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**COUNTY OF ERIE**  
**MARK C. POLONCARZ**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 14, 2025

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Authorization to Contract with NFTA**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is seeking authorization to enter into contract with Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to accept monthly transit passes for outreach activities to promote public health and harm reduction techniques.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner of Health Gale Burstein. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/jah  
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner of Health

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Health  
**Re:** Authorization to Contract with NFTA  
**Date:** February 14, 2025

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### **SUMMARY**

ECDOH's Office of Harm Reduction is collaborating with the NFTA to promote public health and harm reduction messaging by allowing employees to freely board and deboard buses and trains through monthly transit passes as part of their outreach activities.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

This collaboration between ECDOH and NFTA allows outreach staff to meet people where they are, especially after opioid data showed many hotspots for overdoses being near busier public transit access points.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

ECDOH employees will be unable to conduct this outreach or have to purchase transit passes with county funds.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

ECDOH will work with County Attorney's Office on executing all terms of the contract.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Contract with NFTA

WHEREAS, ECDOH's Office of Harm Reduction conducts outreach in a variety of ways to meet people where they are to promote public health, share harm reduction supplies and techniques, and reduce overdoses; and

WHEREAS, Harm Reduction staff noticed multiple hotspots of overdoses along public transit access points such in Buffalo at Main and Court and Elmwood and Utica; and

WHEREAS, in the past, Harm Reduction purchased transit passes for outreach workers to use; and

WHEREAS, the NFTA has offered to supply monthly transit passes to outreach employees at no cost to the county; and

WHEREAS, this collaboration will allow outreach staff to continue to meet people where they are at no cost to Erie County and continue its mission to protect public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute an agreement with Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to accept monthly transit passes for ECDOH employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Department of Health, and Department of Law.