas – will there be opportunities for others to use NFTA's fueling stations?
- What about other alternative energy sources for buses? Electric?
- ITS – This will help visitors that arrive at the airport and don't have exact change to ride the bus.
- Light Rail Vehicle Rebuild – impressed with the comfort and design, but there are too many announcements between stops.

CAC Input – 500 Block Shelter Designs

- Seems like the designs are oriented to the track only. They should address the sidewalk as well.
- Like the protection from the wind and weather, but there needs to be a balance with loitering potential. Maybe stepped up Transit Police presence could help.
- Nothing is going to make up for losing the theatre station. May be there could still be a stop with special hours only.
- Option A is nice because it has coverage and choices where to wait. Smoker may be a problem though.
- Regarding possible ticketing operations at the station, more containment might make it easier.
- What about heat?
- Will there be a call box?
- Might not look completely like a transit stop now, but some simple signage could change that. Along with some amenities like city maps, NFTA route maps, signs and public art.
- Make sure that it is easy to walk across the street. Worried about the raised curb in the middle.

CAC Input – Increasing Ridership

- Find out why people are so afraid of using transit.
- It is seen as a last resort, we need to change the perception of transit.
- Real time information helps. When I get to the stop I want to know where the bus is. Did I miss it? Is it late?
- More fare options the better.
- What about a rail-only pass too?
- What about partnering with organizations like Buffalo Carshare/Bikeshare to offer joint passes?
- A reloadable card is the easiest for everyone.
- How about more than 10 per pack, 20 maybe?
- The people that are choosing not to own a car are also those who are probably members of services like Buffalo Carshare.
- The least amount of choices is preferable for the immigrant community. It can be overwhelming to understand fare packages.
- A reloadable pass would solve many of these problems.

Next Steps

- Ideas about special event service will be discussed as “old business” at the next meeting.
- CAC members will have the opportunity raise potential agenda items before each meeting. They may need to be “parked” and discussed a few at each meeting.