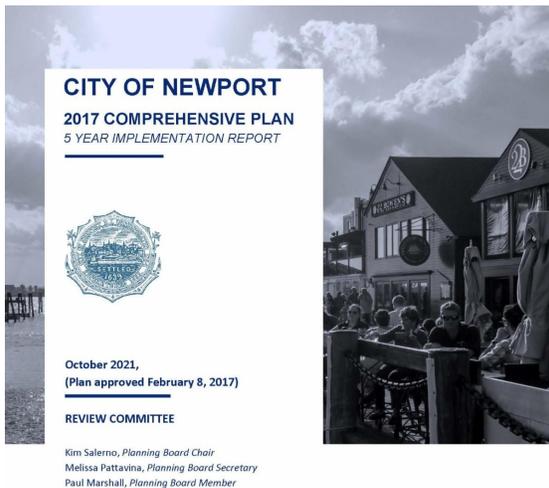




February 2023

Five-Year Comp Plan Implementation Report Reminder



The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (§45-22.2-12) requires municipalities with an approved comprehensive plan submit an “informational report on the status of the comprehensive plan implementation program with the Division of Planning not more than five years from the date of municipal approval.”

The purpose of this report is to ensure that municipalities are assessing their progress toward achieving the actions identified in their Plan’s implementation program. It's

also a great opportunity to take stock of a municipality's progress toward Plan implementation.

The Act does not specify how the report should be presented but, as an aid, the Division has developed a suggested reporting template on our [Local Comprehensive Planning webpage](#), where you will also find completed five-year reports from other Rhode Island communities and a [webinar](#) from our office about the reports. Please note that our template does not preclude municipalities from developing their own reporting format.

Our office greatly appreciates the opportunity to work with our municipal partners in the drafting of community comprehensive plans! Filing this report with Statewide Planning will allow us to look for areas where we could potentially offer communities trainings and future technical assistance on how to incorporate achievable goals into a Comp Plan.

Please contact [Roberta Groch](#), Assistant Chief, for more information.

Annual Planner Check-ins to Resume

It's almost time for staff from Statewide Planning to start scheduling our "chats" with municipal planners around Rhode Island. To stay connected to municipal planners in the State, RI Division of Statewide Planning staff started conducting these meetings with local planners to find out how they are doing, what they are working on, and how we can help them.



Statewide Planning started the now-annual visits in February 2021, as a way to connect during the Covid pandemic: to date, we we have held sixty-two chats with thirty-two communities. These chats are held virtually, in person at a municipal building, over coffee or, with one town planner, at a local burrito restaurant.

Please remember that Statewide Planning is always here for municipal planners for assistance with an issue or problem. As a result of our visits, we have helped local planners by: researching ordinances and regulations in other places; assisting with issues involving other State agencies; connecting planners who are working on similar projects in different municipalities; providing leads on potential funding sources; and much more.

We'll be reaching out to RI municipal planners starting this month to schedule a virtual (or in-person) visit. See you soon!

Top Ten Articles of 2022

In case you missed them the first time, here were the top ten most popular newsletter articles of interest in 2022, based on your clicks:

1. [Update on Covid-19 Traffic Impacts](#)
2. [Census Redistricting Brief](#)
3. [Resident plans to appeal to RI Supreme Court after ruling on development](#)
4. [2022 Legislative Summary](#)
5. [Rhode Island's Outdoor Economy](#)
6. [RI State Actions on Climate Change](#)
7. [Safer Street Priority Finder tool](#)
8. [EJ Screen tool](#)
9. [Judge puts brakes on three-unrelated renter ordinance](#)
10. [City park to be so ld for use as warehouse parking lot](#)

Census News

American Community Survey 5-Year Migration Flows _

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released migration statistics from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS). These data tables highlight the geographic mobility of people between counties, metropolitan statistical areas, minor civil divisions in some states and municipalities (municipios) in Puerto Rico. The [Census Flows Mapper tool](#)

was also updated with the data.

Economic Census Will Survey More Than Four Million Businesses Starting This Week

Most people know that the U.S. Census Bureau measures the nation's population once every ten years; but fewer know that, every five years, it conducts another survey that measures the nation's businesses for a comprehensive measure of U.S. economic activity across more than 21,000 geographic areas. Letters for the 2022 Economic Census are scheduled to be mailed this week and will explain how business respondents can fill out the 2022 Economic Census questionnaires online. Responses from over four million business locations will provide data that paints a more complete picture of U.S. businesses at the national, state and local level. The statistics it collects will cover nineteen economic sectors and encompass 950 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries.

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

State Planning Council

February 9 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Water Resources Board

February 17 - 9 AM

Rm 300, 235 Promenade, Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

February 23 - 5:30PM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Technical Committee

March 3 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

All meetings are open to the public.

PHOTO TRIVIA

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

See the answer at the bottom of the
newsletter!



Events

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

February 1 Creating and Sustaining DEI Committees Learn how to help support and foster the successful implementation of DE&I Committees internally within your firm or organization. Time: 10AM-12PM. Fee: \$50.

February 1 Improving Safety through Advanced Vehicle Technologies. Advanced driver-assistance systems and automation technologies continue to increase. Learn about advanced driving automation systems in today's vehicles. Time: 11AM. Free.

February 3 RI Health Equity Zones Join practitioners from RIDOH, Woonsocket, Newport, and Central Providence Opportunities to learn more about HEZ, current initiatives across the state, and the future of this work. Time: 8:45AM-9:30AM. Free.

February 3 Traffic Behavior of Bicyclists in Interaction with Car Users On Shared Bike Lanes Without Physical Barriers US DOT webinar about the innovative work of top

transportation researchers. Time: 1PM. Free.

February 3 [The Climate Data Power Hour](#). This webinar will introduce urban planners to data and tools to help communities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate impacts. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM, 1 SR.

February 7-9 [Equity Summit](#) is Smart Growth America's virtual gathering of leaders and practitioners who work to ensure that racial equity is a key priority in any smart growth approach. Time: 11AM-3PM. Fee: \$65-\$145. Student pricing is available.

February 8 [Paths to Wildness](#). Lecture on focusing on wildness (not wilderness) as a dynamic, vital force that flows through all kinds of beings and places, including the most densely populated urban areas. Time: 7PM. Free.

February 8 [Assessing Climate Risk to Urban Forests](#). This webinar presents recent findings on climate-adapted tree species and the process that the DC Urban Forest Administration uses for monitoring and adaptive management. Time: 1PM. Free.

February 8 [Transportation Equity: Community-Building in Action](#). Webinar on the critical role of workforce diversity in community building and the potential to help redress historic systemic inequities to access to greater opportunities. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

February 9 [Building Your Volunteer Program: Feeding the Human Machine & Building Capacity](#). Learn strategies for creating a volunteer matrix, how to maximize efforts for volunteers, and how positive (or sometimes negative) feedback should be delivered. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free. 1 CM.

February 9 [Driving Equitable Outcomes Through Electric Vehicles](#). Webinar on public agencies, utilities, community-based organizations, and others can drive equitable outcomes aligned with the Justice40 initiative. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

February 9 [Transforming Commercial Arterials into Bicycle Highways](#). Learn how Montreal transformed a network of arterials throughout the city into Complete Streets by repurposing vehicle lanes into dedicated bicycle pathways. Time: 3PM. Free. 1 CM

February 10 [The Promise of Urban Agriculture, and Why Planners Should Care](#) Webinar will educate planners on how urban agriculture can be integrated into other areas, projects, and concerns. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

February 10 [Third Annual Ocean and Coastal Resources Regional Agency Update Webinar](#). The Environmental Business Council presents a panel of New England regulators discussing the latest coastal hot topics within their jurisdiction. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

February 10 [Measuring Built Environments around the World: New Insights into Urban Sustainability and Health](#). Monitoring urban design and transportation is critical to achieving local and international health and sustainability goals. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM, 1 Eq, 1 SR.

February 13 [Emerging Stormwater Technologies in Rhode Island](#). Webinar about Focalpoint, a stormwater BMP with a smaller footprint that makes it an option for sites with limited space. Time: 9AM-11:30AM. Free.

February 14 [The Art & Science of Borrowing Money: Bridge Loans & State Revolving Funds](#). This session will focus on the benefits and sources of short-term and long-term

debt. Learn about short-term bridge loans and Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Time: 2PM. Free.

February 14-16 [Every Day Counts Virtual Summit](#). EDC is a model that deploys proven, yet underused, innovations to improve safety for all users, shorten the project delivery process, create an equitable transportation system, and build resilient infrastructure.

February 14 [The Walk Audit: An Effective Tool for Community Change](#). Webinar about using Walk Audits to build awareness of walkable design, identify pedestrian safety issues, and advance policy and community development goals. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

February 15 [Community Schoolyards: A Solution for Increasing Park Access in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities](#) Understand the process for transforming underperforming spaces into high-impact recreation/education amenities and hear about funding strategies. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

February 15 [Tenth Annual EBC Offshore Wind Conference: T-minus Seven Years to 30GW by 2030](#). Offshore wind planning /development is advancing in New England: hear updates and forecasts on wind projects and technology. Time: 8AM-12:30PM. Fee: \$50-\$120 for in-person or virtual attendance. Location: 155 Seaport Blvd, Boston.

February 16 [Cultural Landscape Training Framework](#) Learn how professionals can embrace multiple perspectives of the Indigenous landscapes they work on. Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

February 16 [Transportation Safety Culture: Where We Are and What it Means](#). Where should attention be focused to reduce traffic violence? The built environment? Drivers? Engineers? Car culture? What *is* car culture? Time: 3PM-4PM. Free. 1 CM.

February 17 [Next Stop: Transit-Oriented Development- Leveraging Transit to Expand Housing Choices and Affordability](#) Learn about TOD to create vibrant neighborhoods with housing choices close to jobs, services, and essentials. Time: 8:30AM-3PM. Location: RI Convention Center, Providence. Free.

February 21 [Stormwater Management at Public Boat Ramps](#) Presentation focused on lessons learned from two green stormwater infrastructure projects that the Association to Preserve Cape Cod has managed over the last six years. Time: 6:30PM-7:30PM. Free.

February 22 [Climate Conversations: Methane](#). Conversation about how to address emissions of methane, the second largest contributor to climate change, and which accounts for 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Time: 3PM. Free.

February 23 [How to Start a Cultural District in Your Town](#). Webinar presented by the Connecticut Main Street Center. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Free.

February 23 [Shared Mobility Data and Usage Trends](#) How are new shared mobility technologies being used in communities across the U.S.? Learn how usage varies among demographic groups/regions, with a deep-dive of Chicago. Time: 3PM-4PM. Free.

February 24 [Go in the Wilderness: Black Spirituals and the Natural Environment](#) Talk will examine the complex role of nature in Black spirituals. Time: 3PM. Location: URI, 45 Upper College Rd., Kingston, and livestreamed.

February 28 [Disaster Recovery: A Strategic Overview of the Public Assistance Process](#). Overview of the FEMA Public Assistance Process that is essential to disaster recovery

Grants & Deadlines

February 6 [Ocean State Adaptation and Resilience Fund \(OSCAR\)](#) public comment deadline on Coastal Resources Management Council's proposed rulemaking. Comments can be given orally or in writing during the comment period ending on Feb. 6.

February 6 [National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants](#) are for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish.

February 9 [NEA Grants for Arts Projects Program FY2024](#) supports opportunities for public engagement with the arts and arts education, and for the improvement of overall capacity and capabilities within the arts sector.

February 9 [Newport County Fund Grants](#) range from \$1,000 to \$10,000; nonprofit, 501(c) organizations, and municipal departments located and operating in Newport County are eligible to apply.

February 15 [Rhode Island Cemetery Weeks](#) proposals due. RIHPHC welcomes proposals for tours, conservation demonstrations, clean-ups, documentation projects, themed walks, lectures, and more.

February 17 [RI Forest Health Works Project](#) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve forest lands and their related benefits through two distinct paths for land protection. Contact Brunilda.Velez@usda.gov for more information.

February 24 [The National Fund for Sacred Places](#) letter of interest (LOI) deadline. The Fund provides matching grants of \$50,000 to \$250,000 to congregations undertaking significant capital projects at historic houses of worship.

February 27 [Partners for Places Grant Program](#) provides grants of \$75,000- \$180,000 to create/improve collaborative partnerships between local government sustainability and/or water departments, frontline community partners, and place-based funders.

February 28 [RAISE \(Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity\)](#) U.S. DOT grants help complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects at state and municipal levels, Tribal governments, and others.

February 28 [RI Wild Plant Society](#) offers grants up to \$2,500 to aid in the study of wild plants and their habitats. Recipients must be an educator, a member of a RI botanical or environmental association, or a student in botany or environmental related studies.

February 28 [Rural Business Development Grant](#) provides technical assistance and training for small rural businesses that have fewer than fifty new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue.

Articles of Interest

[Town Buys Land to Keep it Out of Hands of Developers](#)

Are Local Governments Leaving Billions on the Table?

Historic Providence Church Slated for 'Attainable Luxury Housing'

Small-town R.I. Communities Are Opposing State Land Use Changes

An Algorithm Could Solve the Crisis of America's Empty Office Space

URI Students Unveil Study, Proposals for Galilee

RI Statewide Planning Staff

Click [here](#) for staff contact information.

Photo Trivia Answer

NORTH SMITHFIELD

The Beef Barn (2021)

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