

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Attendance

Mark Nener (Cities & Environment Unit)
Mark Poirier (Planner, SNSMR)
Ali Shaver (Cities & Environment Unit)
Cameron Deacoff (HRM, Sustainable Environmental Management Office)
Derek Robinson (Dalhousie Office of Sustainability)
Bernie Smith (Spring Garden Road Business Commission)
Laena Garrison (Ecology Action Centre)
Josh McLean (Conserve Nova Scotia)
Hanita Koblents (HRM, TDM Coordinator, Guest advisor to Task Force)
Frank Palermo (Dalhousie Faculty of Architecture and Planning)
Jennifer Watts (Councillor, Connaught-Quinpool)
Rachel Derrah (Breakhouse)
Paul Maher (artist, Master of Planning student)

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Opportunities to collaborate on 4 Days Better City LAB
3. Engaging the public (parallel track to demo project)
4. Further develop "Ciclovía" type demonstration project adapted for Halifax
5. Identify tasks and form working groups
6. Next steps

Discussion

- Bernie: concerned that Ciclovía does not connect to making a better transportation system in Halifax - need to focus on improving the transit system. Demonstration project ideas: take one transit route with high potential ridership and make it the best it can possibly be. Demonstrate that transit could be cheaper than car travel - put an ad on the back of buses that shows how much it cost to drive a care to work versus riding transit.
- Need in-depth ongoing dialogue on transit in Halifax
- Frank: the reason for the Task Force is not to do demonstration projects - demo project is a way to communicate to people that it is possible to do something toward a sust. transportation system. What do we value? What do we envision for this city? Leadership needs to come from the bottom up as opposed to top down. How do we get to

a point where popular (sustainable) priorities influence budgets and impact infrastructure investments? Need a ground swell of support for sust. trans - build this through demo projects. Take action through demo projects. Find creative ways to use our streets. Imagine if in one year it would be unthinkable to invest in anything else other than sust. transportation.

- Perspective of many people is nothing is happening - this is demoralizing. The reality is that there are some successes - we can build on these.
- Report to Council on Bayers Rd. widening is due this fall - it will raise concern and questions. HRM is buying properties as opportunities arise.
- Road widening is not just an HRM issue, also a provincial issue. Bayers Rd. widening is partly a response to the Hwy 102 widening.
- Task Force response to Bayers Rd. widening? Present sustainable transportation alternative.
- Task Force could partner with CREST - their website was a very effective tool during rail cut debate.
- Should invite the Halifax Regional Trails Association to the Task Force - urban/suburban divide is holding us back.
- Hanita shared her experiences and expertise relevant to a "Ciclovía" type event:
 - Challenges: providing access to private properties (controlled access streets work best)
 - need to consider impacts on transit
 - Rolling closures (e.g., Bluenose marathon) are easier than fixed street closures
 - Costs: barricades and paid police officers at major intersections to direct traffic
 - Bike Week's Open Street Party around the Commons cost \$5000 for the day (piggy backed on another event - the Halifax Criterium)
- Ciclovía for Halifax:
 - Partnerships? Could partner with HRM, Cycling Coalition, Bicycles Plus to grow the Open Street Party, make it a more frequent event
 - Funding models: sponsors, HRM budget item, partnership with other events (e.g., Bluenose marathon, youth marathon)
 - Can use a successful event as a way to

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

- “prime” potential partners and sponsors.
- Build a pool of people with skills to lead the Ciclovía culture.
- Look at HRM events planning online applications
- Rachel Derrah presented opportunity to collaborate on **4 Day Better City LAB** event:
 - KNOWLEDGE BLACK MARKET : “an installation of 50 knowledge dealers by 4 Days Better City LAB”
 - Book a 15-minute, triad dialogue with local knowledge dealers including artists, philosophers, economists, bureaucrats, garbologists, experts, non-experts The ‘knowledge dealers’ - through stories, theories, research, ideas & myths - will spark a conversation with you on a key questions and ideas about MOBILITY in our city.
 - At single tables, ‘knowledge dealers’ sit and offer a portion of their knowledge, which can be explained and learned in 15 minutes. Participants can choose between offers by the ‘knowledge dealers’. Two people per knowledge dealer for an interactive and lively conversation.
 - The knowledge dealers are all locals bringing diverse backgrounds and perspectives. You may hear ideas and questions such as:
 - Is our city an age-friendly city? What about e-mobility? How do we plan our cities for optimal movement of people and goods? Where are all the bike lanes? Could Halifax have a passenger rail system in 10 years?
 - From these conversations a collective story will begin to emerge that is a vision or snapshot of what mobility could be for a Better City, Better Life in Halifax.
 - **When?** Wednesday, Oct. 20th
 - 5410 Spring Garden Rd, Exhibition Room
 - Doors open at 6 (come early to participate in the idea-exhibition)
 - Conversation from 7-9
 - Black Markets have been held in Hamburg, Berlin and Warsaw on various subjects. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/video/2008/nov/25/blackmarket-bluecoat-liverpool>
- Responsibilities as a Knowledge Dealer:
 - Take some time to prepare thoughts, questions, ideas or stories before the event
 - Be in the Exhibition Room at 5410 Spring Garden Rd from 6-9 that day
 - For 45 minutes you will be “hosting” conversations at your table
 - Up to 3 people will come sit with you for 15 minutes
 - Chit chat, tell story, share ideas, ask questions, answer questions
 - After 15 minutes we will say CHANGE .. you will get up to 3 new people for another 15 minutes .. then again
 - Total of 45 minutes in fun, inspiring, educational conversation

Links

Article on Moncton’s updated Active Transportation Plan

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/opinion/article/1180396>

Article about Montreal’s “In Town Without My Car” event

http://montreal.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100922/mtl_cars_100922/

HRM Event Planning

<http://www.halifax.ca/events/index.html>

Next Steps

- Everyone interested in the Ciclovía demonstration project is invited to form a Civlovía Working Group - first meeting will be **Wednesday October 6th, 12noon-1:30pm, 5257 Morris St.** The working group will refine the goals for this demo project, discuss the appropriate scope and explore potential partnerships.
- Next regular meeting of the Task Force scheduled for October 20th - Agenda TBA
- If you are interested in participating in the Knowledge Black Market (i.e., to discuss the Task Force or Ciclovía project) contact Rachel Derrah at: rachel@breakhouse.ca

Next Task Force Meeting

DATE: Wednesday October 20, 2010

TIME: 12pm - 1:30 pm

WHERE: Cities & Environment Unit offices

ADDRESS: 5257 Morris Street