



May 2024

## Yearly Action Report on Comp Plans is Now Required

Legislation that went into effect on March 1, 2024 requires all Rhode Island municipalities to create a report every year that details the actions that will be taken by the municipality to achieve the action items listed in their community comprehensive plan.



The legislation also requires that:

- A report is created annually by a municipality;
- A municipal planning department/planner submits the report to their planning board for the board's review, comment, and findings; and
- The planning board submits the report to their respective city or town council, to be reviewed at a public meeting (*not* a public hearing).

The legislation does not include any deadline or timetable for this report, or require that the report be sent to Statewide Planning. However, municipalities *do* have to send an implementation report to us five years after the date that a comprehensive plan received its state approval.

Please contact Assistant Chief Roberta Groch at Statewide Planning with questions about this new requirement.

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## Solid Waste Management Plan Update Begins



The Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP), in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), has started the process of updating the RI Solid Waste Management Plan.

The plan will serve several functions:

- Guiding solid waste planning, decision making and services in the State of Rhode Island over the next twenty years
- As the long-range policy and program guidance document for RIRRC and other State

agencies;

- As the Statewide Resource Recovery System Development Plan, containing twenty-year projections of waste generation, recycling, and disposal, as compared to capacity;
- Guiding the activities of RIDEM and serves as the state solid waste management plan as required by the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (40 CFR 256); and
- As the solid waste management element of the State Guide Plan that, in turn, guides municipal comprehensive plans.

The Plan needs to build on (and be an evolution of) the state's existing Plan: Solid Waste 2038. It will examine the limited life span of RIRRC's Phase 6 landfill, how waste is collected and processed, and how the State will continue to increase diversion rates. It will consider alternatives for how solid waste will be managed when the Phase 6 landfill reaches capacity.

The planning process will consider broader policy issues like single-use plastics, alternative technologies, greenhouse gas emissions, and circular economy programs like green procurement. Since Solid Waste 2038 was developed, there has also been increased attention on diversion of food waste and electronic waste, and commercial recycling continues to lag behind municipal recycling efforts; these issues will need to be examined as part of the Plan.

The result of this effort will be a document that guides policy and decision-making related to the solid waste system and infrastructure over the next twenty years. It will need to consider not only the current waste stream, but reasonable projections of how that waste stream will change, such as increases in waste related to alternate energy sources (i.e., solar, electrification of vehicles, wind power, etc.).

If you would like more information about this plan, please contact Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner.

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## Congratulations to Newport and Statewide Planning!

The RI Division of Statewide Planning is pleased to share an award with the City of Newport for Keep Newport Moving: The City of Newport Transportation Master Plan. The Plan was recognized by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association with the "Award for Excellent Plan," and was presented to the City and Division at the recent APA-RI Awards Party and ceremony in Providence. The Division partnered with the City as part of its "Planning for a Livable Future" Technical Assistance Program for municipalities.



Other award winners were:

- Patricia "Trish" Reynolds, Newport Planning Director- Dan Varin Memorial Leadership Award;
  - Town of Barrington: Walker Farm Climate Adaption Planning, Design and Implementation- Excellence in Plan Implementation;
  - City of Cranston: Affordable Housing Advocacy and Commitment to Equitable Affordable Housing- Affordable Housing Planning Achievement;
  - Joshua Berry, AICP- President's Award; and
  - Amelia Lavalley, Cranston Planning Department Graduate Intern and Interim Planning Technician- Student Award.
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# Rhode Island Planners on the Move

- **Jonas Bruggeman** is now a Senior Planner in Cranston, after previously working as the Woonsocket City Planner;
- **Brianna Valcourt** is a Senior Planner in Cranston;
- **Josh Chase** is the new Planning Technician in Coventry;
- **Jennifer Kilsey** is the Cultural Affairs Program Coordinator in Pawtucket;
- **Sandra Mazo** is the Economic Development Specialist in Pawtucket;
- **Tristan Jimerson** is the new East Providence Planner I/Business Development & Economic Coordinator;
- **Victor Regino**, the former Planner I/Business Development & Economic Coordinator in East Providence is now a Programming Services Officer at the RI Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;
- **Joshua Berry, AICP**, formerly the Town Planner in Lincoln, is now the Chief of Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at the RI Department of Housing;
- **Eric Weiss, AICP**, former state Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the RI Department of Transportation is now a Project Manager for Bowman;
- **Aidan Adam** is the Principal Planner II in Westerly; and
- **Michael Deluca, AICP**, longtime Narragansett Planning Director, is retiring at the end of May.



Congratulations, everyone!

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## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

### State Planning Council

**May 9 - 9AM**

Room 2B, 1 Capitol Hill (DOA), Providence

### Water Resources Board

**May 15 - 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill (DOA), Providence

### Transportation Advisory Committee

**May 23 - 5:30PM**

Rm 300, 235 Promenade St. Providence

### Planners' Roundtable/Technical Committee

**June 6 - 2:30PM**

Barrington Public Library  
281 County Rd.- Collis Family Gallery

*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!

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## Events

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

**May 1 - 30 [Rhode Island Cemetery Weeks](#).** Annual event features tours, clean-ups, gravestone conservation demonstrations, and talks that raise awareness about Rhode Island's local historic cemeteries and promote their preservation. All events are free.

**May 1 [Designing Cities: Healthier and Happier](#).** Speakers: Gil Penalosa and Dr. Diana Grigsby-Toussaint. Location: Brown University School of Public Health, 121 South Main St., Room 245-Providence, Time: 4:30PM – 6PM. Free, but registration is required.

**May 1 [Power of Partnerships to Improve Transportation Decision-Making](#).** TRB webinar will advance the state of the practice in partnership development with traditional and nontraditional partners. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Fee: \$100. 1.5 CM.

**May 2 [Government Procurement from Small Businesses: Advancing Racial Equity](#)** Public contracts have historically been distributed inequitably. How can we remove barriers to participation in government procurement? Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

**May 2 [Implications of Recent Clean Water Act Decision on Land Use Planning](#).** This webinar discusses two Supreme Court rulings, their connections, effects on land use planning, and how to fill the gaps to protect clean water. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM, 1 CM Law.

**May 3 [2024 Power of Place Summit](#).** GrowSmart RI's event features a keynote speaker, panel discussions about smart growth, exhibits, and networking. Time: 8AM-4:30PM. Fee: \$45-\$175 (senior and student rates are available).

**May 3 [How We Can Transform the Future of Preservation](#).** Hear about creating a just preservation movement, dismantling preservation's "culture of preciousness," affordable housing, and climate change. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**May 4-5 [Jane's Walk PVD](#).** Explore Providence neighborhoods on foot with this global walking festival inspired by Jane Jacobs. Explore Field's Point, the old and new State Houses, Dudley Street, LGBTQ history, Babe Ruth's life in Providence, and more! Times and locations vary. Free.

**May 7 [Indigenous Climate Action at the Speed of Consent](#)** Lecture will discuss Indigenous climate action and the importance of Indigenous consent in climate change mitigation. Time: 4PM-5PM. Free.

**May 8-10 [NPC24 Online](#).** View sessions from the 2024 National Planning Conference in Minneapolis. Fee: \$400-\$450 (retiree and student rates are available).

**May 13 [NWS Partners and Users Heat Webinar](#).** Webinar will cover current operational heat-related products issued by the Climate Prediction Center and Weather Prediction Center, including future plans, and initiatives related to heat. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**May 14 [Transportation Electrification and Smart Growth in the U.S.](#)** Learn how smart growth strategies can work with transportation electrification policy to maximize climate, equity, mobility, quality of life, and sustainability benefits. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free. 1 CM.

**May 15 [A Case for Communities to Drop Parking Minimums](#).** Webinar will present three communities of different sizes that have eliminated parking minimums, whether downtown or throughout the community. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$25. 1.25 CM.

**May 15 [Green Infrastructure Planning for Healthier, Resilient Communities](#).** Webinar will discuss planning for and incorporating green infrastructure on the macro and micro scale in communities. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.



**May 16 [Am I Not a Man and a Woman? The Rise of African Heritage Political Identity in Gilded Age Rhode Island.](#)** During the Gilded Age, Newport was a magnet for leading African heritage families and for rare unrestricted cultural and political interchange. Time: 6PM-7PM. Location: Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave., Newport, or via Zoom. Fee: \$0-\$20.

**May 17 [Beyond the Pump: Rethinking Transportation Funding Without the Fuel Tax](#)** Our transportation system faces a predicament: less gasoline purchased means less fuel tax revenue; policymakers must find a replacement as soon as possible. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free. 2 CM.

**May 17 [How We Reconstructed the Neighborhood Destroyed by the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.](#)** Editors at The New York Times analyzed maps, directories, census data, newspaper clippings and survivor accounts to create a 3D model of Greenwood. Time: 12PM. Free.

**May 21-23 [Introduction to Transportation Data and Analysis Tools.](#)** In this course, participants will learn about transportation data, collection, and quality control, geographical information systems, and data visualization tools and techniques. Time: 8:30AM-1PM. Fee: \$200.

**May 22 [Changing Hydrology in Cities.](#)** Hear about extreme flooding in cities and management efforts to mitigate and adapt to flooding in Baltimore. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free.

**May 22 [Equitable Data Analysis.](#)** Learn innovative examples to inspire transportation professionals to equitably implement transportation improvements. Time: 1PM. Free.

**May 23 [2024 RIFMA Conference.](#)** Join floodplain and stormwater managers, municipalities, nonprofits and others at this annual conference. Time: 8AM-4:30PM. Location: URI's Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, 120 Flagg Rd., Kingston. Fee: \$40-\$150.

**May 23 [Building Adaptive Trail Programming: Lessons from the Field.](#)** Webinar will introduce best practices for implementing an adaptive hiking program, showcasing two successful programs. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free. 1 CM.

**May 29 [Black Life in Mount Hope.](#)** This walking tour of a Providence neighborhood will explore the ways in which institutionalized legal, economic, and social power sought to limit the lives of Black Rhode Islanders. Time: 5:30PM-7PM. Fee: \$12-\$15.

**May 31 [Climate Conversations: Community-Driven Relocation.](#)** Discussion will dive into the nuances of community-driven relocation and its implications for community well-being. Time: 12:30PM-1:45PM. Free.

**May 31 [Streets are for People! Livable Streets and Five Decades of Conflict, Power and Promise of Our Streets.](#)** Streets constitute the majority of our public spaces, yet we struggle with how they should be designed and operated for travel, safety, and livability. Time: 2:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

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## Grants & Deadlines

**May 6 [U.S. DOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunities](#)** deadline for National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega), Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants (INFRA), and Rural Surface Transportation Grants (Rural).

**May 8** Deadline for [National Archives' grant programs](#), including Major Collaborative Archival initiatives, Archives Collaboratives, and Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions.

**May 10 [Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant Program](#)** to assist public entities in facilitating and evaluating public-private partnerships and exploring innovative financing and

delivery opportunities for transportation.

**May 14** [Local Food Promotion Program](#) and [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) grant deadlines from the USDA.

**May 16** [Safe Streets for All \(SS4A\) Implementation Grants](#) deadline to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

**May 17** [Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience \(OSCAR\) Fund Program](#) for Rhode Island adaptation and resilience projects that protect or enhance coastal or riverine habitats to address the impacts of climate change.

**May 21** [National Endowment for the Humanities' Cultural and Community Resilience](#) program supports community-based efforts to address the impacts of climate change by safeguarding cultural resources and fostering cultural resilience.

**May 21** [Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program](#) loans and grants provides funds for construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.

**June 1** [Litter-Free Rhode Island Cleanup/Beautification Micro-grant](#) initiative to conduct litter pick-ups or other volunteer clean-ups and beautification projects to be completed by June 15.

**June 5** [Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement \(PRICE\)](#) grants for the preservation and revitalization of manufactured housing and eligible manufactured housing communities.

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## Articles of Interest

[Former RI restaurant site planned for 62 affordable housing units](#)

[Eight years into America's e-scooter experiment, what have we learned?](#)

[Officials want town to borrow and spend \\$3M for housing projects](#)

[Maximum setback in zoning ordinance ruled invalid](#)

[Can Baby Boomers be enticed to sell their homes?](#)

[Ordinance would require Council approval before removal of bike lanes](#)

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## RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

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## Photo Trivia Answer

**EAST GREENWICH-** [Windmill Cottage](#) (1790)

Photo: Wikipedia

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