

Mobility Innovation Working Group

Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2020, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Attendees: Nicole Verdi (Governor's Office), Katja Hamler (Governor's Office), Colleen Quinn (Governor's Office), Joe Masino (Governor's Office), 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), Greg Nordin (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 (Bank Newport), Junior Jabbie (Banneker Supply Chain Solutions), Matt Taibi (Teamsters Local 251), Ashley Brown (Spin), Chris Waterson (Waterson Terminal Services LLC), Amelia Rose (Groundwork RI), Jakob Frenette (City of Providence), Kevin Tedesco (AECOM consultant team), Jay Duncan (AECOM consultant team), Stephen Gazillo (AECOM consultant team), Allie Velleca (AECOM consultant team), Eric Weis (Cogent consultant team), Holly Parker (Less Road Traveled consultant team), Christopher Porter (Cambridge Systematics consultant team)

- 1) Welcome and logistics: Katja Hamler (Governor's Office) welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Mobility Innovation Working Group. If any members of the public have further questions or comments, they can contact Katja at katja.hamler@governor.ri.gov.
- 2) Jay Duncan (AECOM) welcomed attendees, gave an overview of the meeting agenda and explained the objectives of the meeting: (1) To gather input and feedback on the development of investment portfolios; and (2) to discuss recommendations provided by Working Group members.
- 3) Chris Porter (Cambridge Systematics) reviewed the development of alternative portfolios for investing funds gained through potential participation in the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI). Portfolio evaluation involves tracking five metrics: greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions reduction, new non-SOV (single occupant vehicle) trips, jobs created, and the value of health benefits. The cost-effectiveness of 16 strategies were examined. Investments in electrification, land use strategies, micromobility, transit improvements, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and programs were all shown to be effective.
- 4) Jay noted that over 60 recommendations were submitted by Working Group members. The recommendations were grouped within the seven guiding principles of the Working Group:
 - a) design roadmap toward a clean transportation future;

- b) create a health and sustainable environment with specific benefits for the most vulnerable;
 - c) improve air quality by reducing GHG in the transportation sector;
 - d) unlock economic opportunity and enhance innovation for transit sector and boost economic development;
 - e) guide policy development for optimal investment in clean transportation;
 - f) develop innovative approaches to mobility focusing on new business/job creation; and
 - g) lead by example and set the tone for meaningful change within the transportation sector.
- 5) Colleen Quinn (Chair of the Working Group) introduced the recommendations that fell into the category of “Design a roadmap towards a clean transportation future” and introduced Lloyd Albert to discuss “The Road to Electrification” recommendation.
- a) Colleen then introduced Peter Rothstein to discuss the recommendation that Rhode Island should consider setting a goal that 100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks would be zero-emission by 2035.
 - b) Colleen then introduced the RI Transportation Electrification Framework and a holistic strategy for how the utilities in Rhode Island can support the State’s clean transportation goals. She introduced Linda George who presented a proposal to initiate a process for implementing transportation electrification before the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. Linda described her vision of a transportation-related electric program, developed in cooperation with National Grid and stakeholders.
- 6) Katja introduced the recommendations that fell into the category of “Guide policy development on the optimal investment of funds, which could be made available to improve clean transportation and mobility in Rhode Island.” Carmen Diaz-Jusino presented her recommendation “Advancing Equity in Transportation,” noting that communities of color must be part of the decision-making process from the start.
- a) Katja then introduced Meghan McGuinness who discussed the recommendation for support of the “Transportation and Climate Initiative.” Meghan noted that joining TCI is foundational to reaching all other goals in a package of recommendations, as it is a potential source of revenue for investments.
- 7) Katja introduced the next guiding principle: “Create a healthier, more sustainable environment for all Rhode Islanders with specific benefits for residents of our most vulnerable communities.” Meredith Brady discussed the recommendation for “Active Mobility” as one of the recommendations within this principle, including the proposal for a statewide bikeshare and scooter-share program. Katja then introduced Scott Avedisian to present the “Improve Transit Accessibility” recommendation. Pam Cotter presented the “Mobile Access and Healthy Communities Act” recommendation, an equity-related transportation proposal.

- 8) Jay introduced Hank Webster to discuss recommendations that fall within the Principle of “Improve air quality by reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector” with the recommendation to “Establish aggressive targets for transportation emission reductions.” Hank recommended that Rhode Island’s current targets for carbon reduction be updated and made more audacious to conform with the 100% reduction goals set by other states. Jay then introduced Ashley Brown, who presented the “Statewide Mobility Services” recommendation, describing how micro-mobility can expand access to transit.
- 9) Jay introduced the next principle, “Unlock economic opportunity and enhance options for transit innovation to support business and economic development.” Jay and Josh Brumberger presented the recommendation “Next generation transit districts,” noting how Rhode Island’s population density lends itself well to creating mobility hubs and interconnected transit districts. Jay then introduced John Flaherty who presented the recommendation, “Incentives to optimize transit-oriented development.”
- 10) Colleen introduced the next principle, “Develop innovative approaches to mobility, including opportunities for new business development and job creation.” The first recommendation under this principle was the “Mobility innovation transformation initiative,” which was presented by Peter. Peter described how public/private partnerships are key to this initiative. The “Legislative, training and partnership priorities” recommendation was presented by Matthew Taibi.
- 11) Katja presented the last principle, “Lead by example and set the tone for broader actions, demonstrating meaningful change within the transportation sector is possible” – and explained that, ultimately, the entire body of recommendations will provide the opportunity for Rhode Island to lead by example.
- 12) Wrap-up and next steps: Colleen provided closing remarks and encouraged Working Group members and members of the public to continue to share or refine recommendations.
 - a) Jay asked that Working Group members and the public send their suggestions and comments to the project team by November 13.