

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY SUMMIT

REPORT

OTTAWA CITY HALL | OTTAWA, CANADA

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017



envirocentre
Bringing environmental change to life

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

**Healthy Transportation
Coalition**

The logo for the Healthy Transportation Coalition, featuring icons for a bus, a bicycle, a wheelchair, and a group of people walking.

An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

BACKGROUND

Equitable transportation benefits all citizens. It allows people to move freely around the city, regardless of economic status or ability. An accessible city is an equitable city. While there have been some advancements in Ottawa in the area of transportation equity, more action is needed to ensure that the City uses an equity lens in its planning for the new Transportation Master Plan. That is why the Healthy Transportation Coalition and EnviroCentre, with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, partnered for the Transportation Equity Summit on Friday, September 22nd, 2017. The all-day event focused on emerging trends in universal design and infrastructure, policy and spending, ways to increase grassroots involvement, and promising practices from elsewhere. The Summit served as a platform where professionals, decision makers and residents came together to learn about and discuss challenges and opportunities.

**“EQUITY IS NEVER
ONE PERSON’S
JOB – CREATING
CHANGE REQUIRES
A TEAM APPROACH”**

– ZAN GIBBS





ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Transportation Equity Summit was co-hosted by EnviroCentre and the Healthy Transportation Coalition, with support from the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

The event was sponsored by the office of Councillor David Chernushenko, Bridgehead, Whole Foods at Landsdowne and the National Capital Region Branch of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

The Transportation Equity Summit took place at Ottawa City Hall and 110 people were in attendance.

In the afternoon, summit participants took part in roundtable discussions with presenters, followed by a group activity. The purpose of both sessions was to come together and answer the question: What does Ottawa need to do to be a leader in transportation equity?

**70% SAID THAT THE
SUMMIT GREATLY
INCREASED THEIR
KNOWLEDGE OF
TRANSPORTATION
EQUITY**

PRESENTERS

Zan Gibbs | Portland Oregon Transportation Bureau
Kornel Mucsi | City of Ottawa
Zlatko Krstulic | City of Ottawa
Kate Whitfield | Alta Planning
Geoff Stiles | Healthy Transportation Coalition
Andrea Balfour - City for All Women Initiative
Kristie Daniel | HealthBridge
Trevor Haché | Healthy Transportation Coalition
Dennis Carr | D Carr Community Solutions
Mark Johnson | Federal Public Servant
Sean Hertel | Urban Planning Consultant
Hans Moor | Bike Ottawa
Dianne Breton | Council on the Aging of Ottawa
Joan Kuyek | Gotta Go Campaign
Naheed Khan | Making Voices Count Transit Working Group
Tina Ford | Making Voices Count Transit Working Group
Mary Jane Clinkard | Para Transpo User
Kirstin Pulles | Solidarity Ottawa's Eco-Justice Committee
Faduma Wais | Student Federation of the University of Ottawa
Stephen Blais | City of Ottawa
Keith Egli | City of Ottawa
Bruce Rosove | Ecology Ottawa/Healthy Transportation Coalition/Bike Ottawa
Chris Brouwer | City of Ottawa
Saide Sayah | City of Ottawa
Ray Sullivan | Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation
Samuel Benoit | Causeway/Right Bike

PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE AT

healthytransportation.ca/summit



A black and white photograph of Zan Gibbs, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. She is standing behind a dark wooden podium with a microphone, gesturing with her hands as she speaks. In the background, a large screen displays the text "BUILD AN EQUITABLE" and "Thank you." in a bold, sans-serif font.

ZAN GIBBS

Zan was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec and prior to working at the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), spent 20 years working on various social justice initiatives in the non-profit sector in Portland, Oregon. Zan is currently the Equity and Inclusion Program Manager for the Portland Bureau of Transportation. Zan is responsible for developing, implementing, supporting and managing PBOT's equity and inclusion initiatives and policies. This includes working with the Office of Equity and Human Rights on a Bureau wide racial equity assessment and 5-year action plan, managing Title VI Civil Rights compliance, advising program staff on the usage of equity lens tools and supporting the Bureau's overall advancement of cultural responsiveness.

**“BE STRATEGIC,
BE CLEAR, AND
BE BOLD.”**

– ZAN GIBBS

SEAN HERTEL

Sean Hertel is a Registered Professional Planner with more than 19 years of experience, and leads a Toronto-based practice that is uniquely positioned at the intersection of different disciplines, environments and processes. As a connector of ideas and people to shape cities, Sean and his collaborators lead a diverse range of projects that reflect the complexity of the urban landscape. He has a particular expertise in transit oriented development, policy analysis and formulation, implementation strategies, and facilitation and public engagement. In addition to his practice, Sean is a researcher at the City Institute at York University, a frequent speaker at university planning programs in planning, and a popular source for planning commentary in the media.

**“LOW INCOME
RESIDENTS ARE
OFTEN FORCED TO
MAKE DECISIONS
BETWEEN TRANSIT
FARES AND FOOD.”**

— SEAN HERTEL



CALL TO ACTION

The Healthy Transportation Coalition, along with one of its partners the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (University of Ottawa), will continue consultations with individuals and community groups such as NGOs, community-based groups, academic institutions, municipal governments and other special interest groups across the city of Ottawa on what they feel should be included in the citizens' agenda for transportation equity. The aim is to finalize this agenda, an agenda that reflects both the barriers and solutions to those barriers in transportation, by October 2018.



**“IF YOU WANT TO BE A LEADER,
YOU HAVE TO BE INNOVATIVE.”**

– ZAN GIBBS

CALL TO ACTION

INCLUSIVE PUBLIC TRANSIT

OC TRANSPRO SHOULD CREATE:

50%
OFF

Single fare discount for
qualifying low income
people priced at least
50% off the regular
single fare price

\$42
MONTH

A reduced cost
EquiPass costing
no more than
\$42/month for
qualifying low
Income people



Online booking system
for Para Transpo users,
similar to the Wheel-
Trans Online Trip Booking
system in Toronto



CALL TO ACTION

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY INITIATIVES

THE CITY OF OTTAWA SHOULD:



HELP LOW INCOME CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

We need excellent and safe cycling and pedestrian connections from low income neighbourhoods to Rapid Transit Stations within a 5 kilometer radius.



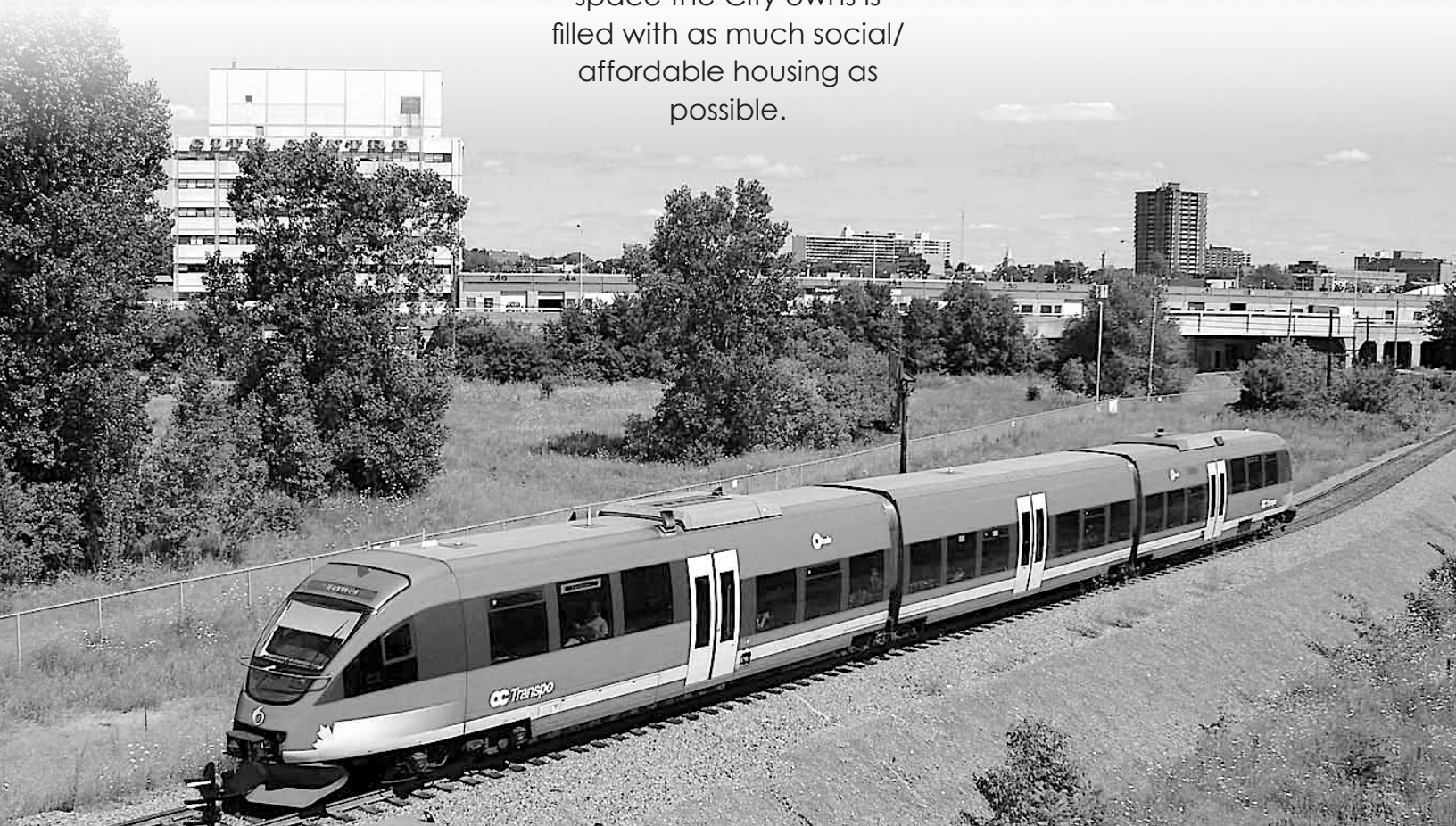
PRIORITIZE SOCIAL/ AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENTS

We need affordable housing around Light Rail Transit and Bus Rapid Transit Stations, ensuring the air space the City owns is filled with as much social/ affordable housing as possible.



HOW TO HELP PAY FOR IT

Ottawa should study implementing road user fees, in a way that doesn't burden low-income individuals.



90% OF SURVEY RESONDENTS
who attended the Summit said:

They are more likely to take action on issues that matter in their community related to walking, cycling, and public transit.



56% said they would **contact a city councillor**



50% said they would contact the **appropriate organization to deal with the problem**



8% said they would **contact a local radio station.**

“

“EQUITY IS ACHIEVED WHEN ONE’S IDENTITY CANNOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME.” – ZAN GIBBS

**“OTTAWA SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT (PUBLIC) TRANSPORTATION IS A SERVICE...TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY.”
– SUMMIT PARTICIPANT**

**“PUBLIC TRANSIT IS QUITE LITERALLY A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNITY, FOR BELONGING, FOR CONNECTION, AND FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VIBRANCY.”
– SEAN HERTEL**

”

WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY GAINED FROM THE SUMMIT

40
PERCENT

said
answers
to their
questions

55
PERCENT

said
resources
that they can
use going
forward

55
PERCENT

said ideas
that they can
use in their
personal and/or
professional life

53
PERCENT

said new
contacts



SUMMIT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trevor Haché
Maria Basualdo
Angela Franovic
Naheed Khan

Mete Pamir
Sally Thomas
Heather Semotiuk

SUMMIT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elyse McCann
Mandy Wilson

Trevor Haché
Maria Basualdo



ENVIROCENTRE.CA
@ENVIROCENTRE

HEALTHYTRANSPORTATION.CA
@HEALTHTRANSPORT