Mobility Innovation Working Group

Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2020, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Attendees: Professor Dan Sperling (University of California, Davis), Eleanor Fort (Green for All, Dream Corps), Nicole Verdi (Governor’s Office), Katja Hamler (Governor’s Office), Colleen Quinn (Governor’s Office), Joe Masino (Governor’s Office), Janet Coit (Department of Environmental Management), Terry Gray (Department of Environmental Management), Pam Cotter (Department of Transportation), Linda George (Division of Public Utilities and Carriers), Meredith Brady (Division of Statewide Planning), Scott Avedisian (Rhode Island Public Transit Authority), John McCoy (Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance), Rachel Calabro (Department of Health), Nicholas Ucci (Office of Energy Resources), Hank Webster (Acadia Center), Jennifer Slattery (Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns), Lloyd Albert (AAA Northeast), Julia Rege (Alliance for Automotive Innovation), Meghan McGuinness (National Grid), Josh Brumberger (Utilidata, Inc.), Peter Rothstein (Northeast Clean Energy Council), John Flaherty (Grow Smart RI), Carmen Diaz-Jusino (BankNewport), Junior Jabbie (Banneker Supply Chain Solutions), Matt Taibi (Teamsters Local 251), Kara Angotti (Amtrak), Ashley Brown (Spin), Chris Waterson (Waterson Terminal Services LLC), Kevin Tedesco (AECOM consultant team), Jay Duncan (AECOM consultant team), Stephen Gazillo (AECOM consultant team), Christian Nielsen (AECOM consultant team), Fatima Cecunjanin (AECOM consultant team), Holly Parker (Less Road Traveled consultant team)

1) Welcome and logistics: Katja Hamler, Policy Advisor in the Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo, welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Mobility Innovation Working Group and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
   a) Comments and questions: Members of the public were asked to use the chat feature when providing questions or comments throughout the meeting. If any members of the public have further questions or comments, they can contact Katja at katja.hamler@governor.ri.gov.

2) Colleen Quinn, Chair of the Mobility Innovation Working Group, welcomed everyone and introduced Professor Dan Sperling, Ph.D., Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis; Member of the California Air Resources Board since 2007; author of Three Revolutions and the Future of Cars.

3) Presentation by Professor Dan Sperling: Transformation of Transportation: Professor Sperling talked about the different scenarios of future mobility should the Three Revolutions of shared, electric and autonomous technologies be adopted at scale. One scenario would be full adaptation of electric vehicles integrated with public transit options to reduce GHG emissions; at the other end of the spectrum, congestion could increase with additional vehicles on the road, leading to more GHG emissions.

4) Katja introduced Eleanor Fort, Deputy Director of Green for All, a program of the Dream Corps.

5) Presentation by Eleanor Fort: Equity Considerations in Transportation: Eleanor discussed equity considerations related to clean transportation policies, programs and investments.
Eleanor recommended that an equity analysis be conducted to help understand the needs of residents and those affected by disproportionate impacts.

6) Nicole Verdi, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Gina M. Raimondo, introduced Terry Gray, Deputy Director for Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

7) Presentation by Terry Gray: Overview of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)

8) Presentation by Stephen Gazillo, AECOM: Summary of Findings on Benchmarks of State Plans, Polices, Strategies and Investments: Steve gave an overview of the benchmarking process and some of the key programs and policies that were identified in other states; particularly those addressing and promoting innovation, equity, infrastructure and technology.

9) Discussion facilitated by Holly Parker, Less Road Traveled: Rhode Island Clean Transportation and Mobility Investment Priorities - open discussion for Working Group members to weigh in on what they see as clean energy and mobility investment priorities as seen through the lens of:
   (1) Equity;
   (2) Innovation; and
   (3) Job creation.

10) Jay Duncan, AECOM: Wrap-up and Next Steps