

**Rhode Island State Planning Council  
Draft Minutes of March 8, 2012 Meeting**

**Thursday, March 8, 2012**  
William E. Powers Building  
Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**I. ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present**

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI DOA
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Dan Beardsley	RI LOCAT
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Michael Lewis	RI DOT, Governor's Designee
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI DOA, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

**Members Absent**

Mr. Stephen Cardi	Cardi Corporation
Mr. Brian Daniels, Vice Chair	Director, Governor's Policy Office
Mr. Thomas Deller	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate

**Guests**

Ms. Meredith Brady	RI DOT
Mr. Peter Osborn	Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Bob Shawver	RI DOT

**Staff – Division of Planning**

Ms. Linsey Callaghan	Supervising Planner, Transportation
Mr. Jeff Davis	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning
Ms. Nancy Hess	Supervising Planner, Land Use Section
Ms. Amanda Martin	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning
Mr. Michael Moan	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Karen Scott	Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Chelsea Siefert	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

**II. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Licht called the meeting to order on March 8, 2012 at 9:06 a.m.

2. **Approval of the February 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes** – *for vote*

Mr. Sequino moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. White-Raymond. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were none.

4. **Draft FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program** – *for vote*

Ms. Scott provided an overview of the draft TIP development process as documented in the associated agenda supplement. Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Licht asked who decides how the funding is allocated amongst categories. Ms. Scott said Statewide Planning and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) determines the allocations.

Mr. Murray questioned the process that will be used for implementing ADA projects. In response, Ms. Scott said that DOT visits the areas of interest and determines the project prioritization. Ms. Boyle then asked how the cities and towns are notified as to whether or not their projects have been approved or not. Ms. Scott explained that as the projects are received and prioritized, they are assigned to a DOT Engineer who will then contact the cities and towns as to when they can expect the project to begin. She then added that in the event that there is a similar project to be completed, the Engineer will combine the two projects for cost savings.

Ms. White-Raymond questioned how a project could be listed under two cities and then provided the example of Warwick Avenue project as being listed under Warwick and Providence. She then questioned Providence as a neighboring community. Ms. Scott said that the projects are listed under all the connecting communities. She then said that she would check that Providence is a neighboring community for the Warwick Avenue project, and amend the document accordingly.

Next, Ms. Boyle referred to the traffic safety project in East Providence and asked why it was listed as “to be determined”. Mr. Shawver said that the information provided is what is available at this time. The appendix defines the programs listed in the TIP. The information listed was provided by the project engineers; additionally, he said that the appendix will be updated on a monthly basis and will be listed on the DOT website for viewing. Mr. Licht asked if the project list could be sorted by projects approved and not approved. Ms. Scott said that she would provide that information.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Licht thanked Ms. Scott and asked for a motion to authorize a public hearing on the draft FY13-16 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Prager motioned and was seconded by Mr. Sequino.

Ms. Conard-Wells asked who the public should contact if for minor corrections to be made. Ms. Scott said that the information will be discussed during the public hearing and she will make sure to clearly state where to submit any necessary corrections.

Mr. Murray took a moment to express his appreciation for the summary report. Mr. Osborn mirrored his comments and then congratulated staff for their hard work.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Rhode Island Water 2030: State Guide Plan Consolidation** – *for vote*

Ms. Hess provided an overview of the RI Water 2030: State Guide Plan Consolidation process as documented in the associated agenda supplement. She then asked if anyone had any questions. There being none, she asked the Council to authorize a public hearing to be held on draft State Guide Plan Element 712, Rhode Island Water 2030. Mr. Licht asked for a motion. Ms. Boyle motioned and was seconded by Ms. Conard-Wells.

Mr. Licht expressed his appreciation for the quality of work produced. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Associate Director’s Report**

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director’s report:

- Mr. Flynn introduced the new staff members, Mr. Jeff Davis, Ms. Amanda Martin and Mrs. Chelsea Siefert as Principal Planners;
- Status of the Division’s efforts to implement the HUD Sustainable Communities grant award;
- Challenge Grant Award ceremony held with the Governor;
- Status of the Division’s efforts to develop Wind Energy Siting Guidelines;
- Hearing on March 15, 2012 to discuss adding additional members to the State Planning Council Bill.

7. **Other Business**

Mr. Licht discussed his role as Chair on the Renewable Energy Coordinating Council and provided an update on items that are being discussed. Mr. Lewis discussed the possibility of utilizing the land along the highways within the ROW medians for solar or wind turbines.

Ms. Prager congratulated everyone involved with keeping the airport expansion on track.

Mr. Lewis announced the opening of the Wickford Junction station on April 23, 2012.

8. **Adjourn**

Ms. Prager moved to adjourn. Mr. Mullaney seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin Flynn  
Secretary