

# SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

## Attendance

Kaija Belfry (FUSION, Sustainability Action Team)  
Brian Weadick (FUSION, Urban Development Team)  
Jonathan Lampier (FUSION, Urban Development Action Team)  
Caylum Evong (FUSION, Urban Development Team)  
Adam Gallant (FUSION, Urban Development Team)  
Bernard Smith (Agricola/Gottingen St. initiative)  
Mark Nener (Cities & Environment Unit)  
Ross Soward (Cities & Environment Unit)

## Agenda

1. Welcome & introductions
2. "What If?" sessions on public transit: topic, format, panelists, timing, venue
3. Next steps

## Discussion

- Incremental changes to current transit system, but no major adaptation to current reality, maybe we should tell the history of the system
- Social history of transit, management in the past had little sensitivity to drivers, public – ran more as an engineering project than a public service. Does this attitude remain to some extent at Metro Transit today?
- Is a competitive, easy, accessible, comfortable, convenient, predictable transit system too broad for the first session? Should we focus in on one of these principles?
- If we define what we want as a system broadly (as the topic for session), the proposed solution of each panelist will likely be more focussed in on one or more of these essential characteristics.
- Decision: Panel of 3 – 5 speakers (10 minutes each)
- Introductory speaker – history of transit?
- Should the introduction be more forward looking? Needs to be inspiring.
- Panel discussion and breakout groups.
- Panelist who understands the total integrated system – importance of considering the door-to-door trip
- Panelist who can speak to the culture of transit, transit experience should be a positive one
- What do we do with the outcomes of the sessions? Does the Task Force record the outcomes? Yes, we capture the outcomes in a

report and make this available to the public.

- Goals of the session? FUSION wants to be more informed, able to take a policy position; more informed public. Identify a key topic to explore further at the second public session.
- Should the panelists talk about context for transit, e.g., ask EAC to speak about costs of driving; another panelist speaks about environmental imperative, etc? Paint the context, make it a compelling topic.
- Two "first" sessions? e.g., competitive & easy; then comfortable and predictable...
- Venue options for the session? Maritime Museum is very open to hosting FUSION events. Should we go to where the transit ridership is?
- Reliability & speed constantly came out as issues at GreenLight Halifax, need to respond to these issues. Want to make sure people come out of the "What If?" sessions knowing what they learned, what they came for – concern if there are too many components to the topic then this might not be clear.

## Next Steps

- Meet again next week, same time
- Think about the topic and possible panelists before the next meeting.

## Links

Commuter rail, bus and ferry comparative cost analysis: Mill Cove-Halifax (findings of this analysis go to Committee of the Whole (COW) at 10am on Tuesday, February 1st.)

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/110201cow3.pdf>

Metro Transit report looking at potential for rail beyond Mill Cove as far as Truro (going to COW same day as report above)

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/110201cow4.pdf>

## Next:

### Public Engagement Working Group Meeting

**DATE:** Monday, January 31, 2011

**TIME:** 5pm - 6 pm

**WHERE:** Cities & Environment Unit offices

**ADDRESS:** 5257 Morris Street