



July 2025

## STIP Public Comment

The State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is now accepting comments on the proposed Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the State of Rhode Island.



The Division of Statewide Planning, in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), has prepared a draft of the FFY 2026-2035 Rhode Island STIP. The STIP is the program of transportation projects the state intends to implement using U.S. Department of Transportation funds, state funds, and other funding sources.

The public comment period for the draft FFY 2026-2035 STIP starts on June 30, 2025. We encourage comments to be submitted online via our SmartComment portal, where the draft documents are now available for review. The draft documents can also be viewed at the office of the Division of Statewide Planning between 8:30AM-4PM Monday through Friday (by appointment, please). Comments (both written and oral) must be received by 4:00PM on July 30, 2025.

In addition to the comment portal, the Division is holding two virtual listening sessions via Zoom and two in-person public hearings:

- **July 9 at 12PM** - STIP Public Listening Session 1: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88517861255?pwd=d6TlmKJ7ygiN68VK3AXrwExX7tsBSf.1>
- **July 9 at 5:30PM** - STIP Public Listening Session 2: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84025195591?pwd=mJEbY689NuvvzWoLIMiZ1asezNnOVW.1>
- **July 10, 5PM-7PM** – STIP Public Hearing 1: North Kingstown Library Meeting Room, 100 Boone St., North Kingstown.
- **July 16, 5PM-7PM** – STIP Public Hearing 2: Joseph A. Doorley Building – 1st Floor Conference Room, 444 Westminster St, Providence.

Please contact Mason Perrone at [Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov) with any questions.

# Community Comp Plan Approved



At the June 2025 meeting of the RI State Planning Council, the Town of Exeter received a certificate of approval for their new Comprehensive Plan, Exeter 2044.

The plan balances the town's desire to maintain its rural way of life and protect its natural resources while acknowledging the need for balanced economic growth policies to strengthen the town's tax base and enhance small scale businesses that serve its residents.

Congratulations to the Exeter Town Planner, Planning Board, and Town Council on your plan approval!

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## Planning for the 2030 Census

The 2030 Census Local Update of Census Addresses ("LUCA") Operation is an opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census Bureau's residential address list. A LUCA review starts with governments reviewing their Address Count Listing File (also referred to as block count list) by tabulation block and comparing the totals to their own address list to determine if any discrepancies exist. Governments may find the address count meets expectations and no further review may be necessary.



2030 Census LUCA is planned to start in 2027, however many governments may want to start preparing now. To help your government plan for the 2030 Census LUCA, the Census Bureau has released the 2030 Census LUCA webpage with many operational details. If you have Census data questions or needs, please see the Division of Statewide Planning website at [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov) or contact Vin Flood, Data Analyst, at [Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov).

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## Cannabis Licensing in RI: Municipal Roles and Next Steps



As Rhode Island continues to implement the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, municipalities remain essential partners in shaping the state's adult-use cannabis landscape. With many municipalities having opted into allowing adult-use cannabis retailers, local governments have an important opportunity to help guide development through site suitability reviews, zoning compliance, and the establishment of any additional local oversight measures.

The Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) will soon begin the process to license for twenty-four new retail licenses, including six designated for social equity applicants and six for worker cooperatives, distributed across six geographic zones. Please join the CCC staff and Statewide Planning for a discussion on the municipal role in the upcoming application process on **Tuesday, July 22 at 12PM** via [Zoom](#).

*All meetings are open to the public.*

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

**Transportation Advisory Committee Special  
Meeting**

**August 7 - 5:30PM**

235 Promenade St., Room 300- Providence

**State Planning Council**

**August 14 - 9AM**

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

**Water Resources Board**

**August 20 - 9AM**

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

**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**August 28 - 5:30PM**

235 Promenade St., Room 300- Providence



See the answer at the bottom of the  
newsletter!

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**Municipal Training**

Learn about any upcoming Municipal Land Use Training opportunities for Rhode Island local officials under the "What's New" section of [our homepage](#).

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**Events**

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

**July 1** [Voluntary Property Acquisition on a Watershed Scale in Rhode Island](#). Hear about voluntary buyouts in Johnston, Cranston and East Providence; an overview of the process and the startup phases; and support provided to participating property owners. Time: 12PM. Free.

**July 2** [Costs and Approaches for Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Programs](#) This webinar will discuss the recently-released report, "Municipal Solid Waste Recycling in the United States: Analysis of Current and Alternative Approaches." Time: 4PM. Free.

**July 10** [Funding for Walkability](#). Join America Walks and transportation experts for a conversation about the changing mobility funding environment, with a particular emphasis on non-governmental sources. Time: 2PM. Free.

**July 10** [How U.S. Cities Fund, Govern, and Maintain Parks and Public Spaces](#). Drawing from twenty-seven built projects across nine U.S. cities, this session highlights real-world capital strategies, administrative models, and the trade-offs different cities navigate. Time: 1PM. Free.

**July 17** [East Providence Bike and Pedestrian Pop Up](#). Please join us in East Providence to learn more about the *East Providence Bike and Pedestrian Plan*! Location: Crescent Park, East Providence. Time: 6PM. Free.

**July 18** [AI in Action: Practical Use Cases in County Planning](#) AI-driven automation is transforming permit reviews and inspections, reducing processing times, and ensuring compliance with local regulations. Hear how AI is being implemented and the legal aspects. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**July 18** [The Urgency of Spatial Data in 2025: Building Community-Centered Infrastructures for](#)

**[Data Discovery and Recovery.](#)** As data continues to be removed and/or censored from U.S. governmental websites, adaptive approaches are needed to link data recovery and organization efforts. Time: 12PM. Free. 1 CM.

**July 22 [Cannabis Licensing in RI: Municipal Roles & Next Steps.](#)** Join the RI Cannabis Control Commission staff for a discussion on municipal roles in the upcoming application process. See article, above. Time: 12PM. Free.

**July 23 [Aquatic Litter & Extended Producer Responsibility.](#)** Learn about state policies that address plastic pollution and aquatic litter through Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives in California and Oregon, including details of the policy and what drove action. Time: 3PM. Free.

**July 24 [Innovative Approaches to Housing Development.](#)** Join a conversation with leaders championing new models for funding and constructing smart growth-aligned housing types, such as co-ops and affordable housing. Time: 3PM. Free.

**July 25 [Advancing Equity Through Mobility Zones.](#)** Mobility Zones use a co-creation, place-based model to improve transportation within diverse communities and empowers community members with the transportation needs of their neighborhoods. Time: 12:30PM. Fee: \$35. 1.5 CM.

**July 25 [Assistants for Planners: Consistency, Transparency and Trust.](#)** Industry innovations are reforming planning practices, including EuclidHL, a large-language-model assistant that taps directly into municipal plans, zoning codes, and GIS layers. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**July 29 [Remote Sensing and Drone Tools for Rural Road Resilience.](#)** Explore how remote sensing technologies can assist with road location, design, and condition assessments, road maintenance, drainage design, and storm damage repairs. Time: 12:30PM. Fee: \$60. 1.5 CM.

**July 30 [Extreme Heat & Workforce Health: Navigating Policy and Preparedness.](#)** Drawing on new research, this webinar will help business leaders understand the current state of heat and workforce health and offer insights to help employers prepare. Time: 1PM. Free.

**July 30 [Guiding the Outdoor Recreation Workforce Through Change.](#)** Hear from industry leaders about how they've supported staff; built adaptive organizations; and navigated shifting priorities, evolving public expectations, and dynamic workforce needs. Time: 3PM. Free.

**August 1 [Use By Right and Administrative Approvals.](#)** This APA Michigan session explores ways to reallocate responsibility for administrative development decisions toward administrative professionals. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

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## Grants & Deadlines

**July 9 [Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary](#)** grants will assist cultural organizations with public programs that examine the founding of the nation and the significance of the Declaration of Independence.

**July 14 [Low- or No-Emission Program](#)** (Low-No Program) for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses.

**July 14 [Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#)** assists in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses.

**July 15 [Fiscal Year 2025 United States Marine Highway Program](#)** works to reduce landside congestion through the designation of Marine Highway Routes.

**July 15 [Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund](#)** supports recovery, and related

expenses, for historic and cultural resources in areas that have been impacted by natural disasters.

**July 17** [Old Mill Lane Liquified Natural Gas \(LNG\) vaporization facility written comments](#) deadline for the site in Portsmouth on a filing made by The Narragansett Electric Company (d/b/a Rhode Island Energy) with the Public Utilities Commission.

**July 25** [Composting for Community Mini-Grant Program](#) supports new or existing local community composters, focusing in particular on historically underserved communities.

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## Articles of Interest

[Hopeful urbanism: Human-scale neighborhoods more necessary than ever](#)

[Can AI empower planners to accomplish more with less?](#)

[Here's how climate change is affecting your home insurance](#)

[Could this city be the model for how to tackle the housing crisis and climate change?](#)

[The key benefits and challenges of agrivoltaics](#)

[Planning board approves Waites Wharf redevelopment](#)

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## RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

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## Photo Trivia Answer

### WESTERLY

[Watch Hill Lighthouse](#) (1808)

Photo: Watch Hill Lighthouse Keepers Association

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