

The newsletter of Rhode Island's  
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) & State Planning Office



[\[r20.rs6.net\]](http://r20.rs6.net)

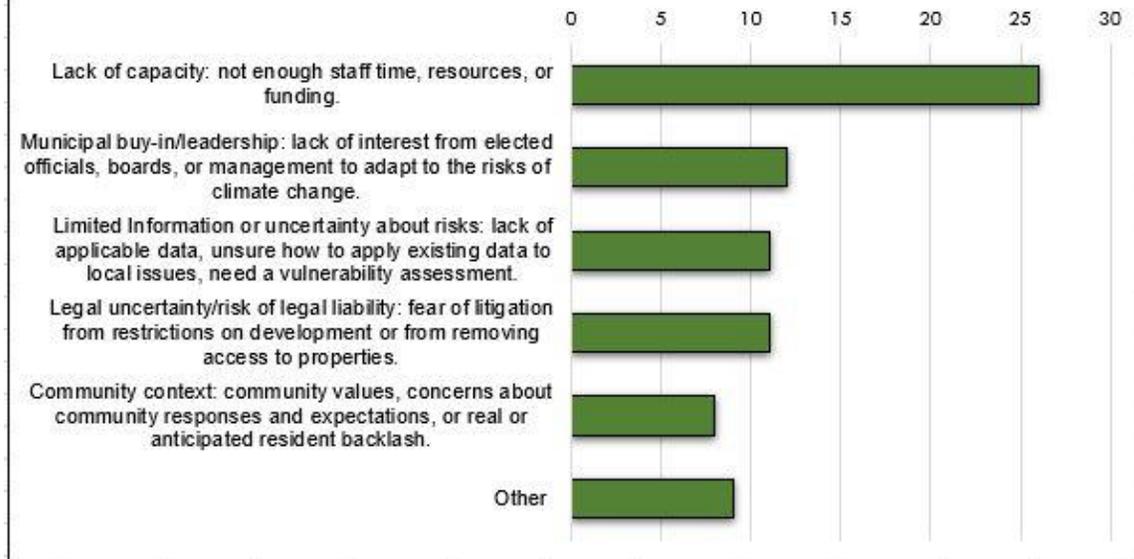
**May 2022**

## **Resiliency Survey Results**

This past winter, RI Division of Statewide Planning staff sent a survey to every municipal planner in the state, asking for their thoughts of climate change and resiliency measures in their community. The results (below) revealed that planners need more resources to plan for a changing climate, sea level rise, vulnerability and adaptation, and lack the support from other staff and elected officials in their municipality.

Based on the survey answers and one-on-one conversations, the RI Division of Statewide Planning is working to create trainings and programs to address the needs that local planners have regarding resiliency efforts. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss your needs and thoughts about local resiliency planning efforts, please contact Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner, at [Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov).

## Barriers to Resiliency: Survey of RI Planners



## Planning Tool: Safer Street Priority Finder



The [Safer Streets Priority Finder \[r20.rs6.net\]](http://r20.rs6.net) a free, open source tool that allows planners and others to analyze the risk to vulnerable road users and improve safety, access, comfort, and mobility for all street users.

The tool takes into consideration areas where a disproportionate share of fatal and serious injury crashes have occurred and identifies areas that are at risk for future crashes. Users can screen local networks for areas with potentially higher risk of pedestrian or bicycle crashes. The tool's outputs account for the value of statistical life lost and disability adjusted life years resulting from crashes that cause death and serious injury. Planners and engineers can evaluate roadway, speed, and road user characteristics at high scoring locations to select appropriate countermeasures and pursue improvements.

By identifying areas, governments and organizations can target funding on projects that will have the greatest impact and address access, safety, and mobility needs for people with disabilities and underserved communities. It can also help states, regions, and local jurisdictions in their efforts to implement multimodal networks that are accessible, interconnected, and allow all users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, to reach their destination safely and conveniently.

## Meredith's Musings

May has finally arrived, giving us a spectacular day of good weather, yet I can't help but noticing the slow spring, the more pronounced swings in the weather, the slightly higher tides, the increased microbursts, and I see the data telling us that we need to change.

All throughout the (ongoing) pandemic, data has been telling us that we need to change our habits. Wash our hands? Check. Stop touching our faces? Check. Wear a mask? Check... sort of, since it seems that as risk goes down, our risk tolerance increases, perhaps disproportionately. Yet longer-term risk and data about what we cannot see seems to follow the "out of sight, out of mind" rubric.

The situation in Ukraine is reprehensible, and although the terrible sights and sounds fill the news broadcasts, it seems it only takes televised slap, a car chase, a sports event, any distraction, really, to consign the horrors happening an ocean away to a part of our brains tasked with dealing with problems too big to be addressed by any one individual.

My point? (Yes, I do have one!) My personal theory is that our isolation through the pandemic has made us feel more hopeless and helpless in the face of the large-scale problems that need to be addressed. We need to work together, as teams, communities, states, nations, to develop solutions for large-scale crises. As part of the [\[r20.rs6.net\]FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\) \[r20.rs6.net\]](#), the Division of Statewide Planning will be putting some funding and staff time into resilience planning, helping with climate-related tasks, developing capacity for GHG modeling, and also assisting in getting transportation infrastructure grant applications off the ground (or is that "on the ground"?) in very small (15,000 population or less) communities.

As always, I hope what we are doing in the office makes a difference. I hope what I'm doing personally makes a difference. It's May, more days filled with sunshine ahead, and despite all of the problems in the world, it smells a little like hope.

## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

Please check the links for public meeting format information and/or cancellations.

[Technical Committee \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

**May 6- 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find this structure?

**[State Planning Council \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)**

**May 12 - 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

**[Water Resources Board \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)**

**May 20 - 9AM**

Room 300, 235 Promenade, Providence

**[Transportation Advisory Committee \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)**

**May 26 - 5:30PM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence



See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

## Events

*Events may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.*

**May 4 [Getting Ready for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program - Cities, Towns & Transit Agencies. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)** The U.S. Department of Transportation is hosting a pre-application webinar for potential applicants interested in applying for the first round of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be released in spring 2022. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

**May 4 [How Regional Agencies Keep Shared Micromobility Rolling \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)**. Hear from two regional dynamos who will share their insights into the role that regional agencies can play in shared micromobility and the important ways they provide support to their member jurisdictions. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**May 5 [Olmsted and Yosemite: Civil War, Abolition, and the National Park Idea \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)**. This webinar will examine Frederick Law Olmsted's 1865 Yosemite Report—the key document that expresses the aspirational vision of making great public parks keystone institutions of a renewed liberal democracy. Time: 2PM-3PM. Fee: \$5-\$15.

**May 5 [Reforming Governance to Transform Cities. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net)** Complicated governance is often at the root of the obstacles to implement transportation solutions aimed to improve the environment and target social equity. This webinar will explore how governance can help or hinder smart transportation policies. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

**May 6 - May 8 [Jane's Walk Providence 2022 \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net).** Explore neighborhoods on foot during Jane's Walk, a global festival inspired by urban activist Jane Jacobs. Walks are led by locals and get people thinking, talking, and connecting. All walks are free, anyone can participate, no tickets are needed, rain or shine! Walks include:

- Plats, Lots, and Plots: A Walk in Locust Grove Cemetery
- Downtown Providence's LGBTQ History
- The River at the Heart of the City
- Walking Out Loud on Hope Street: What Would Jane Jacobs Say?

**May 6 [Using E-Bike Incentive Programs to Expand the Market: Trends and Best Practices. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net)** This webinar will include best practice gained from review of 50+ programs and a discussion of the benefits of promoting e-bike uptake in regard to mode shift, VMT, emissions, and human health will be provided. Time: 2:30PM-3:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

**May 11 [The Role of Parks in Environmental Justice \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net).** Tune into this National Parks Service webinar featuring a panel of National Park Service staff who represent different park and will discuss their roles in Environmental Justice, including building meaningful engagement. Time: 2Pm-3PM. Free.

**May 12-13 [Get Housing Right Conference \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net).** The URI Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies is hosting this two-day conference to explore affordable housing options and public policy. The event will be hosted virtually May 12 and in-person at URI's Providence Campus on May 13. Time: 9:30AM-5:30PM. Free and open to the public.

**May 12 [RIFMA Annual Conference. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net)** The theme for this year's RI Flood Mitigation Association virtual conference is "Media, Flooding, and Public Perspectives on Flood Risk." Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$35. AICP and CFM credits pending.

**May 13 [Technology Tools for Sustainability. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net)** This course will introduce planners to the basics of sea level rise science and impacts of stormwater on communities, introducing two digital tools - the NOAA Digital Coast and Climate Central - to aid planning for these conditions. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**May 13 [Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Impaired Driving \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net).** Despite a decrease in vehicle miles traveled, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported increases in impaired driving in 2020 and 2021. This webinar will explore pandemic-related drinking and driving behaviors. Time: 2:30PM-4PM. Fee: \$60.

**May 13 [Why Your City Needs a Car Master Plan. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.uri.edu/rs6net)** How did our cities evolve into places where cars dominate, and where can we go from here? To move to a new paradigm, cities need to acknowledge car dominance and focus on cars with the same rigor they do other modal plans. Time: 2:30PM-3:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

**May 18 - May 20 [National Planning Conference 2022 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).** APA is offering this online version of the annual conference. Fee: \$75-\$450.

**May 18 [Science Bringing Solutions: Delivering Environmental Improvement to Southeastern Coastal New England. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)** Attendees will have an opportunity to learn virtually about the latest research on environmental issues facing the southeastern New England coastal region. Time: 8:30AM-5PM. Free.

**May 18 [Summit of the US EPA and New England State Water and Wastewater Leaders. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)** This virtual EBC summit will include discussion regarding the various ways the states are working together on regional water issues that include extreme weather events, drought, flooding, and other climate change related topics. Time: 9:30AM-12PM. Fee: \$15-\$100.

**May 20 [Planning for Healthier Communities: Consider a Nurse \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).** Learn about the value that nurses can bring to local decisions and identify local government boards that could benefit from the skills and perspective that nurses bring to create opportunities for healthy planning in communities. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**May 24-25 [Resilient Coastal Wetlands and Communities: Multi-Regional Workshop. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)** The U.S. EPA hosts workshops to share information and ideas from diverse approaches to wetlands resilience and climate adaptation across multiple regions, organizations, and communities. Time: 11AM-4PM. Free.

**May 25 [Conducting Effective Public Meetings \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).** Virtual workshop for RI volunteer board and commission members on how to run meetings and make effective land use decisions. For more information and registration, please contact [Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov) or [Paul.Goncalves@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.Goncalves@doa.ri.gov). Time: Evening. Free.

**May 25 [Democratizing Preservation: How the Providence Preservation Society \(PPS\) is Recalibrating for the 21st Century. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)** PPS's new strategic plan reconsiders the role of preservation and has drawn national attention for putting equity and restorative justice at the heart of all work moving forward. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

**May 26 [Equity-Centered Local Climate Action Planning \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).** Experts will discuss best practices for taking an equity-centered approach to local climate action planning, from meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement to implementation and accountability to impacted communities. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**Anytime** [The Pedestrian & Bicycle Information Center \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) has a library of free webinars on topics such as safety improvements for biking and walking, planning multimodal networks for an automated future, health and cycling, crash data, and more.

## Grant Deadlines

**May 16** [Farmers Market Promotion Program \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) is for projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets. This USDA program focuses on supporting/promoting direct producer-to-consumer marketing such as farmers markets, roadside stands, agritourism activities, CSAs, or online sales.

**May 16** [Local Food Promotion Program \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) funds projects that support the processing, aggregation, distribution, and storage of local and regional food products that are marketed locally or regionally, including value-added agricultural products.

**May 17** [Preservation and Access Education and Training \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) grant deadline. This National Endowment for the Humanities program supports the development of knowledge and skills among professionals responsible for preserving and establishing access to humanities collections.

**May 23** [Infrastructure for Rebuilding America \(INFRA\) program \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) deadline. This US DOT program will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and help eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.

**May 23** [National Infrastructure Project Assistance \( \[r20.rs6.net\]MEGA\) grant program \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) will fund major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs to support multijurisdictional or regional projects of significance, including highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects.

**May 23** [Rural Surface Transportation Grant \(RURAL\) \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) deadline. This program will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.

**May 31** [Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities grant \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.r20.rs6.net) deadline. The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

Deadlines for Upcoming US DOT grant opportunities for transportation projects are [here. \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

## Articles of Interest

[Pandemic-fueled suburban growth doesn't mean we should abandon climate resiliency \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

['Middletown Center' clears initial hurdle \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

[RI town residents wonder: Who's a better neighbor? A solar field or a new housing development? \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

[Town hears case for mixed-use TIF district \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

[Community input is bad, actually \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

## RI Statewide Planning Staff

[Click here \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) for staff contact information.

## Photo Trivia Answer

**Shannock Village (RICHMOND)**

[Horseshoe Falls dam \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) (ca. 1730)

Photo: Providence Journal

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