

**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF March 1, 2012 MEETING**

**Board Members Present: Steve Durkee and Michael Lewis.**

**Other Committee Members Present: John Flaherty; Kevin Flynn; Everett Stuart; Michael Walker;**

**Absent: Christopher Kearns, Steve Devine, Maureen Martin, Paul Harrington; and Margaret Holland McDuff.**

**Also Present: Charles Odimgbe; Mark Therrien; Amy Pettine; Linsey Cameron; and members of the public whose names are on the meeting sign-in sheet.**

**Chair Steve Durkee called the meeting to order at 8:38 and introduced himself and asked if the members had an opportunity to review the minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2012. He mentioned that he was not present at the February 7th meeting and asked if someone else could attest to their accuracy.**

**Michael Lewis moved to accept the meeting minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2012 as presented. John Flaherty seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

**Amy Pettine presented to the subcommittee a draft One Year Progress Report on the Strategic Plan's implementation. She described it as a tool for advocates and others to demonstrate our progress to date and illustrate remaining unfunded activities. She asked the Committee for their input, and as a whole the Committee was pleased with the format and found the document to be informative and a good tool to share with the public.**

**Discussion ensued on the Core Connector project. The Committee was reminded that at the last meeting, the vote on the locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) was tabled pending further conversations with state officials. A TIGER IV Pre-application was submitted for the project; however we have decided not to pursue a full application due to competition with the other Rhode Island project, the viaduct and continued challenges around financing the project.**

**A lengthy discussion was held on next steps for the Core Connector project. Director Lewis briefed the committee on the reauthorization progress, and it looks like there will most likely not be a new bill until after the election.**

**Steve Durkee turned the discussion to future TIGER and other opportunities for streetcar. Amy Pettine reviewed funding options and shared the examples of Cincinnati and Fort Lauderdale. The Committee was in agreement that the business community needs to**

**champion this issue to a greater degree as the public sector cannot create the political and financial capital on its own. The Committee agreed that we should reach out to Colin Kane, who is leading the state's redevelopment efforts in the Knowledge District, and try to tie the project together with the area's parking needs.**

**Ms. Pettine said that by selecting the recommendation of the Core Connector study we are concluding that this project has merit and it would meet the connectivity and development livability goals that were established at the outset of the study and we should continue to pursue implementation, however by adopting the locally preferred alternative, we are not committing RIPTA or anyone else to procure funds to support the project and not committing to any construction time table.**

**After much discussion the Committee came to the conclusion that it made sense to separate the selection of an LPA (and conclusion of the Study) with a campaign to get business leaders and others to support the project. RIPTA will help craft and sell the vision to Governor and others, but the business community and/or the City of Providence must take the lead to figure out the finance plan to implement the project. It was determined that the full RIPTA Board of Directors should vote to approve the LPA and future vision and discussions on implementation should continue.**

**Next the Committee discussed the next agenda item- RIPTA funding**

needs. Charles Odimgbe talked about a marketing campaign he is developing and the need to seek out co-funders to implement same. Michael Lewis suggested using RIPTA advertising revenue as the source of funds for our advertising campaigns. There was discussion about the Wickford Station opening and the overall need for building a public campaign for transit that will ultimately assist in securing us funding.

John Flaherty passed out a copy of H-7581 and gave a legislative update. Mr Flaherty said the focus of the bill is to expand highway maintenance and create a transit trust fund. He said the CTC will be presenting the Bill to the RIPTA Board of Directors at the March meeting and will ask for a vote in support of this legislation. Kevin Flynn and Mike Walker raised some concerns about wording in the legislation related to how funds would be distributed. Charles Odimgbe made a general point about the RIPTA Board supporting something that has traction.

There was no public comment nor was there any old business.

There being no further business Mr. Durkee made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Director Lewis seconded. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

---

**Ellen M. Mandly**

**Recording Secretary**

**(Transcribed from a recording of the meeting and notes from staffers)**