

RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
Rhode Island State Planning Council

Thursday, April 14, 2016
RIDOA, Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

APPROVED MINUTES

I. Attendance

1. Members Present

Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chair	Director, Rhode Island Department of Administration
Ms. Lisa Vura-Weis, Vice-Chair	Deputy Chief, Office of the Governor
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Secretary	Acting Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Steven Boudreau	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, Rhode Island Department of Health
Ms. Meredith Brady	Representing Peter Alvit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Ms. Janet Coit	Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Non Profit Community Development Representative
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Mr. Darin Early	Representing Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	Rhode Island Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	Rhode Island League of Cities & Towns, Government Official Representative
Ms. Bonnie Nickerson	Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Ms. Amy Pettine	Representing Raymond Studley, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Barbara Fields, Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing
Mr. M. James Riordan	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Daniel Beardsley, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Girard Visconti	Large Business Representative
Mr. Jeffrey Willis	Representing Grover Fugate, Executive Director, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

2. Members Absent

Marion Gold	Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Ms. Sandy O'Connor	Governor's Designee
Mr. Mathies Santos	Chair, Housing Resources Commission

3. Staff Present

Ms. Linsey Callaghan	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Kimberly Crabill	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Nancy Hess	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Karen Scott	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Chelsea Siefert	RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Mr. Michael Walker	Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Mr. George Johnston	Member of Public

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiBiase called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of March 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes – for action

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2016. Mr. Murray moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brady. There being no discussion, the following members voted aye: Boyle, Boudreau, Brady, Cola, Coulombe, Mitchell, Mullaney, Murray, Pettine, Rainone, Riordan, Schaefer, Visconti, and Willis. Chairman DiBiase and Mr. Rhodes abstained. Not present at this time were Ms. Coit, Mr. Early, Ms. Nickerson, and Mr. Wolf. There were no nay votes.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – for discussion

There was none.

4. Draft - FY 17- 25 TIP Funding Allocations by Program – for action

Chairman DiBiase introduced Ms. Karen Scott from Statewide Planning. Ms. Scott gave an overview of the Draft FY 17 – 25 TIP and the status reports. Ms. Scott concluded by stating that Statewide Planning is seeking that the State Planning Council authorize the document to go to public hearing.

Chairman DiBiase thanked the staff, the State Planning Council, Ms. Pettine, Ms. Brady and everyone who worked to put the document together. He further explained where the public hearing and comment period would take place. Chairman DiBiase asked Ms. Scott to explain for new members how this process has gone in the past, which Ms. Scott subsequently did. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Schaefer asked how much more money there is now as apposed with original figures. Ms. Scott replied that the passage of RhodeWorks has enabled the State to pursue a \$300 million GARVEE bond. This additional revenue will be shown in FFY 16 and is included in Amendment #7 to the FFY 13-16 STIP. In addition, the State will refinance its existing GARVEE, freeing up \$120 million in the short term. The FAST act also increased federal funding for highway and transit to Rhode Island by about 2-3% annually. Finally Ms. Scott explained that the Article 21 Fund which is the highway maintenance account funds are now starting to become available.

Mr. Riordan asked what the total of all of that was and over what period of time. Ms. Scott responded the FAST Act covers FFY 16-20. Federal funding beyond those years is estimated. Within the analysis portion of the text, there is a break down of specific anticipated funding sources, both state and federal. By referring to the summary tables, you can see the total amount of funds programmed per year. By looking at the detailed tables, you can see the funding sources on individual projects for FFY 17-20.

Mr. Riordan asked if Ms. Scott knew specifically how much funding it would be in FFY 16 – 18. Director DiBiase directed everyone to a slide provided in the minutes that explained the funding sources over the next 10 years. Ms. Scott also outlined where funding sources and expenditure tables are found within the fiscal constraint section of the STIP.

Ms. Coit asked if the 2016 year under discussion is the federal fiscal 2016 year or the state fiscal year. Ms. Scott responded that it was the Federal fiscal year. Ms. Coit also asked if the funding sources for 2016 were from current GARVEE bond funds. Ms. Scott that we continue to pay debt service on current GARVEE bonds in FFY 16 but the majority of the funding in FFY 16 will be from a new GARVEE bond.

Mr. Murray asked for confirmation of the public hearing date of May 26, 2016 which Ms. Scott confirmed and stated would be at 6:30 in front of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Schaefer asked if we had a table that summarized the changes. Ms. Scott directed Mr. Schaefer to the FY 16 Amendment summary tables.

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to authorize public hearing on the Draft FFY 2017 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was made by Mr. Mitchell. The motion seconded by Ms. Coit. There being no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Boyle, Boudreau, Brady, Coit, Cola, Coulombe, Early, Mitchell, Mullaney, Murray, Nickerson, Pettine, Rainone, Riordan, Schaefer, Visconti, Willis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase and Mr. Rhodes abstained. There were no nay votes.

5. FFY 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 7 – for action

Chairman DiBiase introduced the topic of Amendment #7 to the FFY 2013-2016 STIP, he then introduced Ms. Callaghan who outlined the Amendment request. Director DiBiase next asked Ms. Brady to further explain the need for this amendment with particular emphasis on the federal requirements which she did. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Riordan asked for clarification of what exactly is being depicted in the TIP tables as far as things that are allocated or revenue coming in. Ms. Brady responded that it was a little bit of both depending on which project you are looking at. In some instances the programming referred to obligating actions where as others do refer to actual spending. In regards to the 6/10 project specifically, the programming equates to a commitment to expend those funds on this project but not all the funds will be spent in FFY 16.

Director DiBiase next turned the floor over to Amy Pettine who introduced the RIPTA portion of the amendment as overviewed in the agenda supplement. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Roy Coulombe departed 9:47 am

Ms. Janet Coit & Mr. Steve Boudreau departed 9:55 am

Mr. Wolf asked Ms. Pettine if the \$17 million enhanced bus corridor project was the total cost. Ms. Pettine confirmed that it was. Mr. Wolf asked Ms. Brady if the GARVEE for \$300 million was critical to the 6/10 application. Ms. Brady confirmed that it was. Lastly, Mr. Wolf asked how the asset management approach affects the TIP. Ms. Callaghan responded that asset management is a more systematic approach to maintaining transportation infrastructure that better identifies a combination of maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement actions to achieve a state of good repair. Ms. Brady further explained that it means looking at the actual condition of the infrastructure and letting the investment decisions be guided by how specific repairs will affect the system's overall performance.

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to authorize public hearing for FY 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 7. The motion was made by Mr. Riordan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Early. There being no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Boyle, Brady, Cola, Early, Mitchell, Mullaney, Murray, Nickerson, Pettine, Rainone, Riordan, Schaefer, Visconti, Willis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase and Mr. Rhodes abstained. Not present at this time were Coulombe, Coit, and Boudreau. There were no nay votes.

Ms. Jeanne Boyle and Mr. Girard Visconti departed at 10:02 am

6. Draft FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program – for discussion

Chairman DiBiase introduced Mr. Jared Rhodes who gave an overview of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Riordan asked what other projects are being considered this year, what was taken out and the reasoning for it. Mr. Rhodes responded that these were all listed in the agenda supplement and that for the most part the decisions not to move forward varied from competing priorities to limited resources.

Ms. Rainone stated that there is nothing on housing in the UPWP and noted that it seems like an area that should be. Mr. Rhodes stated that the Division of Planning is waiting for direction from the HRC relative to the Draft State Housing Plan. Director DiBiase noted that he also felt that the UPWP should include housing and asked that staff work with OHCD and the Governor's Office to determine if an acceptable scope of work can be put together.

Ms. Rainone stated that under new projects there was a mention of planning for the aging population in Rhode Island and she pointed out that there is lot of data behind the housing report that was just released that she believed could inform that area.

Mr. Wolf asked about what percentage of funding for the work program was coming from the federal government. Mr. Rhodes stated that it is between 75-80 percent. Mr. Wolf followed up by asking if the new Transportation Authorization Act would impact funds or add to funding. Mr. Rhodes responded that he anticipated that the program would be level funded.

Mr. Riordan stated that there were a couple of elements for the GIS portion that he would like to have added that include endangered species and cultural resources. Mr. Rhodes responded that RPHC in partnership with staff support from DOT has been working to update the cultural heritage layer available on RIGIS. Mr. Riordan stated that it would also be helpful for various species to be identified as plant, animal, aquatic, etc.

7. Announcements – *for discussion*

There were none.

8. Adjourn

Chairman DiBiase asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wolf motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray. There begin no further discussion, the following members voted aye: Brady, Cola, Early, Mitchell, Mullaney, Murray, Nickerson, Pettine, Rainone, Riordan, Schaefer, Willis, and Wolf. Chairman DiBiase and Mr. Rhodes abstained. Not present at this time were Boudreau, Boyle, Coulombe, Coit, and Visconti. There were no nay votes. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jared Rhodes
Secretary

Proposed Enhanced Service Route

