

CALL FOR PAPERS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

WALK21 NEW YORK CITY 2009

More footprints, less carbon

The 10th International Conference on Walking and Liveable
Communities

New York University
OCTOBER 7-9, 2009

1. Overview

New York City Department of Transportation is proud to host the 10th annual Walk21 conference, Walk21 New York City, 2009.

The conference will take place at New York University in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, from Wednesday, October 7th to Friday, October 9th, 2009

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has begun a long-range sustainability campaign which has led to new transportation strategies in the city. New York has launched a wide range of green mobility and public realm projects and policies, all of which contribute to and require a high quality pedestrian environment. New plazas and attractive sidewalks, rapid bus lines and protected bicycle lanes are blooming across the city. City agencies are developing a new street design manual that will ensure that all future projects yield attractive, walking-friendly streets.

This exciting conference will bring together hundreds of delegates from around the world, including leaders from government, academia, the private sector, non-profit and community groups as well as professionals, practitioners, politicians and advocates in the fields of urban and transportation planning, sustainability and climate, recreation, community development, safety, health, tourism, design and business. The conference themes reflect the desire to make this a conference that focuses on the relationships that enable people to develop sustainable and vibrant healthy communities, where people can and do choose to walk.

Pre- and post-conference workshops and activities may be held and there will be a range of *walkshops* offered as part of the conference itself.

Proposals for papers, presenters, workshops, poster displays, walkshops, and pre- and post-conference workshops are now being sought for Walk21 New York City that can provide insight, guidance and support within each of the conference themes, from local to international levels.

Submissions must be forwarded to the following mail address: walk21nyc@dot.nyc.gov by February 27, 2009.

More detail is given in the submission guidelines below.

2. Program information

2.1 Introduction and conference objectives

Walk21 New York City: More footprints, less carbon, is convened by the New York City Department of Transportation. It is being supported by a range of other sponsors and contributors across a diversity of sectors involved in the promotion of walking and livable communities.

Leading speakers and delegates from around the world are being encouraged to participate in this landmark event and to assist in sharing what works in New York City and in other places like it that can be applied in other communities to bring walking into the mainstream of politics, planning, investment and delivery. The conference seeks to provide guidance and inspiration to support the development of walkable environments and to establish walking as a dynamic part of modern living.

New York City Walk21 has these key objectives:

- Showcase best practices for promoting and supporting walking
- Strengthen relationships across sectors (such as planning, transportation, health, design, business and safety) to improve walking conditions and create livable communities
- Provide practitioners with the research, tools, and strategies they need to improve walking conditions

2.2 Conference themes

The objectives will be articulated through the main interrelated themes:

Theme 1 Walkable communities are sustainable communities

Dense pedestrian-oriented, walkable cities have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than more sprawling, car-oriented counterparts. Practitioners will discuss how they are linking pedestrian planning and environmental goals in their cities.

Theme 2 Paved with gold: investing in the public realm for a successful city

Businesses and residents are attracted to livable cities - those with the best opportunities to walk, cycle, and relax in the public realm. In the current fiscal environment it is especially important to make the case that allocating resources to walking is excellent value for our communities. Attendees will discuss the type of investments most likely to yield results.

Theme 3 There is more to walking than walking: design strategies for urban quality.

Creating cities and towns where walking is a pleasure and a choice involves more than wider sidewalks or more time at crosswalk signals. The conference will examine a wide range of experiences in the development of lively, high quality public life on urban streets, and how to re-develop the public realm in places that are primarily oriented to the flow of car traffic.

Theme 4 Fit cities: community design for active living

As rates of obesity, heart disease and diabetes grow, more communities are exploring connections between public health and city design. International practitioners will discuss best practices with proven results and communications strategies to get more people walking.

2.3 Session formats

The conference embodies various forms of sessions:

Keynote and Plenary: Keynote and plenary sessions address the entire assembly. They consist of individual speakers and of plenary panels debating the main themes of the conference.

Breakout: The breakout sessions will be smaller assemblies held in various meeting rooms. The sessions will give presenters a chance to debate their papers in the context of other papers on a similar topic.

Posters: Poster sessions are where researchers, designers and practitioners will be available to discuss their exhibited displays

Walkshops: These are mobile workshops to selected places in New York City which can introduce conference delegates to key programs and features of New York City's walking environment or demonstrate how an approach or tool can be applied to a city's streets or public spaces. These are to be conducted as part of the conference program and will add a unique opportunity to see ideas implemented and assess achievements critically.

Pre- and post-conference activities: These activities could include professional training workshops, advocacy meetings, walking tours and other events.

2.4 Invitation for proposals

Abstracts for all activities are now invited from individuals and organizations. Abstracts should ideally be targeted at one of the conference themes, or at the inter-relationships between them, though of course it is recognised that some papers will, by their nature, be "multi-thematic" (covering two or more of the theme areas.).

Abstracts are also encouraged which contribute to the debate between different professional fields, (for example, between health professionals and traffic planners, or between advocates and practitioners); between interventions at different scales (for example federal, state and local); and between different sectors, such as safe routes to school programs.

Particularly welcome are papers regarding:

- Good examples and best practice, research, innovative tools and evidence of successful approaches
- Experiences, successes and failures of implementation; promising paths for the future
- Raising the profile of the walking agenda within the professional, political and public domains
- Strengthening collaboration across sectors to deliver integrated walking interventions

Finally, it should be stressed that the Program Committee fully recognises that the walking field is a very broad one and will consider all submissions on their merits, even if they do not appear to fit neatly into the theme categories above.

3. Guidelines for submission of abstracts

Individuals and organizations wishing to present a paper, a poster display, a walkshop or a pre-conference workshop at the conference are invited to forward an abstract in English and provide the following information.

3.1 Papers

Description of presentation

- Specify that this is a proposal for a paper
- Proposed title
- Name, affiliation and contact information including your e-mail address
- Context, aim, methodology, results and main conclusions of the work to be reported
- Form of presentation (lecture, PowerPoint presentation, film etc.)
- Qualifications of presenter (education, experience as it relates to the topic)

Format

- Maximum length for each proposal is 500 words

- Maximum length for presenter qualifications is 100 words
- Proposals will be accepted in electronic format only
- You may propose several abstracts **but it is essential that each proposal is submitted individually** i.e. in a separate electronic document

3.2 Posters

If you wish to offer a Poster display, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a Poster display
- Indicate if you have any special display requirements

3.3 Walkshops

If you wish to offer a walkshop, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a walkshop
- Location; time taken to get there and back; means of transport
- Ideal and minimum length of time required
- Maximum number of participants

Please note that the responsibility for leading the walkshop lies with the walkshop organizer, not the Walk21 Conference Management.

3.4 Pre-conference workshops

If you wish to offer a pre-conference workshop, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a pre-conference workshop
- Provide as much detail as possible on the objectives, *modus operandi* and desired outcomes
- Indicate space and time requirements

Please note that organizations will be responsible for all pre- and post-conference workshop expenses- including but not limited to venue and catering.

4. Organization

4.1 Program Committee

An international Program Committee with members from various professions and backgrounds will be responsible for the selection of the contributions and the overall conference program. The members of the Program Committee are currently being confirmed and the Committee will be chaired by **Rodney Tolley**, Conference Director, Walk21.

4.2 Deadlines

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| ➤ Receipt of abstracts | February 27, 2009 |
| ➤ Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts | April 2009 |
| ➤ Receipt of final paper | September 2009 |

Abstracts must be in English and must be forwarded to walk21nyc@dot.nyc.gov by February 27, 2009.

4.3 Further information

For further information regarding the content of themes or papers, please contact walk21nyc@dot.nyc.gov. Please visit the Walk21 website www.walk21.com for more information and regular conference updates. Past papers and other information about previous Walk21 Conferences can be found at www.walk21.com