



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

October 20, 2015, 4:45 PM

30 Exchange Terrace, Providence, RI 02903

401-680-8400

Overseeing Body: City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

Members present: Eric Weis, Matt Moritz, Laura Bozzi, Jef Nickerson, Michelle Cortes-Harkins

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

Eric Weis called the meeting to order at 4:47pm.

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

Martina Haggerty introduced Peter Garino, Deputy Director from RIDOT, who was invited by the City to speak at the meeting about several key projects as well as ways in which the BPAC can become better engaged with RIDOT in the future. Mr. Garino spoke about the need to “connect the dots” to create a more cohesive bike network in Rhode Island and about the need to concentrate riders in specific locations to increase awareness of them. Mr. Garino also spoke about the need for a statewide ten year bike plan. Bike improvements that are listed in the TIP will be vague with the opportunity for input from the public and municipalities. Mr. Garino described the need for bridge repair and maintenance now in order to have money for bike infrastructure in the future and he also spoke about RIDOT’s desire to increase bicycle mode share and transit mode share in the State. Mr. Garino also spoke about the Pleasant Valley Parkway Bridge (Bridge 777) project and told the Commission that a change order would be placed for the bridge contract so that the reconstruction includes full bike lanes, pending support from the Mayor’s office and a commitment from the City to extend the bike infrastructure beyond the project limits in the future.

Mr. Garino and Ms Haggerty discussed the letter that Mayor Elorza previously submitted to RIDOT Director Peter Alviti, requesting that RIDOT fund a Vulnerable Road Users Assessment for the City of

Providence along with Complete Streets training sessions for all city staff and a Complete Streets implementation plan for the City. Mr. Garino noted that the Mayor would soon be receiving a positive response to that letter.

Mr. Weis asked for a liaison to be appointed from RIDOT to improve communication between the City and RIDOT. Mr. Garino responded that this would be explored after reorganization efforts at RIDOT are complete.

Jef Nickerson asked if Mr. Garino if he felt that there were any areas in Providence and Rhode Island where car infrastructure could be reduced. Mr. Garino replied, saying that he felt that the City should put together a plan of state road that they would like to see road diets on and then present that plan to RIDOT.

Leah Bamberger asked Mr. Garino if there were any plans at RIDOT to set targets for VMT and greenhouse gas reduction statewide. Mr. Garino responded by saying that getting Rhode Island's transit utilization up to the national average is more of the direction that DOT is headed in right now. Mr. Garino also discussed the need to find our state's competitive advantage in order to attract business and development.

Mr. Weis asked how the BPAC could work with RIDOT to identify areas where traffic counts are needed and complete those counts. Mr. Garino responded that we should work together to plan out needs for next summer and RIDOT can work to have interns help with the counts.

Mr. Nickerson asked about potential RIDOT resources for bicycle and pedestrian safety education. Mr. Garino responded that RIDOT would be happy to work with the City to discuss bike and pedestrian safety education needs. Matt Moritz asked if RIDOT could work with the DMV to do education at DMV locations.

The conversation with Mr. Garino continued with questions and discussion with several members of the public that were in attendance at the meeting.

Next, Ms. Bamberger offered an update on the City's potential bike share program. She noted that Motivate, formerly Alta Bicycle Share, is working with a sports marketing firm to pursue sponsorships for a Providence bike share system. If able to secure sponsorships by the end of the calendar year, Providence could have the system up and running by next summer. The system would include 45 stations with 450 bikes in Downtown, the East Side, and the West End. Providence's system would be innovative because of the independent bike lock system that frees the bikes from coking stations. The 450 bike system now envisioned for Providence is larger than the previously proposed 200 bike system.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Nickerson requested that a future BPAC meeting include a discussion of snow removal issues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.

Page **3** of **3**