DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
April 20, 2016, 4:45 PM
444 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903
401-680-8400

Overseeing Body: City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

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Voting members present: Eric Weis, Matt Moritz, Laura Bozzi, Michelle-Cortes Harkins, Alex Krogh-Grabbe (alternate member temporarily replacing Jef Nickerson as a voting member for this meeting)

Alternate (non-voting) members present: Michelle Walker

Non-voting Ex-Officio members present: Martina Haggerty

Also present: Nate Urso from the Department of Public Works (on behalf of Bill Bombard, who was unable to attend), Bob Azar from the Department of Planning and Development

Eric Weis called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Mr. Weis suggested moving Item 6 on the agenda (repaving and restriping of Fountain Street) up to first on the agenda for the meeting. No commission members objected.

Martina Haggerty and Bob Azar provided an overview of the Fountain Street project, which was noted to include repaving and restriping of Fountain Street in Downtown between Empire and Dorrance streets in Spring or Summer of 2016. The City's proposal for a new configuration to include two travel lanes, a buffered bike lane, and on street parking was discussed by the Commission members, staff and members of the public. Ms. Haggerty reviewed the staff recommendations made to BPAC as part of the staff report generated for the meeting. Those recommendations included that: careful attention be paid to the intersections along Fountain Street to ensure that no parking is allowed within 25' of any intersection in order to improve cyclist visibility and safety; a dashed line be continued where the bike lane crosses intersections in order to better alert drivers to the presence of the bike lane; careful attention be paid to the bike lane adjacent to loading zones and bus stops and the bike lane should be painted green to draw extra attention to the presence of the bike lane; and proper signage be installed

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along the street to inform drivers of the roadway configuration. Based on continued conversation with the commission members and members of the public, the commission agreed to the staff recommendations and also asked that the following recommendations be made in addition: 1) one of the two travel lanes should be reduced from 11' to 10' in width in order to add another foot to the bike lane, which will allow additional room for street sweepers to operate in the bike lane; and 2) in order to improve safety for bicyclists on Fountain Street, "no turn on red" signs should be installed to prevent cars approaching from perpendicular streets from making right turns onto Fountain Street during red lights. Matt Moritz made a motion to approve forwarding the staff recommendations in addition to the two additional recommendations on to the Director of Public Works and the Director of Planning and Development. Alex Krogh-Grabbe seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor.

Ms. Haggerty then walked the Commission through the process for BPAC review of projects as outlined in the Executive Order signed into place by Mayor Elorza at the March commission meeting. First, DPW determines if a project is a "significant street, sidewalk, or trail repair or construction project" as defined by Executive Order 2016-1. A significant project is defined by the Executive Order as any project on a roadway that is indentified as needing improvements in the City's Bicycle Master Plan, categorized as an arterial or collector road, or within 300 feet of a school or city recreation center that includes restriping of traffic geometry, modifications to traffic geometry, curb lines, or curb cuts, or the new construction or improvement of off-road bicycle paths or multi-use trails. If the project is determined to need review by the BPAC, DPW then sends relevant information regarding the project, including any plans available, to BPAC staff at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. BPAC staff reviews project and issues a staff report to the Commission prior to the Commission meeting. The staff report will include a brief project description, a project map, and staff recommendations regarding improvements to the project. BPAC reviews relevant project information and the staff report prior to the Commission meeting. At the Commission meeting, BPAC staff reads a summary of the staff report and staff recommendations and the BPAC discusses and votes to either concur with all staff recommendations or to amend or edit the recommendations. Based on the recommendations voted on at the BPAC meeting, the BPAC Chair then sends letter with recommendations to directors of DPW and DPD no less than fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the Commission meeting. Lastly, the Director of Public Works documents and communicates the reasons for any deviations from the written recommendations of the Commission to the staff of the Commission. BPAC goes through this process twice for each project: once at the concept development phase, and one at the preliminary design phase.

Mr. Weis asked for a motion to approve March 2016 meeting minutes. A motion was made and then seconded by Michelle Cortes-Harkins. All voted in favor.

Mr. Weis introduced the next two agenda items, the Vulnerable Road Users Safety Action Plan and the Bike Plan Update process. Ms. Haggerty stated that the Vulnerable Road Users Safety Action Plan agenda item was not ready for discussion at this meeting and that it would be discussed at a future meeting instead. Ms. Haggerty announced that the City's bike plan update effort was being temporarily put on hold due to staffing capacity constraints.

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Mr. Weis introduced agenda item 7 (Douglas Avenue retriping). Ms. Haggerty gave an overview of the project which was noted to include restriping of Douglas Avenue from Orms Street to the City Line. Ms. Haggerty noted that the Providence Bicycle Master Plan includes proposed bike lanes along the entire length of Douglas Avenue from Orms Street to the City Line and that Douglas Avenue serves as an important connection between Downtown and Providence College, Times 2 Academy, the Chad Brown Housing Complex, Mansion Park, and Veazie Street Elementary School. The City's proposal for a new configuration to include bike lanes for a short segment of Douglas Avenue between Chad Brown Street to Chalkstone Avenue was discussed by the Commission members, staff and members of the public. Ms. Haggerty reviewed the staff recommendations made to BPAC as part of the staff report generated for the meeting. Those recommendations included that: the center median area proposed between Chad Brown Street and Crimea Street be removed and that space instead be allocated to provide 6' wide bike lanes and a painted buffer area between the parking lane and the bike lane; proper bike lane stencils be painted within the bike lane, not sharrows; the proposed bike lanes be extended from the intersection with Chalkstone Avenue all the way to Orms Street; the proposed bike lanes be extended from the intersection with Chad Brown Street, north to Eaton Street to connect with future expansion of bike lanes on Eaton Street and the Providence College campus; and crosswalks be striped on all four side of the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Chalkstone Avenue and at all other signalized intersections along Douglas Avenue. Conversation between the commission member, staff and members of the public continued. Mr. Weis recommended that further discussion and action on this agenda item be postponed to the end of the meeting to ensure ample time to discuss the other agenda items. No commission members objected.

Ms. Haggerty introduced agenda item 8 (road restriping list from DPW), noting that in Summer 2016, the City of Providence intends to restripe several streets throughout the City including: Regent St from Canton Ave to Harold St (repaint double yellow line); Union Ave from Messer St to Rt 10 (new double yellow line); Union Ave from Terrace Ave to Plainfield St (New double yellow line); Webster Ave from Plainfield St to Union Ave (new double yellow line); Bucklin St from Dexter St to Daboll St (new double yellow line); Narragansett Ave from Roger Williams Ave to Reservoir Ave (new double yellow line); Prairie Ave from Thurbers Ave to Dudley St (new double yellow line); Francis St from Finance Way to Gaspee St (repaint all pavement markings); and Academy Ave from Atwells Ave to Dover St (repaint all pavement markings). Ms. Haggerty stated that BPAC staff had no recommendations for alterations to these projects given the very limited scope of each project and limited road widths in these areas. After discussion with the commission members, city staff, and members of the public, no action was taken on these projects.

Mr. Weis then introduced agenda item 9 (announcements). Ms. Haggerty announced the presence of two new commission members (established via the recent Executive Order related to BPAC), both of which would be serving as alternate members, meaning that they only vote on matters if there are not enough regular commission members present at a meeting. Both new commission members, Alex Krogh-Grabbe and Michelle Walker introduced themselves and each gave brief overviews of their backgrounds and particular interests. Nate Urso asked about the intent of "curb cuts" regarding the

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Executive Order and the commission members and staff discussed the intent of this language. Ms. Haggerty clarified that, as written into the Executive Order, "curb cuts" was intended to include new commercial or residential driveways proposed for the streets impacted by the Executive Order.Alex Krogh-Grabbe announced that May is Bike Month and encouraged attendees to look at the RI Bike website for more information on specific events.

Mr. Weis asked the commission return to the earlier conversation about Douglas Avenue (agenda item 7). Based on continued conversation with the commission members and members of the public, the commission agreed to the staff recommendations and also asked that the following recommendations be made in addition: parking should be removed along one side of Douglas Avenue from Eaton Street to the City Line and a one-way bike lane should be striped for bicyclists traveling north-west toward the City Line; southbound bicyclists should be accommodated through a future bike lane on Admiral Street. Alex Krogh-Grabbe made a motion to approve forwarding the staff recommendations in addition to the additional recommendations on to the Director of Public Works and the Director of Planning and Development. Laura Bozzi seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor. Mr. Krogh-Grabbe also commended DPW for their effort to propose a bike lane on Douglas Avenue, which if implemented, would be the first bike lane in the north-west area of the City.

Matt Mortiz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Bozzi seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.

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