



July/August 2023

2023 Legislative Session Wrap-up



Here is a short summary of some of the bills passed by the General Assembly (and signed by the Governor) that will affect municipal planners.

H 6085 SUB A/S 1033 SUB A - Amends the Comprehensive Plan Act:

- Requires a comprehensive plan's implementation program to include a five-year "strategic plan."
- Planning boards must submit an annual report that summarizes the status of implementation of the strategic plan to their city or town council, which then must be reviewed by the council at a public meeting.
- A comp plan that is more than twelve years out of date cannot be used to deny a land use decision.
- Takes effect on March 1, 2024.

H 6059 SUB A/S 1032 SUB A - Amends the Zoning Enabling Act:

- Allows lots substandard in area to have reduced dimensional requirements in proportion to the degree of non-conformity.
- Requires specific and objective criteria for each use allowed by special use permit or the use is deemed to be a use by right.
- Takes effect on January 1, 2024.

H 6061 SUB Aaa/S 1034 SUB A – Amends sections of the Subdivision Enabling Act:

Minor Subdivisions:

- A minor subdivision is now nine lots or fewer;
- Applications that do not require zoning relief and meet all the applicable requirements are reviewed and approved administratively; administrative waivers are a local decision.
- An application requiring dimensional relief or street creation requires a public hearing; Preliminary plan is reviewed and approved by the Planning Board.
 - Unified Development Review is required.
- Final review is administrative.

[Read more](#)

Sign up for the Planners' listserv

Are you looking for a place where Rhode Island planners can share ideas and ask questions? Then sign up for the RI planners' listserv!

The listserv provides a virtual space to learn how other planners are meeting challenges, such as the recently-passed legislation, and to share strategies and thoughts.

To request access to the listserv, send an email to: ri-planners@googlegroups.com
The listserv location is: <https://groups.google.com/g/ri-planners/about>

2020 Census Update

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the 2020 Census Demographic Profile and Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).



These products provide the next round of data available from the 2020 Census, adding more detail to the population counts and basic demographic and housing statistics previously released redistricting and apportionment purposes. This release contains more detailed age groups, the first data available on sex from the 2020 Census, information on families and households, and more detail on housing. They also show the intersection of many of these topics by race and Hispanic origin. The [Demographic Profile](#) provides an overview of the topics covered in the 2020 Census in one, easy-to-reference table for geographies down to the tract level.

The DHC provides [more detailed tables](#) at the National, State and County Subdivision level of geography showing Median Age by Sex, and how the median age in Rhode Island is 40.5, slightly higher than the 38.8 median age of the U.S. The municipality in Rhode Island with the highest median age per the 2020 Census was Jamestown, at 55.4. The Demographic Profile and many of the DHC tables are also available for census tracts, block groups, blocks and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas.

We will be developing Census briefs, reports and data visualizations analyzing the 2020 Census Demographic Profile and Demographic and Housing Characteristics data products over the course of the next several months. If you have Census data questions or needs, please see the Division of Statewide Planning website at www.planning.ri.gov or contact Vin Flood, Data Analyst, at Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov.

New Staff Spotlight



Liza Farr is the new Supervising Planner on the Transportation Team of the Division of Statewide Planning. Liza will be managing the Complete Streets Guidance project, along with many other long- and short-range transportation planning projects and programs. Liza came to Statewide Planning from the City of Providence, where she was the Curbside Administrator, managing everything related to parking/curb lane on City streets, including

paid parking, parking policies and regulations, and curb management data and planning.

Liza previously worked at the transit agency in St. Louis on transit-oriented development and bike share. She loves everything to do with transportation planning, and is especially interested in bike, pedestrian, and transit planning, and transportation funding and policy. She received her Master's degree in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her Bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College. Liza loves all outdoor activities, but especially birding, biking, and hiking with her partner and dog.

Contact Liza at Liza.Farr@doa.ri.gov.

Planners on the Move

- **Herb Durfee** is the new Warren Town Planner.
- **Doug McLean** is the new Town Planner in Coventry.
- The new East Providence Planning Director is **Keith Brynes**, who was formerly the Town Planner in Stonington.
- Richmond Town Planner **Shaun Lacey** is starting a new (civilian) job with the U.S. Navy.
- Welcome to **Grant McGregor**, the new Foster Town Planner, and **Hayden McDermott**, the new Assistant Planner in Newport.



Congratulations, everyone!

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.

Water Resources Board

July 21 & August 18 - 9AM

Room 300, 235 Promenade St.
Providence

State Planning Council

August 10- 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill- Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

August 24 - 5:30PM

Room 300, 235 Promenade St.
Providence

Technical Committee/ Planners' Roundtable Discussion

September 7- 2:30PM

Warwick Public Library
200 Sandy Lane, Warwick

PHOTO TRIVIA

Where in Rhode Island can you 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.

July 6 [National Water Trails: Designating Your Trail](#). Discover the benefits to designating your trail(s) as an National Water Trail, the history of the National Recreation Trails program, and the process. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

July 10 [Fostering Sustainability through Freight-Efficient Land Uses](#). Learn actionable guidance on how to integrate freight land-use policy and management with transportation efforts to foster efficient land uses. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 11-12 [Climate Crossroads Summit 2023](#) will engage experts, community stakeholders, and decision makers on equitable pathways to meet the climate crisis in this National Academies summit. Time: 9AM-5PM (Day 1) and 9AM-3PM (Day 2). Free.

July 11 [Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World](#). This timely discussion will explore the detrimental impacts of our parking-centric culture and propose innovative solutions for a more sustainable and efficient future. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

July 11 [Shaping the On-Demand Era for a Sustainable and Equitable Transportation Future](#). Hear about two phases of research on on-demand transportation services such as transportation network companies and microtransit. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

July 12 [Transportation Data Equity Initiative](#). Webinar will discuss how to effectively manage and track accessibility in projects, ensuring inclusivity and compliance. Time: 11AM. Free.

July 13 [Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development Guidance](#). Webinar will provide background information/guidance on Federal legislation, policies, and materials related to bicycle, pedestrian, and shared micromobility programs and projects. Time: 2:30PM. Free.

July 14 [LEED for Communities: Planning for Sustainability, Resilience and Equity](#) will showcase LEED for Cities and Communities, highlight examples from global communities, and give implementation strategies. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 19 [Community-Based and Equitable Transportation Response in Disaster](#). Learn new project ideas and collaboration opportunities to advance community-based and equitable transportation response planning. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. Fee: \$100.

July 19 [Evolution of Bikeways: How Cities Have Progressed](#) Along with the technical aspects of bikeway design, learn how bikeway and multimodal corridors are being used to reconnect communities that have historically been underrepresented. Time: 3PM. Fee: \$85. 1 CM.

July 19 [Shaping the On-Demand Era for a Sustainable and Equitable Transportation Future](#). This webinar aims to shed light on ongoing research and its implications for improving transportation systems for all. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

July 19 [Using Cargo Shipping Containers to Create Housing](#). Presenters will explore the benefit of "cargo-tecture" design and fabrication for planning and housing agencies and communities. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

July 20 [Risk Management: Lessons Learned from Near-Misses on the Trail and in Trail Work](#). What can we learn from near-misses on trail, and in trail work? Time: 1PM-

2:30PM. Free.

July 21 [The Racial and Economic Foundations of Municipal Redistricting.](#) Hear about a study that uncovered ways that governments regulate or suppress movements for racial equity or justice from within. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM Eq.

July 25 [Building with Benefits: Community Ownership of Solar.](#) Learn from leaders in the field and discuss best practices in building equitable community solar systems. Time: 2PM. Free.

July 25 [How Government Agencies Address Transparency Demands.](#) government agencies are challenged with increased scrutiny, greater pressure to deliver on time, within budget, and the need to provide updates to stakeholders. Time: 2PM. Free.

July 25 [Sustaining Multimodal Choices: Examining Travel Behavior for Non-work Trips Beyond COVID-19](#) will focus on understanding the decision-making process of travel mode choices for non-commuting trips. Time: 2PM. Free. 1 CM.

July 26 [Transportation Resilience Addressing Climate Change Challenges](#) Presenters will focus on understanding vulnerability and improving resilience to climate change and extreme weather events impacting all modes of transportation. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Fee: \$100.

July 27 [Outdoors for All.](#) This webinar will delve into ideas for giving access to people of all abilities through various types of barrier removal to additions that can be made to signage, trails, and other features of outdoor spaces. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

July 27 [Partnership How-To's: Lessons Learned for Successful Energy Efficiency Programs.](#) Energy efficiency programs can partner with other organizations as a way of growing success: but what does a “partnership” look like? Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

July 28 [Uncovering Resiliency and Equity in Disaster Recovery.](#) Webinar will highlight new planning methods and an example from Oregon's partnership with county leadership, disaster recovery coordinators, and planners. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

August 2 [Institutionalizing Health Equity in Vision Zero Action Planning.](#) Explore approaches to incorporating health equity in Vision Zero and the role Vision Zero can play in addressing disparities in safety, health, and well-being. Time: 1PM. Free.

August 4 [Thinking Bigger \(and Smarter\): Climate, Money and Beyond](#) Learn to facilitate a stronger and more equitable innovation ecosystem and unlock the full potential of climate solutions and build resilience. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

August 10 [Bridging the Gap: Assessing, Empowering, and Engaging People with Disabilities in the Outdoors.](#) Join for an inspiring session on the vital role of accessibility in parks and trails for people with disabilities. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

August 10 [Planners' Summer Social.](#) The annual APA RI Summer Social is back at Narragansett Beach for food, drinks, music, and fun on the ocean! Location: North Beach Clubhouse, 79 Boston Neck Rd., Narragansett. Time: 6PM-10PM. Fee: \$30 for APA-RI members, \$40 for nonmembers.

August 11 [Food + Freight in Metropolitan Areas.](#) This presentation will discuss the interdependent relationship between freight movements and land use in metropolitan areas. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

August 16 [Systemic Safety: From Analysis to Implementation](#). Learn how to improve safety as well as design, fund, and implement improvements and hear about case studies viewed through a systemic safety lens. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free. 1 CM.

August 17 [Conservation Planning in Municipalities: Case Studies of Urban Wetlands & Waterways](#). Case studies will be shared to illustrate how wetlands and other water resources are managed by communities as green infrastructure and for other ecosystem services. Time: 1PM. Free.

August 17 [Creative Trails Programming Through Public-Private Partnerships](#). Learn about the Atlanta Strong4Life wayfinding/activation strategy to encourage and inspire children to build resilience and cope with challenges. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

August 18 [Race & Place: A Panel Discussion](#). Discussion of restrictive covenants, residential displacement, unfair zoning, and the ways these practices contribute to present-day inequalities and their legacies. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM, 1CM Eq.

August 23 [Environmental Stewardship: Lead & Learn](#) Assoc. of Outdoor Recreation & Education discussion around environmental stewardship successes, challenges, ideas, and stumbling blocks. Time: 2PM. Fee: \$15 for non-members, free for members.

August 24 [Porous Flexible Pavement, Asphalt, or Porous Asphalt: Lessons Learned for Multi-Use Trails](#). Webinar will discuss the various materials used for paved, multi-use trails in the District of Columbia and lessons learned. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

September 7 [Planners' Roundtable](#). Join R.I. planners to discuss the details of changes needed at the local level as a result of bills passed by the General Assembly. Co-sponsored by Statewide Planning and APA-RI. Location: Warwick Library, 600 Sandy Lane. Time: 2:30PM-4PM. Free.

Deadlines

July 6 [NEA Grants for Arts](#) provides comprehensive and expansive funding opportunities for communities supports opportunities for public engagement with the arts and arts education.

July 7 [NAWCA U.S. Standard Grants- Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service](#) supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

July 10 [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) deadline to support planning and demonstration activities, projects and strategies to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users.

July 15 [Community Connectors](#) program helps advance locally driven projects that will reconnect communities separated or harmed by transportation infrastructure and tap available federal and state funds to support them.

July 17 [Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program](#) will improve the condition and quality of existing passenger ferry service, support new passenger ferry services, and repair and modernize ferry boats, terminals, and related facilities and equipment.

July 20 [Placemaking: Making it Happen](#) online training deadline, which takes place September 5-21, 2023. Experience multiple sessions that dive into Project for Public

Spaces' essential tools and principles for improving public spaces.

July 21 [Planning Activities to Improve Freshwater and Estuarine Habitat Quality and Public Access in the Narragansett Bay Region](#) for freshwater and estuarine habitat restoration and/or public access planning projects for Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and Coastal Ponds watersheds in Rhode Island.

July 24 [Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program for Region 1](#) will build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness.

July 28 [Citizenship and Integration Grant Program: Innovations in Citizenship Preparation](#) will expand the availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services for immigrants across the nation and to provide opportunities for immigrants.

August 1 [The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program](#) is a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

August 3 [NEA Our Town](#) is the National Endowment for the Arts' placemaking program to support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities over the long term.

August 7 [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#) will reduce fossil fuel emissions in ways that are environmentally sustainable and maximize benefits for local and regional communities, and reduce total energy use.

August 9 [National Endowment for the Arts](#) deadline for [Media Projects](#) grants and [Public Humanities Projects](#) grants.

August 14 [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#) supports project development leading to future applications to DOT credit or grant program, including legal, technical, and financial advisors to help rural and tribes advance infrastructure projects.

August 17 [NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) co-invests with partners to implement projects that generate conservation benefits by addressing specific natural resource objectives.

August 18 [PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program](#) funds projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail.

August 21 [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge \(NOAA\)](#) will support collaborative approaches to achieving resilience in coastal regions with an emphasis on risk reduction, regional collaboration, equity, and building enduring capacity.

August 21 [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant](#) deadline for three U.S. DOT programs for surface transportation infrastructure: National Infrastructure Project Assistance (**Mega**), Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (**INFRA**), and Rural Surface Transportation Grant (**RURAL**).

September 1 [National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance](#) for implementation of community programs that develop local capability in planning, training, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action.

Articles of Interest

[Who makes planning choices?](#)

[City's short-term rental registration fees set to increase 700%](#)

[Mill complex building is new home to affordable housing, yoga studio](#)

[Trees added to tri-community corridor project](#)

[Agreement reached on easements on 104-acre R.I. solar farm site](#)

[Providence mulls self-storage facility ban](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

Photo Trivia Answer

PAWTUCKET

Armory (1894)

Photo: www.structurae.net

RI Division of Statewide Planning | 235 Promenade Street, Suite 230, Providence, RI 02908
www.planning.ri.gov

[Unsubscribe](mailto:doa.planning@doa.ri.gov) doa.planning@doa.ri.gov

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data](#)
[Notice](#)

Sent by doa.planning@doa.ri.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!