

PROVIDENCE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT ENHANCEMENT STUDY

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF PROJECT COORDINATION

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This is one of a set of technical appendices prepared as part of the Metro Transit Study, and is available on www.transit2020.com

METRO TRANSIT CONSULTING TEAM

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APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COORDINATION

A. METRO TRANSIT STUDY WORKING GROUP

RIPTA and the City of Providence established a Metro Transit Working Group to help guide the study. Technical materials and preliminary findings were shared with the group, with open discussion allowing for input from a variety of perspectives. The Working Group was also asked to evaluate potential solutions and review final recommendations.

Members of this group included representatives from each study area municipality, the state legislature, state agencies, local businesses and institutions, and non-profit advocacy groups.

A series of six Working Group meetings were held during the course of the study on the following dates:

- November 21, 2008
- February 3, 2009
- March 18, 2009
- May 28, 2009
- September 29, 2009
- November 13, 2009

METRO TRANSIT WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

- Brown University
- City of East Providence
- City of Providence
- City of Warwick
- Coalition for Transportation Choice
- Cornish Associates
- Grow Smart Rhode Island
- Providence Foundation
- Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Rhode Island Department of Transportation
- Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
- Rhode Island Hospital
- Rhode Island Statewide Planning
- Rhode Island Senate Policy Office
- RI Association of Independent Colleges & Universities
- Sierra Club, Rhode Island Chapter

Agendas, presentation materials and a meeting summary from each Working Group meeting can be found on the Metro Transit website: <http://transit2020.com/study>.

B. STREETCAR FINANCING WORKSHOP: JUNE 10, 2009

A potential streetcar route in downtown Providence was one many transit enhancement alternatives considered as part of the Metro Transit Study. Due to the relatively high development costs of this alternative, a focused Streetcar Financing workshop was held in order to explore and discuss various options for funding construction and operation of a potential Providence streetcar. The meeting was attended by representatives of RIPTA, the City, the Metro Transit Working Group and other

stakeholders. The HDR consulting team provided an overview of financing strategies used to advance streetcar projects in other US cities.

Presentation materials and a meeting summary from the Streetcar Financing Workshop can be found on the Metro Transit website: <http://transit2020.com/study>.

C. GREATER KENNEDY PLAZA VISIONING CHARRETTE: AUGUST 27, 2009

As part of the ongoing effort to enhance the Greater Kennedy Plaza area and to build upon its success as a great public space, a broad group of community and business representatives were convened to help identify opportunities for improving the pedestrian and transit experiences in and around Kennedy Plaza. The intent of the workshop was to develop feasible solutions to enhance Kennedy Plaza’s role as a first class transit center and a lively destination in Providence.

Approximately 50 people were invited to attend this workshop, and attendees broke out into small groups to identify goals for enhancing Kennedy Plaza programs and to develop conceptual ideas for dispersing bus activity.

Although many ideas and opinions were expressed, there was consensus and support for the concept of dispersing RIPTA bus berths and passenger activity around Burnside Park and the Plaza. Potential alternatives for bus berth relocation were sketched out by the individual groups.

- KENNEDY PLAZA WORKSHOP ATTENDEES**
- City Providence
 - Grow Smart Rhode Island
 - Providence Foundation
 - Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - Rhode Island Department of Transportation
 - Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
 - Rhode Island Statewide Planning
 - Sierra Club, Rhode Island Chapter
 - Local property owners
 - Developers
 - University officials
 - Youth group representatives
 - Local architects and designers

As a result of this visioning charrette, the final Metro Transit report includes a recommendation to “Reinvent Kennedy Plaza”. RIPTA plans to: 1) move forward to evaluate alternatives for relocating bus berths to Exchange Terrace; 2) work with the City of Providence to consider the traffic circulation changes necessary to support relocation; 3) identify and secure funding to implement these improvements; and, 4) continue working with the Greater Kennedy Plaza Working Group as a partner in supporting local programming and activities in the area.

Presentation materials from the Kennedy Plaza Visioning Charrette, as well as the conceptual alternatives for bus berth relocation developed by meeting participants can be found on the Metro Transit website: <http://transit2020.com/study>.

D. OTHER COORDINATION MEETINGS & PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

A variety of other meetings and project presentations were held over the course of the study. In addition to weekly meetings between RIPTA and the City of Providence, project coordination efforts included presentations and discussions with the following groups:

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- **Providence Department of Planning & Development**
April 23, 2009
- **Grow Smart RI Board of Directors**
June 25, 2009
- **Providence Foundation Board Meeting**
July 8, 2009
- **Congressional Breakfast on Transportation**
Hosted by the Pawtucket Foundation and Northern RI Chamber of Commerce
October 26, 2009
- **WTS-Rhode Island: Riding RIPTA Into the Future**
September 29, 2009
- **Urban Land Institute (ULI): Transit in a World Class City**
November 17, 2009