

Department of Administration  
Division of Statewide  
Planning [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov)

State Planning Council/Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
December 10, 2020 @ 9:00 AM

PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-05 EXECUTED BY GOVERNOR GINA RAIMONDO ON MARCH 16, 2020, THIS MEETING WAS  
TELECONFERENCED VIA ZOOM.COM:

ZOOM Webinar at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88183988341?pwd=UIRnb1ZiQUoxVk9PNnZkUUFMRzI3Zz09> OR Call (312) 626-

6799 or (929) 205-6099

Webinar ID: 881 8398 8341

Password: 335358

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:** Daniel McConaghy, Chair Pro-temp, called the December 10, 2020 meeting to order at 9:02 am. Meredith Brady reviewed the procedures on how the virtual meeting will be conducted.

**2. Roll Call - Members Present:**

Mr. Daniel McConaghy	Designee for Director, Department of Administration
Ms. Meredith Brady	Secretary, Associate Director, Division of Statewide Planning
Ms. Kristen Adamo	President & CEO Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau
Mr. Scott Avedisian	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Mr. Roberta Azar	Designee for City of Providence, Planning Department
Mr. Robert Ballou	Designee for Director, Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Shannon Brawley	Executive Director, RI Nursery & Landscape Association
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Ms. Keri Cronin	Warren Town Council President
Mr. William Fazioli	Designee for Mayor City of East Providence
Mr. Thomas Guthlein	Designee for RI Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Joseph Masino	Designee 2 for Office of the Governor
Mr. Thomas Queenan	Designee for Director, Department of Transportation
Ms. Amy Rainone	Designee for Rhode Island Housing
Mr. James Rajotte	Designee, Department of Health
Mr. James Riordan	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Designee for Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Nicholas Ucci	Commissioner, Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Michael Tondra	Designee RI Housing Resource Commission
Mr. Michael Walker	Designee for Secretary of Commerce
Mr. Jeff Willis	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

**Ex-Officio:**

Mr. Carlos Machado	Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Randy Warren	Federal Highway Administration

**Members arriving after Roll Call:**

Ms. Lisa Bryer	Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island League of Cities & Towns, Local Government Representative
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Jeanne Boyle	Rhode Island League of Cities & Towns, President's Designee
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Non-Profit Community Development Representative
Ms. Nicole Verdi, Vice Chair	Designee 1 for Office of the Governor
Mr. Scott Wolf, Public Member	Environmental Advocate

Division of Statewide Planning Staff Participating: Linsey Callaghan, Michael D’Alessandro, Nancy Hess, Maria Mignanelli, and Catherine Pitassi

Members of the Public Attending by Zoom: 0

**3. Items for Action (Votes required and will be taken by roll call)**

a. Approve Minutes from November 12, 2020 - **Motion made by Roy Coulombe to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes, seconded by Marc Pappas.** Roll call waived by consensus. **Vote:** All members voted aye. There were no nayvotes.

b. Approve 2021 State Planning Council meeting dates – According to R.I. General Law § 42-46-6, all public bodies must provide a list of their regularly scheduled meetings to the Secretary of State at the beginning of each calendar year. Meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM. Staff will forward the meeting dates once approved to the Secretary of State. Due to Covid 19, monthly meetings will continue to be held via web conference (Zoom) until further notice. Should in person meetings be allowed, then meetings will be held in Conference Room A, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Department of Administration. Meredith Brady advised that no meeting is scheduled for November unless needed at that time. Due to COVID 19, meetings will continue to be held via Zoom until further notice. **Motion made by James Rajotte to approve the 2021 State Planning Council meeting dates, as submitted, seconded by Scott Avedisian.** Roll call was taken, with Daniel McConaghy, Meredith Brady, Kristen Adamo, Scott Avedisian, Robert Azar, Robert Ballou, Shannon Brawley, Roy Coulombe, Keri Cronin, William Fazioli, Joseph Masino, Marcus Mitchell, Marc Pappas, Thomas Queenan, Amy Rainone, James Rajotte, James Riordan, Peder, Schaefer, Michael Tondra, Nicholas Ucci, Michael Walker, and Jeff Willis, **ALL VOTING AYE.** There were no nay votes. The approved meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

Month	Date
January	14th
February	11th
March	11th
April	8th
May	13th
June	10th
July	*none
August	12th
September	9th
October	14th
November	*none
December	9th
<b>*No Meeting in July</b>	
<b>*No Meeting November due to Veteran’s Day Holiday</b>	

**Note:** Marcus Mitchell arrived at 9:15 am.

c. State Planning Council Appointments to Advisory Committee Memberships (*Annual – Continued from 11.12.20*) - The list of candidates recommended for appointment or reappointments to three advisory committees was reviewed last month. Meredith Brady brought a few changes to the Council’s attention. The approved appointments are on Attachment A.

**Motion was made by Scott Avedisian to approve the recommended appointments and reappointments to the Technical Committee, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Rhode Island Geographic**

**Information System (RIGIS), as submitted, seconded by Shannon Brawley.** Roll call was taken, with Daniel McConaghy, Meredith Brady, Kristen Adamo, Scott Avedisian, Robert Azar, Robert Ballou, Shannon Brawley, Roy Coulombe, Keri Cronin, William Fazioli, Joseph Masino, Marcus Mitchell, Marc Pappas, Thomas Queenan, Amy Rainone, James Rajotte, James Riordan, Peder, Schaefer, Michael Tondra, Nicholas Ucci, Michael Walker, and Jeff Willis, **ALL VOTING AYE.** There were no nay votes.

d. Review Public Hearing Report and Approve State Guide Plan Element 611, *Moving Forward Rhode Island 2040*, Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), November 2020 (*Continued from 10-08-20*) – Meredith Brady, Linsey Callaghan and Michael D’Alessandro provided an overview of the planning efforts for the LRTP. The comments detailed in the Public Comment Report and final draft of the LRTP were examined. The public comment period ran for 30-days and ended on November 9, 2020. There were twenty-four people or organizations that submitted verbal or written comments concerning a wide range of topics including bus transit, gas tax/transportation funding, economy/land use, electrification/reducing GHGs, and bicycling. The final LRTP incorporates the Transit Master, Bicycle Mobility, Congestion Management Process Plans and State Rail Plan Supplement. A highlight of a few changes made due to the public comments include:

- New Shoreham was added to the maps as it was accidentally cropped out.
- Added a strategy to “Encourage state agencies to work with towns (specifically those supporting summer tourism)” under the goal Support Economic Growth (pg. 38).
- Active Transportation for safer streets for pedestrian and bicyclists was added to the *Challenges and Opportunities* page.
- Added a strategy on pg. 37 to encourage data sharing between agencies to support comprehensive resilience planning.
- A recommendations page (pg. 41) was added to the final LRTP, clarifying the implementation process for the next 5 years.
- Appendix E was updated, and Appendix R was added.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval of the LRTP to the Council at their November 19, 2020 meeting. For discussion, several members thanked and commended Statewide Planning, DOT & RIPTA staff for their involvement in the 3-plus years of putting this LRTP together and a job well done. Documentation explaining the plan in detail was emailed to the Council for review prior to the meeting.

**Motion made by Roy Coulombe to approve both the Public Comment and Hearing Report and adopt the final draft of the State Guide Plan Element 611, *Moving Forward Rhode Island 2040*, Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Seconded by Michael Walker.** Roll call was taken, with Daniel McConaghy, Meredith Brady, Kristen Adamo, Scott Avedisian, Robert Azar, Robert Ballou, Shannon Brawley, Roy Coulombe, Keri Cronin, William Fazioli, Joseph Masino, Marcus Mitchell, Marc Pappas, Thomas Queenan, Amy Rainone, James Rajotte, James Riordan, Peder, Schaefer, Michael Tondra, Nicholas Ucci, Michael Walker, and Jeff Willis, **ALL VOTING AYE.** There were no nay votes.

**Note:** Lisa Bryer arrived at 9:39 am.

e. Federal Off-System Bridge Funding Requirement/Request (*New*) – Thomas Queenan explained the request from DOT. There are 16% of our bridges that are considered structurally deficient, and that the goal is to reduce our structurally deficient bridges to less than 10%. The FAST Act requires the State to set-aside a portion of its federal funds to be directed at off-system bridges and provides a waiver process that allows off-system funds to be reallocated upon request. It was noted that the set-aside is greater than Rhode Island’s current need. The DOT is seeking approval to redirect \$22 million of federal funds from off-system bridges to serve the needs of on-system bridges. The \$22 million is needed to fund bridge projects already listed in the STIP, and this is not additional funding for new projects, while almost \$3,849,843. million will be retained for off-system bridge needs.

The TAC recommended approval of the \$22 million to the Council at their November 19, 2020 meeting. There was no discussion.

**Motion made by Marcus Mitchell to transfer \$22 million from the off-system bridge funds to the on-system bridge funds. Motion was seconded by Scott Avedisian.** Roll call was taken, with Daniel McConaghy, Meredith Brady, Kristen Adamo, Scott Avedisian, Robert Azar, Robert Ballou, Shannon Brawley, Lisa Bryer, Roy Coulombe, Keri Cronin, William Fazioli, Joseph Masino, Marcus Mitchell, Marc Pappas, Thomas Queenan, Amy Rainone, James Rajotte, James Riordan, Peder, Schaefer, Michael Tondra, Nicholas Ucci, Michael Walker, and Jeff Willis, **ALL VOTING AYE.** There were no nay votes.

4. Information, Updates & Discussion: None

5. Associate Director's Report: Meredith Brady thanked all the staff in the Division for a job well done in getting the final LRTP approved. A new monthly newsletter is posted on our website, noting this year's many accomplishments and upcoming or ongoing projects for 2021, such as the electronic STIP and Land Use 2050 update. Upcoming speakers and seminars are also listed on the website.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Adjournment: Holiday wishes were extended to all. **Motion was made by Thomas Queenan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by James Riordan.** Roll call suspended by consensus. **ALL MEMBERS VOTED AYE.** There were no nay votes. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Compiled By: Catherine Pitassi

Edited By: Nancy Hess

Respectfully Submitted By: Meredith Brady, Secretary

**ATTACHMENT A – 3 c State Planning Council Appointments to Advisory Committee Memberships**

**Technical Committee Membership**

**No Longer Able to Serve:**

- John Chambers, Fuss and O'Neill
- Caitlin Chaffee, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
- Michael Gannon, Department of Transportation
- Mia Patriarca, Department of Health
- Jonathan Stevens, Cumberland Planning Department
- Ashley Sweet, Town of Exeter

**New Appointments – Term Expiring 2023 (3-year term)**

- Julian Drix, Department of Health (replacing Mia Patriarca)
- Jan Greenwood, Woodard & Curran (replacing John Chambers)
- Patricia Reynolds, Newport Planning & Development (replacing Jonathan Stevens)
- Justin Skenyon, RI Coastal Resources Management Council (replacing Caitlin Chaffee)
- Ken White, Department of Transportation (replacing Michael Gannon)

**Term Expiring 2020 but Want to Continue- Term Expiring 2023 (3-year term)**

- Michael Walker, RI Commerce Corporation

**Continuing & Term Expiring 2021**

- Jeff Davis, RI Chapter of the American Planning Association, Vice-Chair
- Michael DeLuca, Narragansett - Community Development, Chair
- Carrie Gill, Office of Energy Resources
- Nicole LaFontaine, North Kingstown Planning Department
- Jane Weidman, Charlestown Planning Department
- Diane Williamson, Bristol Community Development Department

**Continuing & Term Expiring 2022**

- Megan DiPrete, Department of Environmental Management
- Mark Motte, Rhode Island College

**Ex-Officio(No term)**

- Randy Warden, Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator

## Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership

### No Longer Able to Serve:

- David Duhamel, N & D Transportation
- Eric Moffet, Seaview Railroad
- Kevin Viveiros, Pare Corporation

### New Appointments - Term Expiring 2023 (3-year terms):

- David Freeman, ACEC of Rhode Island (replacing Kevin Viveiros)
- Betty Robson, JF Moran (freight/trucking/shipping industry)
- Steven King, Quonset Development Corporation (replacing Eric Moffet, Seaview Railroad)

### Term Expiring 2020 but Want to Continue - Term Expiring 2023 (3-year terms):

- Michael Cassidy, Chair
- John Flaherty, Grow Smart RI
- Bari Freeman, Bike Newport
- James Moran, East Providence Planning Department
- Dinalyn Spears, Narragansett Indian Tribe
- Michael Wood, Burrillville Planning Department

### Continuing & Term Expiring 2021

- Lloyd Albert, AAA Southern New England
- Jan Brodie, The Pawtucket Foundation
- Mary Parella, Child Opportunity Zone of Pawtucket
- Mia Patriarca, Department of Health
- Jason Pezullo, Cranston Planning Department
- Timothy Scanlon, Construction Industries of RI
- Ray Watson, Providence Cultural Equity Initiative

### Continuing & Term Expiring 2022

- Martina Haggerty, Providence Planning & Development
- Greg Nordin, RI Public Transit Authority
- Thomas Queenan, Department of Transportation
- Daniel J. Porter, RI Airport Corporation
- Karen Slattery, Department of Environmental Management
- Michael Walker, RI Commerce Corporation

### Ex-Officio(No term)

- Randy Warden, Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator

## Rhode Island Geographic Information System Executive Committee (RIGIS) Membership

**No Longer Able to Serve:** None

**New Appointments:** None

**Term Expiring 2020 but Want to Continue - Terms Expiring 2023 (3-year terms):**

- Antonio Ambrosio, Quonset Development Corporation
- Vin Flood, Division of Statewide Planning
- Thomas Guthlein, RI Emergency Management Agency
- Kristin Meseck, Providence Water Supply Board
- Stephen McCandless, Charlestown - GIS Department
- Edward O'Brien, RI Society of Professional Land Surveyors
- Kevin Ruddock, The Nature Conservancy
- Peter Steeves, US Geological Survey
- James Turenne, USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Continuing & Term Expiring 2021**

- Heidi Blank, Hilltop Northeast Enterprises, LLC
- Shelby Southworth, Kent County Water Authority
- Carol Lynn Trocki, Rhode Island Land Trust

**Continuing & Term Expiring 2022**

- Lynn Carlson, Vice Chair, Brown University
- Carol Baker, South Kingstown - GIS Department
- Gregory Bonyngue, URI - Environmental Data Center
- Anthony Davey, East Greenwich - Tax Assessor
- David DosReis, City of Providence – GIS
- Jenna Ducharme, RPS Group
- Nancy Duffy, E911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System
- Maria Giarrusso, Cranston - Information Technology Department
- Michele Giorgianni, Applied Geographics, Inc., Chair
- Mary Hutchinson, Mapping and Planning Services
- Fran Hutton Lee, NEURISA
- Paul Jordan, Department of Environmental Management – Planning
- Joe McGuire, BETA Group, Inc.
- Jay Metzger, Department of Health
- Steven Sawyer, Department of Transportation
- Pete Stetson, Education Mapping Service