

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program  
**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
William E. Powers Building  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island

**Members Present**

Dr. Robert Griffith, Chair	Representing Beverly Najarian, Director RI Department of Administration
Mr. John O'Brien, Secretary	Statewide Planning
Ms. Susan Baxter	RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. Daniel Beardsley	RI League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	Representing Mr. William J. Fazioli, City of East Providence
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. B. Michael Rauh	Public Member
Mr. Ralph Rizzo	Representing Ms. Lucy Garliauskas (Advisory Member) Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Ms. Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Budget Office
Mr. Robert Shawver	Representing Mr. James Capaldi, RI Department of Transportation
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. David Tremblay	Representing Mr. Timothy M. Costa, Vice Chair Governor's Policy Office
Mr. John Trevor	RI Resource Recovery Corp.
Ms. Janet White Raymond	Public Member

**Members Absent**

Mr. Steven Cardi	Public Member
Mr. Thomas Deller	Department of Planning & Development City of Providence
Mr. Joseph Newsome	South Providence Development Corporation

**Guests**

Ms. Harriet Holbrook	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Mr. Mark Therrien	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

**Staff--Statewide Planning Program**

Mr. George Johnson	Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning
Ms. Blanche Higgins	Supervising Planner, Land Use
Mr. Bruce Vild	Supervising Planner, Economic Development
Ms. Katherine Trapani	Supervising Planner, Transportation
Ms. Nancy Hess	Principal Environmental Planner, Land Use
Mr. Kevin Nelson	Principal Planner, Land Use
Ms. Patricia Greene	Customer Service Specialist I

**Staff – Strategic Planning**

Mr. William McKenna	Principal Strategic Planning Analyst
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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Dr. Griffith called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**2. Approval of August 11<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Mr. Beardsley noted the correct spelling for the City Manager of East Providence as “Faziloi”.

Ms. Raymond moved that:

**THE MINUTES BE APPROVED AS CORRECTED.**

The motion was seconded by Ms. Prager and carried unanimously.

### **3. Chief's Progress Report**

Mr. O'Brien noted that a copy of the Forest Resources Management Plan was being distributed in the handouts. He noted that the Planning Council approved the update as an element of the State Guide Plan in March.

The State Planning Council approved the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2006 and 2007 August 11<sup>th</sup> with the change that was suggested by the Technical Committee to include the South County Bike Path - URI Connector. This project had previously been part of the scope of the Route 138 project in the Highway Program, but it was agreed that the bike path needed to be a separate project in the Bike Ped Program. The Air Quality Conformity Analysis is complete, and RIDEM has provided a letter of concurrence. The package has been forwarded to the Governor's Office for submittal to FHWA and FTA, and the federal agency staff has also been provided with packages so that they may begin their review. The federal fiscal year begins October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. O'Brien stated that as previously mentioned, staff does expect an amendment to the new TIP in the coming months.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the affordable housing plans for Coventry, Jamestown and Narragansett have been approved. This brings the total to 17 and staff is working closely with the remaining 12 communities to get necessary revisions prior to the October 1<sup>st</sup> lifting of the comprehensive permit moratorium.

In addition to affordable housing plans, a number of local comprehensive plan amendments have been approved including a substantial amendment of the Woonsocket Comprehensive Plan.

### **4. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Certification Review Report**

Mr. Rizzo noted that every three years the FHWA and FTA conduct a joint certification of the State Planning Council's transportation planning process. Also included this year, as part of the certification team was a representative of the EPA. He stated that the review includes a technical review where the certification team meets with the staff of the MPO, a public meeting to receive comments on the public's access to the transportation planning process and a desk audit of transportation planning documents.

Mr. Rizzo stated that the overall finding of this joint planning certification review is that the transportation planning process for the State of Rhode Island meets the requirements of the applicable federal regulations and is therefore certified for another four years.

Mr. Rizzo concluded his presentation by reviewing some of the recommendations and commendations regarding Rhode Island's transportation planning process.

Discussion:

Mr. Schaefer inquired as to the number of other states that the Governor provides signatory authority for the TIP to department directors. Mr. Rizzo noted that most states have delegated signature authority.

Mr. Rauh inquired as to who would address the recommendation of RIPTA representation on the Council. It was noted that the recommendation was meant to be addressed to RIPTA and that they could submit legislation.

Ms. Prager asked for clarification as to whether RIPTA had the authority to operate in other states. Mr. Rizzo stated that his inquiries indicated that they could get approval, but a representative of RIPTA noted that they have been unsuccessful to date in getting the necessary approvals.

## **5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Annual Report**

Mr. Vild stated that the CEDS Annual Report examines an area's economic development needs, problems, and resources; evaluates progress toward attaining goals and objectives; and provides a yearly update on economic development activities, highlighting the CEDS Priority Project List. The Annual Report is submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) every year. Every fifth year, a more extensive Update to the CEDS is submitted in place of the Annual Report.

He reviewed the Annual Report for 2005 noting it is being submitted as part of the EDA's requirements for the Rhode Island Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Priority Project List contained within the report was approved at meetings of the Technical Committee and the State Planning Council in June.

Discussion:

Ms. Boyle asked if hurricane relief efforts would have an impact on EDA programs? Mr. Vild responded that he had inquired about that and could only determine that EDA has responded with a commitment of \$7 million. He was unsure what impact that might have on the program.

Mr. Rauh inquired as to the relationship of the CEDS to the policies of the EDC and EPC. Mr. O'Brien responded by noting the requirements of the federal program for a broad and comprehensive approach to economic development and compared it to the transportation requirements for a continuing and comprehensive approach to transportation planning. He further noted that the criteria used in the project selection process reflected current policy such as industry clusters as well as economic development policy adopted as part of the State Guide Plan.

Action:

Ms. Prager moved to:

### **APPROVE THE 2005 CEDS ANNUAL REPORT.**

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sequino and carried unanimously.

## **6. State Land Use Policies and Plan - Update**

Ms. Hess provided an overview of the process of developing a series of four maps that represent alternative future land use scenarios. She noted that they have been defined as – Trend, Centers and Corridors, Infill, and Composite. Each of these scenarios has been analyzed as to how they accommodate the state's future land use needs as well as how efficient they utilize the land resource. Both the maps and tables were presented that detailed the results of this analysis.

Ms. Hess noted that the Technical Committee adopted the Composite Scenario as the basis for the 2025 land use map. She referred to the tabulations that demonstrated the land use efficiencies of the various scenarios. She concluded her presentation by noting that staff will present the edited version of that map which incorporates the policy basis for the composite, (growth centers, corridors and urban infill), with other graphic presentation considerations as the 2025 future land use map at the Council's October meeting.

As time was running late, Ms. Higgins presented a brief overview of the goals, objectives and strategies of the plan. She invited the Council to review the material and direct any questions to the staff.

Discussion:

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the tabulations for the different scenarios. Staff attempted to clarify some of the misunderstandings of the data. Mr. O'Brien offered that the staff will present clearer tabulations at the next meeting that demonstrate the efficiency of the different scenarios as well as how to accommodate the future land use needs of the state.

Questions were raised as to how the plan will be applied locally. Mr. O'Brien noted that the land use map is intended to reflect state policy that would influence growth. He stated that it is not intended to be a zoning or regulatory map but rather identify areas better suited for development.

Dr. Griffith noted the need to reflect the limits of water capacity to serve future growth. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that water was an issue and would be noted as such in the narrative, but the data for mapping water allocation was not yet available. Mr. O'Brien noted that the GIS based land use analysis could accommodate updates to such an important data layer in a quick fashion.

Dr. Griffith reported to the Council that his office would be working with staff to provide performance indicators for the plan.

#### **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Dr. Griffith adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. O'Brien, Secretary

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