

## Shifting to Sustainable Transportation

### Notes from Task Force Meeting #4 - August 25, 2010

#### **Attendance**

Mark Nener (Cities & Environment Unit)  
Leonard Preyra (MLA Halifax Citadel-Sable Island)  
Mark Poirier (Planner, SNSMR)  
Bernie Smith (Spring Garden Road Business Association)  
Scott McPhee (Clean Nova Scotia)  
Eric Rapaport (Professor, School of Planning, Dal)  
Peter Lund (Councillor, Hammonds Plains - St. Margaret's)  
Brian McDonald (Halifax Chamber of Commerce)  
Ali Shaver (Cities & Environment Unit)  
Marie-Claude Gregoire (ADAPT, IWK Active Transportation Committee)  
Marcus Garnet (Planner, HRM)  
Merrell Moorhead (Chair, Chamber Transportation Committee)

#### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Watch "Ciclovía" film <http://www.streetfilms.org/ciclovía/>
3. Review and discuss pilot project ideas - select one or two
4. Small groups: define pilot project elements
5. Report back
6. Next steps & tasks

#### **Notes**

- Could we think of different levels of crisis that may occur in the future to determine what pilot project we focus on?
- We need a long-term plan to *avoid* the crisis - we know about global warming, peak oil, health issues, barriers to mobility - let's act now instead of reacting later.
- Need to ensure that pilot project connects back to the Big Ideas we created over the last few meetings
- Create one page summary of SST with background info, Big Ideas and goals of the Task Force
- It might be helpful to answer this question: what is it going to take for people to get out of their cars?
- Need to ensure synergy in demonstration project
- The term "Demonstration project" may be more appropriate than "pilot project"
- Show *connections* between modes, between transport and land use
- Need to identify demonstration project goals and benefits and use these to market the project.
- What are we trying to convey? What information are we trying to capture?
- Need to focus on what we gain through demonstration project, not what we're taking away
- Bogota does Ciclovía on Sundays, which is different than during work week. Turns into a family event

- We could take the Ciclovía model and do it in Halifax on a weekend
- Bridge walk happens in Halifax, but only one day per year. Need to find a project that happens more regularly, possibly every week
- For our demonstration project we need to find a corridor or loop to close off in Halifax
- Establish destinations and create corridors to that destination (need decent weather and entertainment then people will show up)
- Corridors are not only for bikes, but for pedestrians, rollerbladers, skateboards, etc.
- Need designated areas for people to park outside of town and take the bus into town
- Consider closing streets during the week versus weekend
- How does closing streets on a weekend work toward or achieve sustainability?
- Downtown Halifax needs more places for people to park their bikes, particularly around important public spaces.
- Project needs to attract a large segment of the population (think about needs of different age groups; design project to attract different skill levels, etc.)
- Permitting process could be costly. Need HRM on board to support project. Need HRM to adopt demonstration as a policy. Request fees to be waived.
- Cost for Spring Garden Road Business Association to block off 3 blocks of Spring Garden: \$11,000 per day
- SST Task Force shouldn't need to push HRM to do this, but help HRM to achieve this.
- Need to include bicycle etiquette and education in the event program

### **Additional Demonstration Project Ideas**

- Take a few bus routes (e.g., #4 or #2) and create the ideal transit service - how much additional ridership could we capture?
- City bike share program

### **Small Group Discussion**

#### Group 1

- Need to have one project that focuses on weekday and one that focuses on the weekend
- Ciclovía
  - Start on weekend (will encounter less resistance)
  - Will help people gain comfort in riding a bike and help people feel safer
  - Include bike buddy program
  - Project should make people's lives easier not more cumbersome
  - Ciclovía to happen frequently, e.g., every Sunday for one month, two months, three months, etc.
  - Include the Ecology Action Centre in project coordination
  - Include health benefits in project rationale. Focus on health promotion in project execution
  - Gain support from Business Associations
  - Need to think through budget and business plan
  - Possible routes: Gottigen, Agricola, South Street, South Park, Cogswell, Marginal Road, Barrington, Lower Water, Spring Garden

- Possible destinations: Point Pleasant Park, Dingle, Seaview Park, North Common, new Farmers Market, Waterfront, Citadel Hill
- Include Bike Boat from the Dingle to foot of South Street as part of the overall project

## Group 2

### *Possible Routes*

- South St., Urban Greenway, SMU, Point Pleasant Park, Port of Halifax, Cunard Centre, new Farmer's Market
- North end route? Agricola, Summer St., South Park

### *Destinations*

- Events at the ends of corridors, e.g., Spring Garden Rd. street closure & sale, concert - and along the routes, e.g., shopping, eating, resting
- Provide bike parking at destinations (HRM already has a bike valet parking initiative - had it set up for the Northern Lights Lantern Festival)

### *Marketing*

- What are we adding to the city?
  - Access to downtown, Point Pleasant Park, Waterfront
  - Visit the downtown without burden of a car

### *Connect to a transit demo project*

- Transit connections from nodes (i.e., park & ride) on periphery of city to AT routes
- Shuttle to/from end points of corridor(s)

### *What are we demonstrating?*

- Accessibility of AT modes and routes
- Health benefits
- Radical shift in modal split toward AT and Transit
- Social integration - mixing of people, people visiting neighbourhoods they wouldn't normally visit

### **Next meeting**

- Wednesday, September 8 (12pm - 2pm) 5410 Spring Garden Road, Room HB4
- Further develop a "Ciclovia" type demonstration project adapted to Halifax, identify and assign tasks