



**Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular meeting of the Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

**September 16, 2015, 4:45 PM**

30 Exchange Terrace, Providence, RI 02903

401-680-8400

**Overseeing Body:** City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

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Members present: Eric Weis, Matt Moritz, Laura Bozzi

Non-voting Ex-Officio members present: Martina Haggerty, William Bombard, Leah Bamberger

Eric Weis asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the July commission meeting. All voted in favor.

Martina Haggerty provided an update on the City's involvement in the USDOT Mayors' Challenge and noted that the Mayor had submitted a letter to RIDOT Director Peter Alviti requesting that RIDOT assist in the development of a Vulnerable Road User Safety Action Plan for the City of Providence that would include Complete Streets training for city staff and the creation of a Complete Streets implementation plan. She also noted that the State had agreed to install several bicycle and pedestrian counting devices within the City to help gather data and that the counters were anticipated to be installed by RIDOT in the fall. Bill Bombard and Leah Bamberger also discussed a sidewalk audit that would be taking place as part of the replacement/evaluation of National Grid street lights throughout the city. Bill Bombard mentioned that the City's new radar detection at intersections may be able to be used to generate count data for bikes. He agreed to look into this possibility further. Eric Weis asked for more detail on the ADA project taking place in the Financial District and Martina Haggerty agreed to provide additional details about this project to the Commission at a future meeting.

Next, Martina Haggerty gave an update on the status of a response from the administration regarding the letter of BPAC recommendations that was recently sent to Mayor Elorza by Eric Weis. She noted that DPD, DPW, and the Policy office were discussing possible next steps and that the Commission would soon receive a response outlining the actions that will be taken to help advance each recommendation.

The Commission then discussed RIDOT's plans for the Pleasant Valley Parkway Bridge 777 and the associated bike detour for that project. The Commission members discussed a request from Matt Moritz that RIDOT implement striped bike lanes on Harris Avenue as part of the bike detour in order to ensure that the detour provides a bike facility that is at least equal to the quality of the bike lane that is being detoured from Promenade/Providence Place/Kinsley. Bill Bombard agreed to have DPW look at potential cross sections of Harris Avenue to ensure the feasibility of bike lanes there. All agreed that if found to be feasible by DPW, the Commission or the City would formally request that RIDOT implement the bike lanes as part of their detour. Laura Bozzi asked if there was a plan in place for a north-south detour for cyclists, however, after discussion it did not appear that a north-south bike detour was reflected in RIDOT's detour map. Martina Haggerty updated the Commission on discussions that had taken place over the past several weeks between RI Bike, DPD, and RIDOT regarding the possibility of improving the Bridge 777 plans to provide better infrastructure for bicyclists. DPD communications with RIDOT indicated that RIDOT would be revisiting the plans for the project to improve bike conditions. Laura Bozzi asked what the timeline for the overall Bridge 777 project was. Bill Bombard replied that he believed that construction was not set to begin until spring of 2016.

Martina Haggerty informed the Commission that DPD would be updating parts of the City's Bike Plan. DPD will work over the next several months to update the existing conditions map to more accurately reflect the current location of bike lanes and sharrows throughout the City, with a goal of having an updated existing conditions map completed by December. Laura Bozzi and several other members discussed the possibility of using crowdsourcing to fact check existing conditions through Google Maps. Bill Bombard and Leah Bamberger led a discussion about ways to close the loop and ensure that existing conditions maps are updated as bike infrastructure is implemented in the future. The Commission members also discussed possible timelines for public engagement in the bike plan update and it was determined that January would likely be an appropriate time to engage the public in a discussion about establishing a new vision for a proposed bike network in the city. Martina Haggerty agreed to work on updating the existing conditions plan with input from the commission members and to explore the possibility of creating an interactive map to crowdsource corrections.

Leah Bamberger provided an update on the administration's plans to improve the reporting of pot holes and patching issues, noting that the city had decided to postpone this effort until the spring when a new reporting system would be put in place, along with an outreach and education campaign. Eric Weis expressed some concern about the condition of patches further declining during the winter months.

Bill Bombard provided an update on the traffic volume data collected by DPW for Point Street. He reported that there were approximately 8,000 vehicles per day crossing the Point Street bridge heading east and approximately 6,500 vehicles per day heading west. He also noted that these volumes may make it feasible to create bike lanes on the Point Street bridge and along Point Street in the Jewelry District up to the Coro Center. The Commission discussed ways to ensure proper connection to bike lanes on South Water Street and ways to make the case to RIDOT to include bike lanes on the Point Street bridge as it passes over I-95. Bill Bombard agreed to have DPW look at cross sections to

determine further feasibility of bike lanes on Point Street and also suggested that bike lanes on Point Street be added to the City's proposed bike network during the bike plan update.

The Commission members agreed to move the October Commission meeting to Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> rather than Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

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Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.