

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Attendance

Mark Nener (Cities & Environment Unit)
Mark Poirier (Planner, SNSMR)
Ali Shaver (Cities & Environment Unit)
Kate Mackay (Cities & Environment Unit)
Sarah MacKeigan (HRM, Stepping Up)
Laurel Taylor (MT&L)
Leo Artalejo (MT&L)
Derek Gillis (Clean Nova Scotia, Fleetwiser project)
Peter Williams (NS Bikeways Coalition)
Superintendent Cliff Falkenham (Halifax Regional Police - guest advisor to working group)
Christine Krochak (Mountain Equipment Co-op)
Julia Pelton (Clean Nova Scotia)
Ahsan Habib (Faculty of Architecture and Planning)
Eric Rapaport (Faculty of Architecture and Planning)
Scott MacPhee (Clean Nova Scotia)
Bernie Smith (Spring Garden Road Business Commission)
Laena Garrison (Ecology Action Centre)

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Screen *Ciclovía: Bogotá, Colombia* film
<http://www.streetfilms.org/ciclovía/>
3. Further develop “Ciclovía” type demonstration project adapted for Halifax
 - Refine goals
 - Scope
 - Partners
4. Identify next steps

Halifax Ciclovía Demonstration Project Goals (from Task Force meeting #5)

- Enable people to explore alternative modes in comfort and safety
- Highlight and address gaps in connectivity - demonstrate long-term vision for trail network
- Demonstrate impact of restricting road capacity - an opportunity to test reduced road capacity
- Demonstrate benefits to merchants of making room for other modes
- Encourage physical fitness/active lifestyles - make physical activity enjoyable & give people a sense of freedom
- Measure improvements in air quality
- Measure reductions in noise pollution and GHG emissions
- Demonstrate ease of transfer between modes

- Attract people to the peninsula - remove barriers to accessing the peninsula and promote a vibrant downtown
- Enable and encourage social integration through exploration of new parts of the city

Discussion

- Rework goal #3 - Demonstrate cultural shift and vibrancy that is possible when we increase the amount of public space
- Superintendent Falkenham:
 - Are you committed to the peninsula (for the routes)?
 - Access issues: hospitals, churches, fire stations, etc.
 - We have different rules, bylaws, etc. than in Columbia (referring to approach to Ciclovía taken in Columbia as seen in the film)
 - Vaughn Perrin, HRM Traffic and Right-of-Way Services, might be able to help figure out routes
 - Bluenose Marathon costs to close streets is approx. \$50,000 - overtime for police officers, barricades, rerouting affected transit routes
 - HRM provides some grants to special events
- We can use GIS to identify optimal routes, look at constraints
- We should include Metro Transit as a partner
- Concern about reducing Ciclovía route from larger route discussed at earlier meeting to smaller route - may not achieve our sustainable transportation goals
- Dunbrack Street could be an easy street to close - no buses
- Ottawa Ciclovía event has corporate sponsors - one possible model for us
- Need HRM to buy into this event
- Metro Transit has issued RFP to study potential transit priority routes across peninsula to connect Hwy 102 to Scotia Square - could include the use of dedicated transit lanes - there might be an opportunity to partner with Metro Transit and piggy back on a test of this corridor.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund funds TDM projects and could fund a project like this. If we partner with HRM, Police, Metro Transit, etc. we could apply for something big - Isaël Poirier is the contact
- Ciclovía is recreational & a celebration, but does

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

it demonstrate viable transportation alternatives?

- Ciclovía provides an opportunity for young and old to ride bicycles on streets, opportunity for a learning process in a controlled environment
- Subtle and deeper benefits of Ciclovía: inter-generational, part of a shift in mind-set, educational, training ground, one step toward a bike friendly city
- There is still interest in a transit-focused demonstration project: provide an optimal service along a route with high potential ridership - how many new riders can we attract to transit? This project would require another Working Group.
- Celebratory aspect and active transportation aspect: Open Street Party around the Commons could be the hub/destination (for celebration). Superimpose HRM AT Plan network over this hub and for one day imagine that these routes exist. Don't necessarily need a designated lane, could also use "share the road" signs, etc. Make people aware of the AT Plan.
- Multiple ways to create change: infrastructure, policy, education - we need to work on all simultaneously
- Show people that giving space to other modes is possible - build public support
- If you restrict traffic capacity, traffic (i.e., people) will self-regulate. People adapt.
- Level of bicycle ridership in Copenhagen is now so high that they are experiencing cycling congestion problems.
- Need to figure out budget for the event based on different approaches, incremental costs for various routes, etc.
- Mark N.: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia is interested in being a partner for the Ciclovía event (through Walkabout program)
- Windsor St. is a proposed bicycle route in HRM's AT Plan - it leads to activity centres (e.g., the Commons) - the problem with using side streets instead is that it doesn't demonstrate the long-term vision for the AT network
- Frequency of the event is very important in order to promote a cultural shift - a one-time event won't do this. I would rather see an event with a smaller footprint happen every week than a larger one-time event.
- Stepping Up - there are 62 action steps - many align with Ciclovía project

- Reduce Ciclovía project goals to 3-5 goals, reword using more accessible language (not TDM terminology) - some of the goals as they are listed now could be used instead as indicators
- Sub-committees were formed based on some of the needs & actions identified during the discussion

Ciclovía Sub-Committees

Routes

Mark N.	m.nener@dal.ca
Scott	smacphee@clean.ns.ca
Eric	eric.rapaport@dal.ca
Laena	trax@ecologyaction.ca
Mark P.	mpoirier@gov.ns.ca
Peter	peter@eastwindcycle.com

Sponsorship/Promotion

Kate	kt780027@dal.ca
Leo	lartalejo@mtlpr.ca
Derek	dgillis@clean.ns.ca
Christine	ckrochak@mec.ca
Julia	jjpelton@clean.ns.ca
Derek Robinson	derek.robinson@dal.ca
Mark N.	m.nener@dal.ca

Budget

- We can form this group later as needed

Partnerships

(e.g., residents, events, organizations, etc.)

Sarah	mackeis@halifax.ca
Derek	dgillis@clean.ns.ca
Ross Soward	rosssoward@gmail.com
Ali	ali.shaver@dal.ca

Research

(e.g., examples from other cities, statistics, etc.)

Laena	trax@ecologyaction.ca
Eric	eric.rapaport@dal.ca
Ahsan	mh537467@dal.ca
Julia	jjpelton@clean.ns.ca
Kate	kt780027@dal.ca

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Links

Winnipeg Ciclovía

<http://www.downtownwinnipegbiz.com/home/events/ciclovía/>

FCM Green Municipal Fund

<http://gmf.fcm.ca/Home/>

4 Days - Better City LAB

<http://www.4days.ca/>

Heart and Stroke Foundation of NS, Walkabout program

<http://www.walkaboutns.ca/>

Stepping Up

<http://steppinguphalifax.ca/>

Next Steps

- Working Group will meet again in one month
- Sub-Committees will meet in the interim, identify some preliminary tasks and present findings at the next Working Group meeting
- Next regular meeting of the Sustainable Transportation Task Force is Wednesday October 20, 2010, 12noon - 1:30pm at 5257 Morris St. - everyone is welcome

Next Ciclovía Working Group Meeting

DATE: Wednesday November 3, 2010

TIME: 12pm - 1:30 pm

WHERE: Cities & Environment Unit offices

ADDRESS: 5257 Morris Street