



September 2024

September is National Preparedness Month

Help Your Local Businesses Be More Prepared



Small businesses are the economic engines of Rhode Island, and probably for your town, too. However, experience shows that forty percent of small businesses affected by a disaster never re-open; another twenty-five percent that *do* re-open, fail. The RI Small Business Risk Reduction guides were developed to help small businesses be better prepared for extreme weather events.

Guides are available for eight types of businesses, including restaurants, retail, manufacturing, construction and lodging. Each guide has a checklist to help identify how vulnerable/prepared businesses are for an extreme weather event and recommended strategies for reducing risk. Strategies are identified by those that need lower to higher amounts of money, staff time, and/or additional square footage to implement. There

is also a section with detailed information about different kinds of insurance.

The guides are available for viewing and downloading at the State's climate website: www.climatechangeri.gov. To receive paper copies of the guides or magnets with top resiliency tips for your municipality's small businesses, please contact [Roberta Groch](mailto:Roberta.Groch). To learn more about how to ensure your family and home are prepared for weather emergencies, go to www.usa.gov.

Planners' Roundtable- September 13

There will be a roundtable discussion for municipal planners and others on **Friday, September 13** from **2:30PM-4PM** at the **Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane**.

Join other Rhode Island planners to learn about the new state Complete Streets plan; how to implement food systems projects that lead to climate, food access, and economic outcomes; and how individual municipalities are progressing with the changes required as a result of [bills passed](#) by the General Assembly in 2024. This roundtable will help inform your work through idea-sharing and learning from your fellow planners!



Parking is available behind the library, or take the #3 RIPTA bus to the stop on Warwick Ave. just past Sandy Lane and walk one-third mile to the library. You can also join [via Zoom](#).

This event is co-sponsored by the [RI Division of Statewide Planning](#) and the [Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association](#).

Join us for Statewide Planning's 60th Birthday!



To celebrate our Big 6-0, please join us for an open house celebration on

Thursday, October 17, from 1PM-4:30PM

at our office in The Foundry, 235 Promenade Street, Suite 230, Providence.

Stop by and say "hello," have some cake and coffee, meet our staff, and look through our archives, photos and library going back to 1964 (and earlier)!

We want to have as many former Statewide Planning employees join us during the day as possible, so if you have ever worked (or interned) in our office, please join us.

Enter through the rear doors of The Foundry on Beach Street. Free visitor off-street parking is available on Promenade Street, just west of Holden Street.

Planners on the Move (aka "Musical Chairs")

- **Stephanie Davies** is the new Town Planner in Lincoln ;
- **Abigail McVerry** is the new Principal Planner in Cumberland;
- **Jill Sabo, AICP, CFM**, is the Planning Director in Narragansett; and
- **Johanna Walczak**, former Planner II in East Providence, is now a Project Planner for the Horsley Witten Group.



Congratulations, everyone!

Planners' Summer Social at Narragansett Beach



The annual APA-RI Summer Social is back at the North Beach Club on beautiful Narragansett Beach on **Thursday, September 12** for food, drinks, networking, and fun on the ocean!

Join other RI planners, see old friends, and make new ones. Time: 5PM-8PM. Tickets are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and are available [here](#). Ticket price includes dinner and beer, wine, and soft drinks.

Free parking is available after 5PM in the NBC and Town Beach lots. If you would like to carpool or need a roundtrip ride from Providence, please send a request to aparhodeisland@gmail.com.

Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.

State Planning Council

September 12 - 9AM

DOA- Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill
Providence

Technical Committee/Planners' Roundtable

September 13 - 2:30PM

Warwick Library, 600 Sandy Lane

RIGIS Executive Committee

September 18 - 2:30PM

William Hall Library- Auditorium
1825 Broad St., Cranston

Water Resources Board

September 19 - 9AM

DOA- Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill
Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

September 26 - 5:30PM

Room 300, 235 Promenade St.
Providence



PHOTO TRIVIA

Where in RI you can find this
commemorative site?

The answer is at the bottom of the
newsletter!

Events

September 4 Historic Preservation Strategies in Hazard Mitigation Planning. Webinar will explore methods to incorporate cultural resources into risk assessments and share practical approaches to inclusive mitigation strategies. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free.

September 4 Roadway Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness. Webinar will focus on equitable design strategies, dive deeper into equitable data analysis, and discuss roadway safety for people experiencing homelessness. Time: 1PM. Free.

September 4 When Driving Is Not An Option. About one third of people living in the United States do not have a driver's license. Learn how improving our transportation system with nondrivers in mind will enhance the quality of life for all. Time: 2PM. Free.

September 5 Future of Facilitated Recreation. Session will explore challenges, opportunities, conversations and connections that are at the forefront of the profession of participant-facing facilitated recreation. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. 1.5 CM.

September 5 How to Measure and Communicate the Value of Access Management. Managing roadway access improves traffic safety and enhances the livability of major roadway users, yet agencies often lack the tools to effectively communicate these benefits. Time: 10AM-12PM. Free.

September 10 Prioritizing Safe Speeds: It's Possible! Learn some of the steps your community can take to implement effective, sustained speed management efforts for safety. Time: 1PM. Free.

September 11 Tactile Wayfinding: Improving Access for People with Vision Disabilities. Hear requirements for successful tactile wayfinding, along with guidelines for planning, designing,

constructing, and maintaining it in different transportation settings. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

September 12 [APA-RI Summer Social at Narragansett Beach](#) The annual APA-RI (End of) Summer Social is back at the North Beach Club in Narragansett for food, drinks, networking, and fun with friends on the ocean! Time: 5PM-8PM. Fee: \$15 for PPS members, \$20 for others.

September 12-13 [Macroeconomic Implications of Decarbonization Policies and Actions](#). Learn how the interplay between decarbonization strategies and the macroeconomy plays a crucial role in informing equitable and effective public policy. Time: 9AM-5PM. Free.

September 12 [The Intentional City: Learning from Brooklyn and Austin](#). Providence has written a new Comprehensive Plan that will shape the city for decades to come. What can be learned from cities that have centered community participation and neighborhood preservation in their future visions? Time: 5PM-6:30PM. Fee: \$5 PPS members, \$10 for others.

September 17 [New England Energy Leadership Conference](#). Hear the latest from state leaders in energy policy and programs, permitting and regulatory changes, policy developments, and what keeps them up at night. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$30-\$110.

September 17 [Reading the Roadway](#). Training will teach participants how to “read the road” to uncover potential safety issues during routine activities and how the road safety audit process can be used as a more formal approach. Time: 11AM-1PM. Free.

September 18 [Getting to Goldilocks: Housing Communities, Building Neighborhoods, Preserving Nature](#). Urbanist Vishaan Chakrabarti will discuss how architecture can address some of our most pressing challenges, from climate change to the housing crisis. Location: RISD Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk, Providence. Time: 5PM-7PM. Fee: \$10 for PPS members, \$15 for others.

September 18 [Planning for New Forms of Micromobility](#). How do cities accommodate the substantial benefits of these new device types while also maintaining safe and effective operations on streets and trails? Time: 3PM. Fee: \$25-\$85.

September 19 - 20 [Design + Spatial Justice Summit](#). This Boston Architectural Center event will promote equitable design practices and spatial justice for professionals and community advocates and present innovative solutions. Location: 290 Congress Street, Boston. Time: 8:30AM-7PM. Free.

September 19 [Plumbing the Depths: Ethics in Community Planning and Zoning](#). Gain an understanding of moral theories, analyze planning-related scenarios, and learn about unjust or unfair behaviors or regulations related to local planning. Time: 6:30PM. 1 Ethics CM.

September 20 [Park\(ing\) Day](#). Park(ing) Day is a global project to temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into parks and social spaces. Go to www.parkingdaypvd.com to sign up for a spot, or come downtown and visit! Location: Westminster Street, Providence. Time: 8:30AM-5PM. Fee: \$25.

September 20 [Regenerative City Symposium: Innovation Towards Sustainability Success](#). Explore innovations in sustainability planning to create a net positive city planned and renovated to mimic nature’s economy for sustainability and inclusive prosperity. Time: 12PM-3PM. Free. 3 CM, SR 1.

September 23 [Artificial Intelligence and Rural Transportation Network Resilience Against Disasters](#). Webinar from the Rural Equitable Accessible Transportation Center, Florida A&M University and Florida State University. Time: 2PM. Free.

September 24 [Climate Equity and Environmental Justice: Leveraging Data and Evidence](#). Webinar is presented by the U.S. DOT's Climate Center to address the nation's most pressing transportation and climate challenges. Time: 2PM. Free.

September 24 - October 10 [How to Create Successful Markets](#). Planners, policymakers, and others will learn to create thriving public markets that are economically sustainable and contribute to the creation of inclusive public places. Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10AM-12PM. Fee: \$500-\$600.

September 25 - 28 [Land Trust Alliance Rally 2024](#). The LTA's national conference will bring 2,000 passionate land conservation practitioners to Rhode Island. Location: RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence. Fee: \$665-\$840.

September 26 [Assessing and Advancing Belonging: Overcoming Roadblocks to Inclusion](#). Interactive workshop provides a framework for honestly evaluating an organization's or community's stage of inclusion for recreational trails. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

September 26 [Brick by Brick: Building Health Through Homes and Neighborhoods](#). Webinar on how linking housing vouchers, housing mobility programs, and COVID-19-era eviction moratoriums. and rental assistance to health outcomes. Time: 12PM. Free.

September 27 [Community Engagement for Climate Resilience: What Is It and How Do You Do It Well?](#) Understand the skills, practices, and benefits when project teams and community members partner to identify viable solutions to climate challenges. Time: 9:30AM-12:30PM. Fee: \$15-\$45.

Grants & Deadlines

September 13 [CNU Legacy Project application deadline for design workshops](#) that will take place in the RI region during the CNU33 Conference in Providence on June 11-14, 2025, with a focus on a downtown, neighborhood, commercial district, or corridor projects.

September 16 [YouthBuild](#) prepares participants for quality jobs in a variety of careers, in diverse industry sectors, particularly in infrastructure sectors.

September 18 [Climate Smart Humanities Organizations](#) deadline to undertake activities such as energy audits and risk assessments to create a climate smart plan.

September 23 [National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants Program](#) is for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish.

September 23 [Railroad Crossing Elimination Program](#) funds highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods.

September 27 [FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal Program](#) awards funding to support the removal of large marine debris that cannot be removed by hand, including abandoned and derelict vessels.

September 30 [Candidate Species Conservation](#) accomplishes conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated.

September 30 [Coastal Program](#) provides technical and financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

September 30 [Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program](#) provides direct technical assistance and

financial assistance primarily through cooperative agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat.

September 30 [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program](#) assists economically- disadvantaged and undeserved communities to restore connectivity through the removal, mitigation, or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure.

September 30 [Recovery Implementation](#) funding opportunity supports the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species.

September 30 [Rail Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program](#) funds projects that initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail transportation.

October 1 [Bridge Investment Program Project Grants and Planning Grants](#) focus on existing bridges to reduce the overall number of bridges that are in poor condition, or are in fair condition and are at risk of falling into poor condition.

Articles of Interest

[How housing and a Cranston neighborhood became a political minefield](#)

[Cities, states use AI and GIS to make permitting less painful](#)

[Big-box retail is betting that people want to live above the store](#)

[Climate risk is still not priced into American homeownership](#)

[Why no one is building middle-income housing in American cities](#)

[Acres of trees come down to make way for RI housing development](#)

Photo Trivia Answer

PORTSMOUTH

Battle of Rhode Island site (1975)

The battle took place in 1778.

Photo: Wikipedia

[RI Statewide Planning Staff Listing](#)

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