

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

Thursday, April 7, 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
Mr. Dan Boudouin	Providence Foundation
Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. John Flaherty	Grow Smart RI
Ms. Bari Freeman	Bike Newport
Mr. Ronald Gagnon	RI Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Martina Haggerty	City of Providence
Ms. Eliza Lawson	RI Department of Health
Mr. Chris Maxwell	RI Truckers Association
Mr. George Monaghan	RI Consulting Engineers (RICE)
Ms. Amy Pettine	RI Public Transit Authority
Mr. Daniel Porter	RI Airport Corporation
Ms. Pamela 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. Michael Cassidy	Public Member
Mr. Richard Crenca	City of Warwick
Dr. Judith Drew	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Mr. Jonathan Harris	Sierra Club
Mr. Timothy Scanlon	Construction Industries of Rhode Island
Ms. Dinalyn Spears	Narragansett Indian Tribe

3. Staff Present

Ms. Kimberly Crabill	RI Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Chief	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Karen Scott, Assistant Chief	RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Mr. Brian Bishop	Member of Public
Mr. George Johnson	Consulting Planner
Ms. Lillian Piccione	RI Public Transit Authority

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

At 6:34 p.m. Chair Shocket called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of March 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes – for action

Chair Shocket asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2016. Ms. Brady made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sherrill. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Stuart proposed an amendment for clarification on page five to his comment regarding TAC's position on the design phase of projects.

Everyone was in agreement and there was no further discussion. The following members voted aye, Shocket, Albert, Baudouin, Brady, Flaherty, Freeman, Gagnon, Haggerty, Lawson, Maxwell, Monaghan, Pettine, 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 2017 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (draft): Recommendation to authorize a public hearing - for action

Chair Shocket introduced Ms. Scott who discussed the draft Transportation Improvement Program's and walked the committee through the process up to date and reviewed what is in the draft TIP presented in the mailing.

Chair Shocket thanked Ms. Scott and the staff of Statewide Planning on behalf of the TAC for the incredible effort that went into organizing the material. Ms. Scott also thanked the staff at RIDOT in particular Meredith Brady and at RIPTA Amy Pettine and Lillian Piccione for their quick responses to questions and the teamwork involved in getting this document produced.

Chair Shocket asked for a motion to recommend the authorization for a public hearing on the draft FY 17 – 25 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Monaghan made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Freeman commented on how organized, intuitive, and comprehensive the document was.

Ms. Brady also thanked Karen Scott, Jared Rhodes, and the rest of the Statewide Planning staff and the staff at RIDOT who helped to prepare the tables with special thanks to Loren Doyle the CFO and John Megrđichian RIDOT's Grants Manager. Ms. Brady also noted that at the April 21st TAC meeting there will be staff present from RIDOT to answer any questions regarding the TIP materials.

Mr. Baudouin asked about the comment made that if anyone from TAC had specific questions at this time, would they be addressed at the April 21st TAC meeting. Ms. Scott responded that if it was a

global question that the whole group should hear then it should wait till the April 21st meeting but if it was a correction it should be brought directly to her. Mr. Baudouin noted that it was the Providence dredging project that he was referring to and that it was not supported by RIDOT.

Ms. Pettine asked where that project had ended up for evaluation. Ms. Scott responded that it went to RIDOT for evaluation and where it landed was a result of their internal analysis.

Mr. Woods asked if members of the committee could get information of any contact between the agencies with regard to specific project changes that will be made to the FY 17-25 TIP. Ms. Scott responded the Statewide Planning will start making a list of any changes proposed to the document and that they will be shared with the committee. She also noted that no changes would be made to the document unless it was an actual mistake in the document that needed correction.

There being no further discussion, the following members voted aye, Shocket, Albert, Baudouin, Brady, Flaherty, Freeman, Gagnon, Haggerty, Lawson, Maxwell, Monaghan, Pettine, Porter, Sherrill, Stuart, Walker, and Wood. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

5. Staff Report – for discussion

Ms. Scott gave the staff report. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Sherrill asked what the topics for the amendment were. Ms. Scott responded that they were the RIPTA Amendment that was overviewed at the last TAC meeting, which included accepting and re-scoping the urban circulator TIGER grant and the RIDOT Amendment which included FY 2016 projects based on the first year of RIDOT's 10 year plan to follow the more data driven asset management approach.

Ms. Pettine asked Ms. Brady if she had the numbers of projects and funding amounts of the TIP Amendment. Ms. Brady provided the information.

6. Additional Public Comment – for informational purposes

Mr. Brian Bishop stated that his concern is how the TIP speaks to the largest project in Rhode Island's history, being the 6/10 project. He further stated that it does appear from a money standpoint reading about the 6/10 project, that basically they have included funding in the TIP for the reconstruction of all the bridges, yet under thematic section it is suggested that essentially, from the point of view of those who put the TIP together, that everything is on the table including considering replacing portions of it with a boulevard. I find it difficult to reconcile putting out a document where all of the money is prioritized to replace all of the bridges if one of the choices is not to replace all of the bridges. Given that tonight I chose to come here to understand the background processes but RIDOT has planned four hastily arranged listening sessions that don't seem to consider those options at all. This effort seems like a precursor to going after more federal money and it seems that the 6/10 project is surpassing any idea of planning for it. To me that is a pretty significant concern. I am concerned that the process seems to be, "we can't talk about what the project will look like until the money is on the table" and then, once the money is on the table, we are told "we can't talk about what the project is going to look like because we want to add some more federal money" I think that is a fairly weak process. I am very concerned to see a document that essentially says that the TIP contains all the money to replace all those bridges, and at the same

time it says we have to consider alternatives. I question why this was not considered in the last few months of the TIP process.

7. Announcements– *for discussion*

There were none.

8. Adjourn

Chair Shocket asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brady made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Freeman. There was no further discussion. The following members voted aye, Shocket, Albert, Baudouin, Brady, Flaherty, Freeman, Gagnon, Haggerty, Lawson, Maxwell, Monaghan, Pettine, Porter, Sherrill, Stuart, Walker, and Wood. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.