



Providence Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of the Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council

October 17, 2022, 5:00 PM

First Floor Conference Room, Doorley Municipal Building, 444 Westminster Street, Providence RI, 02903

Overseeing Body: City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

Voting members present: Kathleen Gannon, Dina Quezada, Alana Deluty, Doug Johnson, Will Cornwall

Non-voting Ex-Officio members present: Alex Ellis, Cpt. Luis SanLucas, A.J. Elton, Nate Urso

Ms. Gannon called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Following roll call, Ms. Gannon introduced item #2, the consent agenda. Mr. Johnson moved approval, and Ms. Quezada seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Ellis noted that the 2021 Annual Report would be presented at one of the next several meetings.

Ms. Gannon moved on to the next agenda item, overview of review procedure. Mr. Ellis gave this overview. Ms. Gannon asked how GCSC comments and the outcomes of those comments are available after the fact. Mr. Ellis responded that some of GCSC's responsibilities have formal requirements for posting responses to comment, and that he was also happy to answer questions via email.

Ms. Gannon moved on to the next agenda item, Old Business. The first Old Business item was a discussion of policies and procedures for pedestrian phases at traffic signals. Mr. Urso answered questions on this topic. Mr. Ellis suggested a subsequent meeting could contain further discussion and potential recommendations from GCSC.

Ms. Gannon moved on to agenda item 5b (reordering the agenda to continue with an item relevant to Mr. Urso), an update on 2022 traffic calming projects. Mr. Urso described recent speed lump installations, and the status of pending construction and approvals. Mr. Ellis noted that in addition to those traffic calming projects managed by Mr. Urso, there were also some neighborhood greenways projects that involved some traffic calming managed from the Planning Department. Both the pending construction from Mr. Urso's and Mr. Ellis's was expected to commence in Spring 2023. Ms. Gannon asked about alternative traffic calming methods and Mr. Urso responded that the City has understood speed lumps to be the most cost-effective design.

Ms. Gannon moved on to the next agenda item, review of plans for Washington Street and East Approach. Mr. Ellis gave a summary of previous attempts to review the conceptual plans and how lack of quorum at those previous meetings required the project to advance to 90% without the first GCSC review. Mr. Martin described the project. Mr. Johnson asked about a gap in bollards southwest of the

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central crosswalk. Mr. Martin stated that would be a location for cars to pull over to make way for emergency vehicles. Ms. Gannon asked and Mr. Martin confirmed that there would be no parking on Washington Street. Mr. Cornwall asked how maintenance costs in Greater Kennedy Plaza are divided between agencies and departments. Mr. Martin stated that Parks maintains the park spaces, but the future distribution of responsibilities is still in discussion. Mr. Cornwall asked what level of detail the project was in. Mr. Martin stated that BETA Group was finalizing 90% plans. Mr. Johnson asked what the design speed of Washington Street is. Mr. Martin was not sure and said he would look into it. Mr. Johnson expressed concern that making the travel lanes flush with curb would make it easier for people to speed and that the designs did not look narrow enough to reduce speeds. Mr. Martin noted pavers in advance of crosswalks, and also that additional improvements could be added to further assist speed mitigation after the project was complete, as necessary. Ms. Gannon asked about construction schedule, and Mr. Martin stated that the plan was for Spring 2023 construction, with construction concluding by the end of 2023. Mr. Johnson asked if species of street trees had been selected, and Mr. Martin stated they had not. Ms. Gannon asked if there is a citywide plan identifying tree species. Mr. Elton stated that there is a species list that offers a lot of choices. Mr. Cornwall asked about the updated tree plan and Mr. Elton stated that it would be coming out soon despite the original November 2022 target not being feasible. Ms. Gannon entertained a motion to accept the conceptual plans. Mr. Johnson made the motion and Ms. Quezada seconded. All voted in favor. Ms. Gannon asked if there would be subsequent review. Mr. Martin stated he and Mr. Ellis would confer. Mr. Cornwall asked about the status of other aspects of the full Unified Vision Plan. Mr. Martin stated that the skating rink changes in that plan is not currently moving forward.

Mr. Martin shared the announcements that construction on Broad Street and the Gotham Greens Path was substantially complete, that construction on Dean Street was expected to be complete in the coming month, and that Jessica Lance had been promoted to Acting Director of Special Projects.

Mr. Cornwall asked about the snow removal plan for the new bike lanes in the city. Mr. Martin stated he would request Mr. Ellis provide an update on that at the next meeting. Ms. Gannon noted previous GCSC conversations about sidewalk snow removal and requested an update on that before snow season. Ms. Quezada asked about the status of the previously-discussed letter for a parking study on Broad Street. Mr. Cornwall recalled that the opportunity to send that letter in the 2022 budget passed. Ms. Quezada asked to revisit that topic in the new year.

Hearing no further public comment, Ms. Gannon adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.