



Building Livable Communities with Transit

Call for Speakers 2012

October 14-17, 2012, Los Angeles, California

www.railvolution.org

Proposal Deadline: March 30, 2012

Rail~Volution is a national movement: It is a transformation in the way we live, led by people from all perspectives dedicated to creating healthy, economically vibrant, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable communities with transit.

Rail~Volution is an event, a network and an organization: Since 1995, it has been a driving force in the livability movement. Every year, people come together in a transit-rich community to participate in workshops, charrettes, networking events and toolbox sessions: Last year in Washington, DC, more than 1,100 people attended. The event invigorates the network of committed individuals who continue to strategize and communicate year-round. And each year this organization builds on its success to increase its impact on the future of building livable communities through transit.

Rail~Volution 2012 is in Los Angeles, California: Long before Los Angeles was known for its car culture, the city blossomed around its public transit. Today, traffic may be gridlocked, but investment in transportation is not. The region provides a showcase of transportation choices and challenges applicable to communities across the nation: fully integrated bus and core rail systems; communities rekindled by transit-oriented design; and a county funding measure that passed overwhelmingly to allow Metro to nearly double its existing rail and rapid transit system -- condensing 30 years of growth into the next 10. All create a more vibrant and sustainable economy. Los Angeles' diversity, both in terms of demographics and types of communities being transformed, provides a glimpse into the future for other US regions and cities of all sizes. The national debate is challenging transit, once again, but communities across the country are making their own investments in transit and livable communities as recipes for economic success. This is a critical time, and Rail~Volution 2012 will be a great place to showcase new ideas and promising practices.

Rail~Volution 2012 is seeking speakers: We want the people who will lead the movement -- people who can best share the stories that will educate, provoke, and inspire conference attendees through toolbox sessions, panel presentations, and workshops. We are calling on a wide range of speakers with a variety of experiences and backgrounds, whose work magnifies our mission of building livable communities with transit.

If you are one of those people, we want to hear from you.

Call Details: This year we are focusing on three categories for more than 60 sessions: Rail~Volution Fundamentals, In-Depth Topics and New Ideas. We are seeking speakers representing a broad array of private firms, public agencies, and non-profits from disciplines ranging from transit and development to advocacy and government. We encourage speakers from a wide range of geographic, ethnic and diverse community backgrounds.

#1 Rail~Volution Fundamentals

These sessions cover topics that conference participants need to understand to work effectively on building livable communities with transit. We are seeking speakers who are experts in their fields and can describe principles, tools and processes to a non-expert audience. You can support your ideas with examples, case studies, and projects, but the emphasis of the presentation should be on concepts. Speakers should seek to ignite interest and increase understanding for people who are new to livability issues or are looking for information about a new topic. Examples of topics:

- Introduction to Building Livable Communities
- Fundamentals of Advocacy and Community Engagement
- Success Factors for Good Stations and Station Areas
- Fundamentals of Project Financing
- Basics of Managing Parking in Livable Communities
- Essentials of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Accommodating and Encouraging Walking and Bicycling
- The Basics of Sustainability and Federal Policy
- Sustainability and Federal Policy
- Principles of Healthy Cities
- Quantifying the Benefits of Transit
- Responding to the Critics: Tools for Debate
- Choosing the Right Transit Mode

#2 In-Depth Topics

Rail~Volution has always been a place where people who are passionate about creating livable communities come together to share experiences, swap lessons learned and discuss controversial ideas. We are interested in speakers who can bring in-depth examples to life – crafting them into useful, meaningful lessons. These sessions delve deep into the subject matter. Don't be shy about failure – we want to hear about what didn't work as much as what did. Examples of topics:

- Return on Transit Investments: Impacts of Transit Investments on Creating Livable Regions
- Planning, Building and Funding Your Next Streetcar
- Finding Equitable Solutions for Growing Communities: Dealing with Environmental Justice and Gentrification
- Active Transportation: Innovations for Creating Walkable and Bikable Neighborhoods

- Parking Strategies for 21st Century Communities
- Finance Tools (Public and Private) for TOD
- Transit-Oriented Development: Digging into the Details
- Urban Circulators: Bus and Bus Rapid Transit Strategies for Sustainable Communities
- The Last Mile: Critical Connections for Building Communities
- Reaching New Audiences: New Media and Public Engagement Tools
- Advocacy and Public Engagement: Powerful Tools for Making a Difference
- Partnerships and Regionalism
- Sustainable Cities: Tools for Greening our Transportation Systems
- What to Expect in the Federal Transportation Policy Arena
- Game-Changing Research
- Public Health and Livable Communities
- Job Creation
- Demographic Trends and Characteristics

#3 New Ideas

Rail~Volution is the place to float new ideas and approaches. Areas such as sustainability and livability are topics that are constantly evolving with new challenges, legislation and technologies. We are interested in proposals that address urgent and timely topics, such as job creation, energy, the economy and new funding strategies, plus we want to look at the next problems we need to solve. These proposals should be broad enough to allow different perspectives and discussion, but not too broad that they lose focus on the Rail~Volution mission.

How to Apply as a Speaker

Please submit your proposal to speak at www.railvolution.org using the online form.

- Choose from one of the three categories and indicate your speaking topic.
- All submittals must include a brief biography.
- Faxed or mailed proposals will not be accepted.
- **Individual speakers only - no full panels, please! You will be placed on a panel by our workshop coordinators.**
- Contact info@railvolution.com if you have any questions.

New Workshop Formats

Rail~Volution is always exploring fresh ways to get information to our participants. In addition to traditional formats such as panels and “talk show” sessions, we hope to introduce new interactive presentation formats during this year's conference. Workshop coordinators will suggest and guide invited proposers in determining the best format for their presentation as part of preparation for the conference.

Schedule

- Proposals are due March 30, 2012.
- We will confirm receipt of your proposal via e-mail within three business days (If you do not receive this e-mail confirmation please contact us at Marcie.Moravec@portlandoregon.gov)
- We will notify you by June 29, 2012 on the outcome of your proposal.

Selection Process

Rail~Volution speakers are leading visionaries and practitioners as well as emerging professionals with fresh ideas and experiences in the field. The selection process is highly competitive, based on experience, presentation abilities and, especially, relevance to a wide range of topics supporting our mission: building livable communities with transit. In the past, fewer than half of the proposers were selected to speak.

After the deadline, all proposals will be reviewed by Rail~Volution's National Steering Committee, made up of professionals from around the country representing multiple perspectives. The review will address relevance and fit with the conference's intended theme and content for the year.

Rail~Volution is a nonprofit organization and all presenters must pay for their own travel and hotel expenses. For their efforts, presenters receive complimentary registration for the day that they speak or a reduced registration of \$350 for the whole conference. This benefit does not include sessions with additional costs, such as mobile workshops or charrettes.

We thank you for your proposal, interest and commitment and look forward to seeing you at this year's conference, either as a speaker or as an attendee.

Rail~Volution 2012 Proposal Form

(Please complete on-line ONLY at <http://railvolution.org/call-for-speakers/2012-call-for-speakers>)

Speaker Information:

First Name:	Last Name:
Title:	Organization:
Address:	
City:	State/Province:
Country:	Zip/Postal Code:
Phone:	Fax:
E-mail:	

Speaker Biography: Provide brief description of speaker qualifications and experience - 100 words or less.

Contact Information: (If different than speaker)

First Name:	Last Name:
Affiliation:	
E-mail:	Phone:

Speaker Proposal Information:

Speaking Category: Choose topic from drop-down list

Rail~Volution Fundamentals
In-Depth Topics
New Ideas

Speaking Topic: Choose topic from drop-down list that best describes your expertise:

<i>Advocacy</i>	<i>Lessons Learned – Built and Not Built Projects</i>
<i>Affordable Housing</i>	<i>Outreach and Communication</i>
<i>Benefits of Transit -- Quantified</i>	<i>Parking</i>
<i>Bikes and Pedestrians</i>	<i>Regionalism</i>
<i>Climate change</i>	<i>Responding to Critics</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>Stations and Station Areas – Success Factors</i>
<i>Equity</i>	<i>TOD – Planning, Design, Evaluation</i>
<i>Federal Policy, Role</i>	<i>Tools and Technical Methods</i>
<i>Financing</i>	<i>Transit Modes – Evaluation of Options</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>Urban circulators – Streetcars and Buses</i>
<i>Partnerships</i>	<i>Other</i>

Topic Summary Statement: 10 words or less

Topic Description: 300 words or less

**Rail~Volution encourages speakers from a variety of experience levels and backgrounds.
Tell us about yourself.**

Please indicate your primary affiliation:

<i>Transit Agency</i>	<i>Student</i>
<i>Regional Government</i>	<i>Foundation</i>
<i>Citizen Activist</i>	<i>Consultant</i>
<i>Public Health</i>	<i>Federal Government</i>
<i>Non-Profit Organization</i>	<i>Academic/Professor</i>
<i>City/County</i>	<i>Business/Developer</i>
<i>State Government</i>	<i>Banking/Investment</i>

How many times have you attended Rail~Volution?

Have you submitted a proposal to Rail~Volution before? *Yes or No*

How many years have you (the speaker) worked in your current industry?

How did you hear about the Rail~Volution Call for Proposal?

E-mail
Rail~Volution website
Rail~Volution Online Community
Colleague
Blog

What is the annual budget of your organization?

If you are a student, what is your area of study?

Please indicate the race/ethnicity you most identify with: (optional)

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black/African American
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
White/Caucasian
Hispanic/Latino
Other

Can you suggest any favorite films for the Filmfest in Los Angeles?

What would you like to learn from Rail~Volution 2012 in Los Angeles?