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**RIDER REMINDER**

**Wait until the Bus or Train  
 comes to a complete stop  
 before approaching the vehicle.**

Visit [nfta.com](http://nfta.com) and try our Trip Planner. Type in where you are and your destination. The Trip Planner will show just how easy it is to let Metro take you where you want to go.



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Winter 09

# THE METRO Reporter

NFTA-Metro Rider News

## WINTER 2009 METRO SERVICE CHANGE SUMMARY

The winter schedules go into effect on December 28, 2008. In response to increasing ridership and demand for Metro service, we have strategically adjusted service on many routes with the two most significant adjustments described below. Minor adjustments to trips on several routes have been made to improve service reliability and transfer connections. Please check your route timetable to see if your trips have been changed.

**Metro Rail:** Service will operate every 10 minutes during the morning and afternoon peak periods. This will allow all trains to operate with three cars.

**Route 32 Amherst:** Two trips have been added on Saturday to serve increased ridership to retail areas near the Walden Galleria.

## TOKEN CHANGES

Metro is changing the way tokens are dispensed from token vending machines. As of January 1, 2009 machines will accept \$20 bills, making it possible to buy a week's worth of tokens with one stop at a vending machine. Tokens worth \$1.75 each can be purchased as follows:

- \$5 bill delivers two tokens and six quarters in change
- \$10 bill delivers five tokens and five quarters in change



- \$20 bill delivers 10 tokens and 16 quarters in change

Token Vending Machines are available at all underground Metro Rail stations, the Metropolitan Transportation Center (bus station downtown), the Niagara Falls Transportation Center and the Portage Road Transportation Center. For a complete list of where to purchase tokens, visit [nfta.com/metro](http://nfta.com/metro).

## METRO GOES GREEN WITH THE BUFFALO SABRES

As part of their ongoing commitment to the community and desire to raise environmental awareness, the Buffalo Sabres have invited

Metro Bus and Rail to join their "Blue & Gold Make Green Initiative." Along with other partners, including National Fuel, the Sabres have made sustainability for Western New York and Southern Ontario part of their mission.

To that end, the Sabres created a program to educate fans on conservation issues, teaching them about clean resources and helping everyone reduce their environmental footprint.

Leading by example, 17 Sabres players have purchased carbon credits to offset the fossil fuels burned in their extensive travel schedules. Money from the sale of carbon credits goes to carbon reduction plans, allowing people or companies to reduce carbon output overall, even when current choices make carbon reduction difficult on an individual basis. The club itself has adopted tight energy controls for HSBC Arena lighting, heating and air conditioning, and has increased recycling to the tune of 2.65 tons per year.



For its part, Metro offers the cleanest, most environmentally friendly way to get downtown for Sabres games, or any event at the arena. Metro Rail is zero-emission transportation, receiving some of its power from hydroelectric power plants. Fans would have to walk to games to leave less carbon behind. By improving and combining efficiencies, each of the partners helps to make hockey in Buffalo a much greener sport.

There is more information about going green with the Sabres at <http://sabres.nhl.com/green/mission.htm>.

## METRO FARES ADJUSTED JANUARY 1

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority conducted two public hearings so that Metro customers and the community in general could offer comments associated with the possibility that Metro may adjust its fare structure January 1, 2009 and July 1, 2009.

Hearings were held Tuesday, Dec. 2 in Niagara Falls and Wednesday, Dec. 3 in Buffalo that provided the community the opportunity to speak to a potential increase from \$1.50 to \$1.75 in the base adult fare as of January 1 and an additional 25 cent adjustment July 1.

Upon completion of a thorough review of comments and issues, the Board of Commissioners voted December 22 to implement a rate adjustment to Metro's fare structure effective January 1. The Board also deferred action on a second increase and recommended that further action be taken to reduce operating costs and increase revenue for Metro's fiscal year 2009/2010 in an effort to eliminate the need for a second fare adjustment in July.

**NEW TRANSIT ON TRANSIT**

Metro’s Route 211 ECC Transit Road Circulator runs from Erie Community College South to Erie Community College North, along Transit Road.

The MetroLink shuttle van service is great news for the college and the community. Service operates Monday through Saturday.

- Ten round trips Monday through Friday, three round trips Saturday.
- Connections to other Metro routes in Williamsville, Depew, Cheektowaga, West Seneca and Orchard Park.
- Catch the Route 211 MetroLink van at designated bus stops or signal the operator from any safe location.
- Route 211 serves the Collegiate Village Apartments, Kensington and Eggert Rd. neighborhoods, as well as business between ECC North and ECC South along Transit Rd.

**NEW PARK & RIDES NOW OPEN**

Metro has added two new Park & Rides to the 14 already open and serving commuters across the region:

- Highland Elementary School 6745 Erie Rd., serving Route 76
- Village of Angola’s Caboose on Main St., serving Route 76

All allocated parking spaces are free. In lots not exclusive to Metro riders, please look



for signs designating Park & Ride spaces.

To learn more about other Park & Rides, schedules, trip planning, fares or additional Metro information visit [nfta.com/metro](http://nfta.com/metro).

**GET THERE FASTER WITH METRO’S EXPRESS SERVICES**

Express bus and MetroLink Express services offer the same safe, convenient, economical transportation you’ll find on all Metro routes. The only difference is speed. Express services make fewer stops so they will get you where you need to be faster. Metro runs 20 express routes daily, covering the region. Visit [www.nfta.com/metro](http://www.nfta.com/metro) for listings under Express and MetroLink. You’ll find a route right for you.

**METRO IS NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY**

Metro is not just the best way to get to and from work. Metro is also great for Sabres games or catching a show at Shea’s. There’s always plenty of free parking at Metro Rail’s University or LaSalle stations. Metro buses serving downtown run well past midnight, so there’s no need to rush. Enjoy.



**PATIENCE PLEASE & THANK YOU!**

You may have noticed that over the past several months Metro has had a dramatic increase in ridership.

As a result, our buses are more crowded, often have standing room only and occasionally are filled to capacity. Also, having to stop more often to pick up and discharge passengers has caused some buses to run behind schedule.

If you are unable to board a bus due to overcrowding, please contact our Customer Care Department @ 855-7211 (TDD 855-7650) to let them know of the occurrence. The representative will be able to advise when the next bus will arrive at that location or offer you an alternate route suggestion.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while we work to alleviate this situation. Metro’s bus operators are making every effort to provide you with the best possible service at all times. Please know that we constantly monitor the ridership levels on all routes and try to make adjustments to the

service when possible. However, during the busiest times of the day - which are the morning and afternoon peak hours, Metro currently has all available buses out on the street and in service.

Again, thank you for your understanding and for taking Metro.



Stop in for a quick and easy meal solution!

**SUPER COUPON!**

Coupon Valid thru 4/25/09

**\$2 OFF** YOUR \$10 CARRYOUT CAFÉ PURCHASE

With this Super Coupon, your MONIESCARD and a \$50 minimum Carryout Café purchase. Minimum spend must be met after all discounts have been subtracted from order and before sales tax has been added to order. Excludes grocery purchase and items prohibited by law. Not to be combined or tripled. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only at Tops Friendly Markets.



**WINTER DRIVING TIP**

Take Metro. The best way to avoid sloshing around in the snow and ice is boarding a Metro bus, railcar or van and letting a trained, professional operator get you where you need to go safely.

**REMEMBER . . .**

A snowy day on Seneca St., December 22, 1945.

