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NFTA METRO RAIL LINE EXTENSION

Contrary to popular belief, extending the NFTA (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority) metro rail out into the suburbs is **not** a losing proposition. The NFTA would go from canalside in downtown Buffalo to Niagara Falls State Park, Gateway Park in the City of Tonawanda, University of Buffalo North, and eventually to Delaware Avenue and the airport...

If the state and federal government would fund such public transportation, they will electrify certain thoroughfares and create jobs for middle-class workers. One of the reasons why Boston Massachusetts and New York City have such high ridership is because the transportation network obviates the need for cars. Tokyo and Berlin do the same thing and people are proud to ride it. In the new economy, it saves money on gas and car payments, and overall maintenance.

I am proposing that the Tonawanda town board become a lobbyist for justice and truly support rail line extension in Western New York for passenger rail on city streets. The board should pass a resolution demanding that the state government go after the alcoholic beverage industry for an extra sales tax on alcohol, \$0.03 to \$0.06 depending on the purchase. This will go a long way to help subsidize the rail line extension.

The bars and restaurants would be exempt from paying any taxes until purchase of an alcoholic beverage in one of the establishments is made, then the cost is passed on to the public in the form of a sales tax, and the sin tax gets even larger, sparing the bars and restaurants who have to purchase the alcohol and would not be subject to any extra taxes. The cost is passed on to the consumers at bars, restaurants, and at convenience stores.

Light Rail tax on alcoholic beverages should be set as follows:

- \$0.03 tax on all bar drinks and at restaurants, bars and restaurant owners exempt because they buy in bulk.
- \$0.03 sales tax on all bottles of craft beer sold at convenience stores or supermarkets
- \$0.03 sales tax and all six packs sold at convenience stores or supermarkets
- \$0.06 sales tax and all 12 packs sold at convenience stores are supermarkets.
- \$0.06 sales tax and on all cases of beer sold in New York state.
- \$0.03 sales tax on all restaurant drinks purchase with alcohol.
- Corporate establishments are except after the first 6 cases of alcohol. Non for profits and corner dives are exempt altogether.

This sales tax should be passed directly to the consumer. The majority of people that cause fatalities on the road, statistically speaking, come from bars and restaurants. This will encourage people to take public transportation when drinking.

We cannot rely on public transportation being barely-regulated taxi cabs or cars. Let's make the consumer who caused the fatalities as well as the alcoholic beverage industry pay up with a state sales tax.

SDA Western New York Chapter