

May 2019

RI Transit Master Plan Update



Transit Forward RI 2040, Rhode Island's first ever multimodal transit planning effort, is approaching the halfway mark and celebrating a major milestone: publication of a comprehensive State of the System report. Launched in 2018, *Transit Forward RI* envisions a passenger transportation network designed specifically to meet the needs of Rhode Island communities today and in the future. Using data, public input, and nationwide best practices, the plan will recommend a program of short-, mid-, and long-term projects, as well as an implementation strategy identifying potential partnerships, policies and needed investments. The project is being led by RIPTA, in partnership with RIDOT and the Division of Statewide Planning.

The "State of the System" report details how well current transit services – including bus, rail and water transportation – are performing today, and where more or different service may be warranted. It looks at who uses transit in Rhode Island, which routes have the highest ridership, and where there will be a need for new or expanded services over the next few decades. The report also examines the connection between economic development and transit, infrastructure improvements that can be made to support transit, and challenges the state might face. "The Division of Statewide Planning looks forward to continuing a close working relationship with RIPTA and RIDOT as we develop components of the *Long Range Transportation Plan* that address both present capabilities and future needs," said Meredith Brady, Associate Director of Statewide Planning. "This 'State of the System' report is an important component of the *Transit Master Plan* that stands alone as a comprehensive evaluation of existing service, but will also inform future updates to the State Guide Plan." Please visit www.TransitForwardRI.com to view the report and to get more information on the *Transit Master Plan*.

RI Planning's Map Gallery

Do you love maps? Do you need information about transportation and land use in Rhode Island? Then check out our

[Statewide Planning on-line map gallery!](#) You will find maps for:

- The Rhode Island Transportation Improvement Program, FFY 2017-2025
- The Rhode Island State Transportation Improvement Program, FFY 2018-2027
- Rhode Island Sea Level Rise and Its Impacts on Transportation Assets
- RI Highway Functional Classifications



If you want to make your own map, you can use the [RI Planning Mapping Application](#): it's a great tool that represents a wide range of RI Geographic Information System ([RIGIS](#)) data with appropriate symbology already set up for you to use.

For more information about these maps (and other maps), please contact Christina Delage Baza, Data Analyst I, at Christina.DelageBaza@doa.ri.gov.

From the Associate Director

Mayday, Mayday... So, today is the first of May, and I've found a lot of meaning in looking up the term "May Day", for there are two distinct and separate meanings that happen to join quite nicely together and also act as a complement to my April column.

The term "mayday", as a distress signal, originated in 1923. It was made official in 1948. It was the idea of Frederick Mockford, who was a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in London. He came up with the idea for "mayday" because it sounded like the French word m'aider, "help me". I wrote last month about feeling overwhelmed and trying to learn to delegate. Easier said than done, right? Only sometimes the universe sends you a message that you can't ignore, in the form of a nasty little virus. I've been out of commission for three days now and have had to take my hands off the wheel and trust that the bright, energetic, dedicated staff at Division of Statewide Planning will take care of the critical issues, and the rest can wait until I don't feel like I've been run over by an eighteen wheeler (can I collect a toll for that?) and I'm not coughing up a lung.

What can you do to help me, and help the Division of Statewide Planning? First of all, local planners, please make sure you've reviewed the January public draft of the [Bicycle Mobility Plan](#) and have provided [Michael D'Alessandro](#) with any comments or requested an in-person meeting to go over salient points: we may be grouping some communities together for efficiency's sake if there are a number of requests, but we're moving to finalize the plan, so don't delay!

Secondly, you can send us some great candidates for the raft of open positions we will be advertising over the next few weeks, everything from principal planners to data analysts and everything between. My easiest way to have my mayday call answered? Build my team!

Last but not least, what's that other meaning of May Day I was talking about? Well, yes, it's May 1st, which started as a Roman and Pagan holiday and has come to represent not only spring, and growth, but also workers everywhere. So I'd like to acknowledge my team for their dedication. Things move slowly, sometimes glacially, in government, and

not everybody gets along all day every day, but I think we have an amazing group of planners and support staff in the Division of Statewide Planning and I am constantly grateful for their assistance.

Next time you see them, thank them, and thank the staff around you for continuing to care about their work product, ethics, and vision for the future of all the communities in Rhode Island.

RI Planner Spotlight

Diane Feather, AICP is the Acting Planning Director for the City of East Providence; she has worked for the City for twenty-nine years. With the change in form of government in early-2019, she is the first Planning Director in East Providence to report to a Mayor. Diane is currently is working on: project concept design for the Henderson Bridge reconstruction; administration of a U.S. EDA Economic Adjustment Grant; transportation system improvements to the waterfront; Opportunity Zone implementation; subdivision and land development projects; updates to the Zoning Ordinance; and preparing for the 2020 US Census. Diane oversees the work of three planners and the CDBG Division. Diane served as the President of the RI chapter of the American Planning Association from 2006-2010. Her interests include genealogy, reading Civil War and WWII history, beach combing along the Riverside waterfront, textiles and design, and archery. Contact Diane at DFeather@cityofeastprov.com.



Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee

May 3 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

State Planning Council

May 9 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

May 23 at 5:30PM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

All meetings are open to the public!

PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where in RI is this located?
See the answer at the bottom
of the newsletter.



Upcoming Events

May 3 Planners' Round-table: New RIDEM wetland regs Join RIDEM staff and fellow planners for a presentation and discussion about the new State wetlands regulations. Time: 2:30PM-4PM (and then adjourn to Duffy's Tavern for happy hour). Sponsored by the

RI Division of Statewide Planning. Please RSVP to Roberta.Groch@doa.RI.gov.

- Location: North Kingstown Public Library, 100 Boone Street.

May 3-5 [Jane's Walk- Providence](#) Jane's Walk is a global festival on the first weekend in May, inspired by urban activist Jane Jacobs, to encourage people to get out and explore their neighborhoods. These free walks are led by volunteer guides who share knowledge of their own communities. Click on the links for locations and more information. Some of the walks include:

May 3

- ["Skin Deep: Downtown Building Facades."](#) Time: 5P-7P

May 4

- ["Downtown Providence: LGBTQ History."](#) Time: 10A-11:30A
- ["The Neighborhoods of the North Burial Ground."](#) Time: 10A-11:30A
- ["Downtown Providence."](#) Time: 10:30A-12:30P.
- ["Barrio Tours: Cranston St. and the West End."](#) Time: 10:30A-12P
- ["Cathedral Square/Market Square: A Study in Contrasts."](#) Time: 10:30A-12:30P
- ["College Hill and the International Slave Trade."](#) Time: 2P-4P

May 5

- ["Providence's Historic Chinatown, American Connections."](#) Time: 12P-1:15P
- ["The Historic Jewelry District: Past, Present and Future."](#) Time: 12P-2P
- ["Gargoyles: The Faces and Beasts of Downcity."](#) Time: 3P-4:30P
- ["Discovering Roger Williams Park."](#) Time: 3P-4:30P

May 10 ["Change Your Downtown Development Thinking."](#) Join Roger Brooks, President and Founder of Destination Development Associates, for a workshop about how to make a city or town a better place to live, work and visit. Time: 8:20A-11:45A. Free: [registration](#) is requested.

- Location: Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, 175 Main Street, Pawtucket.

May 14 [2019 Green RI Sustainable Product Showcase](#) Companies producing earth-friendly building materials set up shop to display their latest and greatest products for industry members to view. In addition to exploring the tradeshow floor, attendees have the opportunity to attend CEU presentations, network with peers, and learn about the latest innovations regarding sustainable products from various vendors. Time: 5PM-8:30PM.

- Location: WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley Street, Providence.

May 20 [Solar Siting in RI Municipalities](#) workshop. Speakers: Scott Millar, Grow Smart RI; Paul Raduca, Kearsarge Energy; Chelsea Siefert, Town of South Kingstown; Ashley Sweet, Town of Exeter; Jim Lamphere, Town of Hopkinton. Time: 5P-8:30P. A light supper will be served. Sponsored by the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve and Grow Smart RI (2.5CM). Free, but [registration](#) is required.

- Location: TBD.

Grant Opportunities

May 10 [NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#) application deadline. This critical USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities and maintaining their existing activities. NRCS now enrolls eligible, high-ranking applications based on dollars rather than acres, and higher payment rates are now available for certain conservation activities, including cover crops and resource conserving crop rotations. CSP also

provides specific support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities. Contact Diane Petit, RI Public Affairs Officer, at diane.petit@usda.gov or 401-822-8843.

May 15 [NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants](#) deadline. The National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) Challenge Grants program aims to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials. Applications are welcome from historical societies and historic sites, public libraries, museums, colleges and universities, scholarly associations, and other public and nonprofit humanities entities.

May 20 [NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) pre-proposal deadline. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will make investments to restore and strengthen natural systems to protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards. Funding will enable quicker recovery, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. Grants are expected to average approximately \$125,000, depending upon the scale and scope of the project.

June 3 [The van Beuren Charitable Foundation grant](#) application deadline. Aquidneck Island and Newport County are priorities for The Foundation, but proposals from outside this region that can make a clear case for the benefit to their target communities are welcome. Preference is given to proposals that demonstrate the greatest likelihood of achieving measurable results in four priority areas: strong starts, healthy lifestyles, community prosperity and excellence in the commons. Successful grant applications will present a realistic and persuasive case statement describing the positive impact potential funding will have on the targeted constituency or community.

June 12 [National Archives' Publishing Historical Records](#) application deadline. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives seeks proposals to publish documentary editions of historical records. Projects may focus on broad historical movements in U.S. history, such as politics, law (including the social and cultural history of the law), social reform, business, military, the arts, and other aspects of the national experience, or may be centered on the papers of major figures from American history. Local government agencies and Federally-acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups are eligible.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Bye-bye bikes? Many mobility companies quietly shift their focus to scooters](#)

[Portsmouth Zoning Board green lights Ragged Island brewery plan](#)

[As Americans spread out, immigration plays a crucial role in local population growth](#)

[The best kept—and dirtiest—secret about 5G](#)

[IRS publishes second round of proposed Opportunity Zone guidance](#)

[Wind turbine project has residents up in arms](#)

[Whither the McMansion?](#)

[Council will hold separate meetings on TOD affordable housing mandate](#)

Check out our website for plans, maps, publications, and more!

www.planning.ri.gov

RI Statewide Planning contacts:

Meredith Brady, Associate Director
(401) 222-6496
Meredith.Brady@doa.ri.gov

Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner
(401) 222-2848
Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov

Benny Bergantino, Senior Planner
(401) 222-1755
Benny.Bergantino@doa.ri.gov

Roberta Groch, AICP- Assistant Chief
401/222-4720
Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov

Linsey Callaghan, Assistant Chief
401/222-6479
Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov

Nancy Hess, Supervising Planner
(401) 222-6480
Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov

Paul Capotosto, Fiscal Management Officer
(401) 222-6170
Paul.Capotosto@doa.ri.gov

Benjamin Jacobs, Principal Research Technician
401-222-3949
Benjamin.Jacobs@doa.ri.gov

Michael D'Alessandro, AICP- Principal Planner
(401) 222-2177
Michael.Dalessandro@doa.ri.gov

Michael Moan, Principal Planner
(401) 222-1236
Michael.Moan@doa.ri.gov

Christina Delage Baza, Data Analyst I
(401) 222-6481
Christina.DelageBaza@doa.ri.gov

Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner
(401) 222-2093
Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov

Vincent Flood, Supervising Planner
(401) 222-1243
Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov

Josh O'Neill, AICP- Supervising Planner
(401) 222-4849
Josh.Oneill@doa.ri.gov

Kim Gelfuso, Information Services Technician II
(401) 222-5764
Kim.Gelfuso@doa.ri.gov

Catherine Pitassi, Executive Assistant
401-222-7901
Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov

PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

New York, New Haven & Hartford RR caboose (circa 1929)

Washington Secondary Bike Path, West Warwick

Photo: Google Earth