



September 2022

RI Freight Plan Update



Last month, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the Rhode Island Freight and Good Movement Plan, 2022 Interim Update (“Freight Plan”). FHWA’s approval enables Rhode Island to continue to use federal freight transportation funds for projects that improve the State’s ability to move freight. Over the past year, the Division of Statewide Planning has worked closely with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and the State Planning Council’s Freight Advisory Committee to update the Freight Plan, which was originally drafted in 2017.

As part of this update, staff addressed many new planning requirements for state freight plans that were specified in the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) in November 2021. The new federal requirements include addressing e-commerce impacts on freight infrastructure, consideration of military freight, goals and strategies to decrease the impacts of extreme weather and disasters, freight impacts on local air pollution, freight impacts on flooding and storm water runoff, and freight impacts on wildlife habitat loss. In addition, a state’s freight plan must also address how it enhances the reliability or redundancy of the freight transportation network and incorporate the ability to rapidly restore freight access and reliability after a disaster. **[Read more...](#)**

Legislative Roundup

The Division of Statewide Planning's annual summary of RI legislation is now available on our website at planning.ri.gov.

Find out which bills with impacts on local, regional, and statewide planning were enacted, along with links to the actual legislation that was passed.



2022 SNEAPA Registration Opens Tomorrow



Registration for the 2022 Southern New England Conference of the American Planning Association (SNEAPA) will open on Friday, September 2. SNEAPA is one of the best learning and networking experiences for planners and associated professions in the region!

Join your fellow planners *in person* in Providence on **October 6 & 7** for two days of high quality, hands-on and interactive sessions, mobile workshops, networking, a fun reception, and more! This year's conference will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in beautiful downtown Providence, with a block of discounted hotel rooms available at the Marriott Courtyard Providence Downtown.

Go to www.sneapa.org for full details and for registration. See you there!

Small Business Resiliency Training Opportunity

The **RI Division of Statewide Planning** is partnering with with the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP) to host a free virtual training on post-disaster economic recovery for small businesses. The focus is to help local planners, economic development committee members, and small business owners better prepare for (and bounce back from) catastrophic events by planning for disruptions that could potentially close businesses (and business districts) for days, or even for weeks.

The virtual workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 9AM-3PM (with time for lunch and breaks). The best part? It's free!

For for more information and to register for the course, please go to the [NCDP webpage](#). If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Groch, Assistant Chief, at roberta.groch@doa.ri.gov. This training is made possible by a grant from [FEMA](#).



Census Bureau Invites Input for 2030 Census

The Census Bureau is in the early stages of planning for the next census, a process that includes years of research and testing to prepare for the complex task of counting every person living in the United States each decade. To improve the 2030 Census, the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) has invited the public to share their input and ideas; there is a ninety-day response window, with input due by November 15.



Public input is needed now so it can inform the Census Bureau's decisions on the initial operational design, along with the findings of dozens of research projects underway. With this input, the Census Bureau aims to better reach and count historically undercounted people, overcome challenges and encourage everyone to respond to the 2030 Census.

By mid-decade, in 2024, the Census Bureau expects to decide the initial operational design for the 2030 Census, or the “big picture” plan for the census. That milestone is followed by refining procedures and putting technology and other infrastructure in place for the national count in 2030.

Brady's Bulletin

I didn't manage to get a column into the summer edition of the newsletter, and I've heard from enough people who missed me that I'll try to be better about meeting the deadlines each month. With a to-do list that has developed its own to-do list this summer, it's easy to set some of the less serious items aside to make time for complex tasks. Yet I've been reminded again and again that it's the little things, the simple things and the parts of our busy lives that bring us connections with other people which will be remembered long after we leave our work, our school, our neighborhood.

Sitting on a friend's porch last Friday after a tough week of Mondays, it occurred to me that we don't always see the big picture in the moment. How many times have we said: I'll make the call later. I'll talk to that person tomorrow. I'm saving that bottle for a special occasion. I'll schedule vacation time when I have the time to take it...conversely, how many times have you done something you viewed as inconsequential, and it was really a boost to someone else, or it really made the difference, days, weeks, or even years later?

We learned this morning that one of my husband's best friends passed in his sleep last night. Our age. A lawyer. A judge in rural New York. My husband talked to him online or by text occasionally. We stopped through for a visit several times and talked about plans for him to come to the Jazz Festival, for us to go to Bethel Woods. We never made those plans. We never followed through on our best intentions.

I'm watching my cat chasing her tail and reminding everyone, once again, that the pace of change may be accelerating, but there's still time to take those days off to spend with friends and family. Make the dinner plans. Have the wine. Don't check the e-mail (I'm talking to myself here.) Play with the kittens or the children. Ask for help, if you need it. Don't be so busy trying to do more (with less) that you find there's no more time.

Photo Trivia



Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find this building?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.
Click on the links for virtual attendance information.

[State Planning Council](#)

September 8 - 9AM

Room 2A (Cornelison Conference Room), 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

[Technical Committee](#)

September 9 - 9AM

CANCELED

[RIGIS Executive Committee Meeting](#)

September 15- 2PM

William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., Cranston

[Water Resources Board](#)

September 16 - 9 AM

Room 300, RIDEM, 230 Promenade Street

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

September 22 - 5:30PM

Room 2A (Cornelison Conference Room), 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Events

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

September 7 [Coastal Resilience: Nontraditional Solutions to a Nontraditional Problem.](#)

Learn about coastal resilience via nature-based solutions, a case study, and funding opportunities. Time: 8:30AM-11:30AM. Location: Warren Council Chambers, 514 Main St., Warren, RI. This hybrid program will also be hosted on Zoom. Fee: \$25-\$120.

September 7 [Collect, Create, Classify, Curate: Enhancing and Integrating Planning and Emergency Management Capabilities.](#)

Learn how management systems can address barriers among agencies/levels of government and integrate planning, emergency management, transportation, and other departments. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

September 8 [Trail Planning Technology: A Digital Toolbox.](#)

Find out how to use a variety of mobile and desktop based technologies to assess, plan, and design trails across the country. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

September 9 [Cultivating Homegrown Economies Webinar Series: Social Sustainability](#)

highlights a societal shift towards greater support for local economies and provides examples of specific strategies that municipalities can implement to cultivate their own homegrown economies. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free. 1 CM.

September 9 [Centering Equity: Framing Effective Approaches.](#)

Impacts of COVID-19 laid bare legacy inequities, driving historic conversations: this session shares frameworks to intentionally shape an ecosystem that centers equity in public investments. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. free. 1.5 CM.

September 13 [EBC New England Climate Change and Resiliency Summit.](#)

Representatives from the six New England states will update their specific climate change plans, program priorities, and implementation strategies and preparation for the impact of climate change. Time: 9AM-12:30PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

September 13 [How to Fill Vacant Storefronts](#). This webinar will focus on innovative approaches to fill vacant storefronts, programmatic ideas to collaborate with property owners, and long-term solutions to keep storefronts full. Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

September 13 [Just Good Food: Creating Equitable, Sustainable, and Resilient Food Systems](#). The University of Rhode Island will focus its annual Honors Colloquium on exploring ways to reconnect with our food systems. Time: 7PM. Location: Edwards Auditorium, Auditorium, 64 Upper College Rd., Kingston.; video link available on the day of the event.

September 13 [Pursuing Data-Driven and Equity-Centric Transportation Projects: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Actors](#). Discussion of findings on the obstacles local agencies encounter when applying for federal funding for transportation projects, strategies to center racial equity, and best practices for putting together data-driven funding proposals. Time: 2:30PM-3:30PM. Free.

September 14 [A Community Guide to Business Recruitment](#) While the pandemic is in our rearview mirror, many communities are struggling to attract commercial activity to their downtown. Learn strategies that local governments can use to attract new investment and fill vacant/underutilized spaces. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Free. 1.5 CM.

September 14 [Creating a More Equitable Transportation System Through Mobility on Demand \(MOD\)](#) MOD is a vision for an integrated multimodal network of safe and reliable transportation options that are available to all; learn how MOD trends are creating a more equitable system for all users. Time: 1:30PM. Free.

September 15 [Plugged into Energy Research Lecture Series: It's Electric!](#) Reducing vehicle emissions requires investment and innovation to electrify Rhode Island's transportation sector. Is there adequate infrastructure? What policies are needed? Time: 6PM. Location: URI's Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center, Hope Room, Kingston. Free.

September 15 [New England Urban Agriculture in Urban Centers](#). This program will highlight how the continued growing interest in fresh local food drives value for tenants, creates community, and increases urban commercial real estate's sustainability. Time: 5:30PM-8PM. Location: 9OFS, One Federal St., Boston. Fee: \$30-\$95.

September 15 [Unravel the Impact of COVID-19 on Microtransit](#). This research represents the first of its kind to offer insights into how COVID-19 altered travel behavior, and can help transit agencies with performance evaluation, regional transport strategies, and optimal vehicle dispatching. Time: 10:30AM-11:30AM. Free.

September 20 [Introduction to the ArcGIS Urban API](#) ArcGIS Urban provides a comprehensive set of 3D tools for smart city planning. Part of this toolset is available to developers as an Urban API. In this session, we will explore what the Urban API is, how can it be used, and guide you to get started with it. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

September 21 [Adaptive Flood Relief Techniques to Enhance Resiliency](#). Webinar will include transportation project cases to estimate, mitigate, and prepare for flooding, including NASA, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Washington D.C. Department of Transportation. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

September 21- 22 [Housing for People of All Ages](#). This free, online workshop will bring

together local leaders and housing practitioners to explore how communities can provide housing options for individuals and families through four core themes: housing choice, design, stability, and equity. Time: 1PM-4PM. Free.

September 21 [The 12 Advantages of a Destination Business in Your Community and How to Nurture One](#). Destination Business expert Jon Schallert will explain why the most advantageous businesses any community can have are destination businesses capable of pulling customers from hours away. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Free. 1.5 CM.

September 22 [Increasing the Diversity of Trail Users and Supporters](#). This webinar will examine nearby trail residents' needs, interests, and apprehensions in their daily lives and how that connects to their awareness, impressions, and experiences with nearby trails and outdoor public spaces. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

September 26-30 [Climate Preparedness Week](#) is September 24-30. Join these free events from Community Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW):

- [9/26](#): "Extreme Heat and Preparing Communities to Respond to Extreme Heat": 5PM-6PM. Virtual.
- [9/27](#): "Rising Sea Levels: Preparing for Boston's Future": 5PM-6PM. Virtual.
- [9/28](#): "Ground Truth: Shaping Narratives of Environmental Justice": 5:30PM-7:30PM. In-person at Boston Public Library's Commonwealth Salon located at 700 Boylston Street, Boston.

September 27 [Introduction to Wastewater Asset Management](#). Learn about asset management and how to create an inventory and actionable plan to improve the capacity and sustainability of a utility. Time: 8AM-4:30PM. Location: Courtyard by Marriott, 636 George Washington Highway, Lincoln, RI. Free.

September 28 [Making Land Use Decisions](#). Virtual workshop for volunteer board and commission members on conducting land use reviews, standards, and crafting decisions. Contact [RI Statewide Planning](#) for more information and registration. Time: Evening. Free.

September 29 [Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Review 101](#). Learn how communities should factor in environmental historic preservation, regulations, executive orders, and laws when planning projects. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

September 30 [Risks and Opportunity Markets: Climate Change and the Housing Crisis](#) will focus on the impacts of climate change on the housing market, including default rates, price volatility, and abandonment of existing homes. Time: 9AM-12PM. Hybrid event at Nutter McClennen, 155 Seaport Blvd., Boston, and on Zoom. Fee: \$15-\$45.

October 6-7 [SNEAPA 2022 in Providence](#). The annual Southern New England Conference of the American Planning Association (SNEAPA) is one of the best learning experiences for planners in the region. See article, above. Location: Rhode Island Convention Center. Fee: \$50 -\$290. Student rates are available.

Anytime [Millennial Cities](#) offers free, on-demand webinars from various organizations on topics like neighborhood and downtown revitalization, bikes, congestion, resiliency, the property tax system, gender, and policy.

Deadlines

ATTENTION! [Grants.gov will be offline](#) from Friday, September 23 through

Thursday, September 29, 2022, so plan your federal grant submissions accordingly.

September 7 [Deadline for session proposals for Main Street America's annual conference](#), "Main Street Now." Next year's conference will be held in Boston from March 27 - March 29, 2023.

September 13 [AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund](#) grants will be used to develop and/or support community-based entities to: recruit, manage, and support volunteers; expand volunteering; strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations; and develop strategies to use volunteers effectively to solve problems.

September 14 [History of Equal Rights Grant Opportunity \(HER\)](#) will preserve sites related to the struggle to achieve the ideal of equal rights in America. HER Grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and will fund a broad range of pre-preservation planning activities and physical preservation work for historic sites.

September 15 [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Discretionary Grant](#) program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation National Roadway Safety Strategy and the Department's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

September 20 [Grow Grants](#) support groups to deepen their work by further developing a community vision, lowering barriers to participation, identifying new stakeholders and working to bring more voices and lived experiences into core decision-making processes.

September 30 [All Stations Accessibility Program \(ASAP\)](#) FTA grant funding for capital projects to repair, improve, retrofit, or relocate infrastructure of passenger stations/facilities; or for planning projects to develop/modify a plan for public transportation accessibility, and assessments of accessibility or modifications.

September 30 [Coastal Program FY22](#) is a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service voluntary program that provides technical/financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect habitat on public and private lands. Federal grant opportunity number F22AS00110.

September 30 [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#) grant deadline. This voluntary program helps landowners conserve and improve wildlife habitat and are customized to meet landowners' needs. Federal grant opportunity F22AS00095.

September 30 [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Recovery and Implementation grants](#) support the implementation of recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species that identifies and prioritizes the most effective recovery actions to promote species survival. Federal grant opportunity F22AS00093.

Articles of Interest

[Could solar arrays save RI farms, despite opposition from Town's residents?](#)

[Addressing transportation and inflation is a climate solution](#)

[Newport looks to buckle down on pickleball](#)

[Saltwater intrusion, a "slow poison" to East Coast drinking water](#)

[Ruling on mall-size greenhouse in Exeter](#)

[Seven ways the federal infrastructure package invests in planning](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

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

Photo Trivia Answer

MIDDLETOWN

Middletown Historical Society and Museum (1875)
(Formerly the [Paradise School](#))

Photo: Middletown Patch