

Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Approved MINUTES

May 21, 2014, 4:30 PM

Members Present: Eric Weis, Jef Nickerson, Matthew Moritz, Jenn Steinfeld, Michelle Cortes-Harkins

Staff: David Everett

1. James Daley, Director of Training, Business Analysis & Process Improvement, RIPTA

Mr. Daley provided an overview of RIPTA operator training procedures and barriers to retraining: obstacles include the absence of an intrastate operator retraining requirement (versus the interstate requirement in place), and manpower/absenteeism issues. Discussion turned to general Rhode Island driving issues and Eric Weis asked what the City/BPAC can do. Discussion continued regarding bus interaction with bicycles, the responsibilities of pedestrians and cyclists, and distracted pedestrians particularly those looking at hand-held devices. Possible solutions discussed include educational videos, bus billboards and on-board messaging. The latter was discussed as possibly the best medium based on cost and visibility. Mr. Daley said he would continue the dialogue with BPAC and contact Despina Metakos at RIDOT regarding public information options and funding.

Further discussion with Mr. Daley addressed the new R Line, training

of operators and initial low driver preference for operating on the line. New stops and signage should be coordinated with the road paving bond for implementation and proper placement.

2. Broadway Bike Lane Extension

The commission passed a motion to recommend extension of the bike lane on Broadway to Dave Gavitt Way.

The commission passed a second motion to recommend extension of bike lane markings through intersections along the extent of the Broadway bike lane.

3. Safe States

Dave Everett gave an update on the Safe States program which may result in a mini-grant for the City of Providence which, as proposed, will be applied to action plans relating to pedestrian safety around specific schools that have previously conducted safety assessments and have ongoing walking school bus programs. He explained that action plans would prioritize improvements that can be implementable by City departments such as DPW, Parks and Planning. He said DPW is interested in developing a City standard for signage and striping in school zones.

4. PPAC Self-Assessment

Discussion started by focusing on the need to get involved with projects early, particularly at the State level and to establish a better system of review and comment. Staying on top of plans for State roads is particularly challenging and should be a point of emphasis. Establishing better, regular contact with RIDOT and receiving regular reports from Providence DPW should be a BPAC function and

attention to “complete streets” should be the objective. On a related note, gaps in the crosswalk network should be reviewed and addressed as part of the paving bond project.

The discussion was slated to continue at a future BPAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted by David Everett