

# Call for Speakers 2017

September 17 – 20 | Denver, CO | Sheraton Denver Downtown

Submit proposal online at:

[www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers](http://www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers)

Proposal Deadline: **February 23, 2017**

*For more than 20 years, Rail~Volution has been on a mission to build more livable communities with transit. We are passionate about transit and livability because they truly make a place better - economically, socially and environmentally.*

## Rail~Volution is seeking speakers for the 2017 conference in Denver.

Our conference is known for quality and diversity. Our speakers have a variety of experiences and background in the public, private and nonprofit sector whose work magnifies our vision, mission and values. We are dedicated to our goals of continuously adding new voices and speakers of color to the program.

Leading visionaries, practitioners, emerging leaders and community members with fresh ideas—we want to hear from you! The proposal process is simple.

**Please submit your proposal by February 23, 2017 (11:59pm CST) to be considered.**

### VISION

We envision America's cities and regions transformed into livable places—healthy, economically vibrant, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable—where people have transportation choices.

### MISSION

Serve as a catalyst for the movement to build livable communities with transit by inspiring people in communities and regions to make better transit and land use decisions. We do this by partnering, equipping and connecting people and institutions at all levels.

### VALUES

**Impact and results:** Rail~Volution is committed to making a measurable difference toward building livable cities and regions with transit. We focus on sensible, real-world-tested approaches to development that improve the way people live, work and travel.

**Inclusivity:** We invite and actively seek diverse stakeholders to the table, honoring what people of different races, nationalities, professional disciplines, and geographic and economic backgrounds bring to our mission. We believe diversity promotes strength and that lively discussion fosters greater understanding, energy, creativity and momentum.

**Collaboration and partnership:** We believe that we accomplish more through collective action than through individual efforts. Our network of people and institutions—connected by common values and goals—is our greatest asset.

**Innovation:** We seek to push boundaries, think like visionaries and consider the unconsidered. We encourage fun and energizing exchanges and creative problem solving, grounded in best practices, to invent new, effective approaches to multimodal transportation planning and community development.

**Quality:** Rail~Volution is committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of quality in all we do. We continuously evaluate our effectiveness and seek to improve.

# Rail~Volution in Denver, CO

***Moving forward leaving no one behind. Pushing the limits and adapting to rapid change.***

Rail~Volution has not been to Denver since 2000 and the progress the region has made in that time is something to envy. After opening three rapid transit lines in 2016 with two more on the way, the region is focused on the next big thing as a bunch of little things. How can the region continue to keep equity and sustainability in the forefront? How does the region leverage its infrastructure investment to help with national and global competitiveness? How is the region planning for community mobility in the future? Finally, how can the region balance and move forward with all these goals in the face of rapid population growth?

As a region that works hard and plays hard, Denver will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about new transit and development projects as well as travel the region to explore lessons learned and best practices.

## How to Submit a Proposal

Submit your proposal at [www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers](http://www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers) using the online form.

- Read through these instructions and the different topic area “baskets” below.
- Use the worksheet provided to organize your thoughts and answer the questions. Be sure to adhere to the word count restrictions.
- Select the “basket” that is closest to your proposal topic.
- Once you are ready to submit your proposal, copy and paste your answers into the online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017CFS>
  - *NOTE: Once your proposal is submitted you will not be able to change it. Be sure to use the worksheet to organize your proposal prior to filling out the online form.*
- Contact [andrea@railvolution.org](mailto:andrea@railvolution.org) or 612-486-5616 if you have any questions.

## **\*\*NEW IN 2017\*\* Propose a panel to speak on your topic!**

New this year, Rail~Volution will allow proposers to suggest a panel of potential speakers for their topic. For the panel to be considered, the proposal should reflect a diversity of speakers and moderators as follows:

- ***Should include a speaker of color***
- ***Should include both male and female speakers***
- ***Should include speakers from different sectors***
- ***Must include speakers from different regions***

Panels will be vetted through the same process as other speakers and proposers. You may propose a panel and only some may be asked to speak.

## Schedule

- **Proposals are due Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 11:59pm CST.**
- **We will notify you by Friday, June 30, 2017 on the outcome of your proposal.**

## **Rail~Volution Speaker Selection Process**

Speakers are selected by our National Steering Committee, made up of 40+ livability professionals from around the country. They review proposals, identify qualified speakers, then develop, curate and coordinate the conference sessions. If you are selected as a speaker, our workshop coordinators will also determine what format the session will be. You may be selected to do a standard workshop or something more exciting like a debate or interactive game.

**The committee meets in March and again in June to finalize the program. Everyone who has submitted a proposal will be notified about decisions by June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Your proposal will be reviewed not just for your abstract, but also for your expertise on a specific topic or broad range of topics. More than likely you will be asked to adapt your proposal to a topic within your area of expertise.

### **If you are selected...**

**Rail~Volution is a nonprofit organization.** If you are asked to present, you must pay your travel and hotel expenses. Limited need-based scholarships are available.

**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. Contact Andrea Ostergaard, Program Manager at 612-486-5616 or [andreao@railvolution.org](mailto:andreao@railvolution.org) with any questions.**