

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

February 4, 2010 @ 6:30 P.M.  
RI Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**TAC members present:**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair        | Public Member – Jamestown                 |
| Ms. Sue Barker                 | Greenways Alliance                        |
| Mr. Dan Baudouin               | Providence Foundation                     |
| Mr. Alan Brodd                 | Cumberland Water Department               |
| Mr. Michael Cassidy            | City of Pawtucket                         |
| Ms. Marilyn Cohen              | RI Chapter, American Planning Association |
| Mr. Robert Murray              | Public Member – Smithfield                |
| Ms. Linda Painter              | City of Providence                        |
| Mr. Paul Reynolds              | Public Member – South Kingstown           |
| Mr. Paul Romano                | Public Member – Bristol                   |
| Ms. Diane Badorek representing |   |
| Mr. Robert Shawver             | RI Department of Transportation           |
| Ms. Jane Sherman               | Public Member – Providence                |
| Mr. Everett Stuart             | RI Association of Railroad Passengers     |
| Mr. Mark Therrien              | RIPTA                                     |
| Dr. Robert Vanderslice         | RI Department of Health                   |
| Mr. Michael Walker             | RI Economic Development Corporation       |
| Mr. Lee Whitaker               | Town of East Greenwich                    |
| Mr. Michael Wood               | Town of Burrillville                      |

**TAC members absent:**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr. Mark Carruolo              | City of Warwick                                  |
| Mr. Russ Chateaufneuf          | RI Dept. of Environmental Management             |
| Mr. Kevin Dillon               | RI Airport Corporation                           |
| Ms. Judith Drew                | Governor’s Commission on Disabilities            |
| Dr. Robert Quigley, Vice Chair | Aquidneck Island Planning Commission             |
| Mr. Barry Schiller             | RI Sierra Club                                   |
| Mr. Henry Sherlock             | Construction Industries of RI                    |
| Mr. Jim Soctomah               | Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation |

**Others in attendance:**

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. Peter Butler     | FTA                           |
| Ms. Lynne Harrington | Greenwich Bay Watershed Group |

Mr. Richard Langseth  
Mr. Bill Legare  
Ms. Amy Thibeault  
Ms. JoAnne Weinstock

Greenwich Bay Watershed Group  
Northwest Transportation Services  
RIDOT  
FTA

**Statewide Planning Staff Present:**

Mr. Kevin Flynn  
Mr. Jared Rhodes  
Ms. Karen Scott  
Ms. Ronnie Sirota

Associate Director  
Chief  
Acting Supervising Planner  
Senior Planner

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Shocket called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of December 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion of Mr. Murray to approve and seconded by Mr. Reynolds, the December 3, 2009 minutes were accepted unanimously.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There was none.

**4. Staff Report**

Ms. Scott gave the staff report:

Ms. Scott updated the TAC on the two new TAC members, although because of scheduling conflicts they could not attend this TAC meeting:

- Dr. Judith Drew is representing the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. She has a long and very impressive list of credentials. Dr. Drew is the President of VocWorks, a private rehabilitation consulting firm as well as a member of the adjunct Faculty at Assumption College. She is also serving as the Chairperson of the State Rehabilitation Council. The TAC is very fortunate to have her as a new addition. Ms. Scott looks forward to the point of view that she will bring to our discussions.
- Mr. Kevin Dillon represents the Rhode Island Airport Corporation. He is currently the President and CEO of the Corporation, a position that he has held since 2008. In his capacity, he oversees the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the six state-owned airports; and the supervision of all civil airports, landing areas, navigation facilities, air schools and flying clubs. Although he wasn't able to make it tonight due to a scheduling conflict, he did call to let us know that he is very much looking forward to working with the TAC.

There are two (2) pending Administrative Adjustments to the current TIP, one (1) proposed by RIDOT and one (1) proposed by RIPTA. An administrative adjustment only requires notice to the TAC and State Planning Council.

- RIDOT: Ms. Scott explained that the proposed changes, which have been distributed, affect Drainage Improvements in the Traffic Safety Program. The changes proposed do not change the locations receiving the actual drainage improvements, only assigns the projects to the proper line item to reflect RIDOT's contracting and funding.
  - A project on Danielson Pike in Scituate will now be implemented with non-ARRA funding due to DEM permitting issues.
  - A project at First and Division Street in East Greenwich will now be implemented with non-ARRA funding.
  - A project on Eschoeag Hill Road in West Greenwich, which was started in 2009 using ARRA funding will be completed using ARRA funding in 2010.
  - Again, there are no changes to the projects, just changes to the contract and funding source.
  - Ms. Amy Thibeault and Diane Badorek from RIDOT were both present to answer any questions.
- RIPTA: Ms. Scott explained that RIPTA is proposing to carry over unencumbered funds that were programmed in the previous TIP in 2008 into the current TIP. The three (3) projects include:
  - \$780,000 for replacement vehicles,
  - \$1.1 million of Job Access/Reverse Commute funding, and
  - \$740,000 in New Freedoms funding. These projects will fund the same projects that they were approved to fund in 2008.
  - Mr. Mark Therrien from RIPTA was present to elaborate on this adjustment if there are any questions.

The administrative adjustments do not need any action by the TAC but staff just wanted to make the TAC aware of these proposed changes.

Ms. Scott also informed the TAC that two (2) amendments to the State's Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation 2030 were currently being prepared by staff:

- Waterborne Transportation: As part of this fiscal year's work plan, staff is integrating the Waterborne Transportation State Guide Plan element into Transportation 2030. Mr. Mike Moan in Statewide Planning's office has been working diligently on that effort and staff is hoping to bring the proposed amendments to you this spring.
- Pawtucket Commuter Rail Station: In addition, staff is also working on another amendment to Transportation 2030 to accommodate the feasibility study for the Pawtucket commuter rail station. In order to receive the funding for this study from FTA, Transportation 2030 must contain a fiscally constrained projection of how the estimated \$53 million station construction can be financed. Staff is currently working with DOT and the City of Pawtucket to prepare this amendment, which will likely be presented to the TAC during a public hearing scheduled at the April meeting.

Ms. Scott reported that RIDOT received a \$1.2 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to begin preliminary engineering work and environmental assessment on track and platform upgrades at the Kingston Station. This project will have to be added to the TIP as an amendment so more details on this project will be forthcoming in a future meeting.

Ms. Scott informed the TAC that RIPTA is in the process of preparing a grant application for the Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program. RIPTA is requesting \$1.45 million to pursue the creation of four (4) peripheral bus hub facilities and enhancements to Kennedy Plaza, which were all recommended as part of the Metro Area Transit Study. If that grant is successful, RIPTA will be invited to give a more detailed presentation on those plans. Mr. Therrien also reported that RIPTA is working on a second grant application under the same program for \$1.2 million for software to enhance the RIDE Program.

Ms. Scott educated the TAC on a group that has formed, the Coalition for Transportation Choices. The group includes over two (2) dozen agencies uniting to support investments in transportation choices for Rhode Island. Among other activities, they are actively lobbying to implement several of the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation Finance. Ms. Scott distributed a copy of their legislative and policy agenda to the TAC for information.

Ms. Scott reminded the TAC that the Safe Routes to School program is currently out for proposals for a second round of funding. The deadline for applications is February 24, 2010. All the information is available on Statewide Planning's website, or members can contact Ronnie Sirota, the SRTS Coordinator, for additional information.

Mr. Cassidy asked Mr. Therrien to clarify what the New Freedoms funding in the Administrative Adjustment will fund. Mr. Therrien explained that New Freedoms funding is used to provide service beyond RIPTA's current disability service.

Mr. Boudouin asked if the State's Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation 2030 is currently a fiscally constrained document. Ms. Scott explained that although it is a policy document, it is fiscally constrained in that it contains projections of revenue and expenditures of the State's transportation program until the year 2030. As explained by FTA, if the State names a specific project in the Long Range Plan, then funding for the construction of that project must be explicitly included in the fiscal projections in the Long Range Plan, as in the case of the Pawtucket Station. The State can make more broad statements concerning a desire to expand rail service without naming specific projects without having to show specific funding sources.

Mr. Reynolds questioned the process for expending earmarked funding. He was told by a staff person at RIDOT that there is a financial penalty for not utilizing funding by a particular date. He is especially concerned about the Rt. 138 Project. Ms. Scott said she would contact RIDOT to get answer to his question and report back to the entire TAC with the answer.

##### **5. Transportation Improvement Program FY 2009-2012 – Amendment #5**

Ms. Shocket called the public hearing to order at 6:43 p.m. *As is customary a complete report documenting the formal proceedings of the public hearing has been produced and is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment 1.*

Following the close of the public hearing at 6:47 p.m., Ms. Shocket resumed the TAC meeting at 6:48 p.m. and asked if there was any discussion amongst the TAC members regarding the proposed amendment.

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Therrien when he found out the need for the Amendment. Mr. Therrien replied that it was only a few weeks ago. Mr. Peter Butler stated that on behalf of the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), that the TAC's timely consideration of this amendment was appreciated. In order for states to be considered for additional ARRA funding, the funding already awarded must all be obligated. Approving this amendment will obligate all the current FTA funding and will position Rhode Island to be eligible for any additional funding that becomes available.

Mr. Brodd stated he thought that signed contracts for ARRA projects were required by February 17, 2010. Mr. Butler clarified that there may be different deadlines for different sources of ARRA funds but for FTA, the funds must be obligated in a grant by March 8, 2010. Mr. Therrien stated there are two (2) more years to spend the ARRA funding.

Mr. Dan Baudouin moved that the Transportation Advisory Committee approve Minor Amendment #5 to the FY 09-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Murray seconded the motion, which the TAC approved unanimously.

6. **Additional Public Comment**

There was none.

7. **Other Business**

There was none.

8. **Adjourn**

The TAC adjourned at 6:55 p.m. upon motion of Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Baudouin.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen G. Scott  
Secretary



**Attachment 1**

**State Planning Council  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

**Draft Public Hearing Report**

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, February 4, 2010 @ 6:30 P.M.

DRAFT REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING:  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)  
FFY 2009-2012 – AMENDMENT #5

*Report Contents:*

1. Summary of Public Comment and Responses
2. Formal Public Hearing Proceedings
3. Attachment:
  - A. Public Notice



TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2009-2012

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #5  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

February 4, 2010 Public Hearing  
RI Department of Administration  
Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI

There were no public comments on proposed Amendment #5 to the TIP.

# FORMAL HEARING PROCEEDINGS

## I. Attendance

### Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) members present:

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair, Public Member – Jamestown  
Ms. Diane Badorick, RI Department of Transportation  
Ms. Sue Barker, Greenways Alliance  
Mr. Dan Boudouin, Providence Foundation  
Mr. Alan Brodd, Cumberland Water Department  
Mr. Michael Cassidy, City of Pawtucket  
Ms. Marilyn Cohen, RI Chapter, American Planning Association  
Mr. Robert Murray, Public Member – Smithfield  
Ms. Linda Painter, City of Providence  
Mr. Paul Reynolds, Public Member – South Kingstown  
Mr. Paul Romano, Public Member - Bristol  
Ms. Jane Sherman, Public Member – Providence  
Mr. Everett Stuart, RI Association of Rail Passengers  
Mr. Mark Therrien, RI Public Transit Authority  
Dr. Robert Vanderslice, RI Department of Health  
Mr. Michael Walker, RI Economic Development Corporation  
Mr. Lee Whitaker, Town of East Greenwich  
Mr. Michael Wood, Town of Burrillville

### *Others in attendance:*

Mr. Peter Butler, Federal Transit Authority  
Ms. Lynee Harrington, Greenwich Bay Watershed Group  
Mr. Richard Langseth, Greenwich Bay Watershed Group  
Mr. Bill Legare, Northwest Transportation Service  
Ms. Amy Thibeault, RI Department of Transportation  
Ms. Joanne Weinstock, Federal Transit Authority

### *Statewide Planning Staff Present:*

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Associate Director  
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Chief  
Ms. Karen Scott, (Acting) Supervising Planner  
Ms. Ronnie Sirota, Senior Planner

## II. Call to Order

Ms. Fran Shocket, TAC Chair, opened the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m.

## III. Proceedings to Date

Ms. Karen Scott, Supervising Transportation Planner, summarized the proceedings to date. Specifically she noted that:

- The proposed amendment includes changes to the approved TIP that have been proposed by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).
- In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rhode Island State Planning Council, Department of Transportation and Public Transit Authority, which outlines procedures for amending and modifying the TIP, this request has been classified as a minor amendment.
- The amendment request was received by the Statewide Planning Program on January 20, 2010.
- The required 10-day notice of the hearing and of the opportunity to submit comments was published in the Providence Journal on January 22, 2010 with subsequent distribution to the transportation mailing list and the State Planning Council as well as posting on the Statewide Planning Program website.
- The Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Resources has determined that the proposed amendment would conform to the State Air Quality Implementation Plan.
- As of the start of this meeting, staff had not received any written comments.

#### **IV. RIPTA Presentation**

Mr. Mark Therrien gave an overview of the proposed Amendment #5. A summary of his presentation is as follows.

- RI receives the smallest amount of rural transit funding in the country.
- Historically, RIPTA has used that rural transit funding for building and bus repairs.
- Under the ARRA funding guidelines, FTA will not allow RIPTA to use rural transit funding for building and bus repairs.
- RIPTA would like to move \$280,000 from Preventative Maintenance to Bus Replacement to put towards the purchase of a bus, which does conform to the ARRA funding guidelines for rural transit funds.
- These funds will not purchase an additional bus beyond what was approved in the current TIP.
- RIPTA will look for opportunities to use urban transit funds to do the building improvements originally planned for the \$280,000 that is moving from Preventative Maintenance to Bus Replacement.

#### **V. Public Hearing Procedures**

Mr. Jared Rhodes, Chief of the Statewide Planning Program, next reviewed the procedures for the conduct of the public hearing. Specifically he noted that:

- The hearing is being held by the Transportation Advisory Committee to accept comments on the draft Amendment #5 to the State of Rhode Island's Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2009-2012.

- The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the State Planning Council Rules of Procedure and the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Comments will first be received from those who have signed up on the registration forms available at the door, in the order which they registered and after the customary recognition of elected officials.
- Those who speak must identify themselves and address all comments to the Chair.
- Each speaker will be limited to an initial presentation of five minutes to insure that all who wish to speak may have an opportunity. After all who have registered have spoken, any others wishing to speak or make supplemental comments will be recognized.
- Written statements will be given equal consideration and may be read into or submitted for the record.

## **VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **VII. Conclusion**

Ms. Shocket adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m.

*The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) resumed its regular meeting following the close of the public hearing. The TAC subsequently approved the proposed minor amendment.*

**ATTACHMENT A:**

**Public Notice**

**(For publication January 22, 2010)**  
**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL**  
STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM  
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5870

Public Notice

**MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Amendment # 5 is being proposed to the FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the State of Rhode Island, as adopted by the State Planning Council on August 14, 2008.

The amendment has been requested by the RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) for the following purposes:

- Increase 5311 ARRA funding for the purchase of Revenue Vehicles.
- Eliminate the existing 5311 ARRA funding for Support Eq/Supplies/Vehicle-Preventive Maintenance.

The requested changes will affect the Transit Program of the Transportation Improvement Program.

A determination of air quality impacts will be presented at the Transportation Advisory Committee. The proposed amendment is available for review at the R.I. Statewide Planning Program Office (see address above) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and at the Program's website at [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov). A copy may also be obtained by calling (401) 222-7901.

The State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will conduct a public hearing of the proposed minor amendment at its meeting scheduled for:

Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.  
Conference Room A, Second Floor  
RI Department of Administration

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Those requiring any accommodation for disabilities must call (401) 222-7901 not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. All persons may present their views on this amendment in person, through a representative, or by filing a written statement with the Secretary of the State Planning Council, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. All comments on the TIP must be received by the close of the hearing on February 4, 2010. This notice, public meeting, and comment period satisfy the public participation requirements for RIPTA's operating and capital grant programs from the Federal Transit Administration.

  
Jared L. Rhodes  
Secretary  
State Planning Council

*January 15, 2010*

**January 15, 2010**