

December 2019/January 2020

## A Look Back at 2019

2019 was a great year for the Division of Statewide Planning! Some of our work included:

- Completing the *Rhode Island Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) with RI Department of Environmental Management;
- Continuing work on the State's Long Range Transportation Plan, Bicycle Mobility Plan, and Transit Master Plan, along with updates to the rail plan;
- Kicking off work to develop a Congestion Management Process to steer safety and congestion related transportation investments far into the future;
- Staffing the RI Complete Count Committee for the 2020 RI Census;
- Continuing work towards an electronic State Transportation Improvement Program ("e-STIP");
- Processing multiple State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendments, including Amendment #19, which required a series of public hearings and in-depth database analysis;
- Summarizing current State medical marijuana ordinances;
- Updated the STIP database and online STIP Mapper to reflect a RIDOT major amendment;
- Convening a State Land Use Committee to discuss updating land use legislation;
- Working with the RI Office of Energy Resources (OER) on solar siting guidance;
- Began work on *RI Land Use 2050*;
- Completing a small business resiliency project to help RI's small businesses be more prepared for extreme weather events;
- Partnering with communities to review and approve local comprehensive plans;
- Moving our office to 235 Promenade Street from 1 Capitol Hill;
- Creating freight GIS story maps about two of our municipal freight scans;
- Assisting the RI Department of Capitol Assets Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) with a space utilization and efficiency study of State-owned property and the re-use effort for the Cranston Street Armory;
- Attending conferences and trainings to improve our staff skills;
- Hiring a new Principal Planner (Mason Perrone) and promoted three staff members within the Division (Michael D'Alessandro, Benny Bergantino, and Paul Gonsalves);
- Posting additional positions in the Division and for the Water Resources Board, which is returning to co-locate and collaborate with the Division;

LOADING 2020

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- Rejoining the I-95 Corridor Coalition and purchasing vehicle probe data to bolster the state's Travel Demand Model;
- Organizing a field trip to the USDOT's Volpe Transportation Center with staff from neighboring metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Mass. and Conn.;
- Moving legislation forward to change the composition of the State Planning Council by adding more local, elected representation, along with the State EMA chief, while eliminating unnecessary and redundant reporting requirements;
- Hosting a number of events to increase outreach to municipal planners and other stakeholders, including: our annual Speaker Series; a Planner's Round-table discussion; municipal freight field trips; our trainings offered with Grow Smart RI; and an open house for planners at our new office;
- And much more!

We look forward to continuing our work with you in 2020. Happy holidays!

## Comp Plan 5-Year Updates



In 2011 revisions were made to the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulations Act. Municipalities are required to submit an “informational report on the status of the comprehensive plan implementation program with the Division of Planning not more than five (5) years from the date of municipal approval” (§ 45-22.2-12). RI Statewide Planning wants to ensure

municipalities are making progress toward achieving actions identified in their implementation program.

This requirement is meant to help, not hinder, municipal planners and to keep Comprehensive Plans “alive” in their community. Feedback will shape the types of technical assistance provided by Statewide Planning. We are currently in the process of establishing what the five-year check-in will look like and how it will function. If you have thoughts on this process, please send them to [Joshua.ONeill@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Joshua.ONeill@doa.ri.gov): we value your input!

For more information about local comprehensive plans and to follow the update process, please visit the RI Division of Statewide Planning's [comprehensive planning web page](http://www.planning.ri.gov) at [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov)

## North Smithfield Plan Recognized

The State Planning Council recently awarded the Town of North Smithfield a Certificate of Recognition for State approval of their Comprehensive Plan.

Town Planner Tom Kravitz says: "The process was similar to other plans I've either written or updated in the sense that it's about the residents and leading them to create a plan that works for them. It was a great exercise in finding out what people

value about their community. Oh, and diplomacy is hard work! But, better to involve as many diverse interests as possible versus hastily imparting initiatives or policies on your own." Well said, Tom!

Browse the [North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan](https://www.planning.ri.gov) on our website [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov)



Above, l to r.: Assistant Planner Roberta Moneghan; Town Planner Tom Kravitz; and Associate Director Meredith Brady.

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## Meredith's Musings? Brady's Blurb?

The difficult thing about writing a recurring newsletter is that you are constrained by available space (and an urge to avoid creating a wall of text), available time, and a need to address a specific audience. You're also obligated to try not to repeat yourself.

In an effort to prevent redundancy, I read through the December/January newsletter column I wrote last year. We've accomplished so much in the last twelve months, and yet we have seemingly endless work to start. The best intentions, such as assigning Division planners to communities and getting out to all the cities and towns, fell by the wayside amidst work on legislation, the 2020 Census, hiring, climate change, the STIP, committee staffing, and other core functions.

Some messages bear repeating. Kindness? Of course! Connecting with others? Critical. Making sure you don't waste the moments? Essential. In November, you may have noticed that my column was... absent. I was on vacation. Overseas. Not in the office.

I had an opportunity to attend four concerts of my favorite band: a-ha (ok, ok, I know, you're either thinking they were a one-hit wonder or asking "a-who?"). I went to concerts in Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, and London. Between Glasgow and London, I went back to Carmarthen, Wales, where I had studied as an undergraduate. I saw innovative, connected developments. I took buses and trains. I walked. A lot. Over nine days, some fifty-five miles. It was an amazing opportunity.

This year's holiday advice: take the opportunities. They aren't going to happen through inertia. Apply for the grant, hire someone who will bring new skills to the table, think outside the box, expand your knowledge and your horizons. Most of all? Be kind to yourself: give yourself the gift of taking vacation days, seeing something new and remarkable, spending extra time with family and friends.

Seven years this December since my mother passed. Six months since my dad passed. The work we do is important: done right, we can leave a legacy. Yet it's what we do outside of the office that often makes the most difference.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Technical Committee

**December 6 at 9AM**

**January 10 at 9AM**

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### State Planning Council

**December 12 at 9AM**

**January 9 at 9AM**

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### Transportation Advisory Committee

**January 23 at 5:30PM**

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

**All meetings are open to the public!**

### **PHOTO TRIVIA:**

Do you know where in RI this building  
is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter.



## Upcoming Events

**December 5 URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series** Karen Daubmann, Associate VP Special Exhibits and Public Outreach, NY Botanical Gardens. "PLANTLOVE." Time: 7PM.

- Location: Beupre Chemistry Building- Room 105, 140 Flagg Road, Kingston.

**December 10 CRMC Public Hearing**to amend its Management Procedures to clarify and improve its regulatory procedures, including: adding Council member coastal program training; adding specific requirements for staff recommendations and written findings of fact and conclusions of law in contested cases; and consolidation and simplification of determination requests and beach vehicle permit fees, among other proposed changes. Time: 6PM. For more information, contact [jboyd@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:jboyd@crmc.ri.gov).

- Location: RI Department of Administration, Room 2A, One Capitol Hill, Providence.

**December 13 Development Without Destruction: Plan Review and Cultural Preservation**. Graves, family cemeteries, and archaeologically significant sites can be found just about anywhere in Rhode Island. Strong development regulations and careful plan review are key to ensuring that these finite resources are not lost or damaged by development activities. SPEAKER: Charlotte Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. Time: 12PM. 1.0 CM credit.

- Location: The Foundry, 235 Promenade St., Room 300, Providence.

**January 9 APA-RI Post-Holiday and Awards Party**. Join fellow planners and guests at The Guild Tap Room in Pawtucket for beer, food, socializing, and celebrating! Time: 6PM-10PM. Tickets: \$30 for APA-RI members, \$40 for non-members. For details and tickets, please see [www.rhodeislandapa.org](http://www.rhodeislandapa.org).

- Location: The Guild, 461 Main Street, Pawtucket.

**January 9 & 13 Public workshops about Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund** grants from RIDEM (see Grants," above, for more information or view the [Request for Proposals](#)).

- January 9- Time: 10AM-12PM. Location: Bristol Town Hall Council Chambers (Second Floor), 10 Court Street, Bristol.

- [January 13](#)- Time: 2PM-4PM. RIDEM Headquarters, Room 300- 235 Promenade Street, Providence.

**February 6 [RI League of Cities and Towns Convention](#).** The League's Annual Convention is its showcase event featuring eighteen workshops and seminars for local government officials. Over 100 private companies, government agencies, and nonprofit corporations showcase their products and services, which are designed exclusively for city and town government. Over 700 local officials attend this exciting, informative, and fun-filled annual event! Time: 8:30AM-4PM.

- Location: Crown Plaza Hotel, Warwick.

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## Grant Opportunities

**December 10 [Save America's Treasures grant](#)** deadline. This program funds preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant historic collections and properties. Collections include artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures, and other works of art. Properties include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. All projects must be nationally significant. This means that the proposed grant project concerns resources that are: listed as a National Historic Landmark; or listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance; or a collection of national significance.

**December 11 [RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Grant Program](#)** deadline. This grant program provides matching funds to cities and towns and recognized Native American tribes for the acquisition, development and renovation of outdoor recreational lands and facilities. Funding categories include Large Recreation Development grants (up to 80% matching funds to a maximum of \$400,000), Small Recreation Development Grants (up to 80% matching funds to a maximum of \$100,000), and Recreation Acquisition grants (up to fifty percent matching funds to a maximum of \$400,000).

**December 17 [Historic Preservation for Underrepresented Communities](#) deadline.** These National Park Service Grants support the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. Within one year of the completion of the grant, all projects must result in: the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program OR an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.

**December 31 [Home Depot Foundation Community Impact grants](#)** deadline. The Home Depot Foundation offers grant awards up to \$5,000 to 501c-designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services and are required to be complete within six months of approval date.

**December 31 Deadline for [Walmart Foundation Local Community Grants](#).** Grants range from \$250 to \$5,000. Organizations applying must be an organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or (19) organizations; a recognized government entity: state, county, or city agencies, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes; and others. See the [grant guidelines](#) for more details.

**January 15** Deadline for [van Beuren Charitable Foundation grants](#). The van Beuren Charitable Foundation funds projects, programs, and capital. Preference is given to proposals that demonstrate the greatest likelihood of achieving measurable results in four priority areas: strong starts, healthy lifestyles, community prosperity, and excellence in the commons. Aquidneck Island and Newport County remain at the center of their work but proposals from outside this region that can make a clear case for the benefit to their target communities are welcomed.

**January 16** Deadline for [Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives Grant](#) (preliminary). The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will significantly improve public discovery and use of major historical records collections. The Commission is especially interested in collections of America's early legal records, such as the records of colonial, territorial, county, and early statehood and tribal proceedings that document the evolution of the nation's legal history. All types of historical records are eligible, including documents, photographs, born-digital records, and analog audio and moving images. A grant is for one to three years and awards will be between \$100,000 and \$350,000.

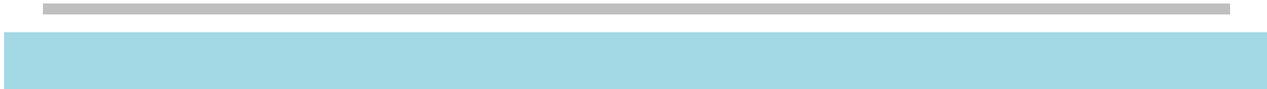
**January 30** Deadline for [Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections](#) grants. The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program helps local and state cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections, and support institutional resilience.

**January 30** Deadline for RIDEM [Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund](#) grants. The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the RI Infrastructure Bank are seeking proposals for projects that protect publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities from storm surge, winds, and other natural hazards that are expected to increase in frequency and severity due to climate change. A Request for Proposals is open for projects that will harden, relocate, repair/replace, and/or provide redundancy to publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities including pump stations, sewers, and other critical equipment/components. Additional information about eligible projects and the required match is available at two public workshops (see "Events," above) and in the [Request for Proposals](#).

**January 31** [RI Census 2020 Outreach Grants deadline](#) (for second round of funding). Rhode Island organizations are invited to apply for grants to conduct outreach and education activities that will encourage participation in the 2020 Census. Activities should focus specifically on increasing census response rates in communities that have been historically undercounted or are vulnerable to an undercount in 2020. RI-based nonprofit organizations, municipal governments, public agencies like libraries or schools, houses of worship, and community-based groups are eligible to apply. Grant awards will range between \$1,000 and \$25,000 and must be spent by July 31, 2020.

**January 31** [Increase Creative Capacity to Shape Healthier Neighborhoods](#) grant deadline. The Kresge Foundation's Arts & Culture Program is currently accepting letter-of-intent applications that align with the Program's focus area: to advance creative approaches that empower residents to drive change and restore wellness in their neighborhoods. The goal is to invest in the pre-conditions for long term change such as resident empowerment and agency, social cohesion, narrative change and equitable physical improvements.

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# Planning Articles of Interest

[Public comment period opens for Newport's Pell Bridge ramp re-alignment](#)

[Wind farm developers revise spacing of turbines off RI coast](#)

[Grant will pay for facelifts on historic buildings in Chepachet](#)

[Two front yards?](#)

[Major RI contracting firm proposes 6-story apartment building at Gano Street in Providence](#)

[Raimondo vows to boost housing supply in RI](#)

[What are so few Americans moving?](#)

## RI Statewide Planning contacts:

Meredith Brady, Associate Director  
(401) 222-6496  
Meredith.Brady@doa.ri.gov

Benny Bergantino, Principal Planner  
(401) 222-1755  
Benny.Bergantino@doa.ri.gov

Linsey Callaghan, Assistant Chief  
401/222-6479  
Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov

Paul Capotosto, Fiscal Management Officer  
(401) 222-6170  
Paul.Capotosto@doa.ri.gov

Michael D'Alessandro, AICP- Supervising  
Planner  
(401) 222-2177  
Michael.Dalessandro@doa.ri.gov

Christina Delage Baza, Data Analyst I  
(401) 222-6481  
Christina.DelageBaza@doa.ri.gov

Vincent Flood, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-1243  
Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov

Kim Gelfuso, Information Services Technician II  
(401) 222-5764  
Kim.Gelfuso@doa.ri.gov

Paul Gonsalves, Principal Planner  
(401) 222-1756  
Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov

Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner  
(401) 222-2848  
Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov

Roberta Groch, AICP- Assistant Chief  
401/222-4720  
Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov

Nancy Hess, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-6480  
Nancy.hess@doa.ri.gov

Benjamin Jacobs, Principal Research Technician  
401-222-3949  
Benjamin.Jacobs@doa.ri.gov

Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-2093  
Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov

Josh O'Neill, AICP- Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-4849  
Josh.Oneill@doa.ri.gov

Mason Perrone, Principal Planner  
401-222-7966  
Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov

Catherine Pitassi, Executive Assistant  
401-222-7901  
Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov

**PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:**

US Weather Bureau station (1903), New Shoreham

Photo: Wikipedia