



TRANSIT +
COMMUNITY

Portland, Oregon, Oct 26-29, 2025

Call for Speakers

February 19 - March 21

mpactmobility.org/speakers

The M: Transit + Community conference focuses on the potential for transit investments, connected mobility options, supportive land use and development — taken together — to create better lives and brighter futures.

The 2025 conference will take place in Portland, Oregon, the birthplace of our mission to create livable communities centered around transit. Since our inception as Rail[™]volution in 1995 through the rebranding to M: in 2022, our commitment has remained strong: regardless of whether the focus is on transit, mobility or development, it's crucial that we deliver these projects thoughtfully, ensuring they provide a return on investment to the communities we serve.

The Call for Speakers is your chance to contribute to the program by adding your voice. Submit by March 21!

How are you working to invest in stronger communities around transit today - for a better tomorrow?

Celebrating 30 Years!

The conference continues to grow and evolve, bringing new ideas and approaches to the ever-changing mobility, technology and development landscape.

We focus on the whole community built around transit and multimodal investments, from the modes themselves to housing, business and economic development, to supportive policies and financing, as well as the implications for health, safety, sustainability, access to opportunity and overall quality of life for all parts of the community.

Conference speakers are thinkers, doers and policy-makers, able to share the challenges they are facing, innovative solutions, real-world experience, and approaches that ensure outcomes benefit the full community.



Portland - An Evolving Livable City

Portland is known for its particular vibe: down to earth, creative, inclusive, not afraid to be different. The city and region are known for innovative approaches to mobility, land use and development, housing and public participation. There's a rich legacy of collaboration accompanied by a sense of always looking forward.

- Transit: five MAX light rail lines, bus network including FX high-capacity bus and bus priority, Portland Streetcar, Portland Aerial Tram, WES Commuter Rail, LIFT paratransit and Amtrak
- World-class bicycle network, including neighborhood greenways, bike/ped bridges, protected bike infrastructure, bike share and scooters
- Regional urban growth boundary
- Improvements in multimodal safety and complete street design
- Innovative policies for housing and mobility

**Local Hosts: TriMet, Oregon Metro,
City of Portland Bureau of Transportation**



MOBILITY
COMMUNITY
POSSIBILITY

M is for mobility, movement and momentum; pact is for the agreement with community about the vision transit and development projects are meant to achieve. Mpact - formerly Rail⁺volution

Choose 1 of 6 tracks for your proposal



1. How are you solving for funding gaps?

Key topics for 2025 - Track 1

- Maximizing non-federal funding
- Innovative funding and financing
- Monetizing assets
- Developer perspectives on housing & commercial development
- Funding for community projects & parking in relation to transit-oriented development (TOD)
- Tax-Increment Financing /Value Capture
- Funding mega events

2. How are you solving for quality-of-life issues?

Key topics for 2025 - Track 2

- Transit homeless & security
- Rider experience & safety
- Placemaking & revitalization
- Design excellence
- Resiliency & sustainability
- Displacement & gentrification

3. How are you solving for access and mobility?

Key topics for 2025 - Track 3

- Federally-driven issues: congestion management, business case for access and mobility
- Small-scale and tech-driven mobility: microtransit, micromobility, apps
- Big transit projects: system build-outs, regional rail, BRT
- Transit operations: big events, customer service, ridership, partnerships
- Alternative fuel buses, on-demand mobility, redesigning networks to meet mobility trends

More tracks next page

Choose 1 of 6 tracks for your proposal



4. How are you building a knowledge and action base?

Key topics for 2025 - Track 4

- Engaging the next generation
- Effective strategies to support ballot initiatives
- Unique partnerships and collaborations
- Building coalitions and constituencies for transit
- Building community stamina for long-term goals and program outcomes
- Preparing transit organizations for succession planning

5. How are you using transit-oriented development (TOD) to build complete communities?

Key topics for 2025 - Track 5

- 21st Century TOD/TOD+/TOC
- Affordable Housing
- Small business/community spaces, Mixed use/community serving uses
- Anti-gentrification and community displacement
- Transit/TOD integration
- Sustainability/resiliency in relation to TOD
- Zoning reform + land use
- Parking
- Corridor planning

6. Do you have a hot take or impactful story for the Mpace PK Slam?

The Mpace PK Slam, hosted by the Mpace Innovators and powered by PechaKucha™, is an evening of wit, humor and fresh perspectives. Do you have a cutting edge take on how work gets done, the industry or topics we're not focusing on enough? Speak your truth on the big stage! Each speaker gets 20 slides at 20 seconds each. When developing your proposal, no sales pitches, please!

Prepare Your Proposal

for individual or full session submissions



READ THIS BEFORE YOU START!

1. Prepare your proposal before you submit. Use the worksheets available at www.mpactmobility.org/speakers
2. Be sure to include the “so what” of your topic or project: why it matters and lessons learned.
3. Each proposer is limited to 2 proposals.
4. For full session proposals, you must contact speakers you want to include to make sure they are interested and able to attend the conference.
5. Once your proposal is ready to submit, it will take 30+ minutes to complete the submission form.
ALERT: If you leave the form without submitting at the end, the form will time out and you will have to start over.
6. Once you hit submit, you will receive a confirmation - keep this! You CAN log back in to edit your proposal up to the submission deadline of midnight, Pacific Standard Time, March 21.
7. Make sure you can be in Portland, October 26-29. If you are asked to participate in a session, you will be expected to be there in person. Speakers can attend for free the day they speak or register and pay for the full conference.

We greatly appreciate your best thinking! At Mpact, our content is highly curated to ensure the strongest content and the variety of perspectives required for success in any community. We may accept your proposal as is, or we may mix and match with other proposals. We may also ask that one or two people from a proposal participate. It’s unusual that we accept full submissions (aka group proposals) as submitted.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

We look for proposals that reflect or advance:

- **Cross-sector viewpoints:** from different industries/sectors, geographies, perspectives and backgrounds.
- **Innovative stories** that have lessons learned. Why did or didn’t it work?
- **Community perspective,** especially under-represented or hard to reach populations.
- **Innovative partnerships** and collaborative solutions.
- **Real-world, community-derived, practical applications** to solving problems.

Submit

Find the link to submit at www.mpactmobility.org/speakers
Submit by March 21, midnight Pacific time.

What happens after you submit

Planning the Mpact Transit + Community Conference

The Mpact National Steering Committee guides content for the conference. Steering Committee members work in communities across the United States and Canada. They helped develop the Call for Speakers and will review proposals as part of curating sessions for the conference.

The Mpact Innovators, a national networking group welcoming the next generation of industry leaders and thinkers, organizes the Mpact PK Slam (powered by PechaKucha™) and other conference activities. View past PK Slam presentations here on Mpact's YouTube channel.

April

After the Call for Speakers closes, proposals will be read, sorted and ranked by members of the Mpact National Steering Committee (NSC).

May

The full National Steering Committee will meet to discuss proposals and curate topics and sessions. Individual NSC members will choose specific sessions to coordinate. NSC coordinators may reach out to you about your proposal.

June

The full National Steering Committee will meet again to review and vet proposed conference sessions. This is a back and forth process, involving critique of individual sessions and the program as a whole. Speakers and topics may be adjusted at this point.

July

National Steering Committee members will reach out to confirm speakers for sessions and confirm the content to be covered. Speakers will meet with their NSC session coordinator and other participants at least twice - once in July and again prior to the conference.

August

All proposers will receive a final decision on their submittal by August.

October 26-29 Mpact Transit + Community Portland



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