

## October is National Community Planning Month!

### Planners Take 'Freight'-ful Trip to Galilee

The Division of Statewide Planning has recently conducted freight tours for municipal planners as part of our ongoing work with the State Freight Advisory Committee. These tours have provided an opportunity for planners and elected officials to connect directly with some of the state's largest freight generating companies and freight generating facilities. Although some of our scheduled 2020 freight tours were postponed due to Covid-19, we were recently able to hold an outdoor freight tour at the Port of Galilee.

Fifteen state and local planners were led on a walking tour of the Port by Dan Costa, State Port Manager for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (which manages the Port). Planners learned about the ongoing pier reconstruction project at the Port as well as repairs to bulkheads and electrical upgrades. Planners talked about the intersections of land use policy and transportation planning and how it affects freight movement at Galilee and other RI Ports. The commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island supports thousands of jobs and many small and medium sized businesses. The landed value of the fish coming into Rhode Island from commercial fishing is between \$60-\$70 million annually.

Located off Block Island Sound in the town



the largest commercial fishing ports on the East Coast, providing fish and lobster to national and international markets. Galilee includes forty docks and piers and is home to 230 commercial fishing vessels.

If you would like to learn more about our freight tours, or have an idea for one in your community, please contact Josh

of Narragansett, the Port of Galilee includes two port terminals on either side of Point Judith Pond. The state-owned port is the largest fishing port in RI and is one of

O'Neill, AICP, Supervising Planner - at [Joshua.Oneill@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Joshua.Oneill@doa.ri.gov) or 401/222-4849, or visit the RI Statewide Planning [freight webpage](#).

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## Congestion Management & Local Comp Plans

As discussed in the September newsletter, the Division of Statewide Planning recently completed its [RI Congestion Management Process/Plan \(CMP\)](#): so what does this mean for city and town planners?

For starters, the CMP is an excellent resource for planners to gain a better understanding of the sources and locations of congestion and causes of recurring and nonrecurring congestion throughout the state. Included in the CMP is the location and analysis of the top thirty bottlenecks and top twenty congested corridors in the state with a list of strategies and projects addressing congestion. If your community has one of these bottlenecks or congested corridors, the CMP already has a strategy or project that can or will be used to address these issues. This information is now available to incorporate into your community's Comprehensive Plan.

So why should this be in your Comp Plan? Because a Transportation element is a required component of local Comprehensive Plans, of course! ([RIGL section 45-22.2-6\(b\)\(9\)](#)). Also, while many Comp Plan transportation elements map and provide goals, objectives, and actions to address multi-modal transportation systems, they tend to lack the necessary data and strategies that address recurring congestion issues because they occur mostly on state-owned and -maintained roadways. Addressing these congestion problems requires data and analyses from the state and partnerships between state agencies and municipalities. Thanks to the CMP, much of the required data and analysis is readily available, as well as strategies that can be included in your Comprehensive Plan.

Section 7 of the CMP includes an exhaustive list of congestion management strategies that municipalities can implement to reduce congestion on state and local roadways, including strategies for: demand management, land use, public transportation, bike and pedestrian, ITS and operations, and roadway mobility. Appendix "C" of the Plan contains a "Congestion Management Toolbox" and, much like the existing [Comprehensive Planning Guidance Handbooks](#), it provides examples of costs, impacts, and timeframes that can be used in your Transportation element to craft goals, policies, and actions relating to Congestion Management. The CMP is a great resource for planners: encourage you to begin using it in your municipality's Comprehensive Plan.

If you need any assistance using the CMP in your Comp Plan update or revision, please contact [Joshua.Oneill@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Joshua.Oneill@doa.ri.gov)

Congestion management strategies available to Rhode Island include:

 <p>Travel demand management strategies that eliminate or reduce the need to make trips by motor vehicle.</p>	 <p>Operational improvements and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) that make the best use of existing capacity.</p>
 <p>Land use strategies that promote mixed-use and transit-oriented development and allow for reduced use of motor vehicles for some discretionary trips.</p>	 <p>Pricing strategies that reduce vehicle demand.</p>
 <p>Strategies that expand public transportation and promote the use of higher occupancy modes.</p>	 <p>Roadway/mobility (non-ITS) strategies that are designed to help improve operations and relieve bottlenecks on existing facilities through improvements that do not add capacity.</p>
 <p>Bicycle and pedestrian strategies that shift trips to bicycling and walking modes.</p>	 <p>Roadway capacity expansion strategies such as adding additional capacity to existing roadway facilities or constructing new roadway facilities that serve newer developed or rapidly developing areas, or where gaps exist in the existing freeway or arterial network.</p>

## West Warwick Comp Plan Approved



The Town of West Warwick recently received State approval of its 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Town engaged staff from RI Statewide Planning from the beginning of the update process in 2017 through its completion in 2020. The Town also held multiple public workshops to engage its residents in development of the

Plan: the result is a plan that richly presents the vision of West Warwick residents, including a variety of local photos, an abundance of maps, clearly-written text, and the all-important implementation actions. Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner, says "Statewide Planning staff looks forward to assisting the Town in achieving their vision and offers our congratulations!" Browse the [West Warwick Comprehensive Plan](#) on our website.

## Brady's Bulletin

Yes, 2020 has been quite a year: I don't think I'm alone in saying that if I didn't have much anxiety before, it has multiplied, a little like the dust bunnies under my kitchen island. While I'm home more, I feel as though I have less and less time for daily tasks, and I see the days getting shorter now with a new and keen awareness. There are budget decisions that need to be made, but there's no budget (yet). There are next steps that need to be coordinated, but coordination is somehow more difficult despite the tools and technology. I see so many needs and yet have so few solutions.



The Census hasn't quite ended yet. When last we spoke, word had just been given that the 2020 Census would end on September 30, a month earlier than the October 31 date scheduled when the pandemic brought field operations of the U.S. Census Bureau to a screeching halt in the spring. Now, a court action in California, and maybe in Maryland, has resulted in a stay of the end of the Census. It's a tug of war between the statutory reporting deadline of December 31, 2020, when the Census Bureau is supposed to report initial population numbers to the President and Congress, for the purpose of apportionment, and the lackluster self response rates in our hardest to count communities. Right now, the Secretary of Commerce has announced that all Census

operations will end on October 5, 2020, next Monday. Stay tuned, this date is most definitely subject to change.

Anyone know any great Halloween displays to view this year? Are you looking forward to cooler weather, apple cider, and pumpkin pie? How's everything going in your corner of Rhode Island? If you need me, I'll be over here trying to balance drought-related Water Resources Board issues, the ever-changing Census deadline, transportation innovation and the need to meet Federal transportation planning requirements, all while trying to wrangle my kitten (ok, so she's a year old, but she's definitely still a kitten) and keep her out of my popcorn, off the keyboard, and out of the sugar bowl while I'm on a Zoom meeting where nobody can figure out why they are muted.

Seriously, I'm here if you need to reach out: do you need advice, a question answered about planning, or just someone to talk to for a few minutes, about anything at all? E-mail me at [meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov](mailto:meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov) or at home at [ladybard@verizon.net](mailto:ladybard@verizon.net), or call/text (401) 368-7601.

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## Upcoming Meetings

Please check the links to see if a meeting has been canceled or changed.

[Technical Committee](#)

October 2- 9AM via Zoom

[State Planning Council](#)

October 8- 9AM via Zoom

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

October 29- 5:00PM via Zoom  
*scheduled to be the Public Hearing for the  
Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)*

All meetings are open to the public.  
Please click on the links to find out how to attend  
virtually.

### PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in RI this structure is located?  
See the answer, below!



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## Virtual Events

**October 2** [Coastal Hazard Zones](#). This webinar explores how local planners can incorporate sea level rise projections into planning processes. Learn about implementation and best management practices. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**October 5, 12 & 19** ["Reimagining Streets as Places."](#) This virtual masterclass-style training about the intersection of placemaking and transportation planning will take place over three weeks and is designed to support new and emerging professionals who work in transportation. Registration fee: \$500+.

**October 6, 13, & 20** [Belonging by Design](#). This webinar series focuses on intentionally designing public spaces and buildings to foster community diversity, inclusion and

belonging. Participants can attend one, two or all three of the sessions. Time: 12PM-1:30P. Fee: \$30 each session. 1.5 CM.

**October 8 ["BIG in the Public Realm."](#)** Join Autumn Visconti of BIG, CPH NYC LON for this URI Landscape Architecture Series online lecture. Time: 6PM. Free. Questions, call 874-2983 or email [wagre@uri.edu](mailto:wagre@uri.edu).

**October 9 [Freight & Land Use Seminar: Session 2.](#)** Join the RI Division of Statewide Planning and the FHWA for a series of sessions on freight land uses. Planning practitioners will learn through awareness building, peer sharing and identification of actionable strategies to implement. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free. 2.0 CM.

**October 9 [Road Diet Overview.](#)** This webinar will provide an overview of the FHWA Road Diet Informational Guide. A road diet is a proven safety countermeasure that can also result in other benefits. Time: 11AM EST. Free.

**October 15, 20, 22 & 29 [Climate Displacement Forum Series.](#)** This series will take a look at climate displacement pressures, along with approaches to prevent displacement by exploring migration, current managed retreat, relocation and equity implications. Join for any or all of the sessions. Time: 3PM. Fee: \$20 per session.

**October 16 [Congested Development: Rethinking the Consequences of Development and Traffic Congestion.](#)** The time drivers spend stuck in traffic is frequently used to support major new transportation infrastructure investments: is it time to rethink this justification? Time: 2PM. Free.

**October 20 [The Impacts of Covid-19 on Transportation Funding.](#)** Join Terry Regan from the USDOT's Volpe Center for his always-lively annual talk about transportation funding. Part of the RI Division of Statewide Planning's Speaker Series. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1.0 CM. Contact [Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov) to register.

**October 20 [FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program](#)** This EBC Climate Change webinar will focus on FEMA's new BRIC program, which replaces FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program and is an important source of funding for building community resilience. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

**October 22 ["Rethinking Heritage, Culture and Violence Prevention."](#)** Join Graham Young of GYLA, Pretoria; Tarna Klitzner of TKLA; Anthony Wain of Planning Partnership; and Lesego Bantsheng of Cape Town, SA for this URI Landscape Architecture Series online lecture. Time: 6PM. Free. Questions, call 874-2983 or email [wagre@uri.edu](mailto:wagre@uri.edu).

**October 23 [Freight & Land Use Seminar: Session 3.](#)** See above. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free. 2 CM.

**October 23 [Shared Spaces/Flush Streets: The Potential for Barrier-Free Public Realms.](#)** Barrier-free public realms advance equity: this webinar will explore shared streets and flush streets for communities and in policy. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**October 26-30 [AMPO 2020](#)** The annual conference of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations is online this year. Registration fee: \$175-\$275.

**October 29-30 [SNEAPA @ A Distance.](#)** SNEAPA 2020 is virtual! SNEAPA 2020 will provide high-quality sessions with relevant and useful content for planners, opportunities to network, and venues for interaction. Registration fee: \$25-\$95.

**October 30 [Capturing the Best Elements of Engagement in a Digital First World.](#)**

Participants will learn about the ten items that matter in an in-person engagement and the tools to replicate those in an online environment. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**Every Wednesday** [WTS Webinar Series](#) WTS is providing webinars every Wednesday in October about various transportation-related topics. Time: 12PM-2PM. Fee: \$149-\$250.

**Anytime** [APA Virginia's planning videos](#) The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association offers pre-recorded one-hour webinars on topics like building resilience into comp plans, innovative mobility funding, tax credits, rural broadband, and more. Free.

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## Grant Opportunities

**October 8** [Access to Historical Records](#) grant deadline: funds projects that will improve online public discovery and use of historical records collections, especially to collections of America's early legal records, that document the nation's history.

**October 8** [Public Engagement with Historical Records](#) deadline for projects that encourage public engagement with historical records, including the development of new tools that enable people to engage online.

**October 8** [Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions](#) deadline for publishing documentary editions of historical records; may focus on broad historical movements in U.S. history or may be centered on the papers of major figures from American history.

**October 26** [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development](#). This FTA program provides funding to communities to integrate land use and transportation planning in new fixed guideway/core capacity transit project corridors. Projects must: examine ways to improve economic development and ridership; foster multimodal connectivity; enable mixed-use/transit-oriented development; and cover an entire transit capital project corridor, not individual station areas or a section of a corridor.

**November 4** [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) deadline. The National Resources Conservation Service will fund locally-driven partnerships for solutions to on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns, and that improve water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support habitat, and protect agricultural viability.

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## Planning Articles of Interest

[Legislator to City: Buy Metacomet or take it by eminent domain](#)

[Amazon plans to put 1,000 warehouses in suburban neighborhoods](#)

[Council grapples with flood-prone neighborhood](#)

[Apex out of stadium project](#)

[Grant aims to connect Quonset directly to 95](#)

[Beer garden opens at Providence's pedestrian bridge](#)

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**PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:**  
**Hannah Robinson Tower** (1938)  
South Kingstown  
Photo: [VisitRI.com](http://VisitRI.com)