



Rail~Volution Vancouver 2019 Call for Speakers – Now Open

CALL FOR SPEAKERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I propose more than one session/topic?

Yes, you may submit more than one proposal, especially if you submit a full session and also want to be considered as an individual speaker. However, do not submit the same proposal to multiple tracks.

How many sessions and speakers are accepted each year?

Every year the conference includes more than 75 sessions and 350 speakers. Of these, 40% of these speakers and sessions come from proposals. Our goal is to increase this to 50%. We receive more than 250 proposals each year. For more information on how we put our sessions together, [check out the webinar](#) or this infographic [“How Sessions are Organized.”](#)

Where do the session topics come from if not from Call for Speaker proposals?

Additional sessions are organized by our National Steering Committee. They analyze the industry, feedback and evaluations to determine what session topics the conference should cover. Then they put together the tracks to frame the conversations. If we don't receive proposals about topics they would like to cover, they recruit speakers and curate the discussion for the session. For more information on how we put our sessions together, [check out the webinar](#) or this infographic [“How Sessions are Organized.”](#)

Can we have two “co-speakers” for an individual proposal?

We would suggest submitting a full-session proposal if you want to have more than one speaker. It is usually unlikely that two speakers would be selected to discuss the same topic or perspective. Our National Steering Committee members work as “Session Coordinators,” making every effort to create high-quality, content-rich and diverse sessions that represent:

- Cross-sector viewpoints, 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

Is Rail~Volution looking for best practice guidance and case studies from around the world?

We are always interested in learning best practices, whether national or international. Our sessions focus on real-world practical applications to solving problems. We look for stories and case studies that focus on lessons learned and are applicable to a wide variety of communities.

Do you have a list of the kinds of people who attend Rail~Volution?

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

How long are sessions?

Our sessions are usually 60 or 90 minutes. Note: very rarely does a single presenter speak for the whole time. Usually, 3-4 speakers are organized per session, bringing different backgrounds and perspectives to the topic. The Session Coordinator will work with you and other session participants to determine how the session is executed.

When submitting an individual proposal, will Rail~Volution work to match proposals?

Exactly. Our National Steering Committee reviews all the proposals and places similar proposals together to create a holistic session with multiple perspectives.

Does the application allow the proposer to select multiple tracks?

No, make your best guess in to which Track the proposal fits best. During our planning meeting, the National Steering Committee reviews all proposals. They will swap proposals into a different Track if they feel a proposal fits better there.

Can you please describe the process for being involved in the Pecha Kucha style presentation?

The PK Slam is organized through the same Call for Speakers proposal process. To submit your Pecha Kucha presentation idea, please select "individual speaker" and then submit to Track 6: Rail~Volution PK Slam. Our New Rail~Volutionaries (a group committed to making the conference welcoming and providing opportunities to new and emerging leaders) organize the PK Slam presentations on the same timeline as the other sessions.

Do you have a suggested session format for proposals?

No, proposers will work with a Session Coordinator (someone from our National Steering Committee) to determine how the session will be executed. We are always striving to have innovative sessions that engage the audience. However, if you are sending in a full session proposal, you may suggest a format for consideration.

To be clear, all forms of transit will be considered, not just rail?

Yes, our name is Rail~Volution but we focus on all modes and mobility options, especially as they relate to land use, community development and impacts on people.

To submit a proposal, please review the information on the [Call for Speakers](#). If you have additional questions, please contact Andrea Ostergaard, andreao@railvolution.org or 612.486.5616 (during business hours CST).

The 2019 Call for Speakers closes February 28, 11:59 CST.