



FAQ – Call for Speakers

Mpact Transit + Community conference 2023



Q. Can I propose more than one session?

A. Yes you can. We will track people who have submitted more than one. If you submit multiple proposals, it is unlikely that you would have multiple speaking roles.

Q. Any specifics to avoid when submitting proposals?

A. Group proposals with limited perspectives (e.g., all consultants, all transit agency staff, all one location) will be difficult.

Avoid proposals where you have not gotten all the way to the “so what.” It’s important that your topic has gotten to a point where there are lessons learned.

Q. Will there be any evening sessions?

A. Most of our conference sessions end by 5pm. The PK Slam, a PechaKucha-style format, is in the evening. It is one of the Tracks on the Call for Speakers.

Q. How closely will the National Steering Committee evaluate tracks as compared to the specific topics listed under each track? How much variance from the specific topics will they consider?

A. The description of each track is in the [packet](#). Each Track includes a bunch of topics that we think will be of interest. We also are interested in hearing about topics we didn’t specifically list. We are open to other topics if you can speak to “so what,” the lessons learned. Within each track, we are looking for proposals that speak to hot topics and trends; proposals that provide “advanced basics,” such as what it takes to complete a complicated or difficult project; and proposals that provide introductory information for new attendees.

Q. If our presentation won’t take 90 minutes, is there a possibility you might combine similar topics?

A. Individual proposals are combined with other proposals to create a session. Sessions are either 90 minutes or 45-60 minutes. We never have a session that is 90 minutes with one speaker. We might have a shorter session with 1 or 2 speakers, but it would be only 45-60 minutes in length - and is fairly rare.

Q. I know you mentioned that speakers will need to pay for their attendance, but are there any other costs associated with speaking at the conference?

A. The conference is in-person, so it will include travel costs and hotel as well as your daily expenses for meals, etc.

Q. If a local presenter gets selected would it be a preference to offer a tour?

A. We definitely are looking for local presenters able to be part of conference sessions. If you also are willing to lead some sort of tour of the project, please mention it in your proposal. However, it's not typical to have tours for specific sessions. Tour speakers typically are approached outside of the Call for Speakers process.

Q. My group presented a few years ago. Are there any concerns about highlighting next steps or phases to a project if we plan on sharing new lessons learned?

A. If the story is largely new (i.e., focuses on the next phase of the project and lessons learned), then it could be a powerful story to tell. Repeat sessions without a lot of new content are less desirable. Make sure to the story in the proposal, including not only "what" but "so what."

Q. Where can we find the diversity of perspectives criteria for group proposal?

A. Cross-sector viewpoints: from different industries, geographies, and professional backgrounds, as well as people in the community affected by projects, including riders. Speakers representing different gender and cultural identities as well as people with disabilities.

Perspectives from historically underrepresented communities, such as communities of color, and those addressing structural racism.

Q. What is the ratio between rail and bus topics of sessions?

A. Still lots to cover on each, bus and rail. Our BRT sessions have been well-attended. We also focus on selecting the right mode for the corridor. There are many other topics besides modes that we cover as well; see [Call for Speakers information](#).

Q. Typically how many folks attend each session? What's the range?

A. There are 7-8 sessions that run concurrently during the session timeslots at the conference. The attendee range per session is between 30 and 100, with an average of around 45-50. Some of the advanced sessions can have fewer attendees, but they end up with great networking.

If you have additional questions about the Call for Speakers process, please review the [Call for Speakers Information packet](#). If you still have a question, please contact Andrea Ostergaard, Program Manager, Mpact Transit + Community conference, andreao@mpactmobility.org or 612-486-5616.