

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

September 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Department of Administration

APPROVED MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Everett Stuart, Vice Chair	RI Association of Railroad Passengers
Mr. Lloyd Albert	AAA Southern New England
Mr. Dan Baudouin	Providence Foundation
Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Public Member
Mr. Richard Crenca	City of Warwick
Dr. Judith Drew	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Mr. John Flaherty	Grow Smart RI
Ms. Martina Haggerty	City of Providence
Mr. Jonathan Harris	Sierra Club
Mr. George Monaghan	RI Consulting Engineers (RICE)
Ms. Amy Pettine	RI Public Transit Authority
Ms. Lillian Picchione	RI Public Transit Authority
Mr. Daniel Porter	RI Airport Corporation
Ms. Pam Sherrill	RI Chapter, APA
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Commerce Corporation
Ms. Barbara Breslin	Federal Highway Administration, Advisory Member

2. Members Absent

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair	Public Member
Mr. Alan Brodd	City of Woonsocket
Ms. Bari Freeman	Bike Newport
Mr. Ronald Gagnon	RI Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Eliza Lawson	RI Department of Health
Mr. Chris Maxwell	RI Truckers Association
Mr. Timothy Scanlon	Construction Industries of Rhode Island
Mrs. Dinalyn Spears	Narragansett Indian Tribe
Mr. Michael Wood	Town of Burrillville / RI League of Cities and Towns

3. Statewide Planning Staff Present

Ms. Karen Scott	Assistant Chief
Ms. Linsey Callaghan	Supervising Planner
Ms. Kimberly Crabill	Executive Assistant
Mr. Kevin Flynn	Associate Director
Mr. Jared Rhodes	Chief

4. Guests Present

Carlos Machado	Federal Highway Administration
Peter Alviti, Director	RI Department of Transportation
Peter Garino, Deputy Director	RI Department of Transportation
Teresa Tanzi	State Representative

Eugina Marks
Grant Dulgarian
Barry Schiller
Sarah Engle
Ms. Joelle Kanter

Audubon Society
Ecology Action for RI
RI Sierra Club
RI Public Transportation Authority
Providence Foundation

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

At 6:42 p.m. Vice Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of April 23, 2015 Minutes – *for action*

Vice Chairman Stuart asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by George Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Mike Walker, and approved unanimously with no further discussion. Mr. Stuart also noted that the second set of meeting minutes were actually notes as there was no quorum so they would not need to be voted on.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Vice Chairman Stuart asked if there were any comments on the agenda items. No comments made.

4. FY 17 – 26 Transportation Improvement Program

- **RIDOT presentation – for discussion**
- **RISPP Staff Presentation – for discussion**

Karen Scott introduced Mr. Peter Alviti and Mr. Peter Garino of the RI Department of Transportation who presented the attached presentation. Discussion as follows:

Mr. Dan Baudouin applauded the presenters for coming up with a plan to address the need for additional transportation funding. Mr. Baudouin also suggested that a slide be added that showed how other states in the country who do not rely as heavily on federal funds as RI does to show that with the new plan Rhode Island will be in line with the rest of the country. Mr. Alviti responded that it was a good suggestion.

Mr. John Flaherty asked Mr. Alviti to explain his vision for the process moving forward with Rhode Works. Mr. Alviti responded that DOT is making a cultural shift that begins with the 10 year project list being formulated in a way that is more scientific than in the past. We have models of every project, where that particular piece of infrastructure is in its life cycle, what the relative costs are going to be if we fix it now or later, and the decisions being made on an asset management basis that puts some structure into what road should be paved next, or in what sequence should each project be built. It starts with a 10 year vision and then to give a 10 year plan that is based on how we get to where we want to be at the end of that 10 year plan and provide all details of the funding mechanisms. We will present a data driven set of projects for the 10 year plan. The process will be driven by Statewide Planning. Then there will be an annual review that allows for public comment and feedback from the cities and towns.

Mr. Johnathan Harris asked a question about the rapid transit feature and where it came from. Mr. Alviti responded that it came from a DOT working group which RIPTA was a part of.

Mr. Everett Stuart commented that the Transportation Advisory Committee, in the past, had a structured set of items that we look at in terms of prioritization for the TIP. Can we assume that DOT's internal process has a mechanism to take into consideration of the economic input in terms of jobs, social justice, and environmental, not just the physical condition of the pavement. Is there a process that you envision in-house when you have multiple repaving projects out there focusing more on a municipal level? Mr. Alviti responded that DOT will ask the TAC to re-imagine the process by which we employ to actually deliver the best transportation system.

Mr. Mike Cassidy asked if DOT would be looking at the construction methods and the construction materials that we use. Mr. Alviti stated they would be looking at that as well as the way that DOT contracts, the project delivery methods, and the financing.

Mr. Lloyd Albert commented that the Rhode Island Senate voted on DOT's proposed Road Works, the House wanted to do some more research, and commented that the longer we wait the more expensive the projects are going to become. So can you give us an update on where you see this moving? Mr. Alviti responded that DOT is cautiously optimistic that the work they have been doing with the House and their staff will give them a much higher level of comfort with DOT's proposal. We hope that in the October time frame we may see some movement. The Governor, the Speaker, and the Senate President remain very committed to DOT's Rhode Works plan.

Ms. Pam Sherrill asked how Land Use 2025 and the Long Range Transportation Plan elements fit into DOT's plan. Mr. Alviti commented that he is going to leave that to Associate Director Kevin Flynn to spell out for DOT and to help guide DOT through.

Ms. Pam Sherrill asked if there would be a continued emphasis on state funding within the urban services boundary so that we can concentrate growth in the designated areas that are identified in Land Use 2025? Mr. Garino noted that the TIP process requires that kind of analysis and so we will have to follow the Federal Rules and they all apply.

Ms. Pam Sherrill noted that Land Use 2025 is a State plan not Federal requirement. As you come up with your data driven plan for how to approach asset management, we want to make sure that the State Guide Plan recommendations are considered by the DOT.

Ms. Karen Scott gave the RISPP Staff Presentation and shared the attached timeline with the TAC members. Discussion as follows:

Mr. Dan Boudouin asked about the deadline on the timeline that Ms. Scott shared. To him it seems like a very short process. Ms. Scott responded that it is a tight deadline but the schedule is not new to DOT, it was supplied to them. We are committed to try to stick to the schedule.

Mr. Johnathan Harris asked if the data be supplied with the TIP, what is that data and how do we know where it came from, where is that judgement? Ms. Scott responded that generally it has been a data driven approach but we ask DOT to spell out the criteria by which they arrive at their decisions for projects and that is what we hope they will present.

Mr. John Flaherty asked will the TAC will have an opportunity to actually view the TIP before we come back for our next TAC meeting. Ms. Scott responded that the intent is to send to the TAC, ahead of time, the letter, the guidebook, the status report, the specific recommended project list, and the selection criteria for the appropriated categories that need them.

Mr. Mike Walker commented that we need to make sure that public comment periods do not turn into public hearings because that would cause unproductive meetings.

Mr. Mike Cassidy asked what the November meeting agenda will include. Ms. Scott responded that there may be a reprieve in November as that is when the packets will be out to municipalities. I cannot say that there won't be a meeting in November though.

Ms. Amy Pettine asked if October 9th was a voluntary compliance date. Ms. Scott responded that it was a hard deadline.

5. Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule – for discussion

Vice Chairman Stuart noted that the TAC will vote for approval of the dates at the next meeting.

6. Staff Report – for information

Ms. Callaghan made the attached staff report. There were no comments or questions.

7. Additional Public Comment

Mr. Barry Schiller commented that we should collectively support Rhode Works and the truck tolls in some version. I recommend that we support everyone to help move Rhode Works forward. Mr. Schiller also commented that without Rhode Works the bike path projects would not happen. Mr. Schiller mentioned that RIDOT is suspending the bridge bike path in Providence that was scheduled for 2015, he is very disappointed because it is critical in building the bike culture. Another disturbing thing is that RIDOT clearly wants to do the TIP without public input or any other input. The Tiger Grant applications the state submitted did not come through the TAC or any public process. DOT also has a very expensive proposal to move the bus hub from Central Pawtucket to Pine and Goff Street in a desolate area of Pawtucket, the data driven information does not show that anyone wants to go there. Public comment is the only way the bus passengers could have public comment as it moves along. Bus rapid transit out to I-295 where there are no passengers which makes no sense.

Ms. Eugenia Marks of the Audubon Society and the Coalition for Transportation Choices, stated that she hopes that as the project and process proceeds the overarching issues of health for people to walk and bike more regularly and climate change are concepts that will continue to be built in the infrastructure.

Vice Chairman Stuart asked if there were any more public comments. There were none.

8. Announcements – for discussion

Vice Chairman Stuart asked if there were any announcements to share. Lillian Piccione updated a project that RIPTA has been working on. The Newport Gateway was damaged during hurricane Sandy and they were able to access funds to make emergency repairs. The City of Newport put up 10% of the

funds and the other 90% was put up by the Federal Government. The goals are also to improve the drainage and create passenger protection. There will be a public meeting on Thursday October 15th. Plans will be posted on the RIPTA website.

9. Adjournment

Discussion ended at 8:40 p.m. Vice Chairman Stuart asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Meredith Brady made a motion which was seconded by Lloyd Albert, and approved unanimously with no further discussion.