



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Staff Report: Kennedy Plaza Conceptual Plan Review – Downtown – Ward 1 (For Action)

Presented at March 28, 2018 BPAC meeting

Project Background

The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development seeks comments from the BPAC regarding the conceptual plans for improvements within and surrounding Greater Kennedy Plaza.

Using \$2.7 million from the State Transportation Improvement Program, the City plans to implement a portion of the vision for Kennedy Plaza released in August 2017. This vision builds on the 2014 reconfiguration of the plaza and complements the bus service enhancements planned as part of the Downtown Transit Connector.

Some components of the vision are as follows:

- Washington Street between Dorrance Street and North Main Street will be converted to two-way traffic and bus-only. This change will require minor reconfiguration of the bridge over the Providence River and of the area near the bus tunnel entrance.
- Fulton Street between Memorial Boulevard and Dorrance Street will be converted to two-way traffic for general vehicular use. This change will also involve modifications to the intersection of Memorial Boulevard and Fulton Street to allow full turning movements across what is now the median on Memorial Boulevard.
- The intersection of Exchange Street and Exchange Terrace will be controlled by a traffic light.
- Crosswalk enhancements will make Kennedy Plaza an even more pedestrian-friendly environment. There will be a new central raised crosswalk across both Fulton Street and Washington Street aligned with the entrance to the Industrial Trust Building at 111 Westminster Street. This intersection will be illuminated by LED lights embedded in the ground. Another crosswalk across Washington Street near Exchange Street will also be lit.
- East Approach, the existing bus-only road between The Rink and Burnside Park will be closed to all vehicular traffic, merging the two parts of the park into one pedestrian space.
- Stops for the Downtown Transit Connector will be located on either side of Washington Street near East Approach.
- Ultimately, the vision calls for all bus stops to be located on Washington Street. The Phase 1 work currently being reviewed will remove bus stops from East Approach and some from Exchange Terrace in Spring/Summer 2019. Once the Intermodal Center is constructed by Providence Station the rest of the stops will be consolidated onto Washington Street, which will allow for the installation of a two-way separated bike lane on the park side of Exchange Terrace. The timeline for that Phase 2 work depends on Intermodal Center.



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Bus traffic in Kennedy Plaza is not intended to be reduced or eliminated as part of this vision, but reconfigured to be more efficient.

The City will begin engineering on this work within the next few weeks. Construction will begin in Spring/Summer 2019 and will coordinate with RIPTA's improvements as part of the Downtown Transit Connector.

Project Map



Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.