



March 2025

## Municipal Technical Assistance Application Now Open

The Division of Statewide Planning has opened the application process for our active transportation planning municipal assistance program!

RI municipalities can apply receive transportation planning assistance for bicycle and/or pedestrian plans, increasing bike/ped access on retail corridors or to local business areas, increasing mobility options, and other plans to increase multi-modal transportation choices.



Examples of past technical assistance projects include the [Pawtucket/Central Falls bicycle/pedestrian plan](#), the City of Newport's [Transportation Master Plan](#), a bicycle plan for East Providence, and the [Route 114 Resilience Plan](#) for Bristol, Warren and Barrington.

The application, FAQ sheet, instructions, and additional information are available at [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov). **Applications are due by Monday, April 3 2025, at 4PM.**

For more information, please contact [Joshua O'Neill](#), AICP, Supervising Planner. We look forward to assisting another municipality!

---

## New State Guide Plan Element Approved



*Ocean State Accelerates* the 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (or "CEDS"), is now the new Economic Development element of the State Guide Plan. The plan is Rhode Island's blueprint for the future, with robust data analytics and action items. The plan was drafted by the RI Commerce

Corporation, with assistance from the Division of Statewide Planning and a diverse group of public, private, and institutional stakeholders.

Local planners who are updating their community's Comprehensive Plan must now

ensure that their economic development goals and policies align with those of *Ocean State Accelerates*, such as sustainable growth and supporting small businesses.

---

## Planners' Roundtable Discussion - March 7

The next Planners' Roundtable discussion will be held on Friday, **March 7 at 2:30PM** at the **Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane**.



Items to be discussed at the roundtable include an update from the RI Housing Department on *Housing 2030*, a discussion about the new lead registry and local historic districts with the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, and a summary of bills introduced by the RI General Assembly to date that will impact RI planners.

Free parking is available in the lot in back of the library, or take the RIPTA #3 bus to the Sandy Lane stop and walk 1/4 mile to the library.

If you cannot attend in person, you can also join via [Zoom](#).

---

## Remembering Derry Riding

Former Statewide Planning staff member Derwent "Derry" Riding passed away in Maine on January 26, 2025 at the age of 84.

Born in Sanford, Maine, Derry attended Oberlin College in Ohio and graduated with a degree in Art History. She worked at Statewide Planning as a Principal Planner who was known throughout the state for her involvement in tracking state legislation. A longtime Bristol resident, Derry was avidly involved in local and state politics and was a former member and Past President of the Rhode Island League of Women Voters. She was a proponent of preserving historic and culturally significant properties and oversaw many important preservation efforts, including Mount Hope Farm in Bristol, and served on the board of the Bristol Historical Society.

Derry had a passion for fine art, literature, music and travel. Her travels took her to China, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Russia, Greece, and many more countries. She loved music, and was especially fond of classical music.

Those of us who knew or worked with Derry remember her as smart, forthright, funny, and fearless. She will be missed by the entire Rhode Island planning community.

Derry's full obituary is [here](#).

---

## Solid Waste Management Plan Workshop



Come to a workshop about the development of the next [RI Solid Waste Management Plan](#) and provide input to its goals, policies, and objectives. The meeting will be on **March 26** from **5PM – 7PM** at the William Hall Library auditorium, 1825 Broad Street in Cranston. Registration is [here](#).

---

## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

### Technical Committee/Planners' Roundtable

**March 7 - 2:30PM**  
Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane Warwick

### State Planning Council

**March 13 - 9AM**  
Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### Water Resources Board

**March 19 - 9 AM**  
Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

*All meetings are open to the public.*

### RIGIS Executive Committee

**March 20 - 2PM**  
William Hall Library- Auditorium  
1825 Broad St., Cranston

### Transportation Advisory Committee

**March 27 - 5:30PM**  
Rm 300, 235 Promenade St.  
Providence



## 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.*

**March 3 Methods, Approaches, and Datasets for Extreme Events** Join this information-gathering session assessing current approaches used for extreme event attribution, challenges, and opportunities for future improvements. Time: 11AM. Free.

**March 4 Wildfire Recovery and Planning**. Planning and urban design experts discuss recovery from the Los Angeles fire disasters and urban planning related to wildfires. Time: 12PM. Free. 1 CM.

**March 5 EBC5th Annual Ocean and Coastal Resources Regional Agency Update** This EBC event will present a panel of New England regulators to provide each state's perspective on issues, how it balances disparate interests, and what it sees for the future of the coastal zones. Time: 9AM. Fee \$30-\$175.

**March 7 Insurance's Role at Climate's Frontlines: Crisis, Innovation, and Community**. Hear experts who are leveraging insurance to mitigate climate risks, protect natural resources, and support communities in the face of increasing disasters. Time 9AM. Fee: \$15-\$45.

**March 11 [2025 RI Compost Conference & Trade Show](#)** This event is for anyone who's eager to learn alternative methods of food waste disposal. Location: RI College, 600 Mount Pleasant Ave., Providence. Time: 9AM. Fee: \$40.

**March 12 [Safe Streets for All Rhode Islanders](#)** Hear an overview of RIPTA's SS4A project, detailing its scope, timeline, and the division of work from the statewide to the community level. Time: 12PM. Free.

**March 13 [Community Science Solutions: Documenting the Impacts of Contamination in Land, Air, and Water](#)**. This webinar will dive deep into case study examples of effective community science efforts around the country. Time: 1PM. Free.

**March 13 [Resources and Tools to Improve Pedestrian Safety](#)**. Understanding shared beliefs among transportation stakeholders about pedestrian safety is critical to a positive traffic safety culture and implementing effective strategies. Time: 5PM. Free.

**March 14 [The State of Planning for Climate Response: Professional Perspectives](#)**. Hear opportunities and challenges facing planners in sustainability and climate resilience, along with selected best practices and lessons. Time: 10AM. Free. 1.5 CM, 1 SR.

**March 18 [Regenerative or Sustainable Remediation](#)**. This EBC Site Remediation and Redevelopment webinar will provide an overview of a regenerative or sustainable approach to remediation. Time: 9AM. Fee \$30-\$175.

**March 19 [Nature-Based Solutions for Transportation Resilience](#)**. The USDOT Climate Change Center is hosting this 2025 webinar series on a range of climate change and transportation topics. Time: 2PM. Free.

**March 20 [Building and Engaging Community Advisory Groups](#)** This once-a-month MAPC conversation will focus on different community engagement topics to support this work within your own community. Time: 12PM. Free.

**March 20 [Connecting Recreational Benefits with Transmission Corridors](#)**. Hear how co-locating recreational amenities alongside transmission infrastructure can enhance community well-being Time: 1PM-2:15PM. Free. 1.25 CM.

**March 25 [Does Green Investment Still Have a Place in Trump's Carbon Economy?](#)** What hope is there for green investment? Time: 12PM. Location: Watson Institute at Brown University, 111 Thayer St., Providence, and online. Free.

**March 26 [East Providence Bicycle Master Plan Workshop](#)**. Provide input into this important local plan. Time: 6PM. Location: Weaver Public Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence.

**March 27 [Vegetation Design for Trail Builders](#)**. Join landscape architect Preston Montague for a presentation on his experience developing prairies in a variety of environments. Time: 1PM-2:15PM. Free. 1.25 CM.

**March 29 - April 1 [NPC25](#)**. Join your planning peers at the 2025 APA National Planning Conference to analyze, imagine, and plan for the future of the profession. Location: Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Fee: \$835-\$1,275.

---

## Grants & Deadlines

**March 5 [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#)** fund quick-action projects that can help

communities become more livable for people of all ages, with awards from \$2,500 to \$25,000.

**March 11** [NEA Grants for Arts Projects Program FY2025](#) supports opportunities for public engagement with the arts and arts education, and for the improvement of overall capacity and capabilities within the arts sector.

**March 14** [RIHPHC Certified Local Government \(CLG\) Grants](#) support projects within the following activity categories: Identification/Evaluation of Historic Resources, Planning, Resource-Specific, Public Education, and Statewide Projects.

**March 14** [Community Wildfire Defense Grant \(FY25\) Northeast-Midwest](#) grants assist at-risk local communities with planning and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire.

**March 14** [Community Wildfire Defense Grant \(FY25\) Tribes](#) grants assist at-risk local Indian Tribes with planning and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire.

**March 14** [2025 Certified Local Government \(CLG\) Grants](#) from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission support municipal historic preservation.

**March 15** [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Organic Transition Assistance](#) for Rhode Island farmers.

**March 19** [RIEMA State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program](#) strengthens the cybersecurity practices and resilience of state and local governments to assist with managing and reducing systemic cyber risk.

---

## Articles of Interest

[Town postpones meeting to discuss proposed town center after public opposition](#)

[Residents fend off latest rezoning bid](#)

[Local citizens band together to fight for affordable housing](#)

[Climate impacts are raising the cost of home insurance in RI](#)

[Court vacates CRMC approval](#)

[Future of St. Joseph's Hospital building is unclear: Here's a look into its past](#)

---

## RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

---

## Photo Trivia Answer

NARRAGANSETT  
[Kinney Bungalow \(1899\)](#)

RI Division of Statewide Planning | The Foundry 235 Promenade Street, Suite 230 |  
Providence, RI 02908 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!