

PLAN

RHODE ISLAND

STATEWIDE
PLANNING

NEWSLETTER

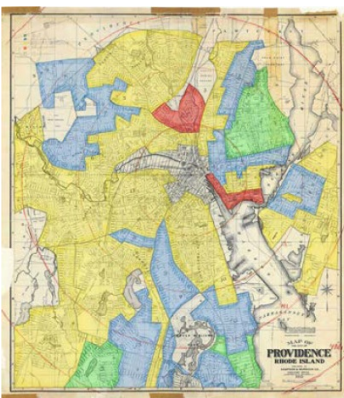
May 2021

SNEAPA Update

Out of an abundance of caution and the desire to keep guests safe and healthy, the in-person annual Southern New England Conference of the American Planning Association ("SNEAPA") for 2021 has been canceled and the conference will be held virtually again this fall. As with last year's conference, "SNEAPA@Home," the SNEAPA committee is committed to providing high-quality sessions with relevant and useful content, opportunities to network with colleagues from around the region, and venues to interact with vendors.

The SNEAPA Committee asks for your patience, understanding, flexibility, creativity, and good will as they work on a virtual SNEAPA this year. Check the SNEAPA website regularly at www.sneapa.org for updates and information, including the upcoming Call for Sessions.

Report Addresses Systemic Racism in RI



Homeowners Loan Corporation Map, City of Providence, 1935, Providence City Archive

The year 2020 was one that saw awareness of systemic racism and the history of racial discrimination in our society come to the forefront of public policy and engendered a national conversation on the impacts that racially discriminatory laws and policies have had on exacerbating inequality in Rhode Island and across the United States. In 2020 under Mayor Jorge Elorza, the City of Providence began a process of truth, reconciliation, and municipal reparations to address institutional and systemic racism affecting people of color within the City of Providence. This process has led to the creation of a groundbreaking report documenting the four hundred-year history of Rhode Island's central role in the slave trade, displacement and dislocation of indigenous peoples, and laws and customs that created generations of unequal access to housing and employment: ["A Matter of Truth: The Struggle for African Heritage and Indigenous People Equal Rights in Providence, Rhode Island \(1620-2020\)"](#) identifies the lingering effects that this history has upon our

state and our people. It is a document all urban and community planners in Rhode Island should read to gain a historical perspective on the inequities in our present built environment, land use regulations, transportation infrastructure, and....

[KEEP READING](#)

New STIP for RI

The RI Division of Statewide Planning, in cooperation with Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), have initiated the process of preparing a new Rhode Island State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The federally-required STIP is a list of transportation projects that the State of Rhode Island intends to implement using U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) funds. All transportation projects that use federal transportation funds must be included in the STIP, which will cover Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2022-2031, with the first four years providing detailed funding information to demonstrate federally-required fiscal constraint. While the state is on the path to recover from the COVID-19 economic downturn with bright hopes for the future, it also must deal with the reality of funding costly infrastructure projects when programming the STIP. [KEEP READING](#)



State of Rhode Island
Transportation Improvement Program

Planner Spotlight



Michael J. Deluca, AICP is the Director of the Narragansett Community Planning Department, a position he has held for 15+ years. Prior to his appointment in Narragansett, Michael served for 19 years as a senior/principal planner for the City of Cranston. Michael oversees a staff of three, two planners and the department clerk. His office serves as primary support to the Town's Planning Board, Zoning Board and Historic District Commission. Michael has recently supervised the zoning review of two new hotels to be located on Boon Street, the old downtown of Narragansett. He has also seen an upsurge in demolition and rebuild of single family residences, one of which was the subject of a recent series on PBS's "This Old House." Michael says: "For a small town of 16,000 residents, Narragansett is a very active destination for development, due partly to the Town's world class beaches, but also because it is a great place to work and raise a family."

Michael served as the President of the American Planning Association's (APA) Rhode Island Chapter from 1996-1998 and has been deeply involved in planning for the last six Southern New England APA (SNEAPA) conferences. Michael has also served on the State Technical Committee since 2006, with the last two years as Chairman. When not working extended hours at his computer, Michael enjoys boating, swimming, running, gardening, and spending time at home with his wife Mary Lou, son Jay, and their West Highland terrier, Winter.

Contact Michael at mdeluca@narragansetttri.gov.

RI Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.
Please check the links to see if a meeting has been canceled or changed.

[Technical Committee](#)

May 7 - 9AM via Zoom

[State Planning Council](#)

May 13 - 9AM via Zoom

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

May 27 - 5:30PM via Zoom

Brady's Brief(ish) Bulletin

Spring is well and truly here: in fact, this weekend it seemed as though maybe we had skipped over spring and gone straight to summer. This morning, the air is cooler, and while I hope we've turned a corner toward warmer weather, I also know that the extremes are the manifestation of our changing climate. More "hundred year" floods, more drought, more frosts in April, more records set, then set again. My perspective on the natural world has changed quite a bit since I was a little kid standing on top of a giant snow pile, wondering how many days we'd be out of school!



Change is happening on many fronts. With new administrations in Washington and at home, new policies and programs are being set in place, not least of which is ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) with funding for infrastructure as well as other programs. While everyone awaits guidance as to the restrictions on ARPA funds (regulations are expected by mid-May), there area number of groups and individuals either developing ideas or with specific concepts already in mind for how the dollars should be spent. I'm grateful to report that the Division is being brought to at least one table to review, suggest, and inform.

Someone once said that planning isn't doing. Well, I don't necessarily agree with that judgment, because planning also involves implementation, but I think there's an even bigger point to be made: planning IS preparation to reach a goal, achieve a vision, or implement a program. It's not just knowing what it is you want to accomplish, but determining where the greatest needs, greatest obstacles, and greatest benefits lie, analyzing different approaches, and coming up with a program to get from Point A to Point B. We have some great plans in place already in Rhode Island, maps of the routes to take to reach a shared vision of our future. Some of those plans are local comprehensive plans. Others may be State Guide Plan elements. All of them are lenses through which we should look to evaluate our needs and wants in Rhode Island.

There are always things we don't see the first time (or even the second), and things we don't recognize in the world (and in ourselves) until we step outside of our comfort zone and view things through a different lens. As time goes by, some things become more important, new criteria are considered, and other concerns take on less significance. I'm

going to be fascinated to watch our progress and change over the next decade. In the meantime, get out from behind your desk, or your virtual desk, and step outside into a beautiful day.

As always, I remain available at meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov or call/text (401) 368-7601.

PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in RI this structure is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!



Virtual Events

May 5 [From Farms to Families in Need.](#) This RI Community Food Bank panel discussion will showcase how three organizations and others are working to get fresh produce from local farms to neighbors in need. Time: 8:30AM. Free.

May 5 [RIFMA Annual Meeting - \(Sea Level\) Rising to the Occasion: What to Expect under the New Administration.](#) Join floodplain management and hazard mitigation professionals for an informative discussion with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse about what to expect under the new federal administration. Time: 9AM-10:30AM. Fee: \$25. AICP and CFM credits pending.

May 5-7 [National Planning Conference of the American Planning Association.](#) NPC21 is a chance to prepare for planning challenges now and for the years ahead. Gain practical insights and connect with people facing similar issues who are implementing solutions across the nation. Fee: \$300-\$425. Student rates are available.

May 5-7 [BuildingEnergy Boston Conference.](#) Designed by and for practitioners in energy efficiency and renewable energy, this interdisciplinary event brings together leaders in architecture, engineering, building, design, consulting, and policy who are committed to developing a more sustainable, healthy, and resilient built environment. Fee: \$275-\$350.

May 6 [Re-emerging from COVID-19: Why children and cities need play now more than ever.](#) This webinar will discuss how cities can think about new opportunities to embed playful learning in the public realm, particularly in under-resourced neighborhoods. Speakers from the U.S. and abroad will highlight exciting initiatives being implemented in their communities. Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

May 7 [Leveraging Street Design for Economic Prosperity.](#) A great street can help a community prosper by setting the stage for desired land-use changes. The session will focus on practices that relate to communities both big and small, approach to addressing street design and land use as one cohesive approach. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. 1.5 CM.

May 7 [Transportation and Gentrification: Impacts on Low-income Black Households in Portland.](#) Learn about the need to consider all a household's needs when planning transportation; the experiences of low-income Black households on various modes of

transport; and how even a 5-10 mile geographic divide can impact low-income Black household's ability to make ends meet. Time: 2:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

May 12 [What Impacts Will Sea Level Rise Have on Warren?](#) This discussion will center on Warren, RI's "Market to Metacom: Adaptation and Economic Development" Study, a neighborhood plan for the Market Street and Metacom Avenue areas that looks at water quality/climate change challenges while promoting economic redevelopment in a typical auto-centric commercial corridor. Time: 7PM. Free.

May 13 [How Ride Hailing Companies Affect Airport Revenues and Operations](#) Transportation network companies (TNCs) have become an increasingly popular form of transportation to and from airports. Panelists will provide a summary of key regulations, review best practices, summarize technology, and identify approaches for effective working relationships with TNCs. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

May 14 [APA-RI Book Club](#). The Spring Planners' Book Club Selection is *Street Fight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution* by Janette Sadik-Khan, which narrates the struggle to reclaim the city of New York from apparently inconspicuous – but in reality extremely intrusive – private interests. Use [this link](#) to join. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

May 16 [A Residential Guide to Stormwater](#). Learn stormwater-friendly landscaping, horticulture tips, techniques, and how to treat a yard like a small ecosystem. The training will also provide information on how to design, size, construct and maintain residential rain gardens and rain barrels. Time: 6PM. Free.

May 18 [Climate Emergency Preparedness: Art x Cultural Resilience](#). The interconnected crises of climate change, ecological collapse, institutional racism and economic inequality are expanding, but focus is often placed on immediate crisis response without accounting for underlying cultural causes. Explore cultural organizing and artistic expression in the development of resilient and sustainable communities. Time: 4PM-5:30PM. Free.

May 18 [Improving Transportation Access to Health Care](#) The availability of transportation influences the ability of individuals to access health care, whether in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This event will help planners improve transportation access to health care services and learn ways that health care and transportation providers can work together. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

May 18 [Integrating Diversity, Equity & Inclusion \(DEI\) by Design](#). This session will discuss how basic DEI concepts are defined and applied using examples from the built environment. The session will review working definitions of “diversity,” “equity” and “inclusion” that can be applied to the built environment and examples of how DEI concepts are being applied. Time: 9AM-10:30AM. 1.5 CM. Fee: \$20.

May 19 [Community Needs Assessments That Planners Should Know About](#) This webinar will feature speakers from community service entities that conduct needs assessments and will present information about the types of assessments their organization engages in, with specific examples and processes. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. 1.25 CM.

May 19-21 [2021 CNU Conference](#) "CNU29. Design for Change" will focus on the intersection between design and power: the power that design holds to influence the way we live and how we can use it to achieve change in neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions. Fee: \$75-\$500. Student and local government rates are available.

May 20 [Living with Heat / Green Infrastructure](#). This EBC Climate Change webinar will discuss risks from increasing temperatures in cities, discuss vulnerabilities such as health issues, and address countermeasures Boston and Cambridge have taken. Experts will address policy and zoning, and will share some tools to cool down entire neighborhoods, streets, and buildings. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

May 21 [“What Keeps You Up at Night?” A Discussion with Water Utilities in New England](#). This EBC webinar with water utilities from across New England will help stakeholders to understand their biggest challenges and hear their ideas and concerns. Time: 9AM-10:345AM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

May 26 [Older Driver Experiences with Autonomous Vehicles](#). Older adults (≥65 years) account for 20% of the US population but are over-represented in multiple-vehicle crashes. Automated vehicles may hold safety benefits for older adults if they adopt it, but first they must first be exposed to the technology. Time: 12PM. Free.

Anytime [The Transportation Research Board \(TRB\)](#) offers pre-recorded webinars on transportation topics like transit, alternative fuels, pavement management, walkability measurement, aviation, freight, and more. Free.

Grant Opportunities

May 3 [Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Mini Grant](#) deadline. This program for requests up to \$2,000 invites individual researchers, nonprofit organizations, and schools to apply for funding in support of public humanities projects, documentary film, civic education initiatives, and individual research.

May 7 [EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program Grants](#) deadline. Cooperative agreements will be awarded to community-based organizations, US territories, and tribal organizations to address environmental and public health concerns in local underserved communities, with emphasis on projects focusing on COVID-19 impacts and climate and disaster resiliency.

May 7 [EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants](#) deadline. The EJSG program awards grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues.

May 7 [Hometown Grants Program](#) deadline. Grants will help fund projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections, like a town square pavilion, historic building, outdoor park, ball field, or library. Small towns with populations less than 50,000 are eligible to apply for grants up to \$50,000 per town.

May 14 [American Rescue Plan: Humanities Organizations](#) deadline. This program funds organizations seeking support for humanities positions and projects that have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, independent research institutions, academic presses, professional organizations, colleges and universities, and other humanities organizations are eligible.

May 14 [Food Systems Game Changers Lab](#) deadline. This multi-phase program seeks teams, individuals, organizations, and other groups who have ideas, initiatives, or innovations that can bring positive change to global food systems. Winners are invited to Phase 2, where they will further refine their solutions over twelve weeks; Phases 3 and 4

include being matched with potential implementation partners or investors.

May 18 [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) due. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service announces funding available in Rhode Island for eligible individuals, local and state governments, non-governmental organizations and tribes for the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

May 18 [Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant](#) deadline. The National Endowment for the Humanities aims to help institutions to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials for two distinct types of projects: capital projects and digital infrastructure.

May 18 [Preservation and Access Education and Training Grant](#) deadline. This National Endowment for the Humanities program makes awards to organizations that offer national, regional, or statewide education and training programs across the teaching landscape. Awards help the staff of cultural institutions obtain knowledge and skills needed to serve as stewards of humanities collections.

May 28 [Agroforestry Outreach Grant](#) proposals due. The U.S. Forest Service will fund regionally-applicable and practice-specific agroforestry educational materials that will support natural resource professionals in assisting landowners and producers with different levels of interest and commitment in implementing an agroforestry practice.

May 28 [Alternative Funding Arrangements \(AFA\)](#) application deadline. The U.S. Department of Agriculture seeks proposals to fund new, unique projects that take innovative and non-traditional approaches to conservation solutions at the local, regional and landscape scales, with priority for projects related to climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

May 30 [Local Agriculture and Seafood Act \(LASA\) Grant](#) deadline. The goal of RIDEM's LASA grant program is to support the growth, development, and marketing of local food and seafood in Rhode Island. The maximum grant award is \$20,000 to a farmer, individual, business (e.g. LLC) or non-profit organization.

Anytime [CHS Seed Grant Program](#) The Community Heart & Soul program provides municipalities with a clear understanding of what matters most to their residents and forges a partnership that builds on where they live. Grants of \$10,000 are awarded to municipalities with a population between 2,500 and 30,000.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Town set to address climate change in comprehensive plan](#)

[Planning Board votes to prohibit wind turbines](#)

[Town amendments boost affordable housing in mills, existing homes](#)

[Municipal association urges local control and funding in RI marijuana proposals](#)

[SHAB remands proposal to Planning Board](#)

[Illegal sewer hookups could double cost of treatment plant upgrades](#)

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

NARRAGANSETT

[Scarborough Ruins](#) (or [Black Point Ruins](#))

Photo: Google Maps