




CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY MANAGER
Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq.

To: Mayor Jamie P. Bova and Members of the City Council

From: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq.,  City Manager

Date: August 4, 2020

RE: Docket of August 12, 2020 – Update on Transportation Master Plan and Green & Complete Streets

Attached is a report from the Director of Planning and Economic Development with regard to an update on the Transportation Master Plan and Green & Complete Streets.

JJN/paf
Attachment

cc: P. Reynolds, Director of Planning and Economic Development



THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Department of
Planning and Economic Development

To: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager
From: Patricia Reynolds, Director, Planning and Economic Development
Date: August 4, 2020
Subject: Update on Transportation Master Plan and Green and Complete Streets

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Working cooperatively with City staff, the Transportation Subcommittee of the Planning Board, and the Newport Transportation Planning Committee, Statewide Planning has written a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the creation of a Transportation Master Plan for the City of Newport. This will be City's first comprehensive traffic planning effort.

Statewide Planning programs include a successful local technical assistance program for transportation planning to further cooperative transportation planning efforts between the State and municipalities. After review and approval by the City Council via Resolution 2020-45 (copy attached), a fully executed Cooperative Agreement was returned to the City on July 9, 2020. The agreement provides for combining resources and cooperating on the development of one plan to guide transportation planning efforts for Newport and to help fulfill goals and objectives of the State's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Statewide Planning has assigned a purchasing agent to the project and is now in the process of scheduling the RFP to go out to out to bid. Once bids are received, they will be reviewed by a panel that includes representatives from the City. It is expected to take approximately two (2) years to complete the final Transportation Master Plan.

For your information, below is an excerpt from the RFP regarding the intent of the Plan.

INTENT

The purpose of this project is to create a plan for a network of safe, multi-modal, and accessible transportation facilities in and to Newport, as well as guidance for implementing said plan. The planned facilities are expected to contribute to economic activity in the city without severely impacting neighboring communities, improve connectivity, public health and quality of life, reduce congestion, build resiliency to climate change, and increase the safety for all, particularly those foregoing driving for other modes of transportation. The Plan should advance mobility for all transportation users. The City and State anticipate this Transportation Master Plan will advance these goals and included the following plan elements and information as follows:



THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Department of Planning and Economic Development

- *Improving transportation, recognizing all users*
- *Identifying one-way and two-way traffic conversions and road diets, as well as the potential to close certain streets to motor vehicle traffic at certain times*
- *Proposing truck routes and loading areas and times in Newport*
- *Solving gaps and barriers, both perceived and actual, in the existing active transportation (e.g. pedestrian and bicycle) and transit network.*
- *Identify improvements in all aspects of the transportation system to support pedestrians and cyclists*
- *Match parking demand and supply for all type of vehicles*
- *Encouraging the use of walking and biking as viable modes of transportation.*
- *Incorporating design guidance into standards that can be applied to a typology of different streets and provide for a sustainable community*
- *Geo-locating and streamlining signage and transportation barriers/hazards*
- *Developing a metric and methodology (with feedback from the community) for prioritizing projects to implement the Plan, including identifying the needs of economy, culture, disadvantaged communities, family-friendly routes, and a tiered network that serves users of all experience levels.*
- *Identifying funding opportunities for Plan implementation*
- *An understanding of cultural sensitivity as articulated in the Newport Comprehensive Plan, North End Urban Plan, and Green and Complete Streets ordinance.*

GREEN AND COMPLETE STREETS

A well-attended kickoff discussion with interested parties was held on February 4th, and a follow-up meeting was held March 2nd, at which time the group adopted a vision statement (see below). The process for crafting the ordinance subsequently shifted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. An early draft of the proposed ordinance was submitted to the City Solicitor and is currently under review. Discussion regarding the best way to approach enforcement is ongoing.

The concept of green and complete streets is currently being incorporated into future plans. Staff has coordinated with Fuss & O'Neil, the consulting firm for the Whitwell Drainage Investigation and Flooding Analysis project. The draft North End Urban Plan and companion zoning incorporate green and complete streets standards, as well.

Green and Complete Streets Ordinance Vision Statement

Our green and complete streets policies ensure that every project serves all users (including pedestrians, bicyclists, emergency vehicles, transit, freight, water-based transportation, and private automobiles) and abutters and also enhances the natural environment. The goal is to create, through a public and open process, a connected network of high-quality rights-of-way and open spaces providing public access to the water, accommodating all modes of travel and all users, including people with mobility issues.



THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Department of
Planning and Economic Development

Our green and complete streets will be inviting: connecting all parts of our city, safely accessible by all its citizens. They carry not only people and goods, but also essential utilities, including the collection and treatment of stormwater runoff. Additionally, green infrastructure treats air pollution and can beautify and enhance our streets with nature, encouraging people to actively use them. It is critical for the City to develop a safe, reliable, efficient, integrated, equitable, and connected multimodal transportation system that is easily navigable.

Our green and complete streets will promote safety, access, multimodal mobility, health of all kinds for all users and abutters, improved environmental quality, reduced stormwater runoff, and economic vitality. This policy will be implemented with a focus on enhancing the city's architectural heritage and beauty, view corridors, shade canopy and natural resources, through facilitating the walkability and bikeability of the city along with good access to public transit, reduced vehicular congestion, responsible and forward-thinking environmental protection and stormwater management.

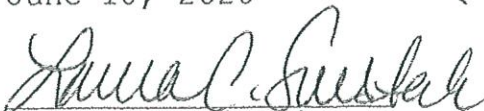
PR/
Attachment

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL
No. 2020-45**

- WHEREAS: on September 11, 2019, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2019 - 80, A resolution regarding development of a Master Transportation Plan, citing the needs for, and benefits from, a comprehensive Transportation Master Plan; and
- WHEREAS: the City has worked cooperatively with the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning to create a Request for Proposals for a comprehensive Transportation Master Plan that reflects the City's background, history, and transportation planning needs; and
- WHEREAS: the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning intends to engage a consultant to create a Citywide Transportation Master Plan, in accordance with the Scope of Work as outlined in the Request for Proposals; and
- WHEREAS: the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning is continuing a successful local technical assistance program for active transportation planning to further cooperative transportation planning efforts between Statewide Planning and municipalities; and
- WHEREAS: that it is in the best interest of the City and Statewide Planning to combine resources and cooperate on the development of one plan to guide transportation planning efforts for Newport and to help fulfill goals and objectives of the State of Rhode Island Long Range Transportation Plan. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED: that the City Council approves the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Newport and the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning for the purpose of funding the Citywide Transportation Master Plan for Newport and the Mayor is authorized to sign said agreement on behalf of the City, upon review of the City Solicitor's office.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
June 10, 2020


Laura C. Swistak
City Clerk