

April 2021

Port of Providence Truck Study

As part of the National Ports Initiative of the U.S. Environmental Agency (US EPA), the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP) worked closely with EPA Region 1, state agencies, City of Providence officials, Port of Providence companies and tenants, and local neighborhood associations as part of a Port-Community Working Group over a two-year period to identify ways to reduce the environmental impacts of the working port on employees and neighbors while still supporting freight movement and vital maritime trade and commerce. As part of this process, one of the major initiatives that the RIDSP has advanced (thanks to financial and staff assistance from US EPA Region 1) is a truck study of the Port of Providence that provides accurate and updated truck counts and detailed information about trucks going into and out of the Port of Providence.



The Port of Providence Truck Study was completed in two phases from June-December 2020. In Phase 1, project contractors HDR and Dawson completed truck counts at nine observation sites along Allen's Avenue and at key intersections at the Port of Providence, focusing on truck movements, truck behavior, and truck characteristics. Additionally, HDR and Dawson conducted businesses interviews with Port companies on fleet size, truck origin and destinations, and fleet managers' views on a range of issues. Phase 2 consisted of interviews with port area businesses, trucking companies, and individual drivers to understand truck trip types, existing company programs and policies, and driver knowledge and attitudes. Phase 2 also identified potential strategies to reduce air emissions and other impacts (like noise and congestion) from heavy-duty trucks and their activity.

The study's results will inform ongoing RIDSP's statewide freight planning efforts, as well as the efforts of partner agencies, such as: the air quality monitoring and asthma reduction efforts of the RI Department of Health; the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's transportation safety planning efforts along Allen's Avenue; the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's diesel emissions reduction program; and the planning, sustainability, and environmental justice priorities of the City of Providence.

If you would like to know more about the Port of Providence Truck Count and

Planner Spotlight



Jennifer Siciliano, AICP is the Tiverton Town Planner for the past year. Jennifer is currently overseeing the Tiverton Planning Department and is working on various projects in the Tiverton Business Park and major subdivisions throughout the town, and revising the solar ordinance. Prior to this position, she worked as the Town Planner for Foster and as the City Planner for Woonsocket. She has also been a consultant senior planner for Harriman in Boston.

Jennifer has won several awards for her work on team projects, including APA-Massachusetts' 2017 Comprehensive Planning Award for the Brockton *Comprehensive Master Plan*, and APA-Rhode Island's 2013 Outstanding Neighborhood Plan Award and Grow Smart Rhode Island's 2013 Outstanding Plan, both for *Woonsocket Main Street Livability Plan*. She has also served as an appointed member of the RI State Planning Council's Technical Committee.

Jennifer says, "My interests include knitting, listening to podcasts and audio non-fiction, reading science fiction and horror, bee keeping and mead making, trying to garden and sail, and spending time with my husband and dog."

Jennifer can be reached at Planner@tiverton.ri.gov.

Municipal Training Opportunity

The RI Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP) began a new effort in 2021 to provide land use planning education to municipal volunteers. For almost two decades, the Division has provided in-person trainings and workshops through the former Land Use Training Collaborative; the emergence of the pandemic and its restrictions, combined with a desire to evolve training methods, has given RIDSP the opportunity to provide trainings to municipalities through a virtual platform.



This training is intended not just for people starting out in their public service, but also those who have been on local boards and commissions for years. It provides a useful cross-check to ensure that current local practices are following best practice guidance. Topics covered in the training include the origin of powers, roles and responsibilities, state laws related to open meetings and land use planning, and best practices for conducting meetings and application reviews, as well as best practices for establishing quorums, voting, ethics, recusals, standards for reviews and approvals, and deliberating and drafting decisions.

We will be grouping communities by geography for scheduling for future sessions. If you would like to have a session scheduled for your local planning or zoning board or commission, please contact Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov or Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.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.

State Planning Council

April 8 - 9AM via Zoom

Technical Committee

April 9 - CANCELED

Transportation Advisory Committee

April 22 - 5:30PM via Zoom

Brady's Brief(ish) Bulletin

April Fool's Day 2021. Of course, it has gotten harder and harder to separate fact from fiction, the ridiculous from the improbable but real. Two years ago, if I had told you that we'd spend more than a year dealing with the immediate impacts of a global pandemic, that travel would be all but eliminated, conferences and meetings would be virtual, families and friends would be separated into households and bubbles or pods, you would have thought I'd either lost my mind or that it was a great April Fool's joke.



We all know it's no laughing matter, and as time has moved forward, the novelty has worn off. A day in the office is now a respite from flexible schedules that somehow seem to put more working hours in a day. Studies have shown, on average, that staff is up to 45% more productive working remotely, but there's only so much you can do from a distance and still feel connected. In Massachusetts, half of state employees will continue telecommuting going forward as a policy decision: how will these types of decisions shape our business districts, office space, and workforce? What kind of changes are you seeing in your life and in your communities?

Spring is here. Vaccine rollout is accelerating. There are signs of hope and change on the horizon and one question is front and center in my mind: will we retreat to the old familiar or take this opportunity to effect positive change, in our lives and in our communities?

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn." Helen Keller

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
building is located?

See the answer at the bottom
of the newsletter!



Virtual Events

April 2 [Racial Bias in Driver-Yielding Behavior at Crosswalks](#). This webinar looks at how pedestrian race and gender influence drivers' behavior in interactions with pedestrians at crosswalks and how racial minorities are disproportionately represented in pedestrian fatalities. Time: 2:30PM-3:30PM. Free. 1 CM.

April 3 [TEDxURI- Decoding the Language of Climate](#). Leading climate scientists, philosophers, professors, and designers from around New England will share their unique experiences with and perspectives of this multi-faceted field. (Note: this event occurs on a Saturday). Time: 7:30PM. Free.

April 6 [Congressional Briefing with U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse](#). This EBC Rhode Island event will provide update on recent developments in Washington, D.C. and on the Senator's priorities for the year ahead. The discussion will cover environment, energy, and climate change. Time: 9AM-10:15AM. Fee: \$25 - \$120.

April 6 [Land to Sea Speaker Series Ken Ayers, RIDEM](#). Talk by Ken Ayers, Chief of the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Time: 6:30PM-7:30PM. Free.

April 6 [Rethinking Streets During COVID](#). Re-allocating space on streets to accommodate new uses like walking, biking, and being was accelerated by COVID-era needs. This session describes some of the quick changes to city streets that were made in response to societal needs during COVID. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free. 1 CM.

April 8 [URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series](#) Shannon Nichol, Principal- Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Seattle, WA. Lecture Title: TBD. Time: 6PM. Contact wagre@uri.edu for login and more information. Free.

April 9 [Architecture and Urban Planning Through the Tales of Time](#). This session discusses architecture and urban planning through the centuries within the seven continents. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 12-14 [Main Street Now! 2021 Conference](#). Learn how to rebuild stronger, more equitable Main Streets for the future. Focus areas of the conference include: resiliency and recovery; equity and inclusion; and small business entrepreneurship. Fee: \$25-\$149.

April 13 [Bus Electrification: The Role Agencies Can Play in Workforce Equity](#). Fleet electrification raises a range of significant questions for transit agency workers. This webinar will look at the interconnected issues of procurement, manufacturing, job creation, and job equity. Time: 2PM-2:45PM.

April 14 [Public Space Design for Public Health Equity.](#) The upheavals of 2020 highlighted long-standing inequities in how public space serves public health. What needs to change to make a city safe and healthy for all? Learn how public spaces can be re-envisioned for better sustainability and resiliency. Time: 6PM-7:15PM. Free. 1.25 CM.

April 14 [Resilient Planning Integration and Legal Considerations.](#) The City of Cape Canaveral presents the City's road to resilience; how they assessed elements of the comprehensive plan, land development code, and stormwater plan; and identified strategies for adaptation action areas. Time: 12PM-1:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 15 [Climate Change: Local Bylaws, Ordinances, and Regulations for Resilience.](#) Massachusetts municipalities are using their delegated legislative/regulatory authorities to become more resilient to climate change. Municipal officials will share examples of bylaws, ordinances, and lessons learned, as well as case studies on a range of climate change impacts. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

April 16 [A New Approach to Parks and Recreation System Planning.](#) Parks and recreation systems are increasingly viewed as potentially contributing to community resiliency and sustainability. Learn how these spaces can be designed to generate multiple community benefits. Time: 1PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 21 [Annual International Urban Freight Roundtable.](#) Join an international delegation of practitioners across freight sectors and industries who will share their successes and challenges in their recent urban freight-related efforts and showcase their freight-related efforts. Time: 11AM-12:30PM. Free.

April 21-23 [Come Back to the Future: The 35th RI Historic Preservation Conference.](#) The conference features workshops, networking, breakout sessions, and two keynote speakers: Kofi Boone, FASLA, on "Black Landscapes Matter;" and George Smart on preserving Modernist houses. Fee: \$25. Student rate and CM credits are available.

April 22 [URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series.](#) Elizabeth Kennedy, founder of Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architecture in Brooklyn, NY; and Jennifer Ward Souder of Greener by Design in New Brunswick, NJ. Lecture topic: TBD. Time: 6PM. Contact wagre@uri.edu for login and more information. Free.

April 27 [Land to Sea Speaker Series: Madison Burke, RIRRC](#) Join Madison Burke, Education and Outreach Manager for the RI Resource Recovery Corporation, to find out more about where your trash and recycling goes and how you can do the right thing with your stuff when you are done with it. Time: 6:30PM. Free.

April 27 [Must We, Can We, Will We Change?](#) Learn about the ways in which climate change is already impacting Rhode Island, what solutions are currently underway to mitigate and adapt to climate change in our state, and what critical opportunities lie ahead for us in the coming year. Time: 6:30PM-7:30PM. Free.

April 28 [Exploring the National Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Data Clearinghouse](#) Explore crash, exposure and infrastructure datasets from around the U.S. using the National Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Data Clearinghouse, a central website and search tool to find available data sources for traffic safety analysis. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

April 30 [What Will it Take to Desegregate Our Communities?](#) Join APA-RI as we talk about zoning and segregation; we'll watch a brief film and have a discussion with Sara Bronin, the founder of Desegregate CT. Time: 12PM-2PM. Fee: \$10, but free for APA-RI members (contact beyondurbanplanning@gmail.com for member code). 2 CM.

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.

Anytime [The Transportation Research and Education Center \(TREC\)](#) at Portland State University offers previously-recorded webinars on sustainable transportation, transit, equity, data usage, transit-oriented development, smart mobility, and connected vehicles. Free.

Grant Opportunities

April 1 [Archives Collaboratives Grant](#) deadline. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission funds projects that make collections from small and under-represented archives more available for public discovery and use.

April 7 [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) deadline. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation invests in planning, design, and restoration of nature-based solutions to help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards to enable them to recover more quickly and enhance habitats.

April 9 [NRCS Financial and Technical Assistance](#) deadline. Owners or managers of farmland or forest land in RI who could use technical and financial help in managing their lands more effectively can apply to the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for conservation assistance through various programs.

April 12 [Low or No Emission Program \(Low-No Program\)](#) deadline. The Federal Transit Administration's Low-No Program provides funding to local and state governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

April 16 [Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program](#) deadline. The USDA Forest Service seeks innovative, new, or cutting-edge grant proposals for program development, study, and collaboration that will address urban and community forest resilience.

April 22 [NEA Challenge America Grants](#) deadline. The National Endowment for the Arts offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved.

April 30 [Asphalt Art Initiative grant](#) deadline. This program funds visual art interventions on roadways, pedestrian spaces, and public infrastructure to improve street and pedestrian safety, and activate underutilized public space. Up to twenty U.S. cities will receive grants of up to \$25,000 each.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Legislation designed to make the legal marijuana market “as entrepreneurial as possible”](#)

[What if residents could decide the zoning of their own block?](#)

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

CHARLESTOWN

Frosty Drew Observatory (1988)

Photo: www.frostydrew.org