



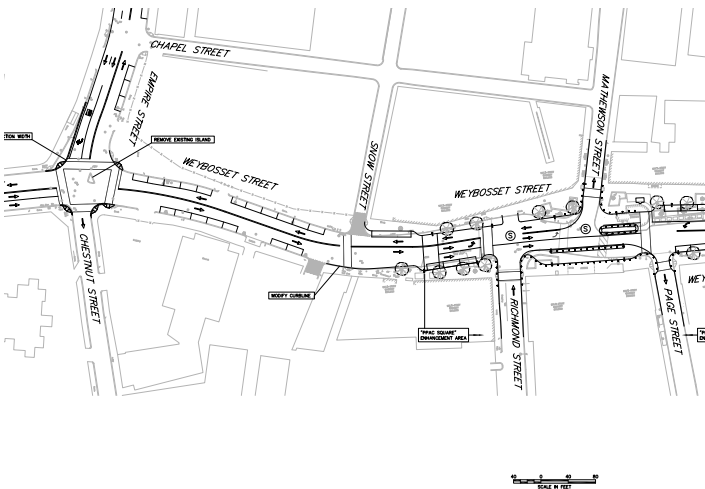
"To continuously enhance the quality of life in downtown Providence."

DOWNTOWN DIRECTIONS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PROVIDENCE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MOVEMENT AROUND DOWNTOWN

Several projects are underway that will improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation downtown. With repaired sidewalks, repaved streets and directional changes, navigating around our district will be a much better experience!



DOWNTOWN CIRCULATOR PROJECT UPDATE

The downtown circulator project has been approved, and its design is nearly complete. According to plans developed by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for the city, Empire Street will become a 2-way street from Washington to Weybosset, and Weybosset will become 2-way between Dorrance and Empire. Other proposed changes include minor improvements to Union Street and the resurfacing of Dorrance Street.

In order to create a "PPAC Square" destination, the police substation on the north side of Weybosset may be relocated. The project also calls for the planting of new trees and enhanced street lighting. PPAC has contributed \$900,000 to the project, while Rhode Island Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have committed more than \$3 million.

The city hopes that construction will start next spring, and it will coordinate with neighbors in advance. With property owners engaged in this process for more than 5 years, we view this progress as a major achievement.

RIPTA: KENNEDY PLAZA PAVING PROJECT
Later this summer, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) is planning to repave roadways around Kennedy Plaza. The initial 5-7 day phase will focus on the 4 corners of RIPTA's intermodal center, and after that, the interior areas will be repaved during two 3-4 day periods. Although the exact schedule has not been announced yet, the work should be completed by Labor Day. Please visit: www.ripta.com for schedules that may impact your travel plans.



NEW STREET SIGNS INSTALLED:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the city has almost completed its installation of 253 purple and white street signs, identifying intersections within 3 distinct downtown districts. Along with \$12,400 from the City Administration and City Councilors Balbina Young and John Lombardi, the DID contributed \$15,000 to the project.



STATE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is planning to undertake 50 projects as part of the Federal Economic Recovery Act, known as the "stimulus package," worth \$138 million altogether. The downtown Providence sidewalk improvement project has been included in that package, and is moving forward with the DID's encouragement.

At this stage, construction estimates have been finalized, and we anticipate that the total budget will now exceed \$1 million. The downtown sidewalk project is currently undergoing historic review at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, and the work is expected to go out to bid this summer. The work will include concrete repaving, landscaping, and the installation of new bike racks, in compliance with ADA guidelines.

The geographic area covered in Phase I is bounded by Washington Street and Westminster Street, from Union to Empire. We expect construction to be completed by the end of the year, and at that point, we will work with RIDOT on Phase II of the project. We will work with all agencies involved to make sure that this project is a priority, and to avoid traffic interruptions, we will try to coordinate construction with other scheduled downtown events. For more information about RIDOT projects, visit: www.dot.state.ri.us.

DOWNTOWN GOES GREEN: DID PLANTING PROGRAM EXPANDS AGAIN

Entering the third year of our planting program, the DID is learning from experience, and expanding into new areas. The staff at Jacavone Garden Center, a family owned business based in Johnston, began planting in the greenhouse in January, so that the plants would develop a rich root structure before the summer.

According to Frank LaTorre, Director of Public Space for the DID, "the quality, cooperation and delivery from Jacavone have all been excellent, and we expect people to be very pleased with the impact." He adds that "the planting program lifts people's spirits, and shows what the DID accomplishes." With generous support from our program sponsors, we now have 248 hanging flower baskets, 60 large-scale sidewalk planters, and 8 open ground-level planting areas throughout downtown.

To beautify Burnside Park and create a central focus for the planting program near Kennedy Plaza, the City Parks Department has contributed \$20,000 for flower beds and bushes. The DID will add another \$5,000 to the project. With 29 poles now featuring blooming double hanging baskets along the perimeter of the park, The City Parks Department is committed to maintaining the plantings by weeding and watering them on a regular basis.

CLEAN & SAFE SUMMARIES

February 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009

Clean Team:

Trash removed (in lbs): 127,280
Graffiti tags removed: 1,181
Stickers/handbills removed: 606

Combined Clean & Safe Team:

Pedestrian assistance: 3,138
Property/business contacts: 1,829
Motorist assistance: 48
Passive panhandling: 175
Aggressive panhandling: 29

DID EQUIPMENT: YELLOW, BLACK AND HIGHLY VISIBLE

When you see the DID trucks and ATLVs on the downtown streets, you may notice new decals, promoting the downtown logo and website. We also recently painted yellow stripes on the black DID trash cans, and added DID logos, so that people would recognize which cans we're responsible for clearing. If there's any confusion, keep in mind, our equipment now matches our bright yellow and black uniforms!

Downtown IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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PUBLIC SPACES: NEW INTERSTATE 195 CHARRETTE

In January, Fred Kent, President of Project for Public Spaces, Inc., led a placemaking charrette focusing on the waterfront area known as the Old Harbor District, including new parks planned for the southern end of the downtown district. Project for Public Spaces, a New York-based nonprofit that guides communities toward activating the public realm, has also been involved in the revitalization of Kennedy Plaza, among hundreds of other projects around the globe.

For Old Harbor, community members met in groups to discuss 4 specific geographic areas, including the park on the east side of the Providence River, the new pedestrian bridge planned for the current site of I-195, and the northern and southern sections of the park (on the west side of the bridge), which connect into downtown. PPS challenged the community to create a waterfront strategy that focuses on revenue producing activities and partnerships, as well as an overall destination strategy for the district.

Project for Public Spaces's suggestions have been compiled into a report, entitled "Placemaking on the Providence Waterfront," which has been posted on the downtown website. Recommendations include connecting destinations, encouraging 24-hour activity, encouraging public access to the waterfront, and managing seasonal activities. To receive a copy of the report, contact The Providence Foundation at (401) 521-3248, or for more information about Project for Public Spaces, visit: www.pps.org.

HOSPITALITY RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP: Providence City Ordinance Changes

Under the guidance of the DID and the City of Providence, the Hospitality Resource Partnership has been proactive about addressing nightlife related issues. Bob Smith, President of San Diego based Nightclub Security Consultants, presented a 2-day workshop in Providence last October about professionalizing the floor host industry. Local front line and security management representatives participated, and the workshop was well received by nightclubs.

Now, following ordinance changes in cities such as Boston and New York, we are proposing an amended city ordinance that will require registration and licensing of all floor host personnel. The proposed ordinance will also mandate 8 hours of job specific training, certified by the Board of Licenses, to reduce owner liability and protect public safety. It also mandates background checks for all staff, with discretion of the Board and the police.

Another proposed ordinance change intends to limit the number of kegs that may be purchased per household, in order to reduce alcohol consumption and discourage adults from providing alcohol to people who are under age. A third proposal attaches fines to public drinking offenses, ranging from \$100 to \$500. We thank the Providence Nightlife Association and Councilman Lombardi for their involvement in this effort.

CITY/DID BRICK REPAIR PARTNERSHIP

In recent months, the DID has partnered with the City Department of Public Works to repair damaged brick sidewalks in the downtown area. Together, DID Director of Public Space Frank LaTorre and DPW Director John Nickelson identified the sidewalks that needed immediate attention, and established a repair schedule focusing on the worst spots. The city went out to bid for Phase I of the project earlier this year, and those repairs are near completion.

The DID's matching contribution of \$25,000 helped the city to complete \$50,000 worth of work. In order to move forward with Phase II, the DID will continue raising additional funds.

DID WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL SUMMER STAFF

The City Department of Art, Culture + Tourism will manage an umbrella workforce program, enabling small non-profit organizations to hire a total of several hundred new staff this summer. As part of this program, the DID will have four additional workers assisting the Clean Team with street sweeping for 20 hours each week, in July and August. While the summer employees will wear their own uniforms, they are a welcome addition to our organization. Other participating groups include AS220, Community Works and Groundwork Providence.

2009-2010 DID BUDGET APPROVED

On May 21st, the DID held its annual budget hearing in the auditorium at the Commerce Center. The budget shows no increase in the assessment rate, and was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors. While public space management still comprises nearly 80% of the budget, we are planning for an increased focus on economic development related activities, in order to address anticipated changes in the downtown real estate market. In partnership with The Providence Foundation, we will also support all EDC, Chamber and PEDP economic development activities, and will represent downtown interests within those efforts. For a copy of the budget, call the DID office directly at (401) 421-4450.

DOWNTOWN WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

When you visit our downtown website this summer, you may notice a few positive changes! To keep things fresh for providencedowntown.com, we're changing the photos, updating our DID program information, replacing the map, and improving our real estate page. In addition, we now feature a clear link to happenings in Kennedy Plaza.

We will also continue to update our calendar with a variety of happenings throughout the district! Whether you want to see a show at Providence Performing Arts Center, or find out about weekly summer events, you'll be able to find online. Visit often!



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KENNEDY PLAZA SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Following a wildly successful summer season filled with activities for people of all ages, Kennedy Plaza will be programmed throughout the workweek again! Through October 4th, the city's central square including Burnside Park, Biltmore Park, the Bank of America City Center will be filled with food, music, arts and information. New activities will be added throughout the summer, so please visit www.kennedyplaza.org regularly for updates.

Join us every day for the following activities:

Market Bazaar Monday: From 11am to 5pm on Mondays, vendors will sell food, art, books and antiques along the Washington Street sidewalk.

Public Square Tuesday: Non-profits will share information every Tuesday from 11:30am to 1:30pm on the sidewalk along Washington Street, beside Burnside Park.

Noon Tunes Wednesday: Listen to free live music every Wednesday from 12:15 to 1:15pm, by the fountain at Burnside Park.

Fun & Fit Thursday: Work out with a group outdoors, led by instructors from Boston Sports Clubs! The www.kennedyplaza.org website will have information about the plans for each week, ranging from yoga to power walking.

Burnside Park Music Series Thursday: Before heading over to Westminster Street for the Movies on the Block, listen to concerts in Burnside Park. Bands and DJs will play from 5 to 7pm, and the schedule will be posted online.

Farmers' Market Fridays: Now in its fifth season, Farm Fresh Rhode Island will bring fresh local foods to the downtown district! Once again, the market will take place on the Washington Street sidewalk, along Burnside Park, from 11am-3pm on Fridays. Bring your recycled bags with you before you stock up!

Special events will also be held throughout the summer and fall months, leading up to the winter ice skating season. You'll see the Providence Roller Derby team, skateboarders, and basketball players practicing, and you'll notice family and friends competing at game nights from June through September. We'll see you in the park!

MOVIES ON THE BLOCK

Providence's only outdoor movie screen is now in its third season! Every Thursday from June 4th until September 24th, movies will be screened at dusk. Beach chairs and blankets encouraged!

Visit www.shopdowncity.com for more info.

**LIVE IT UP!
DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE
LIVING TOUR**

On Saturday, June 27th, seven residential properties will open their doors to the public for a downtown-wide open house event! From noon until 5 PM, check out available units within the 903, 333 Atwells, The Promenade, Waterplace, Westminster Lofts, Regency Plaza, and the Residences at the Westin. Walking is encouraged, but shuttle service will be offered as well. For more details and to register in advance, visit: www.providencedowntown.com.



New Businesses:

- Bx.com, One West Exchange Street
- Deepwater Wind, 56 Exchange Terrace
- Matheys Lane Capital Management, One West Exchange Street
- Tufts Health, One West Exchange Street