



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY

GREEN AND COMPLETE STREETS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of the Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council

August 21, 2023, 4:30 PM

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

Overseeing Body: City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

Voting members present: Rosie Jaswal, Kathleen Gannon, Alana Jacoby, Will Cornwall, Dina Quezada

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

Ms. Jaswal called the meeting to order at 4:42 PM.

Following roll call, Ms. Jaswal introduced item #2, the consent agenda. Ms. Gannon moved approval, and Ms. Jacoby seconded. All voted in favor. Ms. Jaswal moved on to the next agenda item, overview of review procedure. Mr. Ellis gave this overview.

Ms. Jaswal moved on to the next agenda item, an update on the status of recommendations made by the Advisory Council about walk signal policies. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Urso provided updates. Mr. Urso answered questions about the proposed schedule of implementation for Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) submitted by Traffic Engineering, and expressed willingness to adjust the schedule based on more detailed intersection characteristics as suggested in the discussion. Ms. Jaswal noted that in addition to LPIs, simultaneously installing signage to restrict right turns on red would be the most efficient way to increase pedestrian safety in the near term. Mr. Urso expressed openness to studying this proposal, but noted restriction on right turn on red were not included in the proposed schedule. Ms. Jaswal requested that this topic return to the agenda every few months to check in. No motions were made.

Ms. Jaswal moved on to the next agenda item, an update on proposed changes to the procedure for implementing traffic calming. Mr. Urso reiterated a verbal description of the policy, including the requirement for a petition of 30% of property owners before traffic calming would be considered. He noted that the new policy was being circulated to City Council. The discussion featured both members of the Advisory Council and of the public expressing concern about the petition requirement, noting that safety benefits of traffic calming to people traveling along a street and of those renting property on a street should not be subject to the availability and support of potentially absentee landlords on the street. Mr. Urso was unable to share the specific language of the proposal at the meeting, so Ms. Gannon moved that that language be shared at the next meeting of the Advisory Council for further discussion. Ms. Jaswal seconded and all voted in favor.

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Ms. Jaswal moved on to the next agenda item, a review of planned sidewalk maintenance efforts in 2024-25. Mr. Ellis presented the staff report. There was discussion about the map of improvements but no motions made. There was a suggestion that the PVD Tree Plan be considered when planning sidewalk maintenance activities.

Ms. Jaswal moved on to the next agenda item, Announcements, Staff Updates, and Public Comment. After brief discussion and announcements, Ms. Jaswal adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.

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