



Building Livable Communities
with Transit

2018 Rail~Volution Call for Speakers Work Group Descriptions and Topics

Call for Speakers is open from February 15 to March 22, 2018

For information and to submit: www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers

Read about each workgroup. Note: each workgroup starts on a new page.

- Workgroup 1: Innovations in Mobility to Enhance Livability**
- Workgroup 2: Transforming Communities through Transit-Oriented Development**
- Workgroup 3: Making Transit Great Again**
- Workgroup 4: Shaping Transit for Community Needs**
- Workgroup 5: Diversity of Places: Equitable Development, Community Engagement, Communication and Placemaking**
- Workgroup 6: Rail~Volution PK Slam, powered by PechaKucha™**

For information about the Rail~Volution Innovation Challenge, visit

www.railvolution.org/callforspeakers

Have Questions? -- Contact Andrea Ostergaard, Program Manager, at 612-486-5616
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Workgroup 1: Innovations in Mobility to Enhance Livability

Mobility innovations have the potential to help us achieve livable communities. The challenge is to figure out ways to use rapidly evolving technology to better connect people to transit and create the walkable/livable neighborhoods people want.

This workgroup focuses on innovative first and last mile streets, autonomous vehicles, ridesharing and Transportation Network Companies (TNC), using technology in transit, and partnerships that make for more seamless mobility options and more integrated land use planning.

Connected vehicle technology is a hot topic. But, connected/interconnected technology that boosts transit by crossing modes and integrating trips is what will reinforce walkable communities. What are policy impacts of TNCs in suburban areas and in connecting people to transit? How are different cities, regions, agencies and businesses managing access to data and algorithms to help communities make decisions for mobility system investments?

Mobility as a Service (MaaS) has the most potential for changing the urban mobility landscape—what does that mean for complete streets, walkability and connections to transit? Private and corporate operators – Google, Apple, etc. – are putting resources into providing their own transit but how are they (and the cities where they are located or operate) managing such issues as access, street and curb usage, labor, and environmental justice?

Within the areas below, we are especially interested in proposals relating to and want to hear from:

Proposals relating to:

1. Mobility as a Service (MaaS)
2. Autonomous Vehicles (shared AV, transit-scale AV vs single-occupant/single-owner AV) and land use implications
3. Curbside management- policy, optimal street design and economics

Presenters with this background:

1. Individuals in different sectors managing the interface between technology, corporations, and communities
2. City leaders managing policies and community concerns around these issues
3. Individuals who have studied implications of new mobility technologies on urban design, equitable access and economic development

Subtopic Areas for Proposals

FIRST- AND LAST- MILE STRATEGIES especially Bike Share (dockless), Microtransit, Mobility Hubs, suburban strategies, private and public-sector connections

AUTONOMOUS AND CONNECTED VEHICLES especially land use, policy and equity implications

RIDESHARING/TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNC) especially land use, policy and equity implications

TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSIT especially mobile apps, transit's role in "smart cities," alternative fuels, FTA programs such as MOD Sandbox grants or Rides to Wellness: Innovative Coordinated Access

NEW SKILLS & TOOLS FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY especially control of streets, signal priority, digital divide, access to data and data integration, new skills in visualization, urban freight

Workgroup 2: Transforming Communities through Transit-Oriented Development

Transit is now seen as a key factor to economic success for cities and crucial to job and housing access for people. This group would like to redefine and reframe TOD, especially as the focus widens from individual parcels to transit-oriented communities and community-oriented transit. The TOD conversation also is evolving to focus on walkable communities and development around active modes. Parking ratios are decreasing and, in some locations, have decreased to zero.

How are new policies and expanding goals for TOD affecting developers and project delivery? What examples of innovative design and financing are behind TOD that delivers affordability and access to jobs? How are new developments interfacing with new mobility networks and ensuring equity? How are advocacy groups and greater community participation affecting TOD design and decision-making? What are examples of successful TOD from US, Canada and overseas? What is the role of the transit agency in providing access to jobs and equitable housing, station area planning, and integrating parking or transit with development?

This workgroup focuses on issues related to the planning, financing and implementation of transit-oriented development projects at different scales.

We are interested in hearing from presenters about the topics listed below. Within these, we are especially interested in:

Proposals relating to:

1. Walkability – The market wants walkable, mixed use places, i.e. complete communities
2. Non-LRT TOD examples (BRT, Commuter Rail, Streetcar, trails, etc.)
3. TOD to solve all community and regional problems. Is it expected to be the answer?

Presenters with this background:

1. Lenders, Foundations
2. Developers who have overcome financing challenges for innovative developments, affordable housing developers
3. Community Development Corporation (CDC) partners, Advocacy organizations
4. Cities, transit agencies

Subtopic Areas for Proposals

INTEGRATING TRANSIT OPERATIONS WITH DEVELOPMENT especially interagency collaboration, TOD zoning and important policies to enable TOD

DEVELOPERS especially what it takes to attract them

FUNDAMENTALS OF REAL ESTATE including refreshing the template for mixed used development, financing challenges, zoning and parking

TOD FINANCING especially using TOD to fund transit infrastructure, case studies for funding livable communities and tensions in funding all of TOD

NON-TRADITIONAL AND NON-LRT TOD especially streetcar, BRT, trail-oriented and bike-oriented development

REDEVELOPMENT AND URBAN INFILL especially brownfields, public sector and developer roles, and engaging existing neighborhoods, suburban downtowns and connectivity

BEST PRACTICES IN TOD IMPLEMENTATION especially lessons learned and success stories

TOD AND HOUSING especially workforce/middle income housing, mixed income housing and preserving housing near transit

PLACEMAKING AND URBAN DESIGN NEAR TOD especially policies, community involvement, implementation, and financing

PARKING especially market demand vs requirements, strategies to reduce parking, planning parking for today and the future, and reusing unneeded parking

Workgroup 3: Making Transit Great Again

We are in a period of rapid change, with the advent of disruptive technology, demographic shifts, and changing federal priorities. In recent years, transit ridership has been on the decline. Funding is uncertain, yet transit is becoming more of a “must have” to attract and retain business—the Amazon Effect. How can transit agencies adapt to respond to the changing environment? What steps can be taken to make transit great again?

Given uncertain funding, what is being done to speed up project delivery? Is it possible to move from idea to implementation in 2 years or less? What kind of strategic partnerships aim to boost ridership? What's the role of transit in recruiting large employers? Where is micro transit a solution? What's working to sell transit to non-users, to use or vote for it?

What is the changing face of transit leadership? How are they defining the future for transit and resiliency? What forms of transit governance help or hurt? How do big events, like the Olympics, galvanize a city or region?

This work group will address strategic partnerships, climate change, federal policy implications, and the evolving role of transit agencies.

We are interested in hearing from presenters about the topics listed below. Within these, we are especially interested in:

Proposals relating to:

1. Leveraging the “Amazon Effect” and the role of transit in selection, recruitment and criteria of large employers
2. Strategic partnerships to boost ridership and how to sell transit to non-transit users.
3. Federal funding uncertainty, opportunities to move small, locally funded projects now while you wait for larger federal funding projects.
4. Making the case for transit investment and transit ROI

Presenters with this background:

1. Individuals from short-listed Amazon cities
2. Large employers prioritizing transit
3. Users of Microtransit services

Subtopic Areas for Proposals

THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT: RESPONDING TO LARGE SCALE TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION especially ridership

GENERATIONAL SHIFTS especially responding to interests of young people, mobility, and technology that keep transit agencies on the cutting edge

NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW ROLES FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES especially agencies playing an unexpected lead role in community revitalization, mobility, and challenges such as homelessness

CHANGING TRANSIT AGENCY CULTURE especially next generation of leadership, flexibility to respond to unknowns, relationships with riders as customers and defining performance in a different way

SELF-HELP THROUGH INNOVATIVE FUNDING SOLUTIONS especially responding to federal funding decline, successful referendums and campaigns, value capture, and public-private partnerships

RESILIENCY especially climate change planning and the transit agency as part of multi-sector approach, Eco districts

GOVERNANCE especially structures that get in the way of innovations in service

Workgroup 4: Shaping Transit for Community Needs

In the evolving mobility landscape, transit is still the backbone for efficient, sustainable movement of people. And, major transit investments are transformative, with the potential to make communities stronger—underpinning economic vitality and making places more desirable to live.

At the same time, mobility is competitive like never before. One size does not fit all. It's critical to understand the right mode for a given corridor and how to serve the diversity of communities (suburban, urban, and downtowns). Success also depends on knitting transit investments into the communities they serve.

What strategies are showing success in reining in costs or increasing speed or efficiency for different transit modes? How are street design, system redesign, retrofits and governance models affecting transit delivery? How are mid-sized cities and suburban communities leveraging transit to increase walkability and access to jobs? What are the economics of good design? How are communities grappling with planning, design, and implementation in the context of changing mobility and an autonomous future? How are innovative station design and complete streets facilitating access for all users? How are privately-financed projects proceeding?

This work group focuses on selection, implementation, delivery and performance of modes including bus system redesign, bus rapid transit (BRT), arterial rapid bus, light rail transit (LRT), modern streetcar, commuter rail and complete streets.

We are interested in hearing from presenters about the topics listed below. Within these, we are especially interested in:

Proposals relating to:

1. New trends in BRT and Streetcar implementation
2. Corporate partners driving investment in transit – their evolving role
3. Innovative funding or self-funding of transit

Presenters with this background:

1. Planners of streetcar and BRT systems
2. Redefinition of transit systems
3. Transit riders or community advocates

Subtopic Areas for Proposals

TRANSIT SYSTEM INNOVATION especially in mid-sized cities, to increase disadvantaged ridership in context declining ridership, system innovations and redesign, state of good repair

BRT especially implementation within an autonomous future, connecting to the overall transit system and multiple other modes, and transition to LRT

STREETCAR especially addressing the growth in costs, governance models, tactics to increase speed and when slow is too slow

LIGHT RAIL especially financing in a changing federal environment, suburban models

CORRIDOR MODE SELECTION especially community participation and decision-making, integration of modes

HIGH SPEED RAIL especially private financing models

COMPLETE STREETS especially innovations in implementation

SUBURBAN TRANSIT especially walkability and other retrofitting to make service work better, accessibility and workforce, connections to new suburban downtowns, innovative Transportation Demand Management

STATION DESIGN especially economics of good design, accommodation of multiple modes, mega developments at intermodal centers

Workgroup 5: Diversity of Places: Equitable Development, Community Engagement, Communication and Placemaking

At the national and local levels, there is heightened awareness of racial disparities and the widening income gap. The housing crisis is deepening concerns about displacement and gentrification, with further risk that lower transit ridership could lead to service cuts that would further affect the ability of lower income workers to access jobs and services. As equity and displacement get national coverage, new allies have emerged.

This workgroup topic is being broadened to highlight and address the underlying systems that are creating inequality. We'd like to talk about more than supply-side approaches on housing and the tension of trying to address such a large issue. We would like to showcase new tools and strategies. How are transportation planners engaging the silent voices in communities in decision-making? What new housing products and innovations can address the housing crisis? How are cities and regions recognizing the assets of low-wealth communities as a first step in housing preservation? What new cross-sector alliances, partnerships movements, and coalitions are being formed? We are looking for proposals from a diversity of places (mature systems and cities, small and mid-sized cities, strong and weak markets).

We are interested in hearing from presenters about the topics listed below. Within these, we are especially interested in:

Proposals relating to:

1. Growing the table to address the housing crisis
2. Let's Get Small: New Housing Products (Microunits, ADUs, etc.)
3. Community Engagement and Transit: Bringing in New Voices

Presenters with this background:

1. Community development and nonprofit groups from eastern states
2. YIMBYs, advocates, organizers, and community groups who have partnered with transit agencies
3. Foundations, bankers & investors

Subtopic Areas for Proposals

GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT especially success stories, balancing rent control with affordable housing and development, emerging protection and preservation strategies

GROWING THE TABLE TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS especially the YIMBY Movement, labor support, temporary housing on public land, equity in public referenda

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIONS: HOUSING especially new housing products ADUs, micro units, densifying single family neighborhoods and upzoning neighborhoods to avoid displacement

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & FINANCING TOOLS especially preservation of affordable housing, mission-driven development, and Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Housing

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + TRANSIT: BRINGING IN NEW VOICES especially engaging diverse communities, getting beyond typical public meetings, addressing complicated regional conversations, coalition building and participatory budgeting

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EQUITABLE TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT especially multi-partner coordination, transit agency engaging homeless through partnerships, housing equity in transit and service planning, small business retention and development

WORKFORCE especially workforce development and workforce housing

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING STRATEGIES especially examples contributing to quality of life, preserving and celebrating local culture and art

EQUITY IN THE FIRST/LAST MILE INVESTMENTS especially reframing bikeshare & other “gentrifying” investments with an economic justice angle, making new modes work for all communities, and addressing the aging population & accessibility

Workgroup 6: Rail~Volution PK Slam, powered by PechaKucha™

PechaKucha: [peh-chá koo-chá] PechaKucha 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, commentaries on real life issues. This is a fun and often edgy presentation style. The PK 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

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