

**RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, March 24, 2016
RIDOA, Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

DRAFT MINUTES

I. Attendance

1. Members Present

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair	Public Member
Mr. Everett Stuart, Vice Chair	RI Association of Railroad Passengers
Mr. Lloyd Albert	AAA Northeast
Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Public Member
Mr. Ronald Gagnon	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Jonathan Harris	Sierra Club
Ms. Joelle Kanter	Representing Mr. Dan Boudouin Providence Foundation
Ms. Eliza Lawson	RI Department of Health
Mr. George Monaghan	RI Consulting Engineers (RICE)
Ms. Lillian Piccione	RI Public Transit Authority
Mr. Daniel Porter	RI Airport Corporation
Ms. Pam Sherrill	RI Chapter, American Planning Association
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Commerce Corporation
Mr. Michael Wood	Town of Burrillville/RI League of Cities and Towns

2. Members Absent

Mr. Alan Brodd	City of Woonsocket
Mr. Richard Crenca	City of Warwick
Dr. Judith Drew	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Mr. John Flaherty	Grow Smart RI
Ms. Bari Freeman	Bike Newport
Ms. Martina Haggerty	City of Providence
Mr. Chris Maxwell	RI Truckers Association
Mr. Timothy Scanlon	Construction Industries of Rhode Island
Ms. Dinalyn Spears	Narragansett Indian Tribe

3. Staff Present

Ms. Linsey Callaghan	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Kimberly Crabill	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Karen Scott, Assistant Chief	RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Mr. George Johnson	Consulting Planner
Mr. Arthur Morelli	RIPTA Riders Alliance

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

At 6:35 p.m. Chair Shocket called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of February 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes – for action

Chair Shocket asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2016. Ms. Brady made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cassidy. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Sherrill proposed an amendment on page three regarding the voting process for prioritization lists.

Everyone was in agreement and there was no further discussion. The following members voted aye, Shocket, Albert, Brady, Cassidy, Gagnon, Harris, Lawson, Monaghan, Piccione, Porter, Sherrill, Stuart, Walker, and Wood. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – for informational purposes

There was none.

4. FY 2013 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #7– for information

Ms. Callaghan introduced Ms. Piccione from Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) who presented the request to amend the FY 2013 - 2016 TIP to include the Downtown Providence Enhanced Transit Corridor project with the attached map for the proposed revised route. Ms. Piccione explained that she wanted to take a full series of questions back to RIPTA so that they can respond with a full presentation when the official request for the Amendment is made. Questions were as follows:

Mr. Harris asked if RIPTA was asking for bus only lane service to include the Downtown Providence Enhanced Transit Corridor project.

Mr. Cassidy asked how many passengers the vehicles will hold. Ms. Piccione responded that this would allow RIPTA to realign their normal service so that 31 buses would be traveling through the trunk of the area identified on the map and 6 additional buses would be traveling through the corridor. This will allow for less transfers.

Mr. Stuart asked for clarification on the funding RIPTA was looking at for the FY 2013- 2016 TIP Amendment which Ms. Piccione provided.

Mr. Albert asked what the hours of operation would be for the six new vehicles.

Mr. Harris asked what the fare cost would be.

Ms. Kanter made a note that it would be good to have senior ridership estimates as well.

Chair Shocket next introduced Ms. Brady from RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) who presented the request for FY 2013 - 2016 TIP Amendment. RIDOT will be bringing a list of FY 2016 projects to TAC for discussion. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Albert asked about the additional funding that comes in from the FAST Act. Ms. Brady responded that it ramped during fiscal year 2016 to about a \$10 million dollar bump and then about \$5 million each year thereafter. At the end of the time period in Federal Fiscal 2020 we will be financially better off than we were in 2015.

Mr. Albert asked what the total over the five years would be. Ms. Brady responded that it would be approximately \$103 million.

Ms. Shocket asked if the significant project that Ms. Brady referred to was the proposed I- 295 exit ramps in Johnston. Ms. Brady responded that it was.

Mr. Stuart asked about the timing of the Amendment. Ms. Callaghan presented the schedule for the amendment request as follows: April 14th introduce the Amendment to State Planning Council (SPC) for request to authorize public hearing, the TAC will then see it at the April 21st meeting, public notice will be posted on April 26th along with the start of the public comment period, the public hearing and public comment period will close on May 26th with the TAC making a recommendation to SPC, who will be requested to vote on June 9th.

5. FY 2017 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program: Update from RISPP - for information

Chair Shocket introduced Ms. Scott who gave an update for the FY 2017 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Scott discussed the overall funding allocations and how they fit into the general context of state and federal transportation policy. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Brady commented that the windows of opportunity for significant investments in the future will be available where they were not before.

Ms. Sherrill asked when the TAC would see this plan again. Ms. Scott responded that we used to revisit the TIP every four years, but now that the TIP is on a 10-year plan we are committed to revisiting it every 1 – 2 years.

Ms. Sherrill asked what the time frame is for the long range transportation plan. Ms. Scott responded that we are hoping to kick it off in the fall.

Ms. Sherrill asked what projected year of the long range transportation plan we are on. Ms. Scott responded that we are on 2035 now and will move on to 2040.

Ms. Sherrill asked what other projects did the SPC fund that were not in the original list from the TAC's prioritization at the last meeting. Ms. Scott responded that they were generally transportation alternative projects that were under written agreements with RIDOT and some were entities with Safe Route to School Grants that were also prior commitments by RIDOT.

Ms. Sherrill asked if these were things that the TAC was unaware of at the time of prioritization. Ms. Scott responded that they were.

Mr. Harris wanted to make a note that while we do need to get our infrastructure up to a good state of repair that he believes we need to have other projects move forward as well.

Chair Shocket noted that it is time for an update to learn what projects are funded and where they are at. Ms. Scott stated that at the close of FY 2016 RIDOT and RIPTA will come and give a presentation on the obligated funds for that year. Another way to see the status of the funds is the status report we put out with The FY 2017 – 2025 TIP Solicitation, and we are also planning to put out with the draft 17 -25 TIP a status report that shows every project that was in the 10-year plan and every project that came in through the solicitation and where it ended up.

Ms. Brady also commented that RIDOT will be required to produce quarterly reports on what is under contract and what is under construction and they will be released to the public on a quarterly basis. The first one of those reports will be done at the end of April.

Mr. Harris asked if that list would also include projects that are in conceptual phase. Ms. Brady responded that it would not. He also asked if public comment is required. Ms. Brady responded that it was not. Public comment takes place during the design phase.

Ms. Sherrill commented that the if the state can come up with a new interchange on I-295 then they should also be able to come up with the funds for the alternatives that TAC has been looking at and trying so hard to prioritize. I am very concerned about the interchange and that it get the due process that it should going forward.

Ms. Scott wrapped up the discussion by sharing the next steps in the process of the TIP 17 - 25.

6. Staff Report – *for discussion*

Ms. Callaghan gave the attached staff report. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Sherrill asked if the truck movements going into the Central Landfill RIRRC was included in the travel demand model. Ms. Callaghan responded that it does not include separate truck movements but it is something that is being considered to add into the model.

Ms. Sherrill commented that she believed that was a major shortcoming because truck movement should be a standalone.

7. Additional Public Comment – *for informational purposes*

There was none.

8. Announcements– *for discussion*

Mr. Harris inquired as to whether TAC should be weighing in on the Rt. 6/10 project. Ms. Scott responded that the TAC could invite RIDOT to come give a presentation.

Mr. Gagnon asked what role the TAC would have in the Rt. 6/10 project. Ms. Scott responded that since there will be federal money attached to the project it will be in the TIP and therefore TAC will have a chance to see where the project lands in the TIP.

Mr. Harris commented that RIDOT is going for a federal funding grant by April 15th and asked if that federal grant comes through TAC. Ms. Scott responded that there is no requirement for RIDOT to come to the TAC when they are applying discretionary funds.

Mr. Harris asked how long the April 7th TAC special meeting will take and asked if that would be a good day to invite RIDOT to come in and present.

Mr. Walker commented that this project is in the conceptual phase and not a RIDOT initiated public discussion as of yet. Mr. Walker feels that it is premature to have a discussion on a project that is still in design and prefers to see how things evolve.

Mr. Harris noted that he would vote for continuous updates on the Rt. 6/10 project.

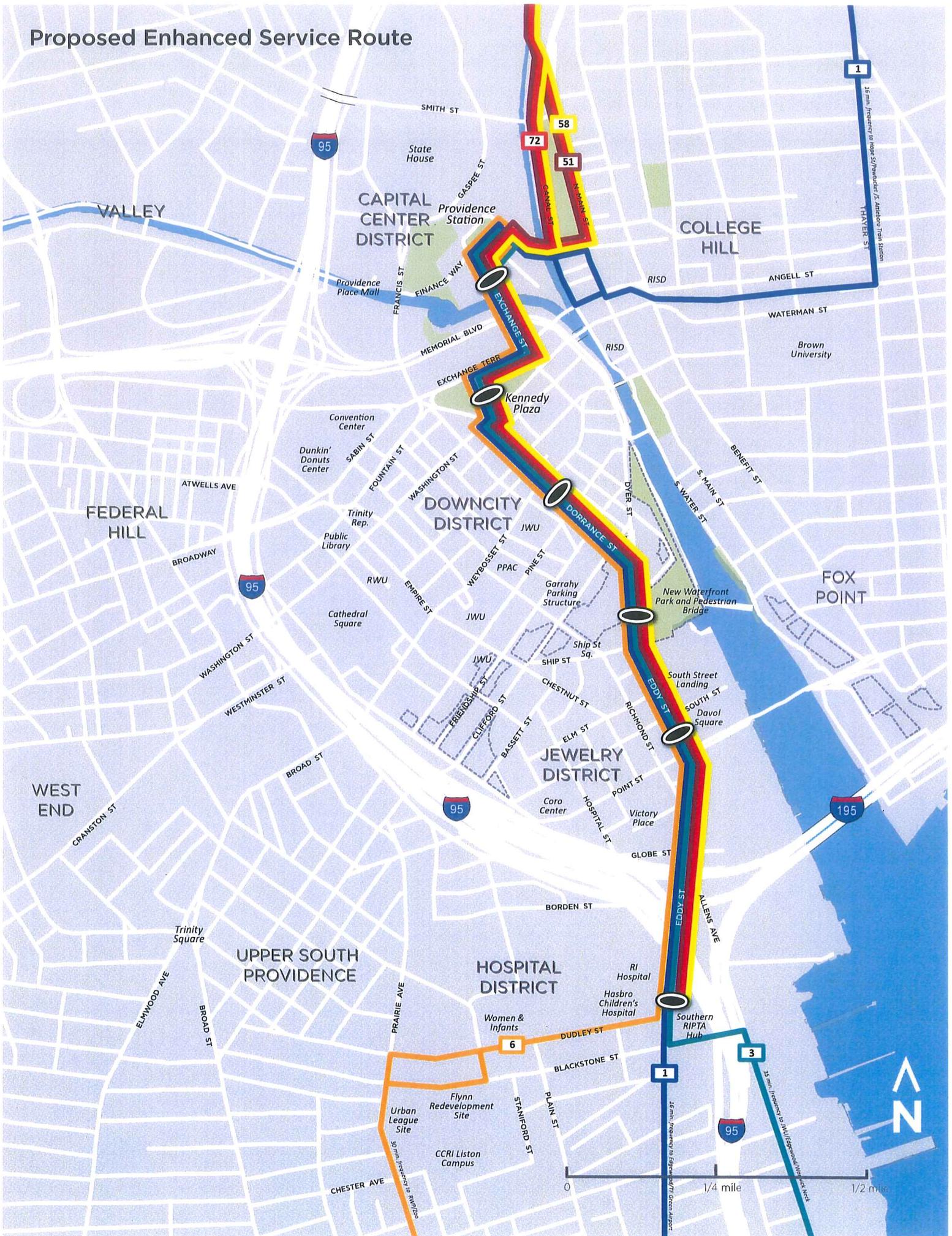
Mr. Everett noted that it has not been TAC's task to take a position on a specific project.

Ms. Scott commented that the best we could do at this time is to invite RIDOT to give a presentation on where the project is and what some potential next steps are.

9. Adjourn

Chair Shocket asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cassidy made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. There was no further discussion. The following members voted aye, Shocket, Albert, Brady, Cassidy, Gagnon, Harris, Lawson, Monaghan, Piccione, Porter, Sherrill, Stuart, Walker, and Wood. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Proposed Enhanced Service Route



TAC – Staff Report – March 24, 2016

UPWP

- Statewide Planning is currently in the process of developing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- If TAC members have any ideas for new projects in the coming year please get them to me or Karen ASAP.
- The TAC will be reviewing the 1st draft of the UPWP at the April 21st TAC meeting and then be requested to vote with a recommendation to the SPC on May 26th.

Travel Demand Model

- Statewide Planning is holding an informational training session on the Rhode Island Travel Demand Model on April 7 with RIDOT and RIPTA.
- Our consultant VHB, who develops and maintains our travel demand model will be providing us all with some background information on
 - The data components that go into the model.
 - How does the model function?
 - What are the abilities of the model to forecast trip generation and/or ridership for future projects such as toll locations, highways interchanges, commuter rail stations, and bus rapid transit routes?