

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)
 Scott MacPhee (Clean Nova Scotia)
 Clark Morris (Transport Action Atlantic)

Agenda

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Advance "What if?" public engagement sessions (topic, format, panelists, timing, venue)
3. Next steps

Discussion

"What if?" Public Engagement Sessions

Venue

- Alderney Landing an option: Rotunda or theatre. Mayor may offer us this for free, has offered it for the Planning conference for free in the past.
- Bloomfield gym, good breakout rooms, gym is often booked
- St. Patrick's Alexandria in North end?
- St. Pat's High School?
- Suggestion from Paul MacKinnon, Downtown Halifax Business Commission: they recently used the back atrium of Pipa, a restaurant on Argyle St. Surprisingly large (holds 100+). Victoria Gaspar would likely be interested in having someone book it, probably would not be very expensive. Business Commission has good connections with most places downtown. Is this space accessible?
- Looked into some possibilities in Clayton Park
 - could we capture a larger group of transit commuters here? A different audience than the usual crowd attending such events downtown?
 - Keshen Goodman Library: largest room only holds 60 chairs
 - Halifax West High. FUSION considered this venue for Green Light Halifax; near Lacewood terminal, but no direct bus access
- Can we video conference in a second location, e.g., Clayton Park?
- Time: 5:30 – 7:30pm to capture people after work before they go home.

- Decision: Alderney Landing is our preferred venue for the first session.

Possible Panelists

- Gabryel Joseph with the Town of Wolfville, Sustainable Transportation Study Coordinator, lived in Victoria for 12 years, policy researcher/analyst
- Panelists different for each session
- Need some lead time to figure out the right panelist and ask them to participate
- Christopher Hume from the Toronto Star
- Don't need an HRM/Metro Transit rep. to tell us that they are doing everything that they can under the circumstances. We know this already, would be a downer. They are working hard based on current allocation of resources by council.
- Gerry Hull at Via Rail – could talk about the viability of rail in Halifax
 - Update: Mark & Bernie met with Gerry Hull. He proposed two former VIA employees that might be interested:
 - Roger Hoather, on Board of Directors of Industrial Rail in Moncton and involved in Montreal & Toronto rail links to airport.
 - Alain Mercier, head of Ottawa rail transit division
 - Gerry will contact both to see if they are interested and available, inquire about costs.
- Author of opinion piece in Herald??
- Someone from a city that is ahead of the curve on transit: e.g., Portland
- US consulate brought Roger Geller from Portland last year – can look into this opportunity again for other American speakers.
- Need a big name to be the draw
- David Suzuki – quite expensive, does he still travel to conferences? Would attract a big crowd. Episode of Nature of Things with big sustainable transportation focus.
- Can we share costs of bringing in a speaker with another organization? Sponsor? FCM Conference?
 - FCM conference in Halifax June 3-6; could timing work for 3rd session?
 - Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) conference in Halifax May 29 - June 1; could timing work for 3rd session?
- Need at least three weeks lead time for publicity

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Next Steps

- Frank will contact the Mayor re. Alderney Landing
- Mark will contact Christopher Hume, Andrew Curran at Translink in BC
- Bernie will arrange a coffee meeting with Gerry Hull
- Look into US Consulate program to bring in speakers (Ross)
- Does Downtown Business Association have any funds to help bring in a speaker? (Bernie)
- Meet again next Wednesday. Jonathon will lead the meeting.

Next Public Engagement Working Group Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2011

TIME: 12pm - 1:30 pm

WHERE: Cities & Environment Unit offices

ADDRESS: 5257 Morris Street

Next Ciclovia Working Group Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, March 2, 2011

TIME: 12pm - 1:30 pm

WHERE: Cities & Environment Unit offices

ADDRESS: 5257 Morris Street