



December 2025/January 2026

Statewide Planning's Year in Review

It was a busy and productive year for the staff at Statewide Planning! During 2025, we:

- Completed the *Route 114 Resilience Plan* with the towns of Barrington, Warren, and Bristol;
- Continued working with the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the RI Resources Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) on an updated *Solid Waste Management Plan*;
- Completed the *Rhode Island Complete Streets Plan and Design Guide*;
- Completed an update of the state's long-range transportation plan, *Moving Forward RI 2050*;
- Continued working on the Resilient Cumberland Ordinance Audit technical assistance project and started work on an audit with the Town of Narragansett;
- Published the Rhode Island Social Equity Data Platform;
- Trained 336 historic, planning, and zoning board officials from thirty-seven communities (an increase of 134 officials from 2024);
- Completed a full rewrite of the *State Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP);
- Served on multiple National Cooperative Highway Research Program Transportation Research Board (TRB) project panels, the Eastern Transportation Coalition (ETEC) working groups, a NCHRP research review panel, and the Executive Board of
- Launched the Statewide Intake Framework for Transportation (SWIFT) platform for STIP project solicitation and scoring;
- Received State Planning Council approval for the limited update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, *Moving Forward RI 2050*;
- Began the process of updating the *Freight and Goods Movement Plan*;
- Sent two staff members to the 2025 Freight Academy at the University of Maryland National Transportation Center;
- Served on steering committees and working groups for numerous plans, such as the EC4's 2025 *Climate Action Strategy*;
- Served as the host MPO for the 2025 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) annual Conference;
- Provided GIS mapping and data support to other state agencies and municipalities;
- Continued working with the RI Building Inspector and municipalities on implementation of the statewide e-permitting system for land development projects;
- Continued to provide support for RIDEM's *State Outdoor Conservation and Recreation Plan* (SCORP);
- Provided descriptive staff reports and staff oversight for conducting nine monthly meetings;
- Received municipal parcel data sets from thirty-seven municipalities and community surveys from thirty-five municipalities;
- Began developing Computer Assisted Mass

the RI Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-RI);

- Continued background research and data development work and Inventory of Local Land Development Regulations for *Land Use 2050*;
- Monitored 2025 legislation that impacted local, regional, and statewide planning, with scanning and tracking of planning-related bills;

Appraisal (CAMA) Extract to support Statewide Parcels;

- Continued work on the *East Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan* as part of our technical assistance program;
- [Read More...](#)

Now more than ever, we are committed to continuing our impactful work in 2026.

Happy holidays!

Planners' Roundtable: December 5



There will be a roundtable discussion for municipal planners on **Friday, December 5 at 10AM** at the Richmond Town Hall Council Chambers, 5 Richmond Townhouse Rd., Wyoming, and [via Zoom](#).

The roundtable will feature a presentation/discussion about the statewide online land development permitting system and a discussion about the upcoming 2026 legislative session.

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

2nd Annual Rhode Island Local Officials Training Summit

On Saturday, November 15, the Land Use and Education Team and a team of volunteers from the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP) conducted the second annual Rhode Island Local Officials Training Summit (RILOTS) to provide training and a peer networking opportunity. A total of 103 people attended, including eighty-six local officials who serve on municipal historic, planning, and zoning boards and commissions, with participation across twenty-nine communities. [Read more.....](#)



Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

December 4 - 5:30

Room 300, 235 Promenade Street Providence

[Planners' Roundtable/Technical Committee](#)

December 5- 10AM

Richmond Town Hall, Council Chambers
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd., Wyoming

[State Planning Council](#)

[RIGIS Executive Committee](#)

December 11 -2PM

William Hall Library, Auditorium
1825 Broad St., Cranston

[Water Resources Board](#)

December 17 - 9AM

January 14- 9AM

Room 2A, Powers Building

PHOTO TRIVIA

Where in Rhode Island can you find this structure?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!



Events

December 1 [Extreme Weather Events and Insurance: Infrastructure, Utilities and Who Pays.](#) This webinar will summarize the ongoing research surrounding these issues. Time: 2:30PM. Free.

December 3 [The Future of the Electricity Control Center.](#) This webinar explores advances in technologies used in control centers, this includes the use of AI. Time: 1PM. Free.

December 3 [Tackling Energy Equity through Community Collaboration.](#) Speakers will discuss the RI Equity Working Group, RI Energy's Landlord Information Sessions, and the Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice. Time: 7PM - 8PM. Location: URI Higgins Welcome Center, 45 Upper College Road, Kingston. Free.

December 4 [Marketing Your Main Street.](#) From the basics to tips and tricks, gain valuable marketing insights and advice from Kristen Adamo, President and CEO of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

December 4 [Opportunities and Challenges in AI Regulation.](#) Hear about opportunities and risks associated with the growing use of algorithms, including whether new regulatory frameworks or ways of adapting existing anti-discrimination and other rules are needed. Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

December 5 [Translating Data into Action for All Residents Everywhere.](#) This talk focuses on practice-oriented data analytics and modeling in the health and human services sector through the Community Information Exchange Initiative. Time: 12PM. Free.

December 10 [Leveraging Statewide Planning to Advance Trail Development](#) Speakers will share strategies for ensuring that plans don't sit on a shelf but instead drive meaningful, on-the-ground progress. Time: 1PM. Free. CM 1.

December 10 [Using Data to Inform Strategic Priorities in Your Community.](#) This session will help identify the data sources for communities to understand upward mobility challenges and actionable priorities. Time: 1PM. Free.

December 10 [Q&A w/ Steven Higashide, author of Better Buses, Better Cities.](#) Learn what a successful bus system looks like with real-world stories: Houston redrawing its bus network overnight, Boston putting buses first, and Indianapolis winning better bus service. Time: 8PM-9PM. Free. 1 CM.

December 11 [An Overview of Southern New England and National Land Use Law Developments.](#) Discussion includes court decisions, legislation, and interpretations of existing law with cases from all

three southern New England states. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM Law.

December 11 [Trees & Solar Power: Understanding the Relationship](#). The oft-touted benefits of trees (like shade) can also present management challenges. Hear the findings of a study that examines the relationship between trees, their removal, and photo-voltaic installations. Time: 12PM. Free.

December 11 [State Rail Plan Virtual Listening Session](#). Opportunity to share your views on improved future rail service with RIDOT for its new *Rail Plan*. Time: 6PM. Free.

December 12 [We Need to Talk: What if Staying is No Longer an Option?](#) What needs to be in place to manage the financial, social, and cultural costs associated with involuntary, unsupported climate migration? Time: 9:30AM-12:30PM. Fee: \$15-\$45.

December 15 [Designing Events that Engage Your Community in 2026](#). Explore the ins and outs of planning events that engage, inspire, and activate your community. From American Trails' "Advancing Trails" webinar series. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

December 15 [Exploring Relevant Policy Domains: Housing Policy and Population Health](#). Explore housing insecurity, affordability, quality, and neighborhood factors shape health outcomes. Time: 10AM-5PM. Free.

December 16 [Connected Mobility Futures—Integrating Transit and Technology](#) This webinar explores public agencies and technology partners responses to fragmented systems through open platforms. Time: 1PM. Free.

December 17 [The Future of Geothermal: Heating and Cooling of Buildings](#). Webinar will raise awareness of emerging legal, policy, and technical questions in hopes of facilitating increased collaboration in efforts to provide clean, efficient energy to communities. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Free.

December 17 [Unlocking Black Prosperity: Advancing Wealth through Small Businesses, Asset Development, and Community Investment](#). Learn about innovative data tools, examples of promising practices already making an impact, and a road map for turning data into action. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Free.

December 19 [Battery Energy Storage Systems Ordinances: Solano County, CA, Case Study](#) Hear about an ordinance based on input from first responders, industry specialists, community members, national safety agencies, and other jurisdictions. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

January 13 - 14 [Crucial Conversations® for Mastering Dialogue training with the SNEP Network](#). Gain the confidence to lead dialogues about community resilience when stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong. Location: Innovate Newport- 513 Broadway, Newport, RI. Free.

January 14 [Estimating Recreational Visitation on Public Lands and Waters](#). Hear how Federal agencies collect and use visitation data gathered from established on-site methods and emerging sources like social media, mobile device activity, and community science. Time: 12PM. Free.

January 22 [Creative Placemaking: Creating Communities We Love Through Arts & Culture, Diverse Partners and Community Spaces \(Part One\)](#) Learn how to leverage assets in your community, highlight your community's unique character, integrate arts into planning, expand participation for greater equity, and engage creativity. Time: 12PM-2PM. Fee: \$300.

Grants & Deadlines

December 5 [Farm to School Grant Program](#) improves access to local foods in eligible child nutrition

program (CNP) sites through comprehensive farm to CNP programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts.

December 5 [2025 LASA Grant Program](#) from RI Department of Environment Management to directly benefit and strengthen the local food system in Rhode Island.

December 5 [Municipal Infrastructure Design Initiative FY26](#) from the RI Executive Office of Housing supports architectural and engineering costs associated with infrastructure related to affordable housing development.

December 10 [Preservation Grants Program from the U.S. Lighthouse Society](#) helps lighthouse preservation groups across the country save iconic coastal landmarks that help define the nation's rich maritime history and legacy.

December 10 [RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy DRAFT Executive Summary](#) deadline for review and public comment via SmartComment.

December 29 [Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council Community Grant](#) for projects that promote stewardship of the watershed's rivers, streams and brooks or protect or enhance their outstandingly remarkable values in the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed.

December 31 [National Fish Passage Program FY25](#) to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies.

December 31 [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#) for small towns, villages, and territories with populations of less than 50,000 for projects that foster local connections such as technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers.

December 31 [Walmart Spark Good Local Grants](#) address a specific need in a community and makes sense for Walmart or Sam's Club to help solve in order to create opportunity, advance sustainability, or create opportunity.

January 8 [Battlefield Restoration Grants](#) support community-driven stewardship of historic resources through four grant opportunities: Preservation Planning, Battlefield Restoration, Battlefield Interpretation, and Battlefield Land Acquisition.

January 15 [Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition](#) program preserves and improves access to primary source materials that document the history of America's founding era and of American government in federal, state, and local contexts.

January 15 [Tree Equity RI Grant Program 2025](#) from the RI Department of Environmental Management to reach communities living on low-incomes, communities of color and others disproportionately impacted by extreme heat and other environmental hazards.

January 15 [Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund](#) help eligible applicants meet their transportation infrastructure priorities and help reduce the risk of serious roadway departures and fatal crashes.

January 15 [Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program 2025](#) from the RI Department of Environmental Management for more effective management of urban and community forests and improving understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in communities.

Articles of Interest

[Plan Commission revisits solar plan](#)

Data center growth drives locals to fight for more say

Can soccer stadiums revitalize American cities?

Developer scales back housing plan — slightly

Invisible groundwater threatens aging urban infrastructure, researchers warn

A housing complex designed to tackle loneliness

Contact Us

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

Photo Trivia Answer

FOSTER

Town Animal Pound (1845)

Photo: [Town of Foster](#)

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