

The Rail~Volution Conference 2019 - Vancouver, BC

Connected . . . by nature

The 25th annual Rail~Volution conference presents an opportunity to revisit assumptions and reaffirm a commitment to building livable communities *with communities at the center*. It's a time to address challenges - such as the affordability of transit-oriented communities - and take an in-depth look at innovations, from new policies to new technologies, in terms of how well they advance transit and livable communities. The conference comes at a time of rapid change - in mobility options, the ways we work with communities, and the ways we think about development and the integration of modes.

We are very excited to hold the 25th annual conference in Metro Vancouver, where there are so many examples of transit-oriented communities, from downtown Vancouver to cities across the region. The Vancouver region exemplifies the possibilities of coordinated planning and showcases a range of modes, from the automated SkyTrain system (driverless since 1985) to light rail, rapid bus corridors and intercity rail; from bus system and station re-design to bicycle and pedestrian design and implementation. Metro Vancouver also prompts a fresh look at affordable housing tactics and policies for accommodating emerging modes. Surrounded by mountains and water, metro Vancouver consistently ranks as one of the most livable regions in the world.

For more information, about the Vancouver Rail~Volution conference, visit:

<https://railvolution.org/the-conference/conference-information/>

About Rail~Volution

What is Rail~Volution?

Rail~Volution brings great thinking together about every aspect of transit, related mobility options, and community development. There is no better place to network with the people who plan, build, finance, operate and advocate for livable communities.

Our name may be Rail~Volution, but our network supports communities as they leverage transportation investments – including buses, rail, bicycles, walking, sharing, and other emerging options – to connect people with employers and neighborhoods.

We believe major transit investments are transformative, with the potential to make communities stronger—economically, socially, and environmentally. We bring diverse minds, perspectives, and industries together to explore real-world examples, share implementable ideas, and ask tough questions.

Who attends Rail~Volution? People like you – local, regional, national and international stakeholders, including community leaders, planners, urban designers, elected officials, housing and transportation advocates, developers, mobility innovators, business and philanthropic leaders, financial institutions, transit agencies, bike share operators, transportation engineers, architects, consultants, citizen activists, and policy wonks.

Find out more about Rail~Volution programs at www.railvolution.org.



Building Livable Communities
with Transit

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.

How to Submit a Proposal for Rail~Volution 2019

There are multiple ways to participate in the Call for Speakers for the 2019 Rail~Volution transit and community development conference, happening in Vancouver, British Columbia, September 8-11. Submit a proposal for a full session or submit to be considered as an individual speaker or submit a 2-minute video to enter the Rail~Volution “Tech Tank” Innovation Challenge - back by popular demand!

Instructions:

Prior to beginning your submission, review the 2019 Call for Speakers page and determine which type(s) of proposal you will submit. You are not limited to one type of submission. The Call for Speakers page also has information about 2019 conference Tracks. You will be asked to identify the Track and subtopic that best fits with your full-session or individual speaker proposal. The “Full Session” proposal will take significant time to organize and requires you to connect with potential speakers. The individual proposal will take less time to organize. Tech Tank submissions require a link to a 2-minute video.

All proposals are due by Thursday, February 28, 11:59 pm CST. *Don't wait until the last minute – technical issues will not be accommodated.*

Download the worksheets below to gather your thoughts prior to beginning the online submission form.

- [Individual Speaker – Proposal Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Full Session – Proposal Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
- For the Tech Tank Innovation Challenge, see the [Call for Speakers](#).

Once you have gathered the information needed and organized your thoughts, please expect to spend between thirty and sixty minutes to complete the submission form. Once you are prepared to submit, go to the [online submission form](#) or paste this address in your browser:

<http://bit.ly/2019-RailVolutionCFS> (a link to the submissionform is also available via the Call for Speakers page). Choose the type of submission (individual proposal or full session or Tech Tank). Complete the indicated fields and then Submit your proposal. At that time, we recommend that you also set up an account. This will allow you to make edits to your proposal until the submission deadline. To log back in to your account, click "Login" in the upper right corner of this page. You can use the same account to submit different types of proposals. Once you have clicked Submit, you will receive a confirmation with the details of your submission(s).

On February 5 there will be an informational webinar about the Call for Speakers with members of our National Steering Committee. It will be a chance to hear about the submission process and what we're looking for in proposals. There will be ample time for Q&A. [Please register for the webinar](#) or, after February 5, look for a link to a recording of the webinar on the Call for Speakers page.

Rail~Volution Speaker Selection Process

Speakers are selected by our National Steering Committee, made up of 40+ livability professionals from around the United States and Canada. They review proposals, identify qualified presenters, then develop, curate and coordinate the conference sessions. Every year the NSC sets goals consistent with [Rail~Volution organizational values](#). They make every effort to create high-quality, content-rich and diverse sessions that represent:

- Cross-sector view points: from different industries, geographies, and professional backgrounds
- Speakers from different genders, especially the female perspective
- Perspectives from historically underrepresented communities, such as communities of color
- Innovative partnerships and collaborative solutions
- Real- world, practical applications to solving problems
- Opportunities to address issues to achieve equitable outcomes

Rail~Volution places a premium on ensuring thoughtful and cutting-edge content every year. In reviewing proposals, NSC members not only look for topic coverage and quality of submission but also place a priority on achieving sessions that meet the criteria above.

National Steering Committee members will discuss all proposals and use them to create sessions for the conference. *Please note:* NSC members may ask for changes in the speaker line-up or approach to the topic. For more information about the session development process, see this infographic: [How Sessions Are Organized \(PDF\)](#).

When will you hear from us about your proposal? Our proposal acceptance process will be in two phases. In April, we will let proposers know if their proposal is going forward for consideration or if it has not been accepted. Final decisions about speakers and sessions will be emailed by the end of June.

If you or your session are selected...

Rail~Volution is a nonprofit organization. If you are asked to participate in the conference, you must pay your travel and hotel expenses. Limited, need-based speakers scholarships are available.

Thanks to everyone who submits a proposal or encourages others to do so. Thanks also to our National Steering Committee, the Vancouver Local Host team and the New Rail~Volutionaries for their work to plan the conference.

Call for Speakers 2019 Schedule

- **Proposals are due Thursday, February 28, 2019, 11:59pm CST.**
***Don't wait until the last minute – technical issues will not be accommodated.*
- **Notification of first round of proposal acceptance will be in April. Proposals making it to the second round will have final notification in June.**

Thank you for your proposal as well as your 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.

Have Questions? -- Contact Andrea Ostergaard, Program Manager, at 612-486-5616 or andreao@railvolution.org.

For more information about the 2019 Rail~Volution conference, visit the [Conference Information](#) page on our website.
