

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Attendance

Kaitlin Pianosi (FUSION, Sustainability Action Team)
Jonathan Lampier (FUSION, Urban Development Action Team)
Bernard Smith (Agricola/Gottingen St. initiative)
Mark Nener (Cities & Environment Unit)
Ross Soward (Cities & Environment Unit)
Frank Palermo (Dal Faculty of Arch & Planning, Cities & Environment Unit)

Agenda

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

Discussion

- Think about the session as an opportunity to open up the discussion to real possibilities for getting the system we want, i.e., one panelist might propose major changes to the routing; what we can do with current buses and/or new vehicles; what happens at transfer points, etc. Define the specific things that need to be worked on by HRM leaders and staff – this direction needs to come from the public. Put forward a concrete vision for our transit system.
- Introduction to session: things have to change; dramatic reasons for changing; we know what we want (Guiding Principles); for whatever reason we're not seeing these changes happen fast enough; tonight we have several concrete examples (from the panelists) of possible changes to the system.
- Panelist would visually, physically describe the experience, the system, what it would look like.
- Larger group discussion could focus on how public mobilizes to implement changes. Mobilize ourselves, public sentiment, pull ideas together and figure out how to operationalize these ideas.
- Group discussions explore how to implement the solution relative to other discussions. What ties the solutions together? e.g., how do you get fast AND convenient without a huge environmental footprint?
- Example of event that asked panelists to describe ideal commute from Bedford in 2025 – outcomes were too broad, too distant, quite similar.

- Panelist needs to present a provocative and visceral example/solution
- We have the components, just need to rethink and propose a solution.
- Discuss event with panelists in advance & describe carefully goals of the event.
- After panel presentations, could have each panelist lead a breakout group to further explore and advance their proposed solution. What are the guiding questions for these group discussions?
- Alternative: after panelists, questions from audience to pick apart solutions, work toward workable solutions.
- Concern about breakout groups: someone in group will have an alternative proposal that could dilute the discussion, could be difficult to arrive at consensus on action.
- Feeling that it is useful to paint a picture of context, i.e., global warming and climate change, cost of road infrastructure, urban design, health, etc. Establishes urgency of situation – need a solution now, not in 2025.
- Will participants already be aware of economic, environmental imperatives? More interested in hearing solutions?
- Session needs to lead into next session.
- This session builds on other work, events. Growing consensus of principles related to transit, build this consensus in the room before breakout sessions.
- Panelist ideas:
 - Christopher Hume (Toronto Star columnist) – hosted episode of Nature of Things on urban form (check out relevant article by Hume: <http://www.thestar.com/news/article/929363--hume-toronto-the-once-and-future-city>)
 - Someone from HRM, Metro Transit?
 - Someone from a comparable sized city, e.g., Ottawa?
 - Rep. from TransLink in Vancouver. Former Dalhousie MPlan graduate has worked there for several years.
 - Someone doing research from one of the transportation/transit associations, e.g., CUTA, TAC
 - Someone who understands of climate.
 - Ahsan Habib from Dalhousie Faculty of Arch

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& Planning

- Pam Cooley (Car Share Hfx)
- James Howard Kunstler, author

Next Steps

- Meet again next week, same time
- Set date for first session, and target dates for preparations leading up to session

Next:

Public Engagement Working Group Meeting

DATE: Monday, February 7, 2011

TIME: 5pm - 6 pm

WHERE: Cities & Environment Unit offices

ADDRESS: 5257 Morris Street