

PLAN

RHODE ISLAND

STATEWIDE
PLANNING

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2021

TIP Comments Due



The Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2031 *Rhode Island State Transportation Improvement Program* ("STIP" or "TIP") is a list of transportation projects that the State of Rhode Island intends to construct using U.S. Department of Transportation, State, and other sources of funds. For a transportation project to utilize federal funds it must be included in the STIP. The full draft FFY 2022-2031 STIP can be viewed [here](#); STIP projects can be viewed with [our STIP mapping tool](#).

The STIP was prepared by the RI Division of Statewide Planning, in cooperation with the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) for adoption by the State Planning Council.

The public can comment on the draft STIP until July 12, 2021 at 4PM. Comments on the draft STIP [can be submitted on our website](#).

For more information about the STIP, please contact Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov.

Open Meetings Update

Governor McKee has [extended the Executive Order](#) that modified certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) as part of the State's emergency response to COVID-19: municipalities will be allowed to use virtual platforms for meetings or other business until at least July 23, 2021.

[A bill](#) has already passed the House that allows virtual meetings (or a hybrid) until July 1, 2023. The Senate (as of this writing) has not yet voted on a companion bill.



Public bodies may conduct meetings by telephone or audio or video conferencing to allow "adequate alternative means of public access," meaning measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of a public body: this includes conferencing via telephone, video, or audio.

Planning Tools: Tree Equity Mapper



Trees are critical infrastructure that every person in every neighborhood deserves. According to the [RI Tree Council](#), trees remove air pollution, absorb and store carbon to help fight climate change, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and allow wildlife to thrive. However, in cities across America, trees have historically been planted along race and class lines. Ensuring equitable tree cover can help address social

inequities and health issues that lets all people thrive.

The [Tree Equity Score mapper](#) was developed by American Forests and shows a city or town's current Tree Equity Score, as well as how it can be improved. Each score is calculated using available data from a variety of sources and is calculated using tree canopy cover, population density, income, race, health, and and surface temperature. The score is calculated at the neighborhood (or block group) level and is also shown at the municipal level. One interesting (and unexpected) result shown on the mapper: Providence's tree equity score (87) is higher than Barrington's score (84).

You can view the Rhode Island Tree Equity Score mapper [here](#).

Brady's Bulletin

I was going to write about something completely different. I logged in, determined to talk about sustainable funding for planning at the state level and studies in our communities. To tell you about my crazy couple of months, how I'm helping a friend by working on the weekends at farmers markets while being wrapped into state meetings in the evenings and on weekends. To talk about the difference between administrating and advocating. You know what? On this hot, humid, madcap day, none of that really matters.

We've made so many advances, but nothing is more important than the company we keep: hasn't the past year proven that? We've got a holiday coming up, and it feels more important than ever to celebrate who we are, and who we want to be as a state and nation, recognizing all of our flaws, and yet standing together. Rhode Island is almost as famous for pessimism as coffee milk, the Big Blue Bug, and Del's lemonade: I want to hear from you about what you think makes Rhode Island great. Why do you live here, work here? What should Rhode Island be when it grows up?

Yes, I'm going to keep it THAT short. [Meredith's e-mail](#) - tell me what you think!

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.
Please check the links for cancellations or changes to an in-person (or hybrid) meeting.

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)
July 22 & August 26- 5:30PM via Zoom

[Technical Committee](#)
August 6 - 9AM via Zoom

[State Planning Council](#)
August 12 - 9AM via Zoom

Photo Trivia

Do you know where in Rhode Island this building is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

(Hint: It's owned by one of RI's many local Land Trusts.)



Virtual Events

July 2 [Parks are an Essential Business](#). Many people lack access to parks and trails; this session will illustrate how planners in Columbus, Ohio quantified unequitable access and developed a targeted strategic land acquisition plan. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 7 [The Evolving World of ADU Regulations](#) explores how America's cities are regulating ADUs, how regulations are changing as we gain more experience with them, the pros and cons of different approaches, and what types of regulations function as 'poison pills' to limit ADU development. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM Law.

July 12-15 [Esri User Conference](#). The 2021 Esri User Conference is a virtual experience where you can learn about the latest tools in technical sessions; get inspired by user presentations and the Virtual Map Gallery entries; and find solutions in the Expo and Esri Showcase. Fee: \$395-\$1,695. Student rate is available.

July 13 [From Freeway Revolts to the Future: The History of MPOs](#) Learn how MPOs were created in a time of protest to promote cooperation in regional transportation planning. Then join a Q&A with a panel about the present and future activities of MPOs. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

July 13, 16, & 21 [How We Move Matters: Exploring the Connections between New Transportation and Mobility Options and Environmental Health](#) How does ride hailing affect air pollution? What are the environmental impacts of having packages delivered to our home? This multi-day workshop features experts in transportation, energy, the

environment, health, and consumer behavior. Time: 11:30AM-4PM. Free.

July 14 [Transportation Reinvestment Zones: A Primer](#). This FHWA session will provide information to state and local authorities looking for new and innovative funding sources to help pay urban, suburban, and rural public roads as well as spur economic development and redevelopment. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

July 15 [Wetlands and Seagrasses: Nature's Superheroes in the Fight for Coastal Resilience in Southeast New England](#) This webinar is to discuss the importance of these systems, their impact on local species, their role in climate change mitigation, and to highlight some of the work being done to ensure their protection. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

July 16 [Street Commerce: The Hidden Structure of Retail Location Patterns and Vibrant Sidewalks](#). Street commerce has gained prominence due to demographic shifts and increased flexibility of work that have changed how people shop and dine. Learn about innovative solutions and global case studies. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 20 [Are We All in the Same Boat? Involving Communities in Coastal Resilience](#) . This webinar will discuss aging infrastructure and excessive flooding in the transportation network, and how to plan by collaborating with agencies, access funding sources, and involve communities. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free. 2 CM.

July 21 [Intergenerational Community Engagement & Planning – Values & Practices](#). This webinar is designed to help planners, elected officials and citizens better engage in land use decision-making processes. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. Fee: \$15. 1.5 CM.

July 21 [Public Transit as a Climate Solution](#). A panel will discuss the sustainability benefits of public transportation, including a reduced carbon footprint and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. They will also provide tools that agencies can use to plan low-carbon transportation solutions. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 21 [What's New in ArcGIS Urban](#). Learn about enhancements coming with the July 2021 release of ArcGIS Urban, which enables planning and design decision-making using analytics and a scenario-driven planning process. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

July 23 [EBC New England Regional Climate Change and Resiliency Summit](#). The summit will provide examples of mitigation projects and initiatives that respond to climate change through adaptation. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse is featured in the morning session. Morning session: 9AM-12PM. Afternoon session: 1PM-3PM. Fee: \$25-\$120 per session.

July 23 [Urban Planning in a COVID-19 World: Part 2](#) Experts in transportation, public participation and land use will discuss how the profession of urban planning has changed in the last eighteen months with respect to racial justice, systemic racism, and transportation planning. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

July 26-30 [Dismantle Preservation Conference](#) This year's (un)conference will continue pushing cultural resource conversations to advocate, educate, and change the preservation movement. There will be five panel discussions and 20+ lightning talks. Suggested donation: \$10/day.

August 4 [Developer Impact Fees: The Primer](#). Experts will share their Developer Impact Fees programs, including the processes, requirements, accounting & administration, and much more. Participants will interact with peer experts to gain an in-depth understanding the benefits and applicability. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

August 10 [Innovations in Housing Affordability](#). Experts share the latest innovations for tackling our region's challenging economics and how communities can think differently about the economics and housing offerings that the architecture and construction industry needs to provide. Time: 8:30AM-9:45AM. Fee: \$20-\$40.

August 11 [Brave the Storm: Strategies for Coastal Resilience](#). As the 2021 hurricane season draws closer, flood preparedness and coastal management are increasingly at front of mind for decision makers. This webinar will explore strategies at multiple scales to mitigate community risk from flooding and storm events. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free.

August 12 [Pricing Mechanisms for Managed Lanes](#). Two common means of pricing Managed Lanes are to vary tolls based on the time of day or to vary them based on real-time congestion. Which of the two options is more effective? This webinar will discuss analyses of toll transaction data and the results. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

August 22 [Confronting Racism at Work: Strategic Self-Advocacy for People of Color](#) This training is exclusively for people of color and offers a space to gain tools, skills, and a strategic framework to more safely and deliberately respond to experiences of racism in their workplace. Time: 3PM-6PM. Free.

August 24 [Sharing the Sidewalk with Robots](#). Several states now permit personal delivery devices (PDDs) to operate and deliver goods on sidewalks and in bike lanes. This webinar will discuss the physical/operational characteristics of PDDs and rapidly evolving state policies. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

August 25 [Special Assessment Districts: A Primer](#). Special Assessments can serve as gap funding for public road improvement projects and can also be used to leverage federal and state grants, attract private capital, provide access to federal low interest rate loans, and can seed funding to get the project off the ground. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

August 31 [Developing Economic Decision Guidelines to Prioritize Infrastructure Investments](#). Attendees will learn about defining risks for disasters, their economic impacts, and how they factor into planning for, and prioritizing, infrastructure investment. Potential funding sources will also be discussed. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

Anytime [Growing Food Connections](#) offers pre-recorded webinars on case study communities that developed and implemented a variety of partnerships, planning and policy strategies to strengthen their food systems. Free.

Grant Opportunities

July 8 [NEA Grants for Arts Projects 2](#) deadline. The National Endowment for the Arts supports public engagement with, and access to, various forms of art across the nation, the creation of excellent art, and the integration of the arts into community life.

July 12 [Community Navigator Pilot Program](#) deadline. The U.S. Small Business Administration's pilot program will strengthen outreach to underserved businesses by partnering with organizations with established relationships and experience within their communities, providing technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

July 13 [Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives](#) deadline. This program will improve public discovery/use of major historical records collections, particularly of America's early legal records, including colonial, territorial, county, and early statehood and tribal proceedings.

July 13 [Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants](#) deadline. This HUD program supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan, that will become the guiding document for the revitalization of public and/or assisted housing units.

July 15 [Active People, Healthy Nation Champions Institute applications](#) due. This initiative is for elected officials focused on Complete Streets and will prepare mayors, city council people, tribal representatives, and other local elected-officials to become champions for activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations.

July 15 [Humanities Collections and Reference Resources](#) deadline. This program strengthens efforts to extend the life of such materials and make their intellectual content widely accessible, often through the use of digital technology.

July 16 [Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction pilot project](#) deadline. These cooperative agreements will support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and they are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

July 16 [FEMA Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program](#) deadline. This program provides funding for regional solutions related to catastrophic incidents and building regional capacity to manage them through collaboration for preparedness. [Grants.gov](#) Funding Opportunity #DHS-21-GPD-111-01-01.

July 21 [Southeast New England Program \(SNEP\) Network Round II Projects](#) deadline. SNEP will provide free community-based technical training assistance for stormwater and watershed management, climate resilience, and ecological restoration projects to build local capacity.

July 30 [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production \(UAIP\) Competitive Grants Program](#) deadline. There are two types of UAIP Grants types: (1) Planning Projects and (2) Implementation Projects. The primary goal of UAIP is to assist eligible entities with projects that support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production.

August 5 [Our Town FY22](#) grant deadline. This National Endowment for the Arts' placemaking program supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local outcomes.

August 12 [National Endowment for the Arts' American Rescue Plan Grants to Organizations](#). These one-time grants will support arts organizations, local art agencies, units of local government and others with day-to-day business expenses and operating costs, and not specific programmatic activities. Matching funds are not required.

August 13 [Wetland Mitigation Banking Program grant](#) deadline. Awardees can use this NRCS funding for mitigation bank site identification, development of a mitigation banking instrument, site restoration, land surveys, permitting/title searches, and market research.

August 15 [Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership](#) deadline. Wetland reserve easements enable landowners to reduce impacts from flooding, recharge groundwater, and protect wildlife habitat. NRCS is prioritizing proposals that focus on assisting historically underserved producers conserving wetlands.

Planning Articles of Interest

['Pandora's box' warned at hearing on backyard chickens](#)

[Study finds Black people in RI are exposed to higher levels of pollutant](#)

[Here's why you should for Christmas shop early](#)

[Greenhouse proposal pits local food production against rural character](#)

[Hybrid open meetings format controversy continues](#)

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WEST GREENWICH

[Plain Meeting House](#)

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