

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, November 10, 2010

A joint meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) and Design Review Committee of the Capital Center Commission (CCDRC) was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Department of Planning and Development, 400 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

1. Roll Call

CCC Members Present: Leslie Gardner, Wilfrid Gates, Greg Benik, Christopher Thomas, Duncan Johnson, Glenn Kumekawa and Barry Fain

CCC Members Absent: Michael McCormick, Councilman Luis Aponte, Councilwoman Joan DiRuzzo, Stanley Weiss, Guy Abelson and Seth Handy

CCDRC Members Present: Derek Bradford and Deming Sherman

Staff Present: Christopher Ise, Robert Azar, Martina Haggerty and Thom Deller

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM.

2. Providence Core Connector Study: Presentation of the Providence Core Connector Study by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). *For discussion only.*

Amy Pettine and Mark Therrien, representing RIPTA, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Providence Core Connector Study. Mr. Sherman asked about the frequency of the cars. Ms. Pettine explained that there is not much variation between the three route options. Mr. McCormick noted that it would be a 12-14 minute ride from Brown University to Rhode Island Hospital. There was a brief discussion regarding the parking and the connectivity of the system with the bus routes. Because the streetcar route links to Providence Station, Mr. Gates asked about using some federal money allocated to the project to fix the existing deck over the parking garage at the station. Ms. Pettine stated that there is some concern over the cost of the repairs. In response to a question by Mr. Kumekawa, Ms. Pettine explained that RIPTA is currently working on the ridership database. Mr. Thomas inquired about the feasibility of extending the route system to Point Street into Fox Point. Ms. Pettine explained that although that would be an important connection, the goal is to connect to major employment centers first in order to create a 'starter line'. A discussion ensued regarding economic development associated with established streetcar lines. Mr. Deller joined the discussion. Mr. Benik inquired about the difference between the rubber-wheeled trolley and the streetcar. Ms. Pettine explained that although it is a greater investment the cost to run would not be greater. She noted that transit oriented development (TOD) develops around streetcar rail systems more than rubber-wheeled trolleys, adding that the streetcar is simpler and easier than the bus system. Mr. Sherman inquired about the streetcar cost/fare, overhead wires, and tracks in the street. Ms. Pettine explained the fare is compatible with bus fare and that there is new technology relative to the overhead wires that minimizes the impact. There will have to be an environmental assessment.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Christopher Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer