

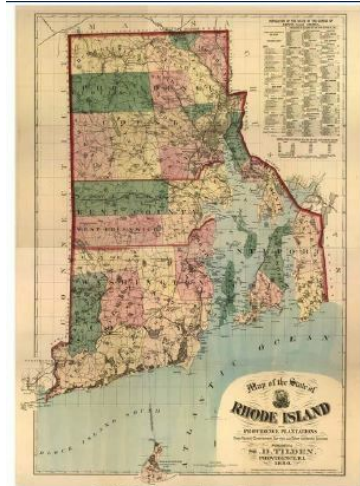


November 2021

New Historic Preservation State Guide Plan

At their meeting on October 14, 2021, the RI State Planning Council approved *Protecting Our Legacy of Buildings, Places, and Culture: An Historic Preservation Plan for Rhode Island* as the new Historic Preservation State Guide Plan (Element #210). This plan replaces the current *State Historical Preservation Plan* (1996) and the *Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor* (1990).

Historic preservation has long been included as an essential element of the State Guide Plan, which is Rhode Island's centralized and integrated long-range planning document. RIHPHC prepares the section (element) focused on plans and programs for the preservation of historic sites and structures.



The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission's former Executive Director Paul Loether (now retired), in partnership with the RI Division of Statewide Planning's Supervising Planner Kevin Nelson (also retired), began the process of producing the Plan in spring of 2019. The result is a document that focuses on plans and programs for the preservation of historic sites and structures in Rhode Island that also provides guidance for municipalities and state agencies through goals, objectives, strategies, and policies for preservation.

RI Land Use Commission Begins Work

The highly-anticipated Special Commission to Study the Entire Area of Land Use recently started meeting at the State House. The Commission was created by 2021 House Bill 5950 (submitted by House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi and Majority Leader Christopher Blazewski) with the charge to "undertake a comprehensive study and a broad based

review of the entire areas of land use, development, production, housing, environment, and regulation, in the state, and provide recommendations based upon this study and review, that will enable the state to ensure and promote land use which allows for sustainable and equitable economic growth.”

The Chair of the Commission is Thomas Deller, AICP, the Planning Director for the Central Falls and Johnston Planning Departments. The Commission's Vice Chair is Maria Mack, who serves as the Chair of the South Kingstown Planning Board. Other members of the Commission include representatives from the RI Division of Statewide Planning, CRMC, the RIDEM, municipal zoning and planning departments, environmental groups, the RI Builders Association, the RI Association of Realtors, the United Way, RI Housing, and others. The Commission must finish their work by April 30, 2022.

The Commission's meetings can be watched live on November 2 and on every other Tuesday at 2PM on [Capitol TV](#); the meetings are recorded and can also be viewed [on demand](#).

The Act on Climate

Enacted by the Rhode Island General Assembly and signed into law by Governor McKee in April 2021, the Act on Climate sets new greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction mandates statewide. The new legislation instructs the state to develop a plan to reduce all climate emissions from transportation, buildings and heating, and electricity used statewide to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and net-zero by 2050.

The Act on Climate requires the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) to update its 2016 GHG Emissions Reduction Plan by December 31, 2022. By December 31, 2025 (and every five years), the EC4 must also prepare a Climate Change Strategic Plan that includes strategies/programs/actions to meet economy-wide targets for GHG reductions. This plan must incorporate other considerations such as assessing and redressing impacts to environmental justice populations and supporting workers impacted by the transition to a reduced-carbon economy.

All state agencies have been instructed to think hard about what they need to do to help meet the mandates of the Act on Climate. Net-zero emissions means the state can still produce some emissions, as long as they are offset by processes that reduce man-made GHG emissions such as carbon sequestration through tree planting or drawdown techniques like direct air capture. In Rhode Island, the transportation sector is the largest GHG emitter and accounts for roughly 36% of GHG emissions. The state will have difficulty meeting the Act on Climate reduction mandates without reducing emissions from the transportation sector, which offers significant opportunities for deep GHG emissions cuts. The new regulatory authority created by the Act on Climate will bring Rhode Island in alignment with neighboring states and federal policy, but will require significant work and investment by all state agencies.

As a member of the EC4, the Division of Statewide Planning will help meet the Act on Climate's strong environmental mandates over the coming years by devoting resources and continuing to promote planning that is equitable, sustainable, and resilient. Statewide Planning considers climate change in its planning and regularly engages in projects, studies, and assessment that address specific issues related to climate change. These planning efforts help inform the decision-making process to achieve a net-zero carbon future.

More information can be found on our website: planning.ri.gov.



Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

Meetings will be held in person; the public can attend via Zoom.

Technical Committee

November 5 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

November 18- 5:30PM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

State Planning Council

December 9 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Please check the links for cancellations.

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

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!



Events

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

November 2 Examining Exclusions: What's Missing in the Historic Review Process?

Learn about more inclusive ways to identify buildings for the National Register of Historic Places and how long-established procedures may result in missing properties that are associated with excluded communities. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Fee: \$0-\$95.

November 2 Leading with Vision: The Method, Not The Magic. This webinar will explore the process of creating transformative urban development that includes the essential role of leadership and vision. We'll consider the value of a compelling vision, the process for creating one in collaboration with the community, and its impact on the project's design and development. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

November 2, 9, 16, & 30 [Sustaining Our Shores](#) events. Part of the URI Honors Colloquium. All events are free and take place at 7PM, both online and in Edwards Auditorium, 64 Upper College Rd., Kingston.

- **November 2-** "The Future of Seafood: How Marine Food Systems Can Support Healthy Oceans and Communities." Speaker: Barton Seaver.
- **November 9-** The Future of Seafood Panel Discussion: "Sustainability through Local and Global Action."
- **November 16-** "The Story of Plastic Pollution: From Scientific Evidence to Policy." Speaker: Chelsea Rochman.
- **November 30-** Plastic and Marine Pollution Panel Discussion: "Science and Solutions."

November 3 [Leading with Equity: A More Effective Way to Frame Age-Friendly Approaches.](#) This webinar shares frameworks to ensure that equity is centered in public investments: access to transit and local mobility; community health; and financing cross-generational services and needs across the life cycle. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

November 3 [Navigating the Supply Chain Congestion Crisis.](#) Presenters representing the port, logistics, and cargo owner perspectives will provide tools to help supply chain stakeholders maintain their flow of freight and supplies. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

November 4 [A New Paradigm for Rail Planning, Funding, & Implementation.](#) The Northeast Corridor Commission recently released *Connect NEC 2035*(C35), an ambitious reinvestment program: learn about C35 and the groundbreaking analytical approach used to maximize productivity and minimize service disruptions. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

November 8-18 [Housing Symposium: Where Preservation Meets the Personal & Political.](#) Historic preservation touches housing in many ways: from maintaining aging properties, to zoning policies that shape property values and equity, to transforming buildings into affordable housing. These events will consider how preservation can be used to mitigate the housing crisis in Providence and beyond. Fee: \$0-\$45.

November 10 [Place Driving Equity: Investing in Public Space for Shared Prosperity.](#) This webinar about an evidence-based action guide on the role of public space for shared prosperity. A panel will highlight the centrality of place as a tool for overcoming inequity, building trust, and generating community-based opportunity. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

November 10 [Rhode Island Offshore Wind Conference.](#) This virtual EBC event will offer updates on developments in this emerging industry; a robust panel discussion with the audience will follow. Sen. Whitehouse will discuss legislative developments and federal infrastructure investment. Time: 9:30AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120 (student and job seeker rates are available).

November 10 [WTS Virtual Luncheon: A Look at RI's 10-Year State Transportation Improvement Program.](#) Learn about RI's program of more than 600 transportation projects that will continue into the next decade. The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) serves as the work plan for more than \$240 million a year spent in infrastructure improvement projects around RI. Time: 12PM. Free.

November 15 [Cycling for Sustainable Cities.](#) Explore how to make city cycling safe, practical, and convenient for a broad spectrum of ages, genders, and abilities, and learn the latest cycling trends and policies around the world. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. 1.5 CM.

November 17 [Plagiarism & Ethics: Where to Draw the Line.](#) Planners' work is done in

service to the public: often their work becomes part of the public domain. When does copying and pasting become unprofessional and even unethical? Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM (Ethics).

November 17 [Advancing Racial Equity Through Land Use Planning](#) This Penn State Extension webinar is designed to help planners, elected officials and citizens better engage in land use decision-making processes. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

November 18 [Shifting Perspectives: Correcting the National Record](#) with Danielle Desilets, Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture (KZLA), Boston. Part of the URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series. Time: 7PM. Location: Room 170 of Avedesian Hall, 7 Greenhouse Rd., Kingston. Free and open to the public; face coverings are required.

November 19 [Climate Disruptions & Dinner: How is Climate Change Impacting Our Food Systems?](#) Climate change will touch food production, cause supply chain disruptions, and exacerbate our existing food inequalities. Learn about threats and solutions. Time: 10AM-12PM. Fee: \$5-\$15 (free for students and job seekers).

November 19 [Planning for Innovation in Transportation](#) will virtually discuss integrating emerging modes and deployment of innovative infrastructure. A discussion of how to best plan for the ever-evolving future of transportation will follow. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

Anytime [ESRI's MOOC Program](#) offers free, massive open online courses ("MOOCs") to get hands-on practice with the latest ArcGIS software. Courses are self-paced and range from four to six weeks.

Grants

November 1 [Behavior Change for Climate Action Challenge](#) deadline, to increase behavior change approaches to climate action. Funding areas include energy conservation, food, trees, soil, renewable energy, and electrification of vehicles.

November 1 [Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Major & Mini Grants](#) deadline. Major Grants (\$2,000+) fund public projects, documentary films, and civic education initiatives. Mini Grants (for requests up to \$2,000) fund public humanities projects, documentary film, civic education initiatives, and individual research.

November 4 [People, Parks, and Power: A National Initiative for Green Space, Health Equity, and Racial Justice](#) letter of intent deadline for community-based organizations working in urban, low-income communities of color to increase park equity through policy and systems change in small- and mid-sized cities (under 500,000 population).

November 4 [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to improve water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability; priorities include water quality and wildlife habitat.

November 5 [Northeast and Midwest Landscape Scale Restoration grant](#) from USDA for landscape restoration on rural nonindustrial private forestland and/or rural State or local government forest land ("rural" means a population of 50,000 or less, according to the latest Census).

November 15 [Inspire! Grants for Small Museums](#) supports public exhibitions,

educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, professional development, community dialogue, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation.

November 15 [Route Planning Restoration Program](#). Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program deadline. An eligible applicant is a recipient of Urbanized Area Formula funds who has had transit service reduced on or after January 20, 2020 due to COVID-19.

November 19 [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#) deadline. FTA program to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.

November 22 [Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program](#) provides USDA funds from \$1,500 to \$20,000 to specialty crop producers and processors, meat and other processors, distributors, and farmers markets to respond to coronavirus, including measures to protect workers against COVID-19.

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 1 [National Endowment for the Humanities' Collaborative Research](#) deadline. Grants will increase humanistic knowledge through convenings, research, manuscript preparation for collaborative publications, and the creation of scholarly digital projects.

December 1 Deadline for various National Park Service historic preservation grants: [History of Equal Rights Preservation Grants](#); [African American Civil Rights Preservation Grants](#) (for historic research surveys, and documentation); and [African American Civil Rights History Grants](#) (for physical preservation of sites).

Articles of Interest

[Town looking into backyard whiffle ball field](#)

[Some Rhode Island flood insurance rates about to skyrocket](#)

[ATV riders push back on proposed residential ban](#)

[Residents in one nearby town reject plan for mixed rent project](#)

[Housing program seeks to entice homeowners not to sell](#)

[Town changes political sign rules](#)

[Craft brewery, apartments planned at mill](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

*Most staff members are still working remotely and can best be reached via email.
Click on staff names for email address.*

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:
NORTH PROVIDENCE
Greystone Mills (1904)

Photo: Wikipedia