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**Remember, don't
cross in front of
buses. It is difficult
to see moving traffic
on the other side.**

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SUMMER '11 EDITION

THE METRO Reporter

NFTA-Metro Rider News

SUMMER 2011 METRO SERVICE CHANGES

Summer schedules take effect Sunday, June 26. There are minor time changes to routes throughout the region, each aimed at making Metro more efficient. Please consult your individual route timetables or visit nfta.com for complete and up-to-date information.

METRO'S SUMMER YOUTH PASS



Metro's Summer Youth Pass lets you ride Metro Bus or Metro Rail as much as you want from June 24 to September 8. The SYP is only \$52.50 and available at participating Tops, Wilson Farms, Budwey's, Parkside Pharmacy and Dash's Markets. It's for people 17 and under only. Every SYP also comes with so many discounts at area restaurants, shops and attractions the pass almost pays for itself. On sale now.

METRO MADE GREEN

Did you know every full Metro bus means 40 fewer cars on the road? Did you know Metro Rail puts out zero emissions, because it runs on electricity, a quarter of which comes from renewable sources, like Niagara Falls? After a bicycle or sailboat, Metro is the most environmentally friendly form of transportation in Buffalo Niagara.

The reason is straightforward. Metro buses use one engine to move an average of 20 people at a time. Cars and trucks in Western New York move an average of 1.2 people. Every bus is doing the work of almost 20 cars. It's like getting 228 miles to the gallon. Metro Rail does the work of 150 cars every morning. Combined, Metro saved Western New Yorkers 1.7 millions gallons of gas last year.

That means if you're taking Metro to work everyday you're not just saving money, you're saving the air and water. You're helping to keeping our energy use down and, believe it or not, restraining gas prices. Everyone in the region should thank Metro customers, whether they take the bus or train.

UNDERCOVER UNDERGROUND

The NFTA Transit Police has increased the number of plainclothes police officers on Metro Rail. The initiative started this past winter and has proven very productive.

"It's about keeping people safe," Police Chief George W. Gast said. Officers in regular street clothes offer another level of defense for the riding

public. They mingle unnoticed in the rail system, giving troublemakers a false sense of security. Removing those elements has the opposite effect. It's giving Metro Rail riders a genuine sense of security.

INSTANT UPDATES ARE UP

The NFTA Instant Update has seen a 20percent increase in subscribers over the last two months. That may be due to the 120% increase in the number of updates going out. This spring Metro began using a new system that gets more e-mails and text messages out faster.

With the help of Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition the same group that monitors motorways around the region Metro has been able to access more transportation information. NITTEC also assists in sending out updates around the clock.

The Instant Update program lets people choose the information NFTA and Metro operations they want. The program sends route-specific Metro Bus and Rail rider alerts, news, NFTA employment postings as well as other important topics. Subscribers have the ability to select a category of interest. Messages can be sent to multiple locations such as your home or office computers and cell phones.

There is no cost to register to receive the messages from the NFTA, but wireless providers may charge per text message. If you haven't signed up, visit nfta.com and register today.



GOING SOMEWHERE?

The best way to enjoy Buffalo Niagara? Skip the driving and parking. Let Metro take you where you want to go. Like . . .

Concerts at the Erie Canal Harbor Central Wharf - Every Thursday from now through August 4.

Downtown Country Market (Main St. between Court and Church Streets) - Every Tuesday and Thursday now through October.

Shakespeare in the Park (Delaware Park, near the Rose Garden. Shows run Tuesday-Sunday at 7:30 p.m.):
“The Merchant of Venice” now - July 10
“As You Like It” July 21 - August 14

Gus Macker - June 25-26

Taste of Buffalo (Delaware Ave. and Niagara Square) - July 9-10

Italian Festival (Hertel Ave.) - July 14-17

Erie County Fair (Hamburg Fair Grounds) - August 10-21

Elmwood Festival of Arts (Elmwood Ave. from Lafayette Ave. to West Ferry St.) - August 27-28

National Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival (Coca Cola Field) - September 3-4

Visit nfta.com/metro, detailing which bus route best serves each event. Give it a try.

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 the time it takes. Express services make fewer stops so they will get you where you need to be

faster. Metro runs 19 express routes daily, covering the region. Visit www.nfta.com for listings under Express and MetroLink. Find a route that’s right for you.

ERIE COUNTY FAIR



This year’s Fair runs from August 10 through 21 at the Hamburg Fair Grounds. With new acts, returning favorites and some of the best in local entertainment, you won’t want to miss a thing. And it doesn’t stop there. Motor events parades, food, midway attractions, games and shows make it fun for everyone in Western New York. The Erie County Fair is served by Metro Bus routes 14, 36 and 216, with extra trips and extended hours. See nfta.com for details.

TROLLEY BUSES ARE BACK

Metro is once again providing complimentary trolley service for guests staying at participating Niagara Falls motels and hotels. The 55T Niagara Falls Blvd./Pine Avenue trolley bus travels between and downtown Niagara Falls, serving Niagara Falls Boulevard and Pine Avenue, operating weekends May 13 - 31 and Nov. 24 - Dec. 31, and seven days a week from June 1 - Oct. 31. The service runs from 9 a.m. until midnight and on all holidays during these service periods.

There are two new trolley buses in the fleet this year. They are larger, so we’ll be able to better serve our passengers at peak times throughout the year. Trolley Day Passes are available from participating hotels and motels. Individuals without a trolley day pass may ride the service by paying Metro’s regular adult fare of \$4 for a day pass or \$1.75, 75 cents for children (5-11 yrs.), seniors (65 yrs. and over), disabled and Medicare clients with valid I.D for a single ride. All other Metro passes are also valid. Children four and under ride free, limit three children per fare paying adult.

METRO’S NEW BOSS

Thomas George is the new director of surface transportation, as of this past April. A licensed engineer, Tom has been involved in transportation issues around this region for the last decade.



REMEMBER . . .

Main St. in front of the Palace Burlesk (yes, that’s how they spelled it), circa 1949



ERIE COUNTY FAIR
August 10-21, 2011

KIDS
12 & under
FREE
admission everyday
also supported by
Tops
Friendly Markets

**Metro Routes 14, 16 & 36
can get you to the Fair**
Hamburg, NY
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