

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

May 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.  
Department of Administration

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**TAC members present**

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair	Public Member
Mr. Everett Stuart, Vice Chair	RI Association of Railroad Passengers
Mr. Lloyd Albert	AAA Southern New England
Ms. Sue Barker	Greenways Alliance
Mr. Alan Brodd	Town of Cumberland
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Public Member
Mr. Ron Gagnon	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Albert Dahlberg	Public Member
Mr. David Everett	City of Providence
Mr. George Monaghan	RI Consulting Engineers (RICE)
Ms. Lillian Picchione	RI Public Transit Authority
Mr. Barry Schiller	RI Sierra Club
Mr. Robert Shawver	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Construction Industries of RI
Dr. Robert Vanderslice	RI Department of Health

**TAC members absent**

Mr. Dan Baudouin	Providence Foundation
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Public Member
Mr. Richard Crenca	City of Warwick
Dr. Judith Drew	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Mr. Daniel Porter	RI Airport Corporation
Mr. Paul Romano	Public Member
Ms. Pam Sherrill	RI Chapter, APA
Ms. Dinalyn Spears	Narragansett Indian Tribe
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Economic Development Corporation
Mr. Michael Wood	Town of Burrillville / RI League of Cities and Towns

**Others in attendance**

Ms. Lori Fiset	RIDOT
Mr. Corey Bobba	FHWA
Mr. Dennis Brown	RIDOT
Mr. Greg Garrett	Public member
Mr. Dominique Gregorie	Community Development Solutions
Ms. Eugenia Marks	Coalition for Transportation and Choices / Audubon
Mr. Ryan Rolin	RIARP & NARP
Mr. Kevin Viveiros	Pare Corp.
Mr. Christos Xenophontos	RIDOT

## **Statewide Planning Staff Present**

Ms. Karen Scott  
Ms. Linsey Callaghan  
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso

Assistant Chief  
Supervising Planner  
Executive Assistant

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. Call to Order**

Ms. Shocket called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and then took a moment to announce that Mr. Chateaufeuf will be retiring from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). She thanked him for his commitment and contributions throughout his years of service to the TAC. Mr. Chateaufeuf thanked Ms. Shocket and said it was a pleasurable experience. He announced that he has simultaneous meeting conflict; however, prior to departing, he took a moment introduce his replacement, Mr. Ronald Gagnon.

### **2. Approval of April 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes – *for action***

Upon motion to approve by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Sherlock, the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Eugenia Marks expressed her appreciation for including the Safe Routes to School Program as part of the Unified Work Program. She then asked about the status of the State Employee Commuter Task Force Program. In response, Ms. Scott indicated that the State Employee Commuter Task Force met on a regular basis and submitted a draft that was reviewed internally; however, at this point, the Task Force is trying to integrate the implementation policies with ongoing efforts of the Governor's Office of Sustainability and the Department of Administration's mirrored efforts prior to the release of the entire document.

### **4. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21)**

- Overview RIDOT's Performance Management – *for information:*

Ms. Scott began by recapping last month's meeting and indicated that over the next several months, staff will present an overview of MAP-21's meaning and the changes that were implemented. The series of information that will be delivered will provide the Committee with a better understanding of where transportation planning is heading. She then reintroduced Mr. Christos Xenophonos and Ms. Lori Fisetto who delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation. Having concluded the formal presentation, the Committee engaged in the following discussion:

Mr. Schiller asked if the Federal Government is requiring emission testing to include carbon related emissions. Ms. Bassett noted that she is unsure at this point as to what will be included in the environmental piece. Mr. Bobba indicated that the regulations have not been determined; however, when they are released, the information will be shared with the Committee.

Mr. Stuart asked if there were any other environmental impacts on the national level. Mr. Bobba said that it appears to be goal areas and measures of air quality; individuals and organizations will have the opportunity to comment on what the criteria will be.

Ms. Scott took a moment to point out that RIDOT and all of the their sub-committees that they are on through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) are trying to be proactive and make sure that RI is ready to react once the federal rule making is released; the guidelines will be released in the spring of 2014. Once released, staff will review the targets and measures, pick the items that will help move the performance forward and then present the Plan back to the Committee.

Ms. Barker asked why pedestrian and non-motorized transportation was not mentioned in the plans. In response, Mr. Xenophontos explained that pedestrian safety was not part of the national goal areas that came out of congress. He stated that MAP-21 is performance based; whereas SAFETEA-LU it was barely performance based. Mr. Xenophontos speculated that additional areas will be added to the next transportation bill. Next, Ms. Barker noted that the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTSP) has been a successful Program throughout the country, which is why she is hopeful that it will be an important part of MAP-21. Mr. Xenophontos agreed that it is an important Program but said that all 300 measures cannot be reported, which is why we had to narrow it down. He noted that managers of every program will need to make the right business decision to keep moving RI forward and having progress on the system.

Mr. Brodd took a moment to point out that one of the seven national goals under MAP-21 is safety. It was listed and evaluated as part of the safety packet. Mr. Schiller agreed and said that pedestrian safety is an issue in RI.

Next, Mr. Schiller said that he was appalled to see that economic efficiency was not one of the national performance measures. He then noted that RIDOT's expenses should be included, which would allow taxpayers the opportunity to see how funding is allocated. Mr. Schiller also suggested including expenses from other states as a comparison. In response, Ms. Piccione explained that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has a similar legislation and noted that MAP-21 covered several areas on transit. She explained that the operating statistics are capsulated and are part of the regular business. Ms. Piccione indicated that a considerable amount of focus is on rail transit. The larger properties that have rail will have actual rules about specific performance measures. The other focus will be to enhance data collection and transit access management. There will be rules that require transaction management plans, which will provide a better understanding of capital assets that will require replacement over time. Mr. Bobba also addressed Mr. Schiller's concerns and noted that Federal Highway and Federal Transit are not responsible for the changes. The Federal Government is responsible for the changes that are made through the rule making process. He then stated that Federal Highway and Federal Transit are working together on safety measures to ensure that the efforts are aligned and less burdensome on MPOs and State DOTs whenever projects are implemented.

There being no further comments or questions, Ms. Shocket introduced the next agenda item.

## **5. Highway Functional Classification – Adjusted Urban / Rural Boundary**

- Summary from RISPP – *for information:*

Ms. Linsey Callaghan delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation. Having concluded the formal presentation, the Committee engaged in the following discussion:

Mr. Dahlberg asked if there was an increase on rural minor collector roadways. In response, Ms. Scott indicated that there were no urban minor collectors; therefore, the only changes made were to the urban distinction.

Mr. Monaghan asked how RI will compete against other states. Mr. Shawver indicated that additional funding will be necessary and stated that RIDOT will present a case to legislation to ask for additional funding for deteriorating bridges and highways.

There being no further comments or questions, Ms. Shocket moved to the next item on the agenda.

## **6. Unified Work Program for Transportation Planning, Proposed FY 2014 Work Tasks**

- See Supplement – *for information*:

Ms. Scott presented the proposed FY 2014 work tasks as distributed with the Committee packets. Highlights of those items in which the Committee engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Schiller was pleased to see the SRTS Program remain at a high priority within the work program. He then asked if staff and funding would be available for the State Employee Commuter Task Force if the Plan was not approved. Ms. Scott said that she was confident that finding the appropriate resources wouldn't be an issue.

Next, Mr. Schiller voiced his opinion on two recent articles in the Providence Journal that discussed the move of 150 RI State Employees to a downtown location and the Governor's proposal to pave over empty parking lots around the Statehouse. He indicated that these changes will make it difficult for public transit to compete against free parking; therefore, he would like the Committee to address the concerns at hand.

Lastly, Mr. Schiller shared some information on National Train Day and indicated that he had copies of the press release that discussed rail efficiency on freight.

As there were no further comments or questions, Ms. Shocket asked Ms. Callaghan to deliver the staff report.

## **7. Staff Report**

Ms. Callaghan took a moment to introduce Mr. Benjamin Jacobs, Principal Research Technician. She then provided brief updates on the Travel Demand Model and the draft revisions that were made to the State Rail Plan.

## **8. Additional Public Comment**

Ms. Marks indicated that she recently attended a workshop where Professor Mark Fenton of Tufts University conducted a case study and used the Apponaug Circulator as part of his presentation to promote walking. He pointed out that 365,000 premature deaths occur each year due to sedentary life styles. In closing, Ms. Marks asked the Committee to encourage walking when developing infrastructures.

Mr. Dominique Gregoire, President of Community Development Solutions introduced himself and provided an overview of the project that he would like to present to the Committee entitled The Jewel of New England, which focus' on development centers to attract patrons to Downtown Providence.

Mr. Garrett requested to have the original maps of the rail right-of-way from the Seekonk River to Bristol. He requested to see plans that dated back to the 1980s to the present. Mr. Garrett would like to be reassured that rail can continue along this route. Next, he asked for clarification on billboard signs along Interstate Highways in Providence. He indicated that he was under the impression that billboards were supposed to be eliminated within so many feet of the interstate.

**9. Other Business – *for discussion***

Mr. Brodd announced that he will be retiring on June 7, 2013 as the Town of Cumberland’s Public Works Director. However, he will continue to serve on the Committee. He, next, expressed his appreciation for the SRTS Program and stated that he was pleased to see that the Program helped to rectify a pedestrian safety concern in Woonsocket by installing a traffic light.

Mr. Schiller addressed the billboard issue and encouraged the Committee to look into it further.

Ms. Barker mirrored Mr. Brodd’s comments with the SRTS Program and noted that there was a study done in England years ago that indicated that children who walk or ride bicycles to school have a higher performance level than the children that do not. Next, Ms. Barker asked Ms. Scott to consider listing a category for non-motorized transportation. In response, Ms. Scott noted that she inadvertently skipped this section and stated that the non-motorized transportation items can be found under task 1045, Transportation Safety. Ms. Scott said that this is a major effort that Statewide Planning and RIDOT are implementing, which is RI’s Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (RI\*STARS) and noted that the Project is currently being piloted in Newport. Mr. Schiller noted that he would like to see Statewide Planning consider a statewide bicycle plan in the future.

**9. Adjournment**

Upon motion of Mr. Brodd, seconded by Mr. Shawver, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Dawn Vittorioso, Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Linsey Callaghan, TAC Secretary