



Initiatives

September 25, 2013

Community and Service

- 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
 - 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 will be the basis for development of design and environmental analysis. Project environmental review has been initiated in conjunction with preliminary design and final grant approval.
- Facility Consolidation
 - Analysis of alternatives is underway to determine feasibility and consistency with project objectives. Draft consolidation recommendations will be provided for review based on the results of the analysis. Presentation of preliminary study results is anticipated in fall 2013.

Projects

- Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Rebuild
 - Contractor is continuing progress on rebuilding the four vehicles in their possession.
 - Rebuilt vehicle No. 126 has passed the required 600 mile burn-in process and is available for revenue service.
- Cars on Main Street
 - Construction is ongoing for the 600 block of Main Street. Construction activities on the inbound section of track have been completed to allow switching single tracking operations to the completed side on August 11th. Staffing in the rail stations in advance and immediately after transition was provided to enhance the availability of traveler information and customer information. Completion of construction activities is anticipated for mid-September at which time normal operations will resume.

Reinstatement of supplemental bus service is being evaluated during the approximate two week period of single tracking after Labor Day.

- The City of Buffalo has awarded the 500 block construction agreement for which a pass-through agreement will be initiated with NFTA for completion of the track bed portion of the work within this section of Main Street. Construction is scheduled to commence in the fall of 2013. Construction activities impacting rail operations will not commence until spring of 2013 and will require six months of single track operations.
- Staff continues to work on developing an operational agreement with the City of Buffalo (COB) to address all future operations requirements.
- Amherst-Buffalo Corridor Analysis
 - The public outreach program has been established for this project to include several advisory groups. Project, outreach and schedule information will be provided to elected officials through debriefings prior to initiation of the public process which is scheduled to begin in September 2013.
- Niagara Street Corridor
 - Site selection for transit facility is proceeding with a shortlist of acceptable parcels being advanced for the final transit center location. Project environmental review is being completed in conjunction with final grant approval. Final design for the corridor aspects of the project (stops, shelters, signals and traveler information systems) will proceed upon environmental approval.
- Allen Hospital Station –UB Medical School
 - Schematic design documents have been reviewed, comments provided and responses received from the UB design team. Design input is ongoing with focus on the revisions to the existing stations and impacts on transit service and station capacity. Property access, operation and financial contract negotiations are underway with legal, operational and engineering representation from all parties involved.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

- Fare Collection System Replacement
 - Project design criteria establishment is ongoing through development of fare policies and system architecture. Request for Information (RFI) from fare collection manufacturers will be developed to identify current state of the industry and available system features.