

TIP Regional Meeting

South Kingstown Town Hall

Thursday January 14, 2016

Meeting Began at 6:03 p.m.

TAC Members in Attendance: Everett Stuart and George Monaghan

Public Comments

L. Vin Murray, Town of South Kingstown – Planning Director

Mr. Murray presented on the Town of South Kingstown's TIP application submission and spoke on behalf of the following projects:

Resurfacing Route 138, between Route 2 and Route 108

Mr. Murray stated that according to the RIDOT project status report this project is at 90 percent design however, it is not scheduled for construction until 2021-2022 according to RIDOT's 10-year plan. He felt that RIDOT's planned timing on the project is too far off. Therefore, the Town is planning to send correspondence, along with URI and Schneider Electric, requesting to advance this project earlier as this is an important project on a busy road in state.

URI / South County Bike Path Connector

Stated that the Town lends support to URI for this project that has been endorsed by the South Kingstown Town Council and South Kingstown School Committee.

Friends of Kingstown Station Projects – Kingston Station Maintenance, Railroad Museum Project, Kingstown Station Railroad Signal Tower

Stated that the Town supports consideration for the Friends of Kingston Station's projects (listed above) as they are important multi-modal projects.

Mr. Murray next presented on the Town of South Kingstown four (4) new TIP application projects:

1. Route 138 – Broad Rock Road / Stony Fort Road - Intersection Improvements

This intersection was recently the subject of road safety audit completed by RIDOT, which is in need of reconstruction/realignment to improve safety. There have been 22 crashes at this intersection between 2009 and 2013. The project is estimated to cost \$600,000 and is a high local priority project.

2. Route 108 (Kingstown Road) – Sidewalk/Drainage Improvements

This project proposes to create a more complete street status, including sidewalks, for this 1.5-mile stretch of roadway, with 13,000 AADT, near the Meadowbrook Apartments. The requested drainage improvements would also improve water quality, reduce flooding, and reduce significant stormwater runoff. This project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

3. Kingston Station and Vicinity Connectivity Corridor Study

This project would look at how the Kingston Station connects (or does not connect well) to other modes of transportation. The request is to conduct a \$40,000 planning study to better connect the Station to sidewalks, RIPTA service, the South County Bike Path, the nearby industrial park area that is home to Schneider Electric, and to URI's TIP request for a Rail Spur Connection.

4. *Broad Rock Play Fields - South County Commons Bike Spur*

This project is a proposed bicycle path connection along an existing sewer line easement and gravel road. Part of the pathway is located on Town owned land, however the Town does have an agreement with South County Commons to grant an easement to the other section of path. The Town also has a planned community recreational center in the area. The Town received a grant from RIDEM for this project, however the funding was not sufficient for construction but they have complete design plans and have obtained RIDEM permits. The Town is willing to apply \$130,000 of local funding for this \$625,000 estimated project. The bicycle path would provide a great way to get from Wakefield to South County Commons without traversing Route 1.

TAC Member Question - Everett Stuart

Mr. Stuart asked a question regarding the Route 108 Sidewalk project and if there are segments of the roadway that already have sidewalks.

Mr. Murray responded yes some segments of Route 108 that service the immediate area of the Meadowbrook Apartments have sidewalks.

Terry Duffy, Member of the Public, Narragansett Resident

Mr. Duffy stated that he is a resident of the Bonnet Shore community in Narragansett and Chairman of Bonnet Shores Land Trust. He spoke on behalf of the Town of Narragansett's TIP application for the following project:

Bonnet Point Road – Causeway Reconstruction

Mr. Duffy stated that the Bonnet Shores Causeway (Bonnet Point Road) borders of failure. He is concerned that failure of the roadway, and the 2,500 residents it services, would be vulnerable to the following: 1 – health and emergency response timing; 2 - matter of public safety in storm events as there is no alternative evacuation route and that the road is often closed by the Town after a major storm event; 3 – the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists at all times as there are no facilities for pedestrian; 4 - concerned with water quality of Wesquage Pond especially with all of the development that surrounds the area. Mr. Duffy added that construction of the new causeway would rejuvenate and enhance the water quality of the pond.

David H. Stenmark, Member of the Public, Narragansett Resident

Mr. Stenmark stated that he is also a resident of the Bonnet Shore community in Narragansett. He spoke on behalf of the Town of Narragansett's TIP application for the following project:

Bonnet Point Road – Causeway Reconstruction

Added to Mr. Duffy's comments by stating that the project is more than replacing the road, it is a matter of protecting the life safety and welfare of the residents and members of the Bonnet Shores Beach Club. Also added that to exit/enter Bonnet Shores via Bonnet Shores Road takes an additional 5 to 7 minutes than Bonnet Point Road.

Jim Lamphere, Town of Hopkinton – Town Planner

Mr. Lamphere stated that he acknowledges the State has limited transportation funds, however he requests an equitable geographic distribution of projects. He then presented on the Town's new projects including the following:

Chase Hill Road

Stated that this project needs drainage improvements and it is the Town's priority #6.

Main Street – ADA Sidewalks

Stated that this project would provide sidewalks from the village of Hope Valley heading south on Route 3. This project is the Town's priority #3.

Mr. Lamphere also stated that the Town was asked to prioritize projects in Charlestown identified by RIDOT. Stated that when he looks at the list of bridge projects identified, the Town could not identify what is wrong with the bridges. Hopkinton tried to contact RIDOT to obtain information on the bridges so they could prioritize the projects however, they did not receive a response. Therefore the Town Council did the best they could with limited information on the bridge condition to prioritize the projects.

Mr. Lamphere spoke about three of the projects listed in the FY 2013-2016 TIP that RIDOT identified and the town was asked to prioritize. They include the following:

1. *Resurfacing Laurel Street and Maxon Street*

These projects were identified for construction for 2016 however now they are on RIDOT's list for 2024. He also stated that the two roadways were probably combined into one project by RIDOT due to their geographic proximity however, he would rather see the projects separated into two and that Laurel Street be moved into construction earlier in 2018 as Mason Street is in much better condition than Laurel Street.

2. *Woodville Road*

RIDOT has identified this project for 2018 however, he would like to see that project done in 2017.

Marilyn Cohen, Cocumscussoc Association / Smith's Castle

Smith's Castle – Transportation Alternative Project

Ms. Cohen emphasized the importance of FHWA's special funds for alternative transportation projects such as Smith's Castle. Ms. Cohen stated that this project is a resubmission for the project listed in FY 2013-2016 TIP. Smith's Castle embodies the essence of historic transportation as a former trading post. The project is listed in the FY 2013-2016 TIP for \$200,000 to complete a cultural landscape report and improvements to parking, drainage, and internal circulation for buses by creating a loop road. The goal now is for the project to stay in the TIP and for it to be completed. The project is ready to advance to design. The Association is currently in negotiations with the Town of North Kingstown, who would have to provide oversight for construction of the project. Construction cannot start until that agreement with the Town has been finalized. Thousands of volunteer hours have been spent on this project, including professionals in the field. Ms. Cohen concluded by requesting that the project stay in the TIP and scheduled as early as possible.

James Geramia, Town of New Shoreham – Town Engineer

Mr. Geramia stated that the Town has requested ten (10) projects for TIP, two (2) of the projects are listed on the FY 2013-106 TIP, and eight (8) are new projects. He then stated that there are three types of projects:

1. *Southeast Lighthouse Museum Rehab – Enhancement Program*
This project is identified on two prior TIPs however the funds have been in escrow at RIDOT. In that time, the exterior structure of the lighthouse continues to deteriorate, and will now cost more to repair.
2. Sidewalks Projects including:
West Side Road – This project connects to the island's New Harbor area and would allow tourists to walk to the marina and community safely.

Corn Neck Road – This project is from the island's center of business distraction and would provide a pedestrian link to the nearby beaches.
3. Six (6) pavement / roadway projects that are problematic. Requested that these roads be considered and considered as a package due to the logistics to complete projects on the island.

Bob Voteva, Friends of South County Bike Path - Chairman

Mr. Voteva spoke on behalf of the following projects:

Extension of William C. O'Neill Bike Path - Narragansett

Stated that he would like to see this project completed that would take the South County Bike Path from Canonchet Farm to Narragansett Town Beach. Added that the Narragansett Town Council voted that the path should go through the farm and not on the road. Also stated that this path is for economic development for the State of Rhode Island.

URI/South County Bike Path Connector

Endorsed the connection of the South County Bike Path to URI as it provides health benefits.

Broad Rock Play Fields - South County Commons Bike Spur

Endorse the South County Bike Path connection to South County Commons.

In addition, Mr. Voteva request to reinstate the RI Greenway Council and that additional copies of RIDOT's state bicycle map be printed.

Abel Collins, South Kingstown Town Council, President

Mr. Collins spoke on behalf of the following projects submitted by the Town of South Kingstown:

Route 138 – Broad Rock Road / Stony Fort Road - Intersection Improvements

Stated that this project should have already happened and requested that it advance earlier than planned by RIDOT for economic development purposes for the region.

Route 108 (Kingstown Road) – Sidewalk/Drainage Improvements
Stated that he hopes this project receives good consideration.

Broad Rock Play Fields - South County Commons Bike Spur
Stated that the Town is committed to this project to increase accessibility to pedestrians.

Extension of William C. O'Neill Bike Path - Narragansett
Also endorsed the last link of bike path to Narragansett Town Beach.

Teresa Tanzi, State Representative - South Kingstown / Narragansett

Representative Tanzi stated that as an active member of Healthy Places by Design she is advocating for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program overall, especially Narragansett's SRTS project. Rep. Tanzi added that the SRTS projects should advance and the money should be spent.

Rep. Tanzi also advocated for the following projects:

Broad Rock Play Fields - South County Commons Bike Spur
Stated that this project is a big economic driver for the area, which is mostly just accessible by Route 1. Businesses located within the Commons are overwhelming supportive of the project.

Extension of William C. O'Neill Bike Path - Narragansett
Stated that it will be great for tourism to connect to the beach and the South County Bike Path can reach its full potential.

Route 108 (Kingstown Road) – Sidewalk/Drainage Improvements
Stated that the flooding in Peace Dale is significant and therefore it is critical to have this project completed.

Added that all of these projects involve the first mile, last mile to connection to transit.

Michael DeLuca, Town of Narragansett – Planning Director

Mr. DeLuca spoke on the following projects:

Bridgetown Road – Resurfacing
Stated that the contract will be out soon for this project. In addition, a significant portion was recently resurfaced and is in decent condition and therefore could be scheduled further out.

South Pier Road – Resurfacing
This project is for a 1-mile long resurfacing that was originally scheduled in the FY 2013-2106 TIP for 2016 and is a high priority for the town. Since it was originally submitted, the roadway has further deteriorated and should now be a reconstruction in portions. The \$1.5 million estimated cost should still be sufficient to complete the project. Also sidewalk improvements are needed as the area as they service the Town's middle and high school.

Extension of William C. O'Neill Bike Path - Narragansett
Stated that there has been a design study completed for the bike path extension. However the

earmark funds have mostly been depleted with money spent on upgrades and repairs rather than construction. The Town is requesting \$8.5 million for construction. The project will connect people from Wakefield and Kingston Train Station to Narragansett Town Beach, a major attraction in itself.

Bonnet Point Road – Causeway Reconstruction

Stated that without Bonnet Point Road, Bonnet Shores residents could lose access to the mainland. The roadway carries 3,500 vehicles per day in the summer. The project is requesting construction of an elevated roadway that would take into account the anticipation of sea level rise. Also requesting to improve the pedestrian accessibility. The project is estimated at \$15 million and is an essential component of Narragansett.

Mettatuxet Road – Reconstruction

Stated that this road services the Mettatuxett neighborhood in Narragansett. The roadway is severely deteriorated and therefore the Town will commit 20 percent towards this project which is estimated at \$500,000.

Beach Street - Resurfacing

Stated that this project is 1,000 feet in length. The project is estimated at \$150,000 and the Town would commit 20 percent of the costs.

Ocean Road Beautification – Phase I & II

This project extends from the Dunes Club on Boston Neck Road to the South Pier Road wishing well. The project would provide pedestrian improvements, period lighting, and median improvements around the Town Beach area.

Dianne Williamson, Town of Bristol – Planning Director

Ms. Williamson spoke on behalf of the following projects:

High Priority

Intersection Safety Improvements to Metacom Avenue (Route 136)

Stated that this project is a high priority and it is shovel ready.

Route 114, Hope Street and Main Street

Requested that this project include sidewalks and curbing and asked that it be advanced in TIP.

Intersection Safety Improvements – Ferry Road at Metacom Avenue and Old Ferry Road

Stated that this project is located at the entrance to Roger Williams University and is a high hazard intersection. The project needs two roundabout in the area.

Medium Priority

Route 114, Hope Street (Wood Street to Constitution Street)

Stated that this project is a medium priority.

Route 136, Metacom Avenue – With Study

Stated that this project would be a resurfacing of Metacom Avenue however a study of the corridor is needed first as would like this to be a coordinated improvement. Added that the Town does not support the simple resurfacing without the coordinated planned improvement.

Silver Creek Bridge and Mill Gut Bridge

Requested that consideration be given to sea level rise in the bridges design/replacement.

Also requested that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's request to add lights to Asylum Road within Colt State Park advance.

Bill Wilson, Member of the Public, Charlestown Resident

Mr. Wilson spoke on behalf on Charlestown's TIP request for Route 1A Bikeway/Multi-Use Path Feasibility Study which would connect Ninigret Park to South Kingstown.

Karen Voteva, Member of the Public, South Kingstown Resident, and Member of Healthy Places by Design

Ms. Voteva stated that there is a growing interest at improving walking within the community. She also offered support for the following three (3) projects that should be considered a high priority:

Broad Rock Play Fields - South County Commons Bike Spur

URI/South County Bike Path Connector

Route 108 (Kingstown Road) – Sidewalk/Drainage Improvements