



## **2019 Rail~Volution Call for Speakers Work Group Track Information**

Call for Speakers is open from January 30– February 28, 2019

For information and to submit: <https://railvolution.org/callforspeakers>

- Track 1: Innovations in Mobility to Enhance Livability**
- Track 2: Transforming Communities through Transit-Oriented Development**
- Track 3: The Evolution of the Transit Agency**
- Track 4: Community Needs Shaping Transit**
- Track 5: Promoting Equitable Communities**
- Track 6: Rail~Volution PK Slam, powered by PechaKucha™**

Have Questions? -- Contact Andrea Ostergaard, Program Manager, at 612-486-5616 or [andreao@railvolution.org](mailto:andreao@railvolution.org)

## **TRACK 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 track focuses on innovative first and last mile streets, autonomous vehicles (AV), ridesharing and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs, such as Lyft and Uber), using technology in transit as well as partnerships that make for more seamless mobility options and more integrated land use planning.

Mobility as a Service (MaaS) has the most potential for changing the urban mobility landscape—How are cities, transit agencies and regions adjusting to MaaS? How do we assess needs with a multimodal approach and what does that mean for coordination of modes?

What are the tensions around transit & mobility options, including shared mobility? How are places dealing with disruptive technologies? How are we communicating with riders and other stakeholders about innovation and coordination? Are we listening and factoring community concerns into plans and implementation?

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

### **Proposals relating to:**

1. Market and community-driven mobility
2. Mobility as a Service (MaaS) & real-world examples about tensions & changing practices
3. Autonomous Vehicles (shared AV, transit-scale AV vs single-occupant/single-owner AV) and land use implications, pilot projects
4. Curbside management- policy, optimal street design and economics
5. Examples from mid-size cities
6. Mobility Technology 101: Emerging modes of travel and new technologies to improve mobility
7. Perspectives from users, advocates and community

### **Presenters with this background:**

1. Individuals in different sectors managing the interface between technology, corporations, and communities. New mobility leaders, technology innovators
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 (including dockless), microtransit, mobility hubs; suburban strategies, private and public-sector connections; emerging options and practices

AUTONOMOUS AND CONNECTED VEHICLES especially the relationship between transit and AVs, land use, policy and equity implications

INTEGRATION AND IMPLICATIONS OF OLD AND NEW MODES, especially land use, policy, equity implications

TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSIT especially mobile apps, transit's role in "smart cities," alternative fuels, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs, such as Mobility On Demand (MOD) Sandbox grants or Rides to Wellness Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants

STREET DESIGN AND CURB MANAGEMENT especially allocating space, station access for all users and multiple mobility options

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

## **TRACK 2: Transforming Communities through Transit-Oriented Development**

This track focuses on issues related to the planning, financing, and implementation of transit-oriented development (TOD) at all scales.

Transit is a key factor for economic success for communities, providing access to jobs, housing, education, and healthcare. The TOD conversation has evolved beyond mixed use development next to transit; it now includes building communities in both urban and suburban environments; creating more diverse and equitable housing opportunities; and developments oriented to traditional and alternative transit modes.

Responding to a housing crisis, many cities and states or provinces have taken the lead in changing policies to encourage affordability. How is the changing environment (regulatory and financial) affecting development and project delivery? What's the state of collaboration? What examples of innovative design and financing are behind TOD that delivers affordability and access to jobs?

Mobility and policy continue to change as well, responding to evolutions in technology. How are new developments interfacing with mobility networks and advancing equity? How are advocacy groups and greater community participation affecting TOD design and decision-making? What are examples of successful TOD from the US, Canada and overseas? What's the appropriate role of the transit agency in providing access to jobs and housing, station area planning, and integrating parking and transit with development?

Presenters with this background:

1. Developers
2. Lenders, financial institutions and foundations
3. Community development corporations, community-based organizations and housing advocates
4. Cities and transit agencies; Elected officials (federal, state, provincial, regional and local) and staff
5. Planners, architects and real estate professionals

### **Subtopic Areas for Proposals**

**BEST PRACTICES IN TOD IMPLEMENTATION:** lessons learned, both successes and failures

**DEVELOPERS:** what it takes to attract development and innovative partnerships, transit agencies as joint developers

**FUNDAMENTALS OF REAL ESTATE:** mixed-use and mixed-income development, financing, zoning, parking, equitable TOD, lease versus sale

**HOW TO MIX USES:** residential, commercial, industrial, education, healthcare

INTEGRATING TRANSIT OPERATIONS WITH TOD: interagency collaboration and interplay between land use and transit planning, TOD zoning, and policies to enable TOD

PLACEMAKING AND URBAN DESIGN NEAR TOD: policies, community involvement and implementation, walkable/mixed-use projects for all users

REDEVELOPMENT AND URBAN INFILL: brownfields, suburban retrofits, connectivity; engaging existing neighborhoods; public sector and developer roles

RIGHT-SIZING PARKING: market demand versus requirements, strategies to reduce parking, planning parking for today and the future, reusing unneeded parking, shared and district parking

TOD AND HOUSING FOR ALL: workforce and middle-income housing, mixed-income housing, preserving housing near transit, opportunity zones, policies

TOD FINANCING: using value capture to fund transit infrastructure, overcoming financing challenges

## **TRACK 3: The Evolution of the Transit Agency**

We are in a period of rapid change, with the advent of disruptive technologies, demographic shifts and changing federal priorities. The transit agency is often being asked or forced to take on more than running buses and trains. How is the agency evolving in the context of funding and ridership levels? What kind of new partnerships are forming - with whom and for what? How are agencies describing themselves and communicating with customers and communities?

Given uncertain funding, what is being done to preserve or expand or redesign service areas? What are innovative ways to speed up project delivery? Is it possible to move from idea to implementation in 2 years or less? Where is microtransit a solution for transit agency goals? How do we communicate with the public and work to educate on the benefits of transit? What messaging works and how can we make the case for investment?

What is the changing face of transit leadership? What forms of transit governance help or hurt? How are leadership and governing bodies defining the future for transit and resiliency? How are agencies addressing livability issues around crime, safety, homelessness and job density diffusion across a metro area? How do we communicate with the public about the evolving transit agency?

This track 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. Transit agency – open innovation call
2. Success stories about transparent, real-time communication with customers; how is communication team staffed
3. Strategic partnerships to boost ridership and how to sell transit to non-transit users.
4. Federal funding uncertainty; opportunities to move small, locally funded projects now while you wait for larger federal funding projects
5. Messaging and making the case for transit investment and transit ROI

### **Presenters with this background:**

1. Large employers prioritizing transit
2. Users of microtransit services
3. Users of transit or rider's union
4. Innovative transit agency
5. Communication – especially ambassador programs, nexus of safety and security

## **Subtopic Areas for Proposals**

**THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT: RESPONDING TO LARGE SCALE TRENDS** especially ridership, addressing crime, safety and homelessness

**NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW ROLES FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES** especially agencies playing an unexpected lead role in community revitalization, mobility, and challenges such as homelessness; working with non-traditional partners, i.e. cultural organizations

**CHANGING TRANSIT AGENCY CULTURE** especially next generation of leadership, flexibility to respond to unknowns, customer experience for riders, defining performance in a different way

**SELF-HELP THROUGH INNOVATIVE FUNDING SOLUTIONS** especially responding to federal funding decline, value capture, public-private partnerships; funding maintenance and expansion, funding for climate adaptation

**CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY** especially disaster planning and the transit agency as part of multi-sector approach, Eco districts, moving away from auto-oriented policies, battery electric bus programs

**GOVERNANCE** especially structures that get in the way of innovations in service, structure and funding measures, transit agency as a mobility provider

**CAMPAIGNS** especially making the case for transit and preparing for funding referendums, elements of a successful campaign

**COMMUNICATION** especially how to communicate “total transformation” of service, fares and modes; place-branding and the value of involving community, educating the public and making the case for transit investments and TOD, messaging and communication for communities vulnerable to gentrification

**MARKETING** especially best practices in messaging for transit; focused, intentional outreach to increase riders, examples of RFPs and marketing along corridors

**SAFETY & SECURITY** especially the nexus to customer experience and ridership, role of police in livability or ambassador programs

## **TRACK 4: Community Needs Shaping Transit**

In the evolving mobility landscape, transit is still the backbone for efficient, sustainable movement of people. And, transit investments are transformative, able 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 mobility improvement 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. This track also looks at success from operations, accessibility and equity points of view. And, how community needs have been shaped by selection, implementation, redesign and retrofit, delivery and performance of transit.

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

### **Proposals relating to**

1. New trends in transit implementation
2. Pedestrian and bike infrastructure and implementation
3. Corridor mode selection
4. Street management and complete streets as part of corridors
5. Suburban, small urban, rural and commuter transit

### **Presenters with this background:**

1. Planners of streetcar and BRT systems
2. Redefinition of transit systems

### **Subtopic Areas for Proposals**

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

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

DATA/PERFORMANCE -DRIVEN DECISIONS regarding equity

GENERATIONAL SHIFTS especially responding to interests of students, young people and Gen Z, as well as elderly & disability communities, aging in place, integrating job skills into project development

HIGH SPEED RAIL especially private financing models

LIGHT RAIL especially financing and political challenges, suburban models, corridor planning and design

MOBILITY HUBS as community hubs

PARATRANSIT especially ADA and legacy systems, innovations in service management

RAIL especially subways, commuter rail

STATION DESIGN especially economics of good design, integrating design disciplines early in the process, accommodation of multiple modes, mega developments at intermodal centers

STATE OF GOOD REPAIR to ensure systems (legacy and otherwise) better serve the community

STREETCAR especially addressing the growth in costs, governance models, tactics to improve performance

STREET MANAGEMENT & COMPLETE STREETS especially innovations in policy & implementation to equitably allocate space and give priority.

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

TRANSIT SYSTEM INNOVATION especially in mid-sized cities, system innovations and redesign, reducing travel time, electric buses, using waterways for transit, integrating new lines /modes into existing systems, Envision Sustainability Rating use in transit projects

## **TRACK 5: Promoting Equitable Communities**

This track addresses the underlying systems that are reinforcing and creating inequality .

How are cities and regions recognizing the existing assets of low-wealth communities? What are new tools and strategies to engage the silent voices in communities when making decisions to improve the quality of life in these neighborhoods?

Currently, there is heightened awareness of racial disparities and the widening income gap. What new cross-sector alliances, partnerships, movements and coalitions are being formed to address this issue?

Many issues fall into this track. We are looking for a variety of topics, including topics that touch on quality of life challenges and topics linked to transit investment, such as housing, workforce development, wealth building, health and placemaking, to cite certain examples.

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

### **Proposals relating to:**

1. Policies and programs to advance equitable outcomes
2. Growing the table to address the housing crisis
3. Adding new housing products and innovative policy examples (Microunits, ADUs, laneway housing, missing middle, public housing, co-living, single room occupancy, etc.)
4. Community Engagement : bringing in new voices
5. More implemented solutions, less theory and evaluation  
(more illustrations of topics are noted in the subtopic area below)e

### **Presenters with these backgrounds:**

1. Community development and nonprofit groups
2. Advocates, organizers, and community groups who have partnered with transit agencies
3. Foundations, bankers & investors, corporate leadership
4. Civic leadership
5. Public sector agencies
6. Mission-driven developers

### **Subtopic Areas for Proposals**

ADDRESSING GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT including community centered stories of success, failure or lessons learned; balancing affordable housing and development, emerging protection and preservation strategies, permanent affordable housing models

GROWING THE TABLE TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS especially the "Yes In My Backyard" (YIMBY) and other pro-density movements, labor support, temporary housing on public land, equity in public referenda

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIONS: HOUSING especially new housing products such as ADUs, micro units, laneway housing, single-room occupancy or co-living; densifying single family neighborhoods and upzoning neighborhoods to avoid displacement, addressing and updating historically racist zoning practices

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & FINANCING TOOLS especially preservation of affordable housing, mission-driven development, 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, housing equity in transit and service planning, small business retention and development, transit affordability

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING especially income inequality and upward economic mobility, equitable hiring programs, “missing middle”

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING STRATEGIES especially examples of short- and long-term strategies 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

HEALTH especially how the built environment impacts the social determinants of health

## **TRACK 6: Rail~Volution PK Slam, powered by PechaKucha™**

PechaKucha: [peh-chá koo-chá] PechaKucha is a rapid-fire presentation format in which each speaker presents 20 slides for 20 seconds each for 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](http://www.youtube.com/railvolutionofficial) or follow this link to the [Rail~volution PK Slam playlist](#).

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