

# 2017 Rail~Volution Topic Area “Baskets”

To help place potential speakers in one of more than 75 sessions, we’ve developed seven "baskets" of topics:

1. **Innovations in Mobility: Transit and Community Building**
2. **Transforming Communities Through Transit-Oriented Development**
3. **Delivering Tomorrow’s Transportation Solutions...Today!**
4. **Transit Modes, Delivery and Performance**
5. **Diversity of Places: Addressing Equity, Communication, Advocacy and Engagement**
6. **New Ideas: Pushing the Envelope**
7. **Pecha Kucha Slam**

**NOTE:** *The baskets are not intended to be restrictive, but rather to provide a structure to make reviewing the proposals more efficient. Make your best effort to match your proposal to the relevant basket in the online application. We’ll do our best to place you in a session where your expertise is most needed.*

## **Basket 1: Innovations in Mobility: Transit and Community Building**

***This basket focuses primarily on innovative first and last mile strategies, autonomous cars, ridesharing and Transportation Network Companies (TNC), and using technology in transit.***

### **Emerging First and Last Mile Strategies**

- Bike share and access to transit
- Investing in lower cost neighborhood improvements to support access to transit (sidewalks, bikeways, ADA facilities, etc.)
- Microtransit, on-demand, responsive, shuttle services
- Implications of implementation and increasing expectations of “door to door” travel choices

### **Implications and Preparations for Autonomous and Connected Vehicles**

- Infrastructure implications
  - Information technology needs to support vehicle to infrastructure (V2I) and vehicle to vehicle (V2V) implementation
  - Opportunities for next generation transit signal priority
  - Data collection and monitoring
- Equity implications
  - Affordability
  - Accessibility
- Land use implications
  - Using public space
  - Intensifying sprawl
  - Enabling reclamation of public space from parking
  - Rethinking Park & Rides and other vehicle and right of way uses

- Safety implications
  - Complete Streets and Vision Zero
  - Multimodal interactions
- Travel behavior implications
  - New trip patterns and customer expectations
  - Evolving models and other planning tools
  - Induced demand and vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts
- Data sharing, analysis and improved urban planning
- Policy implications
  - Local and state policy development to shape partnerships, create readiness and guide outcomes

**Implications and Opportunities of Ridesharing/Transportation Network Companies (TNCs, such as Uber and Lyft)**

- TNC, transit and city partnerships and new business models
- Realizing mobility as a service
  - Implications to car ownership and sales
  - Emerging business models for car manufacturers and mobility service providers
- Data sharing, analysis and improved urban planning
- Infrastructure implications
- Equity implications
- Land use implications
- Safety implications
- Travel behavior implications
- Policy implications
  - Local and state policy development to shape partnerships, create readiness and guide outcomes

**Using Technology in Transit**

- Mobile apps (trip planning, ticketing, mobility as a service)
- Next generation transit signal priority and operational improvements
- FTA Mobility on Demand (MOD) Sandbox grant projects and future opportunities
- Transit’s role in a “Smart City”
- Digital divide and other equity related access issues

**Basket 2: Transforming Communities through Transit-Oriented Development**

*This basket focuses solely on issues related to the planning, financing and implementation of transit-oriented development projects.*

**Balance Between Transit Operations and Development**

- How do you provide space for operations (bus, parking, etc) and development?

### **Non-Traditional TOD**

- Trail-oriented development
- Bike-oriented development
- Recreation

### **Attracting Developers**

- What do agencies need to understand to attract developers?
- What criteria does a developer look for in developing TOD

### **Fundamentals of Real Estate Development**

- Basics; Real Estate 101
- Transactions, stories and tactics; Real Estate 201
- What has and hasn't worked?

### **Employment Related TOD**

#### **TOD and Retail**

- How much retail is needed, if any?
- Repurposing retail spaces
- Financial retail

#### **Trends in TOD Financing**

- Changes in the financial environment affecting TOD

#### **Realistic Expectations for TOD**

- For the agency, the community, the city, the developer.
- Can it solve all problems?
- What is realistic to expect and what tradeoffs have to be made?

#### **BRT and TOD**

#### **Redevelopment and Urban Infill**

- Evolving role of the public sector
- Developer's role

#### **Using FTA's Joint Development Guidance**

- Stories of implementation

#### **Best Practices in TOD Implementation**

- What would you do differently now?
- Lessons learned
- Success stories

## **TOD and Housing**

- Factors driving housing prices
- Housing affordability and workforce/middle income housing
- Mixed income housing
- Preserving housing near transit
- Demographics of TOD

## **Using TOD to Fund Transit Infrastructure**

### **Placemaking and Creating Active Areas around Transit Infrastructure**

- Financing
- Implementation

## **TOD and Parking**

- Planning for an unpredictable future
- Reuse of unneeded parking

## **Case Studies for Funding Livable Communities**

### **What's New with Transit Agency Driven TOD**

- Updating policies

## **Basket 3: Delivering Tomorrow's Transportation Solutions...Today!**

*This basket focuses on the future of transit by looking at responding to trend changes, generational shifts, new and interesting partnerships, new funding strategies, and the new role of transit agencies.*

### **The Future of Transit**

- Responding to large scale trends in transportation
  - Ridership is down nationally - where is our future ridership going to come from? (access to jobs and activities to generate ridership; other solutions?)
  - How do we respond to new federal leadership?
  - Regions/states/cities filling gap of federal and state governments

### **Generational Shifts:**

- Responding to changes in interests of young people, mobility, and technology to keep your agency modern

### **New Partnerships, Strange Bedfellows and New Roles**

- Creating new partnerships that work
  - Importance of a partnership, structuring a successful partnership and the outcomes

### **New Roles for Old Agencies**

- Transportation agencies' role in community revitalization and affordable housing
- Cities' leadership in transit advocacy, planning and implementation
- Examples of agencies playing an unexpected lead role

## **Changing Culture to Respond to Dynamic Conditions**

- Changing transit agency culture.
  - Agencies looking outward vs inward.
  - Carrying customers vs carrying riders
  - The next generation of transit leadership (internal management, external advocates, supporters, bringing in Millennials and young people)
  - Building a flexible agency that can pivot, given the unknowns of the future and rapid pace of change
- “Making the Case”
  - Transit serving economic development and access to jobs/opportunity
  - Transit supporting sustainability/climate resiliency
  - Messaging to appeal to wide audiences with varying political perspectives

## **Self-Help Through Innovative Funding Solutions**

- Responding to ongoing decline in federal funding
- Building a successful referendum
  - Telling a compelling story
  - Incorporating livable community elements – the impact on *places* when making investments
  - Anatomy and post-mortem of a campaign
  - Looking at successful 2016 elections
  - Equity implications for ballot measures
- Mythbusting the role of public-private partnerships (P3)
  - How does a P3 work?
  - The different roles in a P3 transaction
  - Leveraging the FAST Act
- Filling the (federal and state) funding gap with non-referendum options
  - Value capture strategies
  - Taking the lead on funding when federal and state government walks away?
  - Repurposing existing funds (existing federal sources such as CMAQ. How to make the case to a DOT or MPO to shift use of funds to a new program or emphasis?)
  - Leveraging transportation’s impacts to generate new funding (gas tax, VMT impact fees, congestion impact fee, tolls, cap and trade)

## **Basket 4: Transit Modes, Delivery and Performance**

***This basket focuses on implementation and selection, delivery and performance of modes including BRT, Streetcar, commuter rail and complete streets.***

### **BRT / Corridor Based Bus**

- Land Use/Economic Development
- Successfully addressing corridor impacts
- Analytics; establishing project elements such as station spacing and level of separation
- Partnership with DOT’s
- Project Delivery Strategies

### **Enhanced Transit**

- Prioritizing investments
- Incorporating a livability component

### **Streetcars**

- Cost issues and strategies to contain costs
- Blurring the lines with LRT
- Governance strategies that work

### **State of Good Repair**

- Funding
- Modern systems and legacy systems

### **Suburban Transit**

- Addressing suburb to suburb trips

### **Corridor Mode Selection**

- Navigating today's emerging realities

### **Economics of Good Design**

- The realities of pursuing great design vs good design in transit applications

### **Are Transit Malls Still Relevant**

- Recent examples of redefining the malls of the 70's and 80's

### **Complete Streets**

- New directions

### **Placemaking**

- Station placement to best support existing development

### **High Speed Rail and Commuter Rail**

- Supporting development.... are we there yet?

### **Performance Planning**

- Best practices
- Emerging access strategies

### **Redevelopment of Old Activity Centers / Shopping Centers**

- Fitting in the transit component; today's best projects

## **Basket 5: Diversity of Places: Addressing Equity, Communication, Advocacy and Engagement**

*This basket focuses primarily on equity, communications, partnerships, advocacy and engagement, as well as changing communities. We are looking for diversity of places (mature systems and cities, small and mid-sized cities, strong and weak markets).*

### **Gentrification and Displacement**

- Tools that address gentrification and displacement
  - Rent control
  - Ownership
  - Public policy
  - Mission ownership strategies - preservation of existing housing resources/assets,
  - Inclusionary zoning
- Economic effects of isolation and segregation i.e. Suburbanization of poverty
- Business displacement and loss of revenue related to construction
- Equitable TOD (ETOD)

### **Engagement**

- Millennials
  - Motivating them to engage in project development
- Anchor institution strategies
  - Philanthropy
- Innovative and advanced outreach strategies
- Opinions from disadvantaged communities
  - Title VI
- Elected Officials
  - Educating
- Modernizing communication
  - Social media “Policy by TWEET”
  - Virtual meetings

### **Equity**

- Healthy communities
  - Active transportation
  - Public transit and its role in public health
  - Transit and food access
- What you do when you can't afford a transit pass?
- Role of transit agencies in equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD).
  - Equitable real estate development driven and implemented by community partners
- Access for seniors/elders
  - Shift/increase by Baby Boomers and how they are or are not utilizing transit
- Equity in public-private partnerships
- Access to transit and bike share for non-bankable populations
- Data and equity – measuring success/performance

- Equitable fare structures for seniors/elderly
  - Tiered fare structure
- Homelessness
  - Pay for success
  - Successful transit agency partnerships
  - Climate of resiliency with existing homelessness

**Equitable TOD (ETOD)**

- Equitable real estate development driven and implemented by community partners

**Communication**

- Recruiting/broadening coalition(s)
- Empowering communities through networking

**Basket 6: New Ideas: Pushing the Envelope of the Livable Communities**

Rail~Volution 2017 is the place to float new ideas and approaches. Sustainability and livability are constantly evolving with new challenges, legislation and technologies. **What is the next problem we need to solve?** These proposals should be broad enough to allow different perspectives and discussion, but should also focus on the Rail~Volution mission.

**Basket 7: Pecha Kucha Slam**

Pecha Kucha: [peh-chá koo-chá] Pecha Kucha is a rapid-fire presentation format where each speaker presents 20 slides, for 20 seconds each: a total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds for an entire presentation! The slides are automatically timed so presenters need to practice staying within the time and slide speed. Past popular presentations have been creative light-hearted parodies of real life issues. This is a fun and often-satirical presentation style. The Pecha Kucha Slam takes place in the evening as a social event and draws a crowd of 400+. For more information and examples check out [www.youtube.com/railvolutionofficial](http://www.youtube.com/railvolutionofficial)

**Thank you for your proposal, interest and commitment to the Rail~Volution mission. We look forward to seeing you at this year’s conference -- either as a speaker or as an attendee. Find the worksheet and submit your proposal online at [www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers](http://www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers).**