

**RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
STATE PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 9th, 2006
R.I. Department of Administration
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI**

MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present:

Mr. Kevin Flynn (Chair)	R.I. Division of Planning
Ms. Katherine Trapani (Acting Secretary)	Representing Mr. George Johnson Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Daniel Beardsley	R.I. League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Thomas Deller	City of Providence Planning Department
Ms. Lucy Garliauskus	Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Ms. Janet White Raymond	Public Member
Mr. Michael Rauh	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Jared Rhodes	City of Cranston Planning Department
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Ms. Rosemary Booth Gallogly R.I. Budget Office
Mr. Robert Shawver	Representing Mr. James Capaldi, P.E. Director, RIDOT
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Esq., Public Member
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member

2. Members Absent

Ms. Susan Baxter	R.I. Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	City of East Providence Planning Department
Mr. Clarke Greene (Vice Chair)	Governor's Policy Office
Ms. Sharon Conard Wells	Elmwood Neighborhood Community Development

3. Guests Present

Ms. Kelly Mahoney	R.I. Senate Policy Office
Ms. Meridith Holderbaum	R.I. Senate Fiscal Office
Ms. Laurie Brayton	R.I. Senate Fiscal Office

Mr. Michael McGonagle
Mr. Mark Therrien
Mr. Ralph Rizzo
Ms. Ingrid Allen
Mr. Michael Morris

R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation
R.I. Public Transit Authority
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Highway Administration

4. Staff Present:

Mr. Kevin Nelson
Ms. Blanche Higgins

Principal Planner
Supervising Planner

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9: 10 A.M.

2. Approve October 12th Minutes

Mr. Sequino moved:

THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2006 BE APPROVED.

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

3. Chief's Progress Report

Ms. Trapani reported on the following items:

Economic Development -- Staff from the Economic Development Section, along with the Associate Director for Planning and the Acting Chief of Statewide Planning, met with two principals from the Office of Energy Resources to begin strategizing on how to address 2006 legislation requiring siting guidelines for renewable energy facilities and resources within the State Guide Plan. This will be a cooperative effort between the Office of Energy Resources and Statewide Planning, and is currently due by July 2007.

Transportation -- As part of the 2007 update to the Long Range Plan (and also as part of a staff time match to a URI research project) we spent a day at Feinstein High School on Elmwood Avenue in Providence working with 4 classes, both describing how transportation planning works and then working with the kids on a student transportation needs assessment.

Statewide Planning submitted comments to RIDOT on their proposed regulations for outdoor advertising and signs. They are being updated to reflect new technologies, which is timely and necessary, but we feel that the draft needed more work, and we have offered to work with DOT staff in revising the regulations.

Chapters 2 and 3 of the Airport System Plan were presented to Technical Committee, which are the inventory and forecast chapters. The general aviation forecast comes from a plan that RIAC completed in 2004. The commercial forecast for T.F. Green comes from the current master plan and EIS effort. The forecasts show a doubling of passengers in 20 years, without a runway extension, and a more modest incremental increase if in fact the runway is extended. Operations do not double – they increase by approximately 50%.

The first quarterly reports from the Challenge Grant recipients are coming in now. Most are proceeding smoothly, a couple are a bit slower. North Kingstown requested a \$5000 increase because their bids came in high. We were able to accommodate that request because Foster has decided not to proceed with their project, and therefore there was a bit of extra money.

Mr. Flynn reported on the following items:

- The Land Use Plan Executive Summary is at the printer and will be distributed at the next meeting or mailed in advance.
- We are beginning to look at the Comprehensive Plan review process – both the enabling act and our internal procedures to see how we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency. We began the discussion with the Technical Committee and with the staff and that will be an ongoing critical self-examination over the next several months.
- Presentations on the Land Use Plan were made to the North Kingstown Planning Board and the Rural Development Council at their request. It was also presented to the New England Association of Regional Councils in Vermont last week. Some of the Regional Planning Commissions in other parts of New England are quite sophisticated and have a larger staff than RI Statewide Planning does.
- The Land Use Plan Implementation Committee met to discuss issues with respect to capital financing and tracking development around the state. Future meetings will be held immediately following State Planning Council meetings.
- Pursuant to comments made about the State's efforts in recycling, a reinvigorated effort is underway at Department of Administration and that will be expanded to Health, Transportation, and the State House.
- The \$50 million Housing Bond passed and staff will be busy developing selection criteria and preparing to disburse funds pending the anticipated bond sale in June 2007.

There were no questions or comments on the Chief's Report.

4. **Solid Waste Management Element**

Mr. Flynn indicated that since the last meeting, staff had continued to work with Resource Recovery Corporation to incorporate revisions into the draft as suggested by Technical Committee and Council. The Technical Committee voted to forward the draft to the Council for purposes of conducting a public hearing. Changes included in the version mailed to the Council are listed in the agenda supplement.

He thanked the Corporation staff for its efforts and responsiveness in working with staff on the draft plan revisions. He noted that staff is requesting the Council to accept the draft as revised for conduct of a public hearing. If approved, the hearing or hearings will be held in January.

Mr. Beardsley had the following suggestion for number 2 on page 8.8: “It is strongly recommended that the General Assembly should not divert funds from the RIRRC...” Insert the word “strongly.” There were no objections.

There was some discussion regarding number 3 on page 8.8 about how often reporting should be required and to whom. Mr. Beardsley felt the language should be more specific. Ms. Prager believed that municipalities would use that type of information only once a year during budgeting. While Mr. Beardsley has occasion to have more current (perhaps bi-annual) information, he agreed that annual would suffice. Mr. McGonagle stated that the monthly indices that are published don’t always reflect true costs and cautioned against using those. The word “periodically” will be stricken and replaced with “annually.”

Mr. Deller moved

**TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, AS REVISED,
FOR PURPOSES OF HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING.**

The motion was seconded by Ms. Prager and carried unanimously with the exception of Mr. Trevor, who abstained.

5. Amendment #5 to Transportation Improvement Program(TIP): FY 2006-2007

Ms. Trapani introduced the proposed Amendment, which had been mailed to members, indicating that it was proposed by RIPTA and affects the 2007 Transit Program in the TIP. The purpose of the amendment is to respond to changing funding availability under SAFETEA-LU and RIPTA operational priorities. Six line items, all in the 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program, are affected: two existing projects receive added funding, two newly eligible projects are added, and two existing project items are reduced in funding. Overall, the Transit Program would be reduced by \$0.9 million in FY 2007. The Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the draft amendment and conducted a public hearing on it on October 26th. The Public Hearing Report is available in member’s materials. One individual commented at the hearing regarding service improvements that should be made. RIPTA responded that they were aware of those specific problems, and that federal money is available to address many of those concerns. However, RIPTA is lacking the state match to be able to use that funding stream. The TAC voted to recommend approval of the draft amendment. Ms. Trapani indicated that Mr. Therrien of RIPTA was available for questions.

Ms. Garliauskus suggested that the legend on the TIP pages should not show “GARVEE” as a funding program. Surface Transportation Program (STP) would be more accurate. Staff will incorporate that change.

Mr. Deller moved

TO APPROVE AMENDMENT # 5 TO THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2006-2007 AS PRESENTED.

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

6. Appointments to the Technical Committee

Mr. Flynn stated that the terms of a number of members of the Technical Committee are scheduled to expire at the end of the calendar year. He explained that, as mentioned at the last meeting, the Council's Nominating Committee had been convened to develop a slate of candidates. All members whose terms were due to expire were contacted and all indicated a willingness to serve another two year term if re-appointed. There is precedent in reappointing members to retain the institutional memory and representation of interests on the Committee. Two state agencies, CRMC and RIEDC, have provided new members, and these have been endorsed by the Nominating Committee. Ms. Raymond commented that the Committee was very concerned about northern RI being under-represented. Therefore Catherine Ady, the Woonsocket City Planner, was also nominated. Members were referred to the slate of candidates in their materials. Council procedures call for nominations to be taken under advisement for a one month period.

Mr. Sequino moved

TO TAKE THE NOMINATIONS PRESENTED FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UNDER ADVISEMENT FOR ONE MONTH.

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

7. Appointments to the Transportation Advisory Committee

Mr. Flynn indicated that, as with the Technical Committee, the terms of about one half of the TAC members are up for renewal. Current members have all indicated a desire to continue, and continuity of membership over time benefits this group via increased knowledge base and experience. Ms. Raymond noted that the State Planning Council Rules of Procedure do not specify the maximum number of TAC members but that the Council in the past has capped it at 27. Although there were several new people interested in being appointed, there are no vacancies at the present time.

Ms. Prager moved

TO TAKE THE NOMINATIONS PRESENTED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNDER ADVISEMENT FOR ONE MONTH.

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

8. Other Business

Ms. Garliauskus reported that a national panel chaired by Mary Peters, the Secretary of USDOT, is convening to confront the future of surface transportation and revenue sources. This is a public and private sector panel that will be hosting a meeting in New York City in November. Mr. Shawver indicated that RIDOT, as do most other state DOT's, participates in this discussion through AASHTO Committees (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials).

Mr. Flynn announced that Grow Smart had an op-ed piece in the Providence Journal that stressed the importance of the state land use plan.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine R. Trapani
Acting Secretary