

URI Master Plan Review Team
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2017
Alumni Center Board Room

Membership Present: Abigail Rider, Vern Wyman, Christopher McMahan, Jodi Hawkins, Steve Baker, Chelsea Siefert, Linda Acciardo, Paul DePace, Dave Palazzetti, John Kirby, Brian Maynard, Michael Katz

Membership Absent: William Green, Ann Morrissey, Jerry Sidio, Student Representative to be appointed

Support Staff Present: Ryan Carrillo, Dulcie Ilgenfritz, Sheleen Clarke, Kenneth Burke, Joe Paradise, Karen Beck, Joe Wanat with VHB, Kayla Cabral with VHB

Call to Order

Abigail Rider called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approvals

The minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Kip McMahan to approve the minutes with the clarification that the acronym RINEC stands for Rhode Island Nursing Education Center. Motion seconded by Brian Maynard; motion passed.

1. Transportation and Parking Master Plan

A draft of the Transportation and Parking Master Plan (TPMP) was presented to the committee by Joe Wanat, Managing Principal for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB).

The guiding principles of the TPMP:

- Move parking out of the campus core to accommodate needs for service vehicles and accessible spaces.
- Manage parking demand before increasing supply. Create a parking model.
- Enhance shuttle service to maximize best use of peripheral lots.
- Transform campus roadways into “complete streets”.
- Create a regionally connected bicycle network.
- Explore potential revenue streams that will support and sustain the transportation/transit infrastructure.

The process for the Transportation and Parking Master Plan started over 1 year ago. It has consisted of meetings, accumulation of data, and coordination with the Landscape Master Plan. A CAD model of campus parking was created using a helicopter to obtain aerial photos and parking lot counts based upon different days and times. Existing conditions were taken into account and comparisons were made between URI and peer Universities. A safety review was performed to review crash points on campus. Bike storage areas were mapped and shuttle service routes reviewed including walking distances to shuttle stops.

The shuttle bus service is currently provided by RIPTA. A need for a more robust intramural shuttle system is required.

Some recommendations as result of the plan:

- Redesign of Upper College Road; reduce vehicle lanes to 11', add 4' bike lanes, add a 3' buffer, and move 6' sidewalk to the other side of the buffer. Upper College Road is already in the State's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and URI will coordinate with DOT on the improvements.
- Redesign Flagg Road to remove parking, add a bike lane and possibly a median.
- Campus Gateways are needed to give a sense of arrival to campus. This includes enhanced intersections and/or roundabouts.
- Parking improvements were reviewed with possibility of one level parking decks. The Landscape, Stormwater, and Transportation Master Plans as well as Sustainability goals were considered. Focus on accessible parking access, consideration for service vehicles and a reduction of impervious surfaces.
- A bike path connection from campus to the current William O'Neill Bike Path is in the Transportation Improvement Plan. The location of the bike path was previously approved by the MPRT in 2014.

Brian Maynard requested that the minutes reflect that he does not agree with the location of the bike path connector crossing at 138. Based upon its location and the population density of those biking to campus, he feels it will not be well utilized.

The approval of the Transportation and Parking Master Plan is only an approval of the plan and not an approval of the projects contained within. It is also not a full solution, but only recommendations. Solutions and approval of projects as related to this plan will need to come back to the Master Plan Review Team for approval.

Motion to recommend the Transportation and Parking Master Plan to Senior Leadership made by Steve Baker. Motion seconded by Vern Wyman; motion passed with Brian Maynard opposed.

The September 14, 2017 MPRT meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.