

**Transportation for Tantramar
Strategic Planning Session
May 2013**

Transportation for Tantramar Committee Planning Session Outcomes

Mission:

The Transportation for Tantramar committee's mission is to find solutions that ensures people are able to get where they need to go, at the time that they need to be there, at a cost that they can afford, using sustainable effective mediums.

Vision:

The Transportation for Tantramar committee sees a future where residence of the Tantramar region are able to stay well connected to services and community via creative planning solutions, as well as through ease of access to multi-modal transportation options (shared, independent, active, and creative) that meet citizens' local and regional transportation needs in a sustainable and economically viable fashion.

Purpose:

Transportation for Tantramar aims to:

- *Facilitate better access to current and new services that emphasize sustainability;*
- *Network and outreach in the Tantramar region;*
- *Connect people who need transportation with organizations who can provide it;*
- *Inspire behavioural change and support implementation of new transportation models.*

Working Principles:

Transportation for Tantramar will operate under the agreed principles of:

- *Active, positive, participation, and leadership;*
- *Achieving goals through partnerships and collaborative engagement;*
- *Focus on socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable initiatives;*
- *Act in an open minded and respectful manner;*
- *Meet people where they are;*
- *Place emphasis on positive community impact.*

Draft Structure:

Transportation for Tantramar is a resource network that would be a community informed process and would facilitate links between the Tantramar Region's need and direct transportation initiatives. Accomplished by having the Transportation for Tantramar committee acting as a hub and action team's being subcommittees or groups actively working on implementing transportation initiatives or supports.

Detailed Notes from Planning Sessions

Overview

Transportation for Tantramar is in a phase of formation, a loose committee has been meeting over the last month but there is desire, as a group, to determine and outline their collective future. The strategic planning conversations are to help the group discuss and determine the members level of commitment and interests as well as clarify the committee's purpose, direction, structure, and decision making processes.

The first day of conversations and strategic plan development was May 15, 2013.

With eight people present; each participant came to the table with different backgrounds, level of involvement in Transportation for Tantramar and energies that they contributed to the process. Those present were:

- Lisa Griffin, Joni Fleck Andrews, Michael Fox, Ian Smith, Melissa O'Rourke, Stacey Merrigan, Carla Vanbeselaere, and Alex Keeling.

The process for the day included:

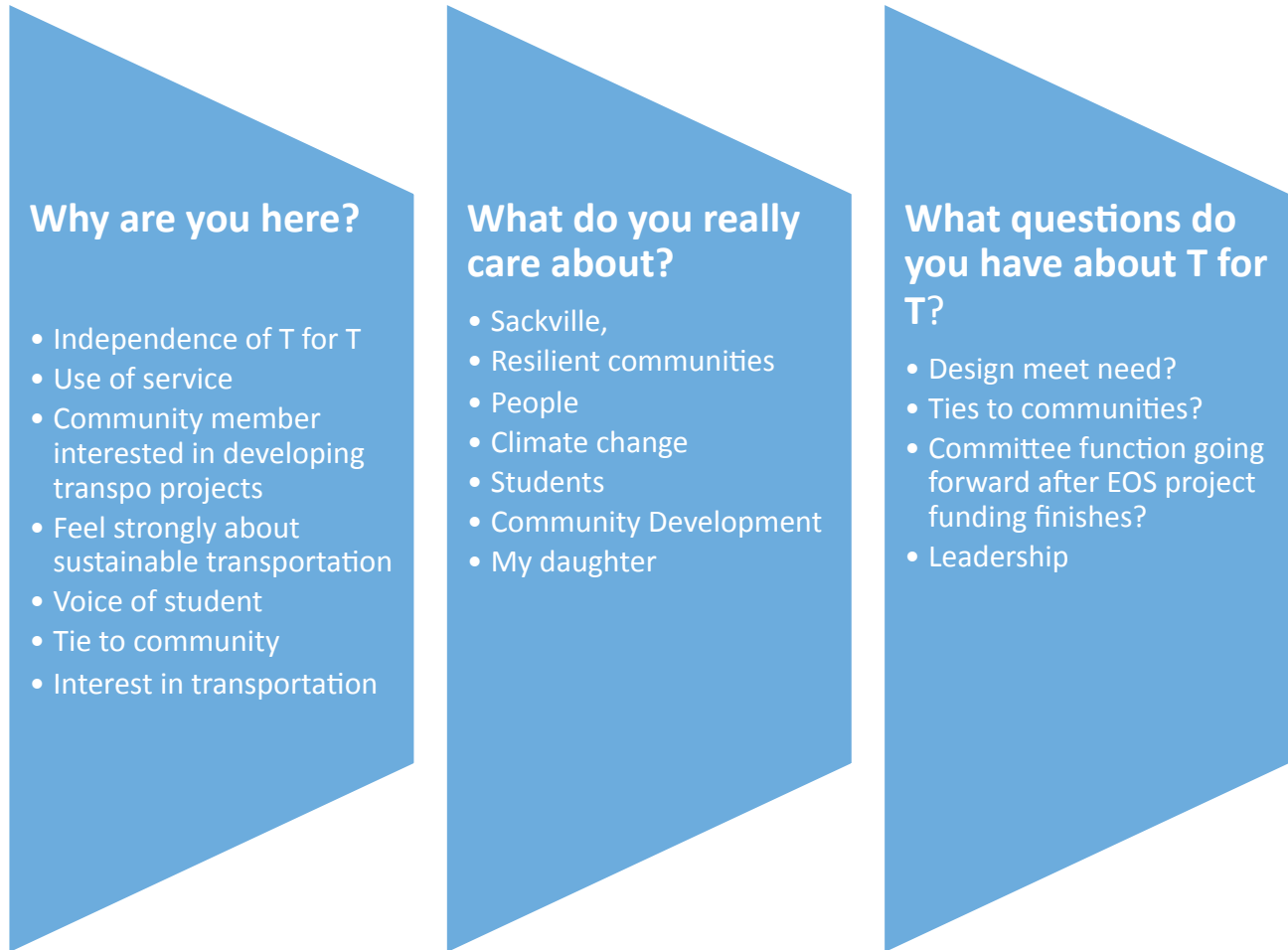
A check-in where everyone present was asked to openly share why they decided to participate in the Transportation for Tantramar committee and what questions they brought to the process. After check in, the day's process was reviewed along with a quick outline of why such planning discussion are so important for a group. These are the times where groups are able to determine their shared road map – answer the question where group is going together and what actions and format they will use to get there.

After that the fun began! Together the participants reflected and discussed Why? What? How? the Transportation for Tantramar committee would impact the community. Then participants were asked to dream about their region's future based on Transportation for Tantramar influence, discuss the purpose the Transportation for Tantramar committee would play, as well as determine the working principles the shared when collaborating.

Check In Process

Each person responded to the following questions:

- Why are you here? (Responsibility)
- What do you really care about? (Passion)
- What questions do you have about Transportation for Tantramar? (Enquiry)



After introductions the group started their discussion around the need for the Transportation for Tantramar Committee. Discussion happened in double date format in order to determine the What? Why? How?; then their top priorities were listed and clumped into themes as a collective. The questions that the participants had been asked to discuss were:

Why, do you think, there is a need for an alternative transportation system?

- Committee identity: maintaining the momentum of the Transportation for Tantramar project; structure to keep the committee alive
- Facilitate service development: impetus to get things moving
- Conduit of information (keep conversations open between community and project)
- Community Outreach (bring alternatives and raise awareness and interest in use, engage all of Tantramar).

What transportation resources does Tantramar need?

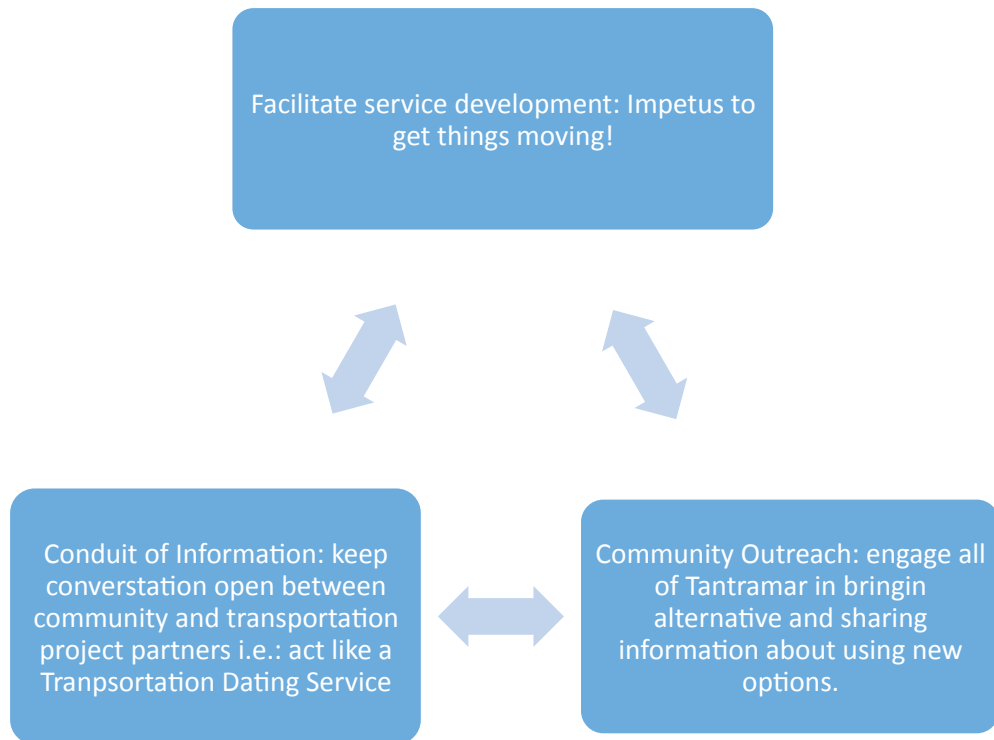
Tantramar needs more transportation options that will move people to where they need to go, in a time they need to be there, at a cost they can afford.

Why:

- Environmental responsibility (reduce consumption and increase sharing of resources)
- Accessibility (Transportation needs aren't being met, populations, such as seniors and students, could benefit from more services, lack of options currently, and financially transportation costs are a burden to many)
- Transportation for Tantramar partners and collaborators help facilitate better use of existing resources, shared costs, and increase potential partnerships.

What is the need that the Transportation for Tantramar committee is in existence to serve?

- Committee identity – structure to keep the committee alive



The committee need from this discussion turned to its mission:

Transportation for Tantramar committee mission is to find solutions that ensures people are able to get where they need to go, at the time that they need to be there, at a cost they can afford using sustainable effective mediums.

Vision:

- What will the Transportation system in Tantramar look like in 15 years?
- How will Transportation for Tantramar have helped in achieving this vision?
 - Alternative energy cars (kit car, electric, veggie)
 - Community Network (partner with community to bring tools)
 - All of Tantramar engaged
 - Business and events use shuttle bus
 - Safe way to find rides
 - Bulk Delivery (goods to come in)
 - Active transport (cycle school bus)
 - Service provision to T
 - In City
 - In region
 - Online network
 - 5 to 6 member exec link to council and transport services with paid staff that coordinate services and facilitate link green coordinator
 - Sustain projects
 - Inner city: car share, train shuttle commuter traffic, mass commuting transport inner city busses cars and or vans too
 - 1 person car driver pay a toll
 - Health care bus (specialist etc come to the community weekly)
 - Remote access to health
 - Consciousness of the cost merge trips
 - Cost of transportation linked to fuel need
 - Going small cars and short distances
 - Walk only streets and trails
 - Volunteers to help build connections

The vision that developed from this discussion is:

The Transportation for Tantramar committee sees a future where residence of the Tantramar region are able to stay well connected to services and community via creative planning solutions, as well as through ease of access to multi-modal transportation options (shared, independent, active, and creative) that meet citizens' local and regional transportation needs in a sustainable and economically viable fashion.

Purpose:

The committee was asked again to get in groups of 2 to discuss the purpose of the Transportation for Tantramar Committee. The pairs were asked to discuss the following questions:

- Why does Transportation for Tantramar exist?
- What could Transportation for Tantramar Committee's work do/create. Inspire?
- What at the most basic level do we do?

During the discussion each pair wrote the Transportation for Tantramar purpose on sticky notes and then clumped them together on flip chart in purpose priority areas as follows:

- Facilitation better access to current and new services that emphasize sustainability
 - Regularly updated database of client needs and transport assets
 - Offer support to other transportation initiatives
 - Be representatives of the community and facilitate decisions
 - Better use of current services
 - Bring new serves into the region

- Networking and outreach
 - Connect people who need transportation to organizations who can provide it
 - Outreach to ensure usage of service
 - Opportunities to partner with governments (municipal, provincial, federal)
 - Make connection between communities (Port Elgin, Dorchester Amherst)
 - Population demand
 - Coordinating partnerships in neighbourhood regions
 - Be the connecting portal for all things transportation in the region

- Inspire behavioural change and implement transportation models
 - An identified need for alterative transportation systems
 - Inspire small positive change on individual level
 - To address our issues
 - Facilitating behavioural change and building a culture of collaborative consumption

The committee's purpose from this discussion is:

Transportation for Tantramar aims to:

- *Facilitate better access to current and new services that emphasize sustainability*
- *Network and outreach in the Tantramar region*
- *Connect people who need transportation with organizations who can provide it.*
- *Inspire behavioral change and support implementation of new transportation models*

Working Principles:

How do we want to work, learn and be both together in the community?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership • Active, out there, doers enthusiastic • Equal representation (members; users; communities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared leadership ○ Democratic participation ○ Inclusive ○ collaborative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open minded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Embracing and encouraging change ○ Emphasis on mission/ unified vision and values ○ Lear with in and learn from outside, seek best practices |
|---|---|

- Respectful
- Sustainable
 - Socially environmentally and economically
 - Environmentally driven
- Meet people where they are
 - Accessible
 - Help
 - Language needs etc

The committee's working principles based on this discussion are:

Transportation for Tantramar will operate under agreed principles of:

- *Active, positive, participation, and leadership;*
- *Achieving goals through partnerships and collaborative engagement;*
- *Focus on socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable initiatives;*
- *Act in an open minded and respectful manner;*
- *Meet people where they are;*
- *Place emphasis on positive community impact.*

Day 2, Transportation for Tantramar planning session:

The second strategic planning meeting occurred on May 27th, 2013 with five Transportation for Tantramar Committee members in attendance (Stacy, Ian, Melissa, Joni and Lisa). The participants were committed to continuing the process and discussing where the committee will go in the coming month and years.

The process for the day included:

A check-in by everyone present to openly share mindset and questions they have about the where they are in the discussion. After check in, the day's proceeded to review the last session's discussions and outcomes as written above and to ensure participants felt the notes reflected their first session conversations and decisions.

The rest of the session was dedicated to collectively determine: Who else should be invited to participate in the Transportation for Tantramar committee or be kept aware of Transportation for Tantramar committee's work; reflection and discussion around what is the pattern/structure that will support the Transportation for Tantramar committee in their transportation facilitation work and the plan was to determine specific objectives/goals did the committee wanted to achieve in the coming months.

Check In Process

Each person responded to the following questions:

- How are you feeling about today's planning session?;
- What has been on your mind or what questions have stayed with you since we last met?

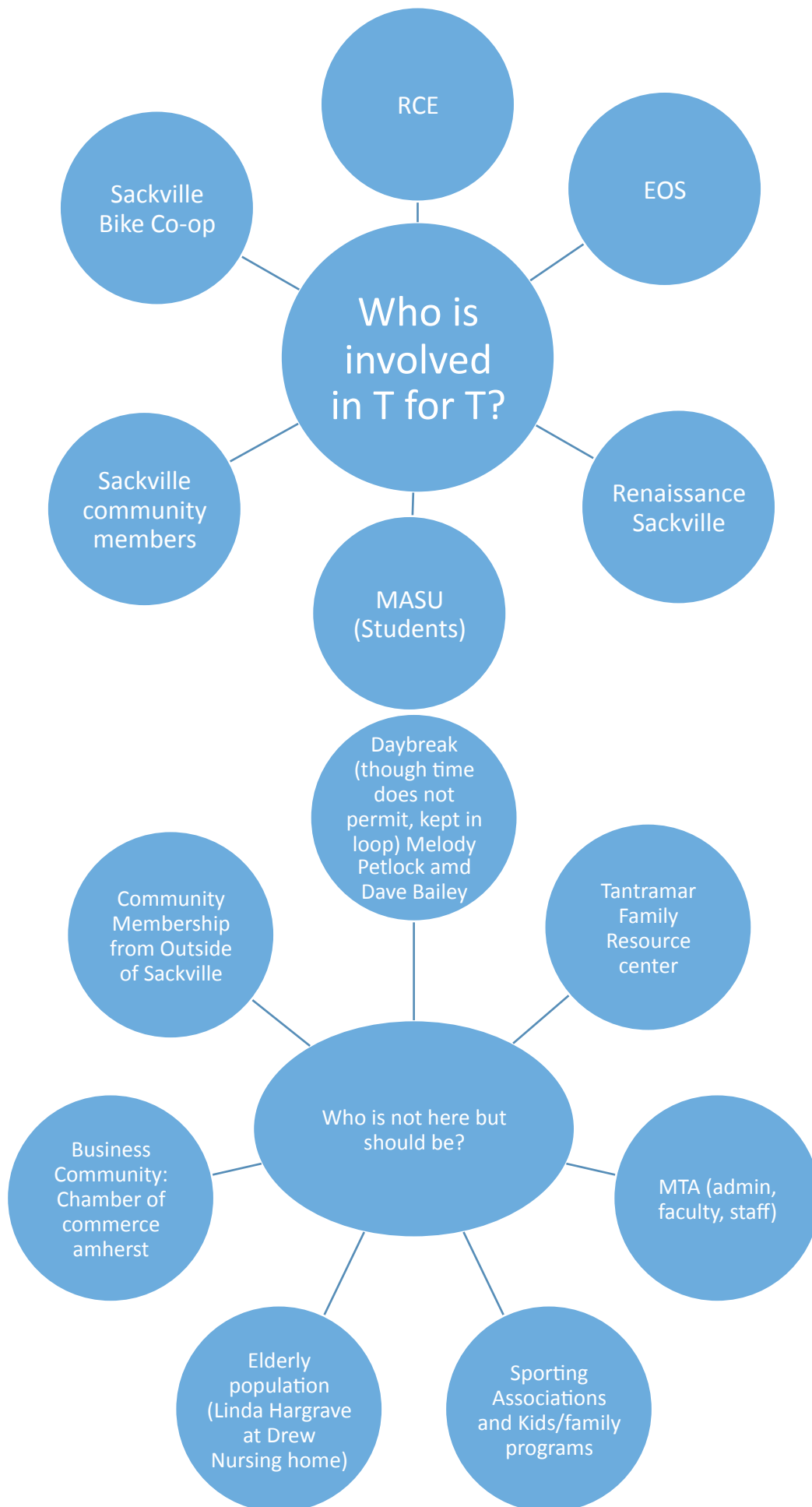
The participants shared:

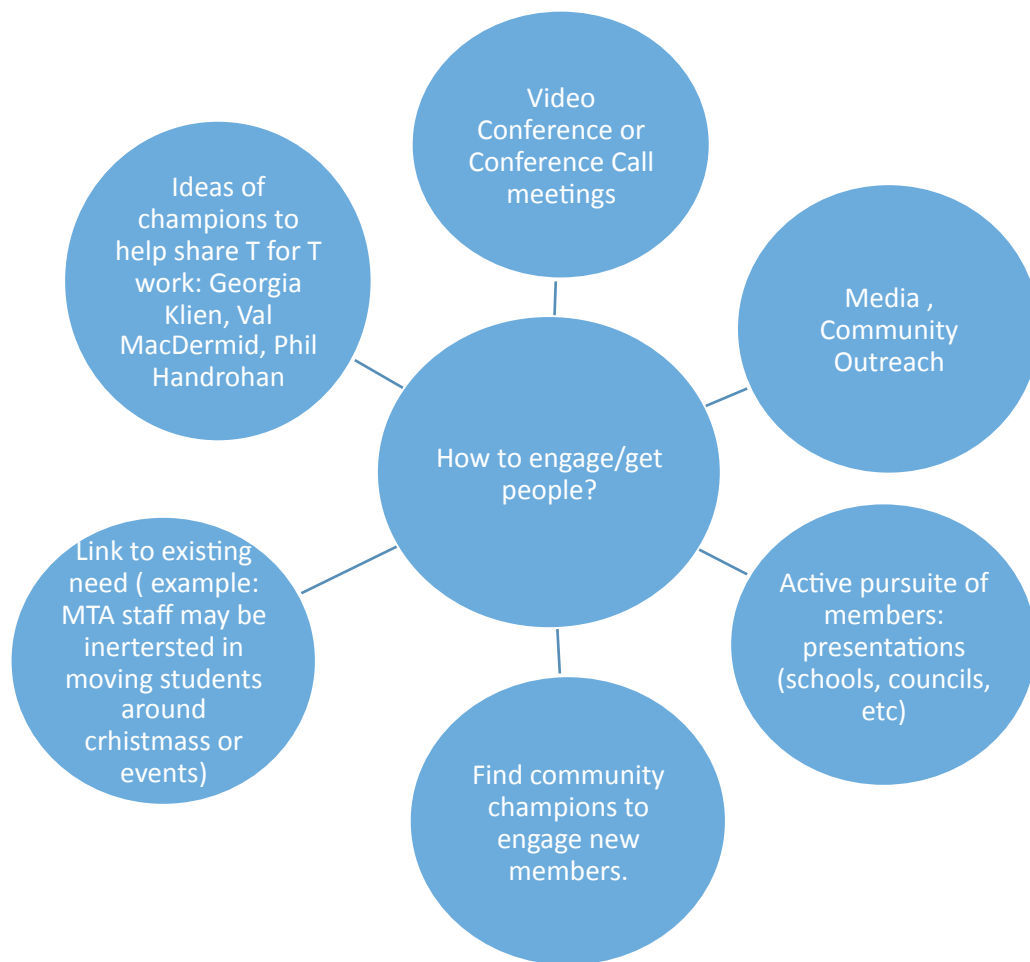
- I am feeling good about the structure. It is too bad not all could be here.
- Optimistic about today's session excited for identification of set structure.
- Feeling good.
- Excited! What has stayed on my mind is: *how do we make Transportation for Tantramar not just a Sackville thing?*
- *How do we engage new involvement and users?*

Participation and engagement in the Transportation for Tantramar committee:

The committee discussed who has been involved in the project and who would be an asset to the committee and why. They were also asked to think about how to engage new partners and what assets the Transportation for Tantramar provides. They were also asked to determine the groups and individuals who should be kept informed of the Transportation for Tantramar actions and progress. What follows are the notes in response to these questions

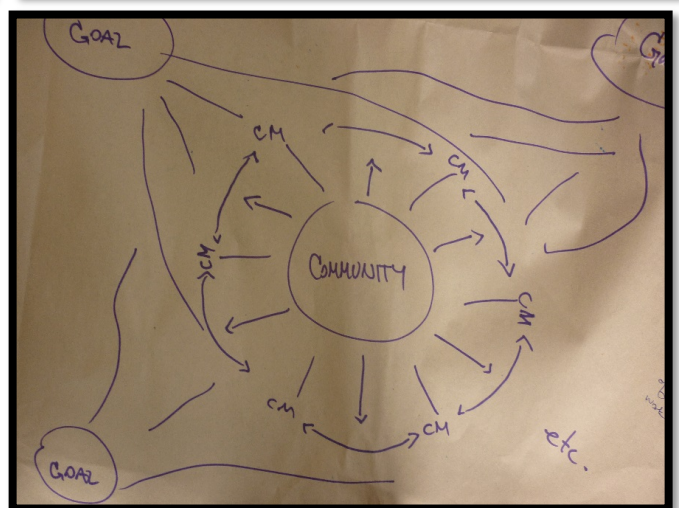
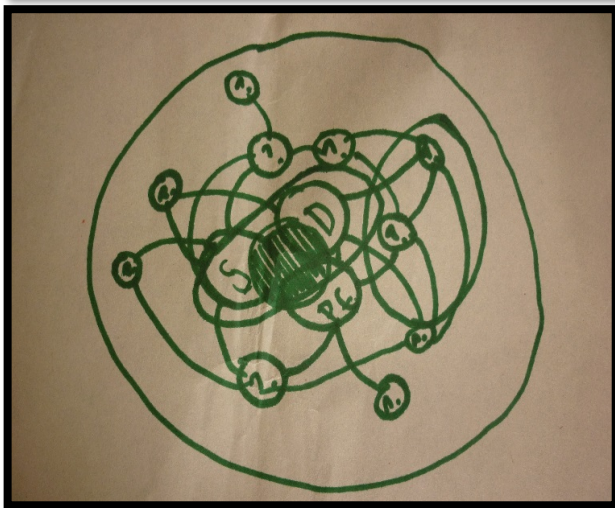
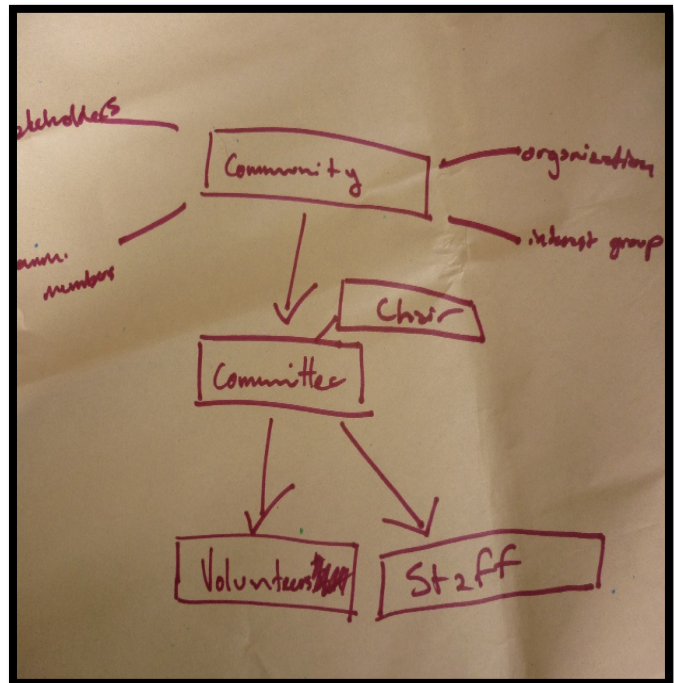
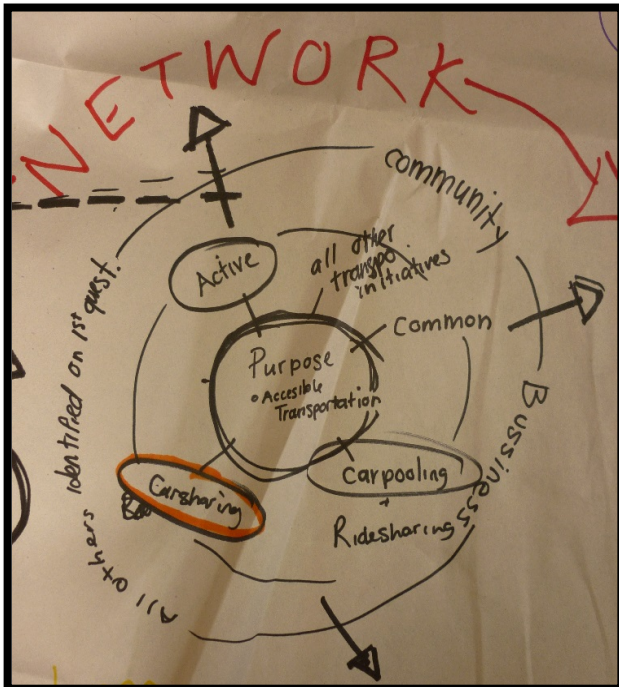
- Who is in the room?
- Who is not here? How do we bring them in?
- Who should we keep informed of our work?





Working Relationship and Structure:

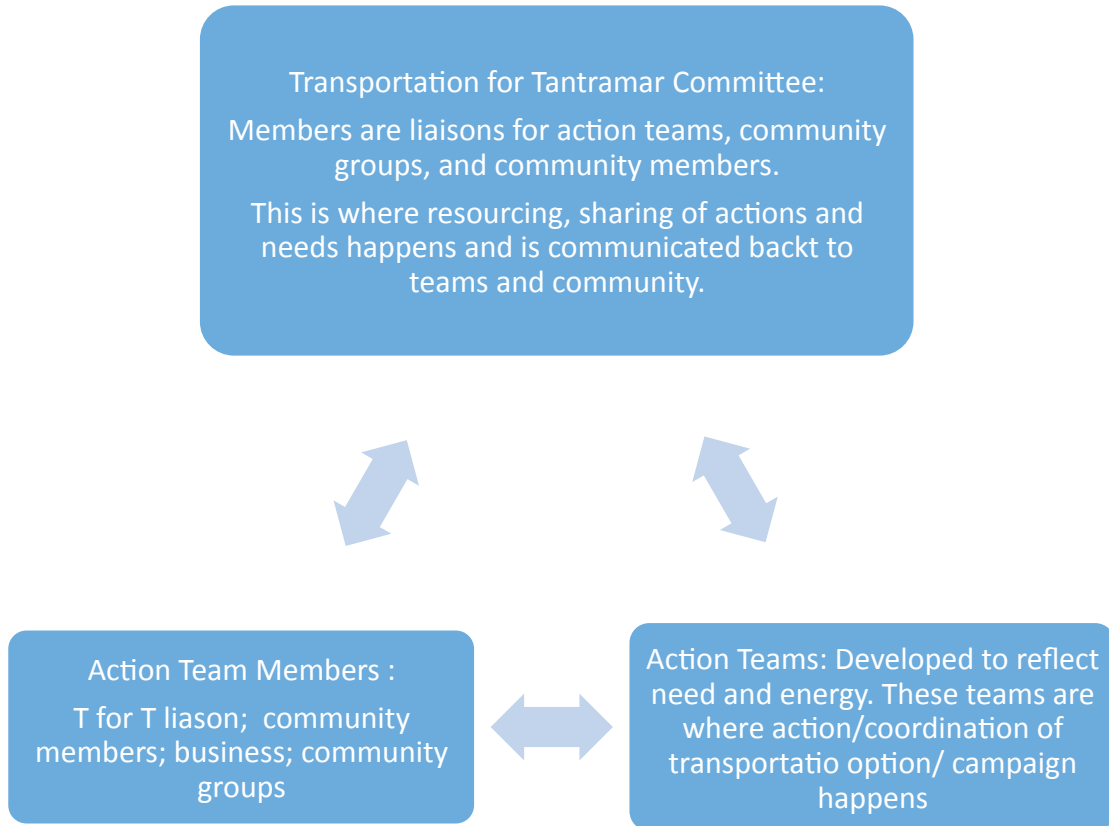
Now that the committee outlined who is actively engaged in the process it was time to determine what would be the most effective way to organize their committee in order to foster their networking objectives without burdening the members with excessive rigid structures. To begin the member reflected individual on what shapes or systems that are found in life or nature they felt would reflect best what the committee needs. Many of the participants drew cyclical systems that were mutually supporting. See the images below.



The members were then asked to explain their designs and discuss what structures would reflect these drawn systems. Specifically they were asked:

- Who are we becoming when we meet and work together this way?
- What is the lightest structure that will serve our purpose and need?
- What do we need to do to sustain our work together?

What came from these discussion was the draft committee structure, which follows:



Transportation for Tantramar is a Resource Network would be a community informed process that facilitated link between Tantramar Region’s need and direct transportation initiatives. Accomplished by having the Transportation for Tantramar acting as a hub/steering committee and action team’s being subcommittees or groups actively working on implementing transportation initiatives or supports.

Structure

When the Transportation for Tantramar meets they become:

- *Networker between the action committees, which are doer of service*
- *Liaison of ideas and actions. Specifically, the Transportation for Tantramar committee is the hub of information about transportation needs and actions. The committee members act as liaisons between Action Teams, Community Groups and Community members. The Transportation for*

Tantramar role is not to implement Transportation Actions but facilitate their success via Action Teams. Roles in the Transportation for Tantramar committee has a chair that is responsible to call the meeting and ensure good process, with a set committee member responsible for minutes, rest of Transportation for Tantramar committee are general members with many acting as liaisons.

Some more specific format decisions were that:

- *Transportation for Tantramar have regular meetings every 3 weeks during the first 6 months;*
- *The Transportation for Tantramar committee meet to implement and action plan (which needs to be set)*
- *Decision making process that is consensus based but will allow for voting democratic decision (Joanna shared WA RICCIN decision making policy).*

It was by consensus of participants that they needed more Transportation for Tantramar committee member present to set committee objectives.

Next steps for Transportation for Tantramar committee:

- Get commitment from action team and community group liaisons;
- Agree on chair and minute taker;
- Determine committee actions and action teams;
- Build network.