



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Staff Report: Major TIP Amendment (For Action)

Presented at February 20, 2019 BPAC meeting

Project Background

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation has requested a major amendment to the State Transportation Improvement Plan, including a reduction in the “Transportation Alternatives” program. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the State Planning Council has authorized a public comment period and the BPAC may discuss any desired formal sentiments during this agenda item.

The reduction in funds equals approximately a 33% decrease for Transportation Alternatives from previous levels. The reason provided by DOT is that less funding was provided for transportation in the state capital budget than expected. Several new projects are also added in the proposed amendment, including an increase in Headquarters Operations and a new highway ramp in Cranston. In addition to bicycle and pedestrian projects eliminated through the amendment, others are delayed beyond the four-year period where historically funding has been more reliable.

The proposed amendment was presented to the TAC on January 24, where two public hearings were scheduled, with the Providence hearing scheduled for **February 28th at 5:30pm** at the Department of Administration building at 1 Capitol Hill, across Smith Street from Francis Street. Until then, public comments are being accepted.

Impacted Projects Previously Reviewed by BPAC

- PROPOSED TO BE ELIMINATED: **\$4.975M of funding for implementation of the Woonasquatucket Greenway Extension has been eliminated.** The changes do not negatively impact the \$1M in design currently underway for this project, but funding is proposed to be cut for construction.
- PROPOSED TO BE ELIMINATED: **\$1.8M previously approved for citywide bicycle infrastructure enhancements in Providence has been eliminated from FFY23-25.** The specifics of these investments have not come to BPAC yet but this funding would go toward implementing the recommendations of the Great Streets initiative currently underway.
- PROPOSED TO BE ELIMINATED: **Repaving of Elmwood Avenue** south of Roger Williams Avenue (\$5M) has been removed from the STIP. This work was previously planned for FFY2026. It was hoped that this project would provide the opportunity to make improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian safety of southern Elmwood Ave.
- PROPOSED TO BE DELAYED: **Funding for implementation of City Walk (\$1.38M) has been pushed to FFY2021,** which would delay implementation of improvements to Clifford Street in Downtown and Broad Street in South Providence from Summer/Fall 2019 to Spring/Summer 2021.



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- **PROPOSED TO BE DELAYED: The Washington Secondary Trail Extension** Project (\$1.71M)— which would extend the trail from its current terminus in Cranston near the Providence border into the City of Providence near Cranston Street— has been pushed back from FFY22 to FFY24. This is a critical project that would connect the regional trail system to urban neighborhoods in Providence and the new trail segment being constructed by RIDOT as part of the 6-10 Connector project.
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Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.