

The newsletter of Rhode Island's
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) & State Planning Office



December 2021/January 2022

New Required CM Credits



Starting on January 1, 2022, all planners who belong to the American Institute of Certified Planner's (AICP) will have two additional mandatory Certification Maintenance (CM) topics in addition to law and ethics: equity and sustainability/resilience. Why the change? As Mitchell Silver, FAICP, AICP President, puts it: "Much as communities must adapt to an evolving world, so must AICP... Our world has not remained static, and neither can our professional development." The new topics will help planners build their equity skills in an area that is of pressing and lasting concern to communities across the country and also help communities prepare for issues like climate change, sustainable development, and hazard resilience.

The requirement for all mandatory topics is now one credit, including law and ethics; the former requirement for each of these topics was 1.5 credits. Planners will still have to complete all required CM credits within a two-year period. AICP members will also still be able to roll over sixteen CM credits to their next reporting period, but these carry-over credits are not eligible to meet the mandatory credits. Instead, carry-over CM for law, ethics, equity, and sustainability/resilience will be counted as general CM.

For more information, see the [American Planning Association website](#).

Statewide Planning's Year in Review

It was a great year for the RI Division of Statewide Planning.

We:

- Adopted new State Guide Plan element for historic preservation, *Protecting Our Legacy of Buildings, Places, and Culture: An Historic Preservation Plan for Rhode Island*;
- Updated the Five-Year RIGIS Strategic Management Plan 2022-2026 outlining major goals for supporting Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and geospatial information in Rhode Island.

- Received apportionment results from the Census Bureau and Rhode Island retained both of its Congressional seats with a resident population of 1,097,379, an increase of 4.3% over the last decade;
- Continued background research and work on *RI Land Use 2050* through data development and quality control review for production of statewide photointerpretation and digitizing of land use land cover change and updated land use land cover data for a statewide, seamless 2020 vector polygon GIS dataset;
- Approved a rewrite of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP);
- Continued to hold meetings of the RI State Planning Council, Transportation Advisory Committee, Technical Committee, RIGIS Executive Committee, Freight Advisory Committee, and other groups via Zoom, Teams, in person, and as hybrid meetings;
- Continued work towards an electronic State Transportation Improvement Program ("e-STIP"), in cooperation with RIDOT and RIPTA and continued to partner with RIDOT to develop a project intake tool;
- Completed Phase 1 of the Transportation Master Plan for the City of Newport as part of our Municipal Technical Assistance Program;
- Assisted RI municipal planners via virtual and in-person meetings with thirty-three municipal planning departments;

More highlights

Meredith's Musings

There's a lot on my plate. No truer words were ever spoken around a Thanksgiving table, or about competent people whose workloads tend to increase in the inverse of time available. These days, when I find the time to catch up with people I have known for years and I ask how things are going, I invariably get shrugs, eyerolls, and intense exhalations. "You know. I've got too much going on."

I do know. It has definitely become more difficult to maintain a work/life balance. I'm not going to spend a lot of time exhorting you to find ways to separate your workday from end of day and time off (Hello, pot, have you met kettle?), but I am going to suggest that it's something we all think about this holiday season. Much like a resolution to change the way I look at my relationship with food, from see-sawing between complete restriction and no restriction, to moderation and use of data (knowledge) to provide tools and methods for improving my health, I'm going to resolve to develop a better relationship with my "to-do" list.

Next year is going to be a whirlwind of activity in Rhode Island, as we see impacts of ARPA, the infrastructure bill, and their successors in a charged political climate. There's still a great deal of uncertainty regarding COVID and its variants. So instead of being reactive, let's be proactive. Sure, there's a lot on my plate, but I don't have to take it all in during one frenetic sitting. Acknowledging the limits of my own capacity and endurance seems like a positive first step.

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

Meetings will be held in person; the public can attend via Zoom (except for the RIGIS meeting).

PHOTO TRIVIA

Technical Committee

December 3 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

State Planning Council

December 9 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

RIGIS Executive Committee

December 16 - 2PM

William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St.,
Cranston

Transportation Advisory Committee

January 27 - 5:30PM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Please check the links for cancellations.

Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find the rock with these markings?



See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

Events

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

December 1 [Land to Sea Speaker Series: Eating with the Ecosystem](#). Kate Masury of Eating with the Ecosystem will discuss a place-based approach to sustaining New England's wild seafood sustainability. Time: 6:30PM. Free. Virtual.

December 2 [Designing Histories: Voices, Claims, and Reconciliation](#). Part of the URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series. Speakers: Erik Kramer and Becca Sturgis. Time: 7PM. Location: both online and in Room 170 of the URI College of Pharmacy, 7 Greenhouse Road, Kingston. Free.

December 3 [A New Approach To Transportation Pricing](#). Results of a project that explored whether pricing tools— or charges related to driving or using road space— could be used to improve mobility, reduce climate impact, and make the transportation system more equitable. Time: 2:30PM-3:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

December 3 [The Many Faces of Traditional and Non-Traditional Planning](#). This discussion will include planner's formal education, career path, and words of advice, focusing on university planning, regional transportation planning, private sector planning, and military planning. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

December 7 [An Ocean State of Mind: In Crisis, Opportunity](#). Speaker: Wallace J. Nichols. Part of the URI Honors Colloquium, "Sustaining our Shores." Time: 7PM. Location: both online and in Edwards Auditorium, 64 Upper College Rd., Kingston. Free.

December 7 [Preparing Coastal Communities for Federal Resilience Funding](#). The infrastructure bill shows a strong commitment to advance climate change preparedness and resilience. What are the local implications/opportunities of this massive bill? How can coastal communities prepare for funding and grants? Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

December 8 [Redesigning Transit Networks for the New Mobility Future](#). With the rise of app-based rideshare and microtransit providers, bus network redesigns have begun to

consider how these modes can complement bus service. Learn how new mobility options can be integrated into the network. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

December 9 [Wheels and Legs: Reducing Nonmotorized Trails Conflicts](#). This American Trails webinar will provide perspectives and an assessment of the issue of conflicts and potential solutions when dealing with nonmotorized trails. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. free.

December 10 [Planners Lunch and Learn- "RI Ready."](#) Join APA-RI to discuss a new program called "RI Ready" that will create an inventory of pre-permitted properties ready for industrial development throughout RI and learn how your municipality can participate. Time: 12PM-1PM. Location: 95 Cripe St., North Kingstown, with a virtual option to attend. Free, but please [RSVP](#).

More events

Grants

December 1 [Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup \(MARC\)](#) deadline. Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) and petroleum.

December 14 [Save America's Treasures Preservation and Collections Grants](#) deadline. Program provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties and collections. Grants require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash or documented in-kind.

December 17 [RIDEM Outdoor Recreation Grant](#) deadline. This grant program provides matching funds to cities and towns and recognized Native American tribes from the RI Department of Environmental Management for the acquisition, development, and renovation of outdoor recreational lands and facilities.

December 17 [RIIB Municipal Resilience Program \(MRP\)](#) deadline. Provides direct support to municipalities to bring together climate change information and local knowledge to identify top hazards, challenges, and community strengths. Upon completion, municipalities can apply for funding to implement identified projects.

December 20 [Green Infrastructure Project Planning grant](#) deadline for planning activities that advance implementation of green infrastructure projects in Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in RI, Mass., and Conn.; includes stakeholder workshops, studies, assessments, concepts, plans, and permitting.

More grants

Articles of Interest

[How to overcome local pushback on climate action](#)

[RI's largest solar farm goes online](#)

[Does restricting Airbnb rentals reduce development?](#)

[It's not just Amazon: RI seen as prime location](#)

[Board plans interim step to limit overdevelopment](#)

[This RI neighborhood will soon be underwater forever.
Can it be saved?](#)

[Questions hang over Opportunity Zones](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

Photo Trivia Answer

NORTH KINGSTOWN

[Wickford Rune Stone](#)

(or "Narraganset Rune Stone")- Year unknown

Photo: Independentri.com