

Approved
6/10/10

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

Thursday, June, 10, 2010
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Chair	Representing Ms. Rosemary Booth-Gallogly, RI DOA
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II Secretary	Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Dan Berman	Representing Mr. Peter Osborn, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Thomas Deller	City of Providence Department of Planning & Development
Ms. Susan Baxter	RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. James Moran	Representing Ms. Jeanne Boyle, City of East Providence, Planning & Development
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI DOA Budget Office
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Daniel Beardsley, RI League of Cities and Towns
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, RI DOT
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

Members Absent

Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
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Mr. Christopher Long	Representing Mr. Timothy Costa, Vice Chair, Governor's Policy Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	Town of South Kingstown Planning Department
Mr. Michael Rauh	Environmental Advocate

Guests

Ms. Elaine Colarusso	Town of East Greenwich
Ms. Kelly Mahoney	RI Senate Policy Office
Mr. Mark Therrien	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

Staff – Division of Planning

Mr. Robert Griffith	Chief, Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Ms. Nancy Hess	Supervising Planner, Land Use
Ms. Karen Scott	Acting Supervising Planner, Transportation
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Flynn called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of the May 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Trevor moved to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. White-Raymond. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Unified Work Program for Transportation Planning FY 2010 – Amendment #1

Mr. Flynn introduced Mr. Therrien who provided an overview of the request as fully documented in the supplemental materials previously distributed to Council members. The highlights of Mr. Therrien's presentation were as follows:

- RIPTA's request was being made in order to facilitate the award of a contract in the current year for the completion of an Alternative Analysis and Environmental Assessment that would follow-up on the recently completed Metropolitan Area Transit Enhancement Study;
- That the Analysis would differ from the earlier study in that it would be completed to official FAA standards and would qualify implementation of the preferred alternative for federal funding;
- That the total cost of the Analysis was approximately \$1 million and that previous project savings, a Planning Challenge Grant, and contributions from the City of Providence would fund the effort; and that
- Approval of the request would also require an Administrative Adjustment to the TIP.

With Mr. Therrien having concluded his presentation, Mr. Deller next spoke to the City of Providence's wholehearted support for the effort and to the positive ramifications that fixed guideway alternatives in particular could have for the future re-use of former 195 properties and to the State's economic prosperity as a whole. In concluding his comments, Mr. Deller noted that he would be abstaining from the vote given the direct involvement of the City of Providence, of which he is an employee, and RIPTA on whose Board of Directors he serves.

Mr. Flynn next asked Mr. Deller to discuss the recent visit of United States Department of Transportation, Secretary, Ray LaHood. Mr. Deller explained that Secretary LaHood had recently visited the City, received a full briefing on the Metro Area Transit Study, toured the project area and was impressed and supportive of the transportation planning initiative.

Mr. Berman then asked if the Analysis would include the conducting of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mr. Therrien responded that the current sentiment was that it will be an EA as opposed to a full EIS. Mr. Berman then asked if Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds would be utilized to implement the resulting preferred alternative. Mr. Therrien in turn indicated that decisions as to how to fund implementation had not been made at this juncture but that the Analysis would also focus on the identification of viable funding options.

There being no further discussion, *Ms. Prager moved to approve the proposed amendment. Ms. White-Raymond seconded the motion. Mr. Deller abstained from voting and the motion passed with all other members in attendance voting in favor.*

4. Unified Work Program for Transportation Planning FY 2011

Mr. Rhodes began the staff presentation by reminding the Council that this item addressed approval of the Work Program for the coming year whereas the previous item addressed an amendment to the current year's. Given the extensive presentation delivered on proposed work tasks for the coming year at the previous month's meeting, he then reviewed the specific additions and revisions that were made to the document since that time. These included:

- The addition of Parts 1 & 2 which respectively provide background information on the context for planning in the State and documents the progress made in advancing the current year's Work Program;
- Revision of Part Three 3, task 1015-5 to reflect the reporting of funds that have been obligated through the TIP process as opposed to expenditure funds;
- Addition of task 1025-4 in response to TAC member Schiller's desire for access to educational opportunities relative to the procedures and processes of air quality conformance assessment and review;
- Addition of a reference to "airport infrastructure" in task 1030 which was made at the request of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation's TAC representative;
- Revision of task 2030 to clarify the intent to develop a comprehensive plan for water resource management, supply and use;
- Revision of task 2040 emphasizing a focus on the sustainable development of Rhode Island's Water Reliant Economy as a central part of putting together the integrated plan; and
- The addition of Part 4 which provides an overview of the financial resources that will be used to execute the program.

In concluding, Mr. Rhodes indicated that the work program was within budget given the funding resources projected to be available. Mr. Rhodes then offered Mr. Shawver to add any points that he thought was particularly relevant to RIDOT's portion of the Program. Mr. Shawver then summarized the RIDOT component noting that there were no substantial changes from last years tasks. Mr. Therrien was unavailable to discuss the RIPTA component.

Mr. Flynn asked the Council if anyone had any further questions or comments. *There being none, Mr. Sequino moved to approve the adoption of the Work Program and required certifications. Ms. White-Raymond seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.*

5. Implementation Status – Land Use 2025

Mr. Flynn introduced this agenda item and indicated that it would consist of a PowerPoint slide show that was being presented for informational purposes.

He prefaced his presentation by noting that it was initially created for GrowSmart RI's recent Power of Place summit, had also been presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee and was planned for presentation to the Housing Resources Commission. The presentation, he explained, is intended to communicate how the Division of Planning and all of its partners, particularly at the local level, were working together to make significant progress in implementing Land Use 2025.

Mr. Flynn then proceeded to deliver his presentation, the full narrative and slides of which are available upon request to the Secretary. Upon conclusion Mr. Flynn was greeted with congratulations for the quality of the presentation and appreciation for all of the effort that the Division of Planning had been investing in implementing the plan over the past four years.

6. Staff Report

Mr. Rhodes began by announcing that \$12.5 million in funding was being made available for housing production through the Housing Resources Commission's Building Homes RI Program. Applications, he noted were due by July 9, 2010 and that Mr. Ray Neirinckx of the Office of Housing and Community Development should be contacted for further information.

Mr. Flynn then advised the Council that their proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Planning Act had been approved by the Senate and passed along to the House and that Disaster Mitigation Funds should soon be available to the State through EDA, FEMA and through the work that Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse are doing with the Presidential Disaster Declaration.

7. Other Business

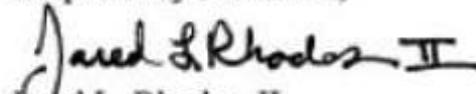
Mr. Flynn announced that the meeting would be Ms. Baxter's last as she was resigning from the Housing Resources Commission (HRC) after eleven years of dedicated service. He noted that Ms. Baxter was the first Chair for the HRC and thanked her for her service and commitment throughout the years. Ms. Baxter expressed her appreciation to Mr. Flynn for always placing housing high on the agenda and said that it was a pleasure to serve both the Council and the HRC. Ms. Jeanne Cola who works at Citizen's Bank and has been heavily involved with the HRC for many years will be Ms. Baxter's replacement as the Chair of the Commission and as such will also serve on the Council.

Lastly, Mr. Flynn reminded the Council that there will not be a meeting in July.

8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion Mr. Deller motioned to adjourn. Ms. White-Raymond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:52 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Jared L. Rhodes, II
Secretary