

Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of Friday, March 13, 2015 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chair	Director, Rhode Island Department of Administration
Mr. Kevin Gallagher, Vice Chair,	Governor's Office
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Robert Azar	Representing Bonnie Nickerson, Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Mr. Peter Alviti	Director, RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Corey Bobba	Federal Highway Administration, Advisory Member
Ms. Janet Coit	Director, RIDEM
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Ms. Ana Novais	Representing Mr. Michael Fine, Director RI Department of Health
Ms. Amy Pettine	Representing Mr. Raymond Studley, RIPTA
Mr. M. James Riordan	Public Member
Mr. Amy Rainone	Representing Ms. Barbara Fields, Interim Executive Director Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Daniel Beardsley, Executive Director, RILOCAT
Mr. Samuel Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member
Mr. Jeffrey Willis	Representing Mr. Grover Fugate, Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

2. Members Absent

Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, RILOCAT
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Ms. Marion Gold	Director, RI Office of Energy Resources
Ms. Ana Cano-Morales	Public Member
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RILOCAT, Government Official Representative
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate

3. Staff – Division of Planning

Mr. Jared Rhodes	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Karen Scott	Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning
Mr. Benjamin Jacobs	Principal Research Technician, Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests

Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Peter Garino	RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Lilly Picchione	RI Public Transit Authority

II. **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Michael DiBiase called the meeting to order on March 13, 2015 at 1:35 p.m.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items– *for informational purposes*

There were none.

3. Approval of the December 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. DiBiase asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 22, 2014. Ms. Ana Novais moved to approve the minutes of December 22, 2014 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Amy Pettine. There being no discussion, the following members voted aye: Azar, Alviti, Coit, Conard-Wells, Flynn, Gallagher, Mullaney, Novais, Pettine, Riordan, Rainone, Schaefer, Shamoan, Willis, Wolf. Chairman DiBiase abstained. There were no nay votes. Members Walker, Mitchell, White-Raymond, were not present at this time.

4. FY 13-16 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 5 – *for vote*

Next, Mr. DiBiase introduced Ms. Karen Scott who described the status and travel of the requested TIP Amendment as documented in the meeting materials. Instances where council members engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Scott Wolf asked how much additional money would be added to the TIP as a result of the Amendment. Ms. Lilly Picchione provided a detailed response that culminated in an estimate of 2.2 million dollars.

Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells asked if any of the funds described were discretionary and whether a match is required. Ms. Amy Pettine replied yes to both.

Ms. Janet White-Raymond asked how RIPTA was preparing for the potential expiration of the Highway Trust Fund. In response Mr. Corey Bobba overviewed the timeline and described the significantly reduced funding that would be available should that event come to pass. Ms. Amy Pettine then described how RIPTA's

immediate response would involve a severe curtailing of expected capital expenditures, and emphasized that in the long term even this planned action would not make up for the lost funding.

Mr. Thomas Mullaney asked whether the last sentence of the second paragraph of the supplementary materials for agenda item four was describing a bond issue from the recently passed November elections. Ms. Scott clarified that the sentence was intended to indicate that there was no relationship between the bond issue and the proposed amendment.

Hearing no other comments, Mr. DiBiase asked for a motion to approve Amendment Five. Ms. Janet White-Raymond made the motion and Mr. Michael Walker seconded it. There being no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Azar, Alviti, Coit, Conard-Wells, DiBiase, Flynn, Gallagher, Mullaney, Novais, Riordan, Rainone, Schaefer, Shamoan, Walker, White-Raymond, Willis, Wolf. Member Pettine abstained. There were no nay votes. Member Mitchell was not present at this time.

5. **FY 15 Unified Transportation Work Program, Amendment 1** – *for vote*

Mr. DiBiase introduced Ms. Karen Scott who described the Work Program Amendment as documented in the meeting materials. Instances where council members engaged in discussion are as follows:

Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells observed that it is well known that Public Transit Companies are never able to break even financially and that fare increases to attain that goal are generally counterproductive. Given this observation, Ms. Conard-Wells asked whether the fare study described is really necessary. Ms. Pettine replied that, although fare increases might be one element examined, the goal of the study is to go deeper into the fare system and examine all the ways fares affect service delivery.

Mr. Peter Alviti asked what areas of operations would be covered by the study. Ms. Pettine replied that it would go into all areas of service delivery excluding organizational structure.

Ms. Janet White-Raymond asked how many bids were received, and about the source of the money being committed to the project. Ms. Pettine replied that two bids were received, and clarified that \$150,000 had been committed, with \$120,000 in federal MPO planning funds and \$30,000 in match provide by RIPTA, and that the amendment under discussion would secure the additional \$16,432 in federal MPO planning funds required to pay for the winning bid.

Hearing no other comments, Mr. DiBiase asked for a motion to approve Amendment One. Ms. Janet White-Raymond made the motion and Mr. Michael Walker seconded it. There being no further discussion the following members voted aye: Azar, Alviti, Coit, Conard-Wells, DiBiase, Flynn, Gallagher, Mullaney, Novais, Riordan, Rainone, Schaefer, Shamoan, Walker, White-Raymond, Willis, Wolf. Member Pettine abstained. There were no nay votes. Member Mitchell was not present at this time.

6. **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Appointment** – *for action*

Mr. DiBiase overviewed the appointment as documented in the agenda supplement. Ms. Janet Coit made a motion to approve the appointment. Ms. Janet White-Raymond seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Azar, Alviti, Coit, Conard-Wells, DiBiase, Flynn, Gallagher,

Mullaney, Novais, Pettine, Riordan, Rainone, Schaefer, Shamoan, Walker, White-Raymond, Willis, Wolf. There were no nay votes or abstentions. Member Mitchell was not present at this time.

7. **Associate Director's Report** – *for discussion*

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

- Final production of State Economic Development Plan;
- Fy-16 Governor's Budget Update;
- Status of the Statewide Planning Program's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and the Housing Plan;
- Ongoing efforts to replace the Statewide Planning Program's Executive Assistant;
- Legislation update including S26, H5713, H5643, H5644.

8. **Announcements** – *for discussion*

Mr. Scott Wolf announced that on May 21, Grow Smart RI will be holding the Smart Growth Awards at Providence G and The Arcade.

Ms. Ana Novais announced that the Rhode Island Department of Health will be holding a Health Equity Summit on May 7 with national and local experts to address public health issues in community development.

Ms. Janet White-Raymond announced that the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce will be holding the Santander Economic Outlook Breakfast at the Omni Hotel on April 7 th.

Mr. Flynn reminded the Council that the next meeting will be on April 16 at 9pm, which is the third Thursday of the month.

9. **Adjourn**

Council member White-Raymond motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Novais. There being no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Azar, Alviti, Coit, Conard-Wells, DiBiase, Flynn, Gallagher, Mitchell, Mullaney, Novais, Pettine, Riordan, Rainone, Schaefer, Shamoan, Walker, White-Raymond, Willis, Wolf. There were no nay votes or abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn
Secretary