

# Transportation Matters

## Centro Working Towards New Common Center

The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA) is working on a project to relocate its main transfer in downtown Syracuse from the corner of Fayette and Salina Streets, to a location bounded by Adams, Warren and Salina Streets. The new center would be a few blocks south of the current location.

"We are looking to build an enclosed transfer center that will provide our customers with protection from the elements and at the same time an easier and safer transfer point than our current configuration," said CNYRTA Executive Director Frank Kobliski.

The CNYRTA recently held a public information session in Syracuse, allowing residents an opportunity to discuss the project with CNYRTA officials. The overwhelming response from the public was in favor of updating the transfer location.

"I have a daughter who is visually impaired, as well as having a mobility problem and it concerns me when she is crossing the street down there," said Darlene Retchless who identified herself as a frequent Centro rider. "So this is one great, big, positive move."

The CNYRTA hopes to have the new center operational in about three years. The next step in the process is to perform an environmental evaluation of the site location and then begin the planning process. The cost is expected to be between \$12 million and \$13 million.

"We're early in the process, but we hope to have the center ready in 2010," said Kobliski. "It's time to move. We need to reduce the congestion on Salina Street and eliminate the need to cross a city street to transfer between buses."

Initial plans for the new center include amenities such as an ATM, a newsstand and perhaps a small sandwich/bagel shop.

"We've looked at more than a dozen sites in the downtown location. It's been a very long and thorough process to find the proper location for our center," said Kobliski. "We've taken into consideration the effect on traffic patterns, the ease in which the site could be attained, and the effect the site would have on our existing bus routes."



*A preliminary rendition of what Centro's proposed transfer hub might look like in downtown Syracuse*

## Snow Route Brochure Now Available

### centro Snow Route Guide

An overview of Centro's alternative routes during severe winter weather.



Centro has published a snow route guide to help customers use the Centro bus system during severe winter weather. When blizzards occur, road conditions occasionally force Centro to use alternative routes. A large percentage of Centro routes have alternate "Snow Route" deviations, which are outlined in this brochure. We encourage you to pick up a copy of the brochure at our downtown Information Booth at the corner of Fayette and Salina Streets, or by stopping by our offices at 200 Cortland Avenue in Syracuse.

The brochure provides specific bus stop locations for each individual snow route.

In addition to utilizing this brochure, we encourage customers to call their local Centro Information office for specific route information during severe winter weather.

# State-of-the-Art Simulators Help Train Drivers



*Two new simulators are now available to train Centro Bus Operators before they get behind the wheel of a real bus*

Centro has installed two new state-of-the-art simulators to assist in training bus operators before they get behind the wheel of a bus.

The simulators provide drivers with a real feel for what it's like being on the road before actually getting behind the wheel.

"These simulators are an excellent training device for our bus operators," said CNYRTA Vice-President for Transit Operations Joseph DeGray. "Safety is our number one priority and these simulators should improve our performance while on the road."

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and New Jersey Transit use identical simulators. Each has reported a 20% reduction in the number of accidents since being used in their training seminars.

"In addition to improved safety, a reduction of accidents reduces repair costs, reduces down time for vehicles needing repair and increases the reliability of the fleet. The trickle down effect will make our entire operation more efficient," said DeGray.

DeGray says the simulators will also improve the efficiency of Centro's training sessions. The simulators were installed in November.

## Centro Receives Honor from American Legion in Utica

Centro was recently presented with the American Legion's "Red White and Blue Award" for its commitment to local veterans. The Executive Board for Utica Post 209 selected Centro for its work providing transportation services for elderly veterans during Memorial Day and Veteran's Day activities in Utica.

*At right, Paul Wojcik, Oneida County Commander of the American Legion (l) presents the award to Centro Executive Director Frank Kobliski, American Legion Post # 229 Commander Dave Wilson (c), Ron Bucciero Centro of Oneida GM and Oneida County Americanism Chairman John Ryan (r).*



## Centro Raises Money for Jenna Foundation

Centro employees were able to raise \$500.00 for the Jenna Foundation in Syracuse. Each year Centro's Employee Holiday Event Committee raises money for a local organization during the holiday season. This year the Jenna Foundation was chosen as the recipient. The money will be used in the Foundation's mentoring and crime victim advocacy programs.

Centro employees have also adopted Hospice families over the past two years, providing them with items such as Christmas gifts and grocery cards.



*Centro Executive Assistant Linda Dotter presents a check to Jenna Foundation Executive Director Janice Grieshaber and Foundation Board President Darryl Geddes.*

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