

**Rhode Island State Planning Council  
Draft Minutes of October 20, 2011 Meeting**

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**  
William E. Powers Building  
Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**I. ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Mr. Richard Licht	Director, RI DOA
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI DOA, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. Jon Reiner	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, RI League of Cities and Towns (RI LOCAT)
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Representing Mr. Kevin Flynn, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. M. Lewis, Governor's Designee
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

**Members Absent**

Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Brian Daniels, Vice Chair	Director, Governor's Policy Office
Mr. Thomas Deller	Providence Department of Planning & Development

**Guests**

Mr. Stephen A. Alfred	Town of South Kingstown
Ms. Jane Austin	Save the Bay
Ms. Meredith Brady	Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Ms. Laurie Brayton	Senate Fiscal Staff
Mr. John DeDonato	Mc Homeowners Association
Mr. Michael Hogan	State of Rhode Island House Policy Office
Mr. Peter Osborn	Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Donald Pryor	Citizen
Mr. Jon Schock	Town of South Kingstown
Ms. Amy Thibeault	Rhode Island Department of Transportation

**Staff – Division of Planning**

Ms. Linsey Cameron	Supervising Planner, Transportation Section
Ms. Karen Scott	Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

**II. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Call to Order**

On October 20, 2011 at 9:05 a.m. Mr. Licht called the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of the September 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Trevor moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherlock. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Ms. Jane Austin, representing Save the Bay, expressed concerns with the Matunuck Beach Road Stabilization Project included in the proposed TIP Amendment. Her concerns related to current erosion rates, the proposed hardening of the shoreline and the long term impacts of sea level rise. Ms. Austin stated that the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) regulations prohibit hardening in this area and that if allowed the proposed structure would only exacerbate erosion and potentially inundated by sea level rise over the long term. Ms Austin stated that she recognized the difficult situation that the Town was in but encouraged all to look at longer term solutions.

Next, Mr. Stephen Alfred, Manager for the Town of South Kingstown, first offered the Town's support for the proposed TIP Amendments relative to the Kingston Train Station and High Street. He then acknowledged long term concerns relative to Sea Level Rise and the Martunuck Beach Road project but stressed the need for the Town to act quickly in protecting the road over the short term.

4. **FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program, Proposed Amendment 12** – *for vote*

Mr. Shawver presented the FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program, proposed Amendment 12 as detailed in his August 16, 2011 request. Discussion during and after Mr. Shawver’s presentation included the following.

Mr. Licht first asked Mr. Shawver if it was customary for communities to feel entitled to funding previously obligated to their projects through the TIP process. Mr. Shawver indicated that it was and that it had essentially been the past practice to allow communities to roll these funds over into other projects when requested. He then added however, that this was changing given the current funding situation and that all projects would be receiving a fresh assessment and reprioritization as we moved through the development of the next TIP.

In regards to the Council discussion of the Matunuck Beach Road Project, Mr. Licht emphasized that the State Planning Council’s role was limited to authorizing the availability of funding through the TIP process and stressed that the RI Coastal Resource Management Council held authority over the specific design and permitting of the project.

Ms. Boyle next asked whether erosion rates were expected to increase as a result of the installation of the planned sheet pile structure. In response Mr. Alfred stated that he didn’t believe additional erosion rates would be significant given the adjacent hardened surfaces and reef that currently abut the project area.

Ms. Prager echoed the concerns relative to the potential for accelerating erosion rates but noted that in her opinion a distinction should be made between the differences in allowing such structures in built vs. natural settings.

There being no additional discussion, Ms. Cameron reported on the public hearing process undertaken for the proposed amendment as documented in the Public Hearing report that was distributed with the Council packets. She concluded by noting that the State Planning Council’s Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendment.

With staff presentation complete, Mr. Sequino moved to approve the proposed amendment as submitted. Ms. Prager seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule** – *for introduction*

Mr. Rhodes introduced the proposed 2012 meeting schedule and requested that the Council review it prior to next meeting when it will be presented for action.

6. **2012 Committee Appointments** – *for discussion*

Mr. Rhodes began by noting that a number of the State Planning Council’s appointments to its Technical, Transportation Advisory, RI Geographic Information System and Recreation Resource Review Committees have either expired or will be expiring in the near future. He then explained that as in the past, staff’s intention was to prepare a “Slate of Names” for reappointments that would be introduced to the Council at their November meeting and presented for action at their December meeting. In concluding Mr. Rhodes advised the Council that the current memberships could be found on the Program’s website and encouraged members to contact him prior to the November introduction should their be specific appointments that they would like to provide advance input on.

7. **Associate Director's Report**

Mr. Rhodes delivered the Associate Director's report on behalf of Mr. Flynn. The following items were discussed:

- Status of Water Resources Board Strategic Planning Initiative;
- Overview of the FY 2013- 2016 TIP development process
- Attendance at the October 3, 2011 TIP development Workshops;
- TIP application submission deadline of October 28, 2011;
- TIP application submittal hearings scheduled for November 7-10, 2011; and
- Challenge Grants submittal deadline of November 10, 2011.

8. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

9. **Adjourn**

Mr. Trevor moved to adjourn. Mr. Sherlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

Respectfully submitted



Jared Rhodes  
Acting Secretary