



# Unlocking Economic and Community Benefits Through Transportation Planning



Power of Place Summit  
May 11, 2012



Aquidneck Island Planning Commission





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## Opening Remarks/Project Background



**Tina Dolen, Executive Director**  
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission



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## Study Team

**Study Proponent:** Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

**Study Consultant:** VHB/Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (Providence, RI)

### Technical Steering Committee:

- Aquidneck Island Planning Commission
- Federal Highway Administration
- Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)
- Naval Station Newport
- Newport County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth
- Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)
- Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)
- Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA)
- Newport County Chamber of Commerce
- Sierra Club RI



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## Study Purpose

*To develop a balanced, comprehensive Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan for Aquidneck Island that will guide the investment of future funds into its transportation system. The Plan will include:*

- Short, medium and long-range transportation improvements suitable for inclusion into municipal and statewide capital improvement plans; as well as
- Recommended strategies, policies and actions to improve the transportation system on Aquidneck Island consistent with community values.





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## Study Goals and Objectives

- Inclusive of all modes of transportation.
- Seek modal enhancements and connections.
- Preserve, maintain and improve the efficiency of our existing transportation facilities and services in consideration of both current and future travel demands.
- Increase mobility, modal choice, accessibility and safety for all residents, businesses, employees and visitors while decreasing traffic congestion and its negative impacts on our environment, economy and quality of life.





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## Study Area

Encompasses all of Aquidneck Island and includes the following roadways:

- Route 114 (West Main Road/Bristol Ferry Road)
- Route 138 (East Main Road)
- Turnpike Avenue
- Burma Road/Defense Highway/Stringham Road
- America's Cup Avenue
- Memorial Boulevard
- Coddington Highway/JT Connell Highway
- Admiral Kalbfus Road
- Route 138A (Aquidneck Avenue)
- Route 214 (Valley Road)





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## Panelists



**Corey Bobba, Project Delivery Team Leader**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Rhode Island Division Office



**Bill Ashworth, Principal/RI Office Manager**

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)



**Chris Witt, Director of Planning and Communications**

Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC)



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## Study Process - Collaboration and Public Outreach



**Corey Bobba, Program Delivery Team Leader**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Rhode Island Division Office





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## Stakeholder Interviews

- Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth Planning, DPW, and Police Departments
- Newport Department of Economic Development
- Portsmouth Economic Development Committee
- Naval Station Newport
- State Police
- Old Colony & Newport Railway
- Grow Smart RI
- Sierra Club
- Newport County Chamber of Commerce
- RI Association of Railroad Passengers
- Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)
- Newport County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Newport Dinner Train
- AIPC Council Liaison, Middletown
- Raytheon
- Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC)
- Newport Accessibility Advisory Group
- Edward King House Senior Center
- Peter Pan Bus Lines
- Viking Tours of Newport
- AARP Rhode Island
- Coalition for Transportation Choices (CTC)



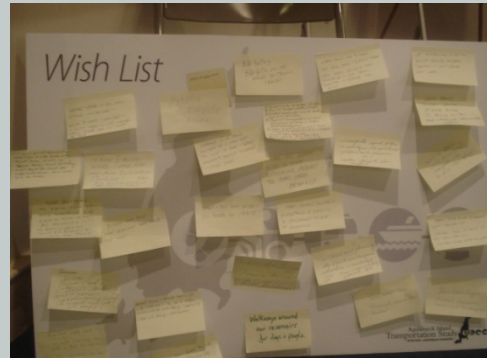
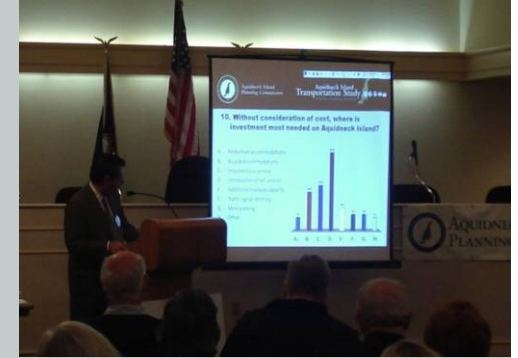
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## Public Outreach





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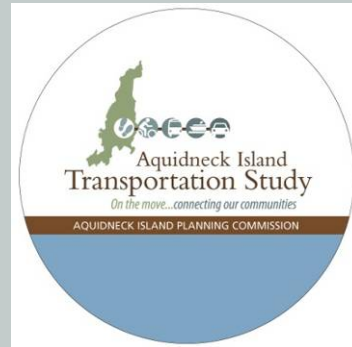


## Public Outreach

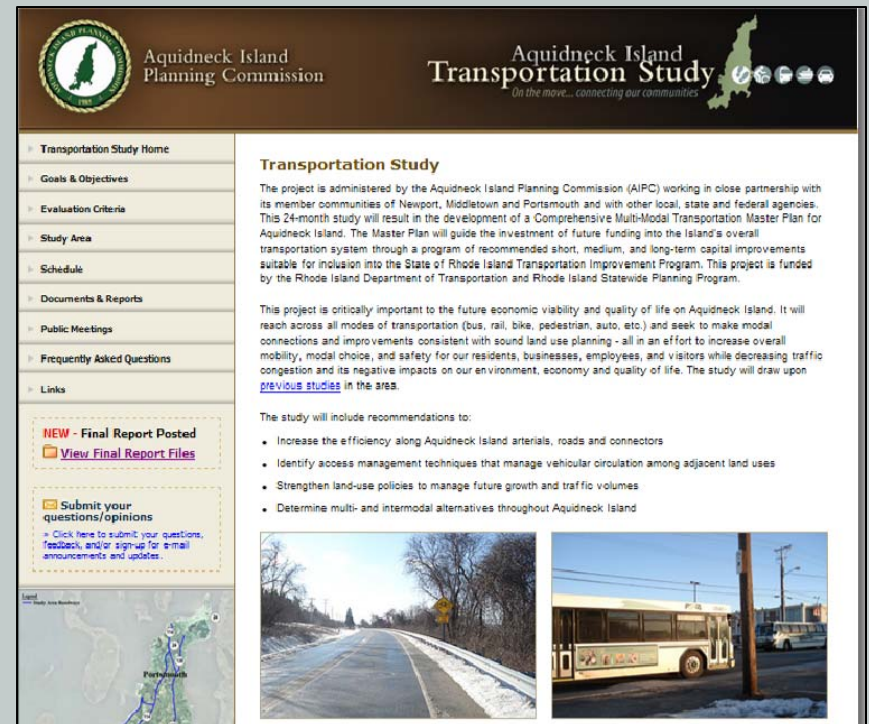
- Variety of tools



Online surveys



Project logo/buttons



Project website: <http://www.vhb.com/aquidneck>



e-newsletters



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## Public Input

- Public Meetings (over 600 comments noted)
- Online Survey/Comments (approx. 300 responses)
- Origin-Destination Postcard Surveys – Auto & Bus (over 1,700 returned)
- Evaluation Criteria Survey (260 responses)
- Dot Voting of Preferences (over 750 total “votes”)
- **More than 3,000 responses/comments in total**

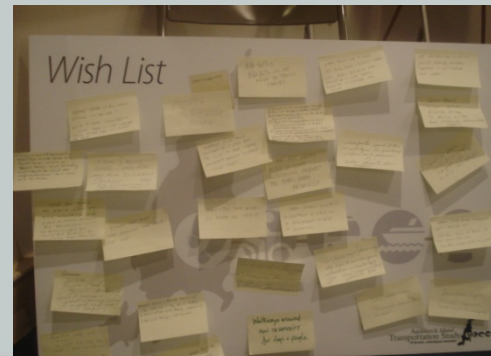


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**Opinion/Comment Survey**

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

[START SURVEY!](#)





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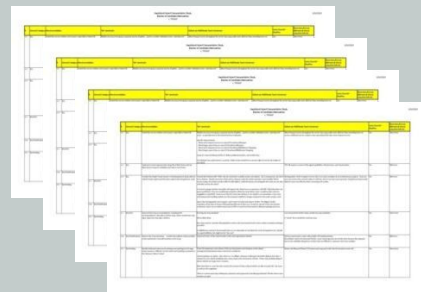
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## Study Process – Screening & Evaluating Alternatives



Public and Stakeholder Input



Matrix of Everything Heard  
and Potential Improvements



Vetted by Technical  
Steering Committee



Refined by Study Team



Improvement Options  
by Transportation Mode

Evaluation Criteria Summary



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## Evaluation Criteria

- Six main categories used to evaluate potential Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects:
  - Mobility benefits
  - Cost-effectiveness
  - Economic development impact
  - Environmental impact
  - Degree of support of local and state goals and plans
  - Safety, security, and technology
- Developed 28 different evaluation criteria within the 6 main categories
- Led to study recommendations that were vetted by Steering Committee



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## Study Recommendations – Expanding Transportation Choices



**Bill Ashworth, Principal/RI Office Manager**  
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)



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## Recommendations

- Broken down by transportation mode
- Preliminary costs
- Implementation timeframes  
(pending available funding)
- Final Report at: [www.vhb.com/aquidneck](http://www.vhb.com/aquidneck)

Final Report

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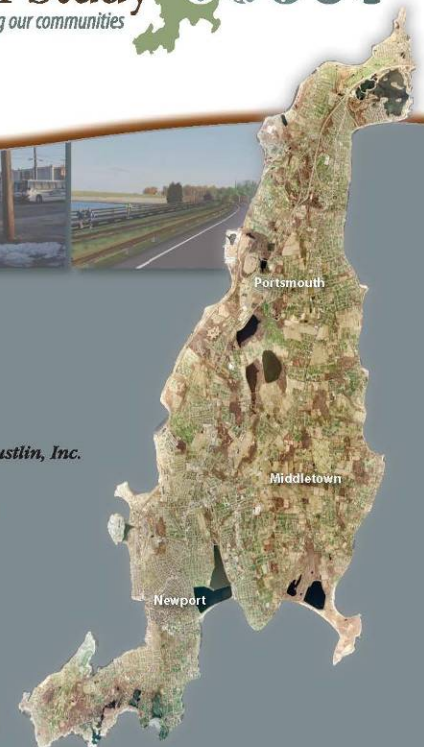
Prepared for  
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437 Broadway  
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Prepared by  
**VHB** Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
10 Dorrance Street  
Suite 400  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

July 2011

Project funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration, the RI Department of Transportation, and the RI Department of Administration, Statewide Planning Program







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## Recommended Transit Improvements

1. Encourage Transit Oriented Development
2. Provide Additional Bus Service
3. Establish Newport Jitney Service
4. Implement Rapid Bus Service
5. Strengthen and Expand Island-wide Multimodal Centers
6. Maintain Active Newport Secondary Rail Corridor
7. Enhance the Transit Experience
8. Encourage Island Employers to Institute Transit Programs for Employees
9. Create Park & Ride Opportunities
10. Enhance Ferry Service





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## Recommended Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

1. Shoreline Bikeway (Burma Rd) Shared Use Path
2. Connect Missing Links Between Suitable Roads for Bicycles
3. Provide Island-wide Destination Signing for Bicycles
4. East Main Road Shared Use Path
5. West Main Rd Shared Use Path
6. General Upgrades of Pedestrian Accommodations





## Summary – Island-wide Bicycle Network

- Provides a designated Island-wide bicycle network made up of a combination of the following:
  - Existing “most-suitable” and “suitable” roadways
  - Proposed shared roadways
  - Proposed wide shoulders/bike lanes along roadways
  - Proposed shared use paths
- Bike Network provides access to:
  - Existing and proposed multimodal centers (Gateway Center, Pell Bridge, Melville)
  - Large facilities such as Raytheon, Navy, CCRI, etc.
  - Proposed Newport Jitney
  - Proposed transit-oriented developments
- Recommending expanding bicycle network on local roads in each Island community





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## Recommended Roadway Improvements

1. Pell Bridge Access Improvements
2. Traffic Signal Optimization
3. Two Mile Corner Improvements
4. Localized Intersection Safety/Capacity Improvements
5. Corys Lane/Hedley Street Realignment
6. West Main Road Left-Turn Lanes
7. Burma Road Improvements
8. East Main Road Roundabouts
9. Broadway Streetscape & Traffic Calming Improvements





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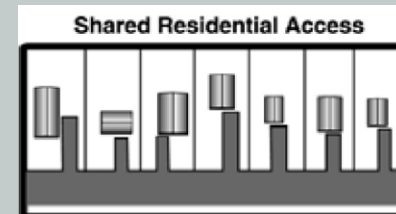
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## Recommended Policies

- **Transportation pricing (tolling, parking, transit fares, vehicle registration fees, fueling, VMT fees, etc.) could have a more significant impact on future conditions**
- **Promote safety as a top priority** within transportation planning and in the delivery of all infrastructure projects (including requiring Road Safety Assessments where appropriate), and target educational activities to current and future travelers to improve safety for all transportation modes
- Continue to **develop land use policies/ Zoning Ordinances that support transit oriented development** with housing, retail, and jobs collocated with each other near transit
- Ensure that the Island community Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances **reflect goals, objectives, and policies that support safety and access management** where appropriate, and incorporate the AITS policies



**Avoid**  
• Multiple lots with individual access connection to the adjacent streets.



**Encourage**  
• Internal collector type facilities to reduce conflicts on adjacent streets.



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## Recommended Policies

- **Develop city-wide strategic parking plan** for Newport
- **Establish TDM program requirements** in Zoning Ordinances for new, large projects; for projects over certain thresholds, consider traffic monitoring requirements and financial penalties
- **Develop a bicycle parking/sidewalk Zoning Ordinance** that includes bicycle parking and sidewalk requirements into site plan review
- **Establish better communication and coordination** between state and local agencies during development site plan reviews
- **Develop a motorcoach parking plan** that regulates where tourist buses can drop-off, pick-up, park, and stage when idle
- **Promote a Complete Streets approach** to design and renovation of infrastructure that ensures safety and mobility for all users are considered





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## Recommended Policies

- **Promote livable and sustainable communities** through “green” initiatives and coordinated transportation/land use/environmental strategies (including GHG reductions and reduced dependence on automobiles)
- **Promote the “park once” concept in Newport** with alternate transportation modes (i.e. car sharing, bike sharing, pedicabs, etc.)
- **Establish an Island-wide strategic transportation committee** that would oversee the implementation of the recommended actions and policies from this study and discuss important policy issues mentioned in the plan but beyond the scope of the study
- **Expand the Island-wide bicycle network** through bicycle suitability studies for local roads and the development of bicycle plans for each Island municipality to increase the number of suitable roads for bicycles linking key destinations





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## Implementation



**Chris Witt, Director of Planning & Communications**  
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission





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## Implementation Plan

RECOMMENDATION	NEXT STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME				
			IMMEDIATE-TERM (LESS THAN 1 YEAR)	SHORT-TERM (1-5 YEARS)	MID-TERM (5-10 YEARS)	LONG-TERM (GREATER THAN 10 YEARS)	
TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS	Encourage Transit Oriented Development	Adopt policies to encourage TOD	Island Municipalities	Encourage development (location and type) that promotes transit use			
	Provide Additional Bus Service	Evaluate options to extend service	RIPTA	Provide additional bus service			
	Establish Newport Jitney Service	Finalize feasibility study/costs	Newport County Chamber of Commerce/Newport	Design, construction, establish service			
	Implement Rapid Bus Service	Advance Study & Development	RIPTA	Design, construction			
	Strengthen and Expand Island-wide Multimodal Centers	Finalize needs assessment for Gateway Center	Newport	Construct Gateway Center improvements	Construct Melville multimodal facility	Construct Pell Bridge area multimodal facility	
	Maintain Active Newport Secondary Rail Corridor	Preserve rail corridor as continuous ROW	RIDOT, Island Municipalities	Continued track maintenance	Eliminate existing and any future encroachments/ Increase passenger rail uses of corridor		
	Enhance the Transit Experience	Advance development of enhancements	RIPTA	Construct/implement enhancements			
	Encourage Island Employers to Institute Transit Programs for Employees	Meet with major employers to discuss programs	RIPTA, Island Municipalities	Institute transit-friendly strategies and programs	Construct improvements at major employers	Construct improvements at major employers	
	Create Park & Ride Opportunities	Identify potential sites and develop implementation plan	RIDOT, RIPTA	Finalize Boyds Lane Park & Ride	Design, right-of-way actions, construction of additional facilities		
Enhance Ferry Service	Seek funding opportunities	RIPTA, Newport, AIPC	Implement additional Newport service	Implement ferry service to Melville			
PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS	Shoreline Bikeway (Burma Road) Shared Use Path	Advance Study & Development	RIDOT/RIDEM	Design, permitting, right-of-way actions	Design, permitting	Construction	
	Connect Missing Links Between Suitable Roads for Bicycles	Restripe roadways/Advance Study & Development	RIDOT	Road diets along Bristol Ferry & West Main	Design, permitting for shared use path, right-of-way actions	Construction of shared use path	
	Provide Island-wide Destination Signing for Bicycles	Prioritize routes for signing	RIDOT, AIPC	Develop signing plans	Install signs		
	East Main Road Shared Use Path	Pursue Study & Development	RIDOT, AIPC		Design, permitting, right-of-way actions	Construction	
	West Main Road Shared Use Path	Pursue Study & Development	RIDOT, AIPC		Design, permitting, right-of-way actions	Construction	
	General Upgrades of Pedestrian Accommodations	Prioritize improvements	RIDOT	Implement early-action items from RSAs/ Island-wide crosswalk standards	Design, construction of improvements		
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS	Pell Bridge Access Improvements	Advance project to 30% Design	RIDOT	Begin design, permitting	Design, permitting, right-of-way actions	Phased Construction	
	Traffic Signal Optimization	Prioritize locations for optimization	RIDOT	Fine-tune traffic signal timings	Maintain equipment, collect new counts, fine-tune traffic signal timings		
	Two Mile Corner Improvements	Conduct traffic simulation/select alternative	RIDOT, Middletown	Advance design, permitting	Design, permitting, right-of-way actions, construction		
	Localized Intersection Capacity/ Safety Improvements	Prioritize improvements	RIDOT	Implement early-action items from RSAs	Design, permitting, construction of short-term improvements	Design, permitting, construction of longer-term improvements	
	Corys Lane/Hedley Street Realignment	Advance final design	Portsmouth, RIDOT		Design, permitting, right-of-way actions, construction		
	West Main Road Left-turn Lanes	Prioritize improvements	RIDOT	Design at Union and Raytheon	Design, permitting, construction for all		
	Burma Road Improvements	Acquire Burma Road from Navy/ Advance Study & Development	RIDOT/FHWA	Navy coordination	Navy coordination/right-of-way actions	Design & permitting	Construction
	East Main Road Roundabouts	Advance final design	Portsmouth/RIDOT	Advance design, permitting	Design, permitting, right-of-way actions	Construction	
Broadway Streetscape & Traffic Calming Improvements	Advance final design	Newport/RIDOT	Advance design, permitting	Finalize design, Construction			



## Study Implementation Progress Report

### TRANSIT

- Encourage Transit Oriented Development
- Enhance Ferry Service

### BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN

- RI\*STARS Pedestrian and Roadway Upgrades
- Shoreline Bikeway (Burma Road) Shared Use Path





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## Study Implementation Progress Report

### ROADWAY

- Regional Traffic Incident Management Plan
- Pell Bridge Access Improvements
- Two Mile Corner Improvements
- Traffic Signal Optimization
- Intersection Capacity/Safety Improvements
- Broadway Streetscape & Traffic Calming





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## Study Keys to Success

- Regional Approach
- Balanced, Integrated Transportation System
- Collaboration
- Public Involvement & Engagement
- Implementation





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## Questions/Discussion

