

Mobility Innovation Working Group

Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2020, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Attendees: Nicole Verdi (Governor's Office), Katja Hamler (Governor's Office), Colleen Quinn (Governor's Office), Jay Duncan (AECOM consultant team), Terry Gray (Department of Environmental Management), Joe Masino (Governor's Office), Pam Cotter (Department of Transportation), Linda George (Division of Public Utilities and Commission), 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), Court King (City of Providence), 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 (Baneker Supply Chain Solutions), Matt Taibi (Teamsters Local 251), Kara Angotti (Amtrak), Ashley Brown (Spin), Chris Waterson (Waterson Terminal Services LLC).

1. Welcome: Katja Hamler, Policy Advisor in the Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Mobility Innovation Working Group and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
2. Logistics
 - a. Katja stated the meeting procedures and gave an overview of the Working Group's operational guidelines.
 - b. 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.
3. Introductions and Opening Remarks
 - a. Nicole Verdi, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Gina M. Raimondo, thanked participating state agency leaders and stakeholders and recognized the collective value of the Working Group in developing an innovative mobility strategy.
 - b. Nicole introduced all Working Group members, including state officials, stakeholders and the Chair, Colleen Quinn. These Working Group members bring leadership and expertise in local business, the auto industry, utilities, environmental justice, labor and local government.
 - c. Jay Duncan, AECOM consultant Project Team Manager, gave opening remarks, introducing his team and providing a summary of the results of a survey question posed to the Working Group. Four major themes emerged among the responses: comprehensive mobility solutions, equitable outcomes for all Rhode Islanders, pollution reduction and sustainable economic development.
 - d. Colleen Quinn gave opening remarks, sharing her background as an executive in clean transportation and e-mobility and thanking Working Group members for their commitment to serve the state in this capacity.

4. Discussion of Mission, Vision and Principles
 - a. Colleen stated that the transportation sector is the state's biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The transportation sector poses unique challenges and opportunities, to capitalize on technological advances, growth opportunities and innovative solutions to lessen our carbon footprint.
 - b. Colleen also shared the mission and vision statements of the Working Group:
 - i. Mission: To collaboratively develop an innovative strategy addressing the state's mobility needs by providing specific, quantifiable data and pathways.
 - ii. Vision: To inform an approach for facilitating reduction of harmful emissions while increasing safe, reliable and accessible mobility options that will unlock economic opportunity and result in an improved quality of life.
5. Presentation of Clean Transportation and Mobility Audit
 - a. Colleen gave an overview of the following state agencies and their roles in clean transportation and energy: Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Department of Transportation (DOT), Division of Public Utilities Commission (DPUC), Division of Statewide Planning (DSP), Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4), Office of Energy Resources (OER) and Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).
 - b. Colleen outlined a few of the clean transportation milestones achieved in Rhode Island illustrating the state's significant progress thus far.
6. Remarks from Governor Gina M. Raimondo
 - a. Governor Raimondo stated that COVID-19 has magnified the inequities in our economy, environment and health care system. The pandemic has also posed an opportunity for us to create a stronger, more resilient and more equitable Rhode Island- the Mobility Innovation Working Group is part of that future.
 - b. Governor Raimondo also said that the recommendations of the Working Group will help to develop a strategy that will enhance Rhode Islanders' access to affordable and safe clean transportation options while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating jobs and promoting economic development.
 - c. Governor Raimondo thanked the Working Group members and shared that stakeholder engagement is essential to the successful development of an equitable and innovative statewide mobility strategy.
7. Discussion: Working Group members spoke to the need for educating Rhode Islanders about the benefits of a statewide mobility strategy and encouraging them to try alternative modes of clean transportation.
8. Wrap-Up and Next Steps: Jay Duncan shared tentative dates for upcoming meetings and reiterated that all meeting notices will be posted on the Secretary of State's website and the Mobility Innovation Working Group webpage.