



RhodeMap RI Process & Implementation

AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR THE
RI HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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RhodeMap RI

Key Points

- The RhodeMap process was required by, approached and completed according to statutes passed by the General Assembly.
- The process has not changed any of the framework for planning, land use, and zoning in Rhode Island established by the General Assembly.
 - The funding sources have not imposed any new requirements.
- The plans are updates of routine, long-standing documents.
- The resulting plans are models for communities and agencies to consider and follow, as they have been for years.
- The plans are necessary for R.I. municipalities to continue to access millions in grants (CDBG, etc.), a process that has been on-going for years.
 - 32 of 33 eligible R.I. communities received these grants in 2014.
- The planning process included the most extensive public engagement ever conducted by the Division of Planning.

Why do we plan?

And where does that authority come from?

Findings of the Rhode Island General Assembly

Statewide Planning Program - RIGL § 42-11-10

“The general assembly finds that the people of this state have a fundamental interest in the orderly development of the state; the state has a positive interest and demonstrated need for establishment of a comprehensive, strategic state planning process and the preparation, maintenance, and implementation of plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; the continued growth and development of the state presents problems that cannot be met by the cities and towns individually and that require effective planning by the state; and state and local plans and programs must be properly coordinated with the planning requirements and programs of the federal government.”

Why do we plan?

And where does that authority come from?

Selected Findings & Goals of the Rhode Island General Assembly

Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act - RIGL § 45-22.2

Comprehensive Planning is needed to:

- Provide a basis for improved coordination so that local plans reflect issues of local, regional, and statewide concern
- Form a rational basis for physical development and avoid conflicting land use regulations and decisions
- Provide a basis for municipal and state initiatives to ensure all citizens have access to a range of housing choices, including affordable housing
- Recognize and address potentially conflicting land uses as well as shared resources and encourage cooperative planning efforts by municipalities
- Ensure consistency of state actions and programs with municipal comprehensive plans, and ensure that state goals and policies are reflected in municipal comprehensive plans and state guide plans

What is RhodeMap RI?

- RhodeMap RI is the planning *process*
- Its many *outcomes* include or will include:
 - ▣ Early Research (*Economy RI and Equity Profile of RI*)
 - ▣ Updated Economic Development Plan (*Rhode Island Rising* - completed)
 - ▣ Updated Housing Plan (in draft)
 - ▣ Updated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (in draft)
 - ▣ Technical Assistance and Capacity Building support for early implementation projects

*All are models for achieving the goals established
by the General Assembly*

How was RhodeMap RI funded?

- HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant
- U.S. EDA Planning Grant
- RI Foundation & Commerce RI
(financial support for economic development planning)
- In-Kind Matches from project partners

Grants and other funding helped SPP enhance the routine planning work it is already required to do by the General Assembly, while saving State dollars.

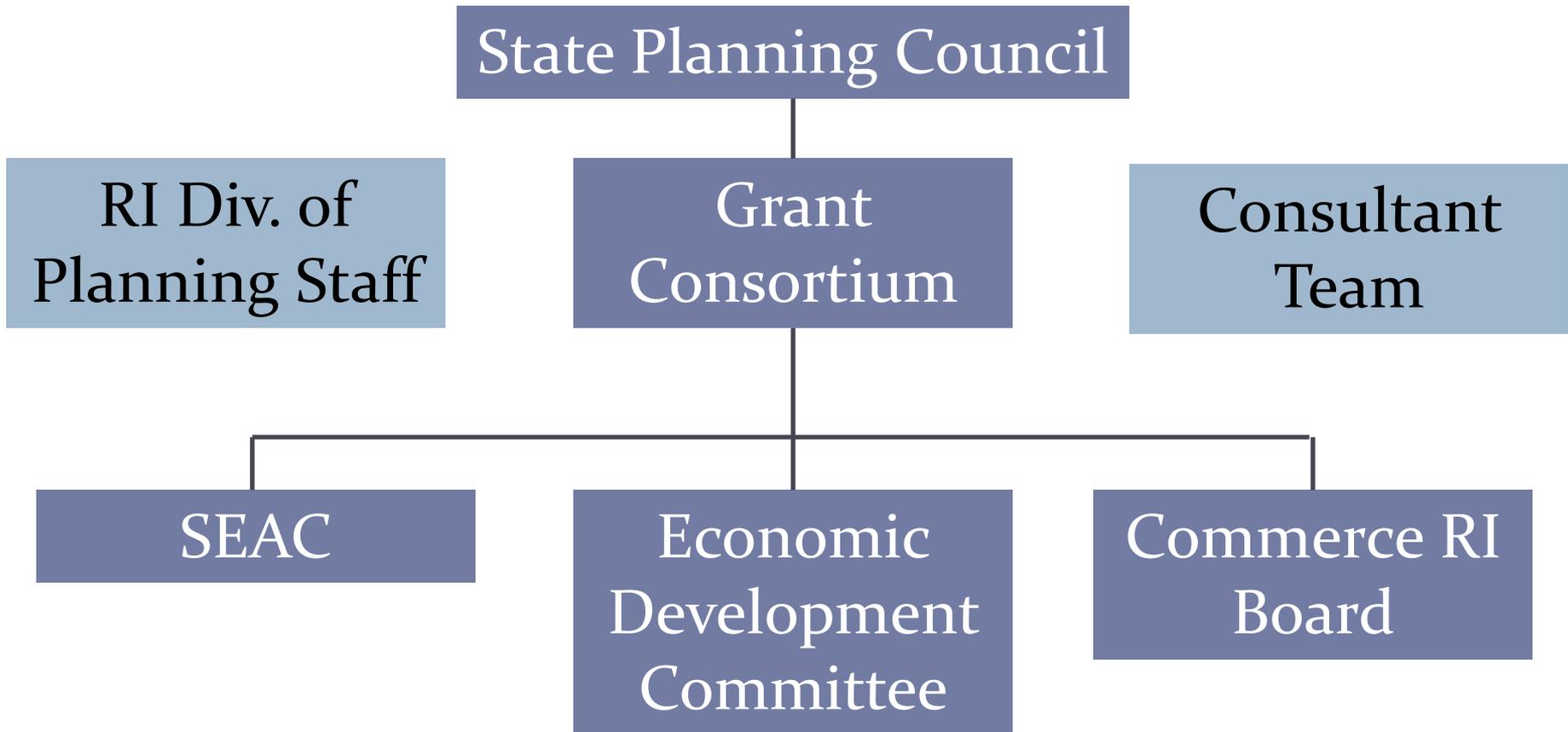
Funding from HUD in no way changes the land use planning system and authority set up in Rhode Island by the General Assembly

Who was involved in the process?

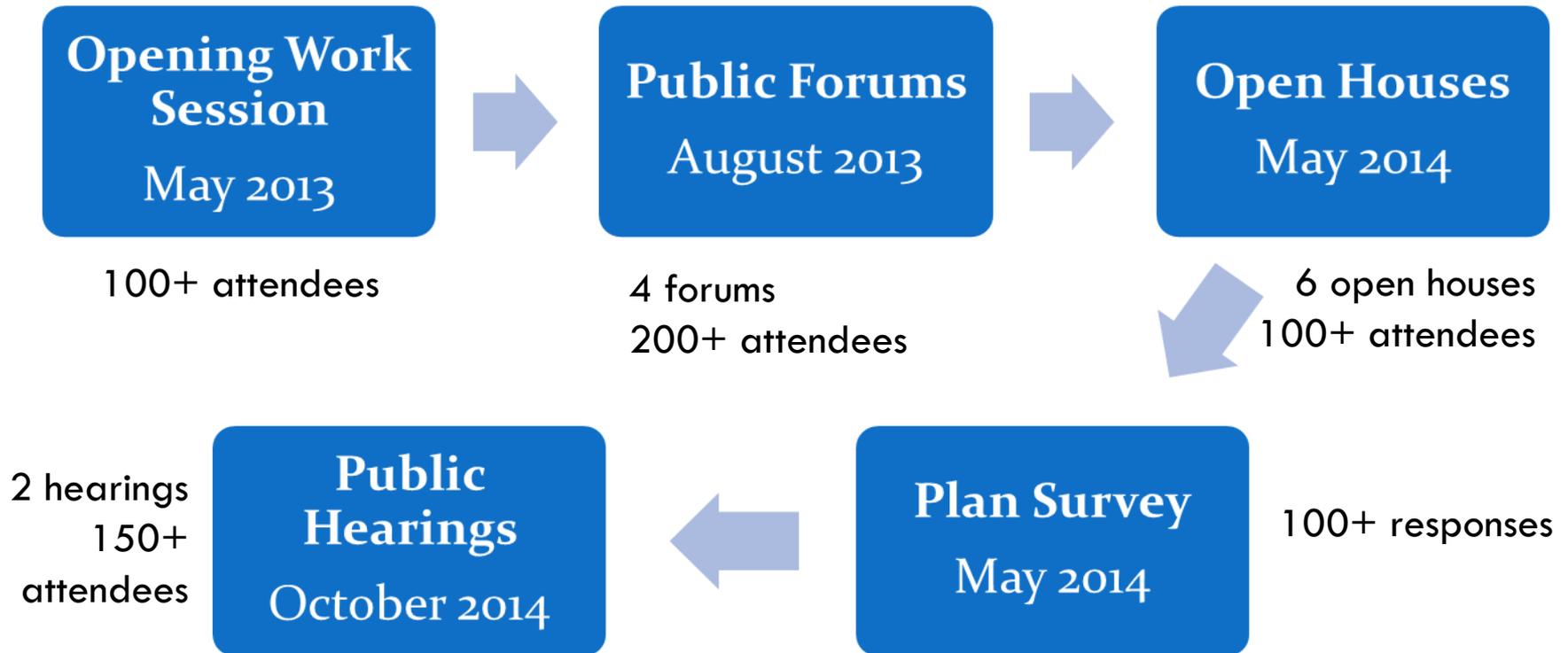
CONSORTIUM

- ❑ Managed and governed grant activities
- ❑ 19 original members, expanded to 32
- ❑ Seven State agencies
- ❑ Nine municipalities
- ❑ Ten non-profit organizations
- ❑ Two universities
- ❑ Five representatives from Social Equity Advisory Committee

Who was involved in the process for developing the economic development plan?



Traditional Outreach



Additional Outreach

Economic Intersections Discussions – Fall 2013

- ❑ Over 200 Rhode Island business leaders and representatives of business-serving organizations participated in a series of working group sessions.
- ❑ Rhode Island Foundation and Commerce RI sought to engage a wide range of private sector representatives in a process of identifying opportunities and barriers to economic growth in the state.
- ❑ Participants offered over 100 ideas and recommendations, and in the process began to identify new opportunities for collaboration and focus.
- ❑ The effort was designed to provide more private sector input into the RhodeMap RI engagement process and to identify some immediate opportunities for economic gains.

Additional Outreach

Focus Groups - Fall 2013 – February 2014

After School Advocates

Bike Newport

Commerce RI Urban Communities Meeting

Central Falls (city of)

Central Falls & Pawtucket businesses

Homeless Individuals, Families & Advocates

Housing Network RI

NAACP Providence

Public Housing Residents

Public Library Advocates

RI Builders Association

RI Commodores

RI Community Food Bank

RI Council for the Humanities

RI State Council on the Arts

RI Developmental Disabilities Council

RI Coalition for the Homeless

RI League of Cities and Towns

RiverzEdge Art Project

Rotary Club Members

SAGE RI - Gay & Lesbian Senior Citizens

Senior Center Users

Venture for America

West Elmwood Housing Development

Corporation and Resident Engagement

Committee

West Warwick (town of)

Westerly (town of)

Woonsocket (city of)

Additional Outreach

Also . . .

- Dozens of One-on-One Interviews
- Website and Social Media
 - Information posted on www.RhodeMapRI.org
 - Facebook and Twitter
- Crowd Sourcing

In total, 1,000s of people in Rhode Island were invited to give feedback through these various opportunities.

Municipal Input

- Municipal council members, planning and zoning boards, conservation commissions, town planners, and more included on all public announcements.
- 9 municipalities served on the Consortium
- 8 municipalities received direct technical assistance
- Public Forums, Open Houses, and Workshops held in 19 of 39 municipalities
- Input session at RI League of Cities & Towns annual conference
- Direct Forums with 5 municipalities (offered to all)
- Commerce RI's Urban Communities meetings

General Assembly Input

- Meetings with House and Senate Staff
- Presentations to General Assembly Committees:
 - ▣ Environment/Agriculture – April 30, 2013 (Senate)
 - ▣ Commerce – May 2, 2013(Senate)
 - ▣ Municipal Government – May 16, 2013 (Senate)
 - ▣ State Housing Oversight Committee – January 8, 2014 (Joint)
- State House Open House – May 15, 2014
- General Assembly and Congressional Delegation Staff contacts received all meeting announcements and materials shared with the Consortium.

Economic Development Plan

Rhode Island Rising: A Plan for People, Places & Prosperity

Includes GOALS related to . . .

1. Workforce and Education
2. Economic Opportunity for All Rhode Islanders
3. Playing to Rhode Island's Strengths
4. Coordinating Housing, Economy and Transportation for Rhode Island
5. Resilience (infrastructure, climate, knowledge)
6. Rhode Island's Competitive Advantages

Approach to Implementation

What is the timeline for implementation?

- There is no hard and fast implementation time frame for any SGP element. These plans are guides and models for our partners
- Timelines are a best estimate for partners, not a mandate
- Implementation Matrix for the economic development plan lays out:
 - Timeline for each strategy: short term (<2yrs), mid term (2-5yrs), long term (5+yrs)
 - Lead and partner implementing agencies (all reviewed time lines and agreed to be listed in the matrix)
- Implementation of plan strategies will be up to the Governor's Office, General Assembly, Municipalities, other state agencies, etc. should they choose and on any time frame they choose.

Approach to Implementation

Examples of Implementation Mini-Grants

- Town of Bristol: Audit of permitting process for commercial development applications.
- Town of North Kingstown: Improve municipal service delivery with Lean management principles.
- Commerce RI: One-stop shop online portal for Latino business owners.
- Navigant Credit Union: Collaboration with the Center for Women & Enterprise to conduct on-on-one assistance to small businesses.
- Governor's Workforce Board: Program and performance evaluation of *GWB Innovative Partnerships*.
- Rhode Island Housing: Draft model of inclusionary zoning ordinance to conform with recent changes to state law enacted by the General Assembly.

Approach to Implementation

How will RhodeMap affect public policy?

- ❑ In brief, the State Guide Plan is where the state lays out its vision for the future and policies to reach that vision. It is meant as a model to guide municipalities in developing their own policies.
- ❑ The plans developed through RhodeMap have the same public policy impacts as elements of the State Guide Plan have had for years, and serve as positive models for municipalities.
- ❑ The General Assembly (§ 42-11-10) has declared that comprehensive planning is a “fundamental interest” of the state.
- ❑ Rhode Island law created and supports the State Guide Plan to ensure positive “physical, economic, and social development of the state.” RhodeMap is part of that long standing tradition established by the General Assembly.

Approach to Implementation

How will RhodeMap affect public policy?

The economic development plan does not (nor has any element of the State Guide Plan ever) in and of itself:

- ❑ Change laws
- ❑ Set regulations
- ❑ Change tax policy
- ❑ Serve as a budget

It is meant to provide guidance to the legislature, state agencies and Rhode Island's communities, who will continue to make these decisions and actions at the state and local level.

Approach to Implementation

How will RhodeMap affect public policy?

What agencies have to comply with the economic development plan, and how?

- Commerce RI is the only state agency or quasi-state agency that has any statutory obligation to conform to the plan, per the General Assembly in RIGL § 42-64-14.
- The economic development plan, and all State Guide Plan elements, serve as models of best practices for agencies and municipalities.
- Implementation at the agency level is most usually accomplished through collaboration, often through regular dialogue at the State Planning Council.

Approach to Implementation

How will RhodeMap affect local comp plans?

Are local plans required to comply? Why?

Findings of the Rhode Island General Assembly - RIGL § 42-11-10

“The continued growth and development of the state presents problems that cannot be met by the cities and towns individually and that require effective planning by the state.”

- All municipalities are required by the General Assembly to develop a Comprehensive Plan and submit it to the State.
- State approved plans must embody the goals and policies of the state, and have strategies consistent with the State Guide Plan’s goals and policies.
- Benefit: State agencies are bound to make their actions consistent with state-approved local comprehensive plans.

How does RhodeMap affect local affordable housing requirements?

- The economic development plan does not make any changes to local affordable housing requirements.
- The draft housing plan acknowledges existing General Assembly direction on affordable housing requirements as described in RIGL § 45-53 (Low & Moderate Income Homes Act).
 - ▣ Requires that affordable housing be addressed in the housing element of a municipality's comprehensive plan
 - ▣ 10 percent affordability goal for each municipality

How does RhodeMap affect local affordable housing requirements?

- The housing plan may make suggestions and recommendations regarding affordable housing requirements.
- Only the General Assembly has the authority to change these requirements.
- The Housing Act of 2014 Implementation Oversight Commission is charged with making specific recommendations to the General Assembly on changes to RIGL § 45-53, and the housing plan supports and hopes to inform that process.

Next Steps?

The State is in the process of completing the deliverables funded under our grant. These include updating existing, routine documents:

Updated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

- ❑ Required to access HUD funds
- ❑ CDBG funds provided over \$5.3 million of support to 32 of RI's 33 "non-entitlement" communities in 2014, and millions more to the 6 entitlement communities.
- ❑ Will be coordinated with Rhode Island Housing's Consolidated Plan – the annual work plan the State must submit to access HUD CDBG and HOME funding

Updated Housing Plan

- ❑ Required by General Assembly as an element of the State Guide Plan

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Follow Up Questions?

Please contact

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For RhodeMap RI deliverables, visit the Division of Planning Website:

<http://www.planning.ri.gov>

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