

State of Rhode Island – DOA

# DIVISION of PLANNING



Parag Agrawal, AICP

Associate Director, Division of Planning

Department of Administration (DOA)

# Rhode Island – An Overview

## Total Population – 1,059,639 (2017 est.)

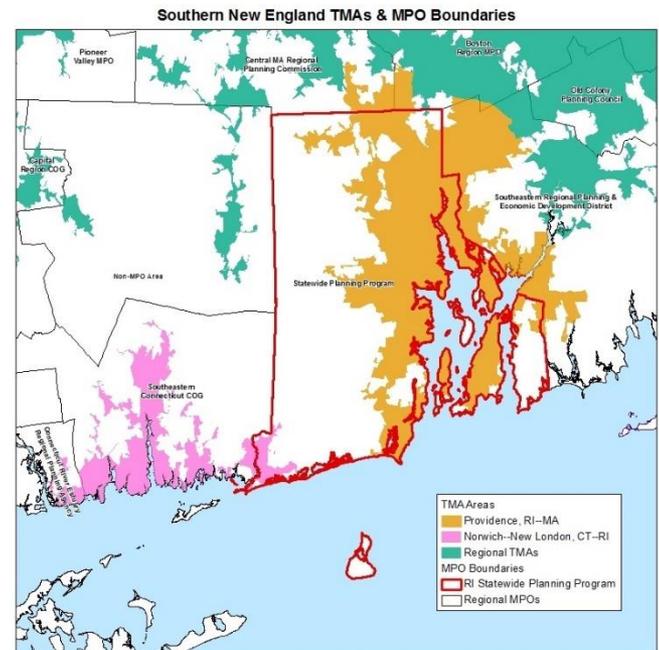
- Smallest in land area – 1,033 square miles
- 2<sup>nd</sup> most densely populated state – 1,025 per mile

## Demographics

- 84% white, 8% African American, 15% Hispanic or Latino
- 87% high school graduate, 33% bachelors degree
- \$58,387 – median household income
- 4.4% – Unemployment rate
- 24 minutes – mean travel to work time
- 10% of households have no vehicle available
- 80% of the working population drives alone to work

## Single Statewide MPO

- Covers land area of entire state
- One single statewide transit agency - RIPTA
- Close coordination with RIDOT



# Rhode Island General Law Statutes & Federal Regulations

- RIGL 42-11-10** – Statewide Planning Program established *“to prepare, adopt, and amend strategic plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state and to recommend these to the governor, the general assembly, and all others concerned.”*
- RIGL 42-11-10** – State Guide Plan established
- RIGL 42-11-10** – Designates the State Planning Council as the single, statewide MPO
- RIGL 45-22.2** – Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act – *Establishes the requirement of State’s Review of local comprehensive plans*
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962** – Mandated federally funded transportation policy-making organizations for urbanized areas (UZA)

# Rhode Island–State Planning Council (SPC) – MPO Board

## Membership (27) (RIGL 42-11-10)

- Chair: DOA Director
- Vice Chair: Governor Deputy Chief of Staff
- Secretary: Associate Director
- 10 state agency heads
- 6 public members appointed by Governor
- 2 Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns officials
- 2 municipalities are represented out of 39

## Advisory Committees

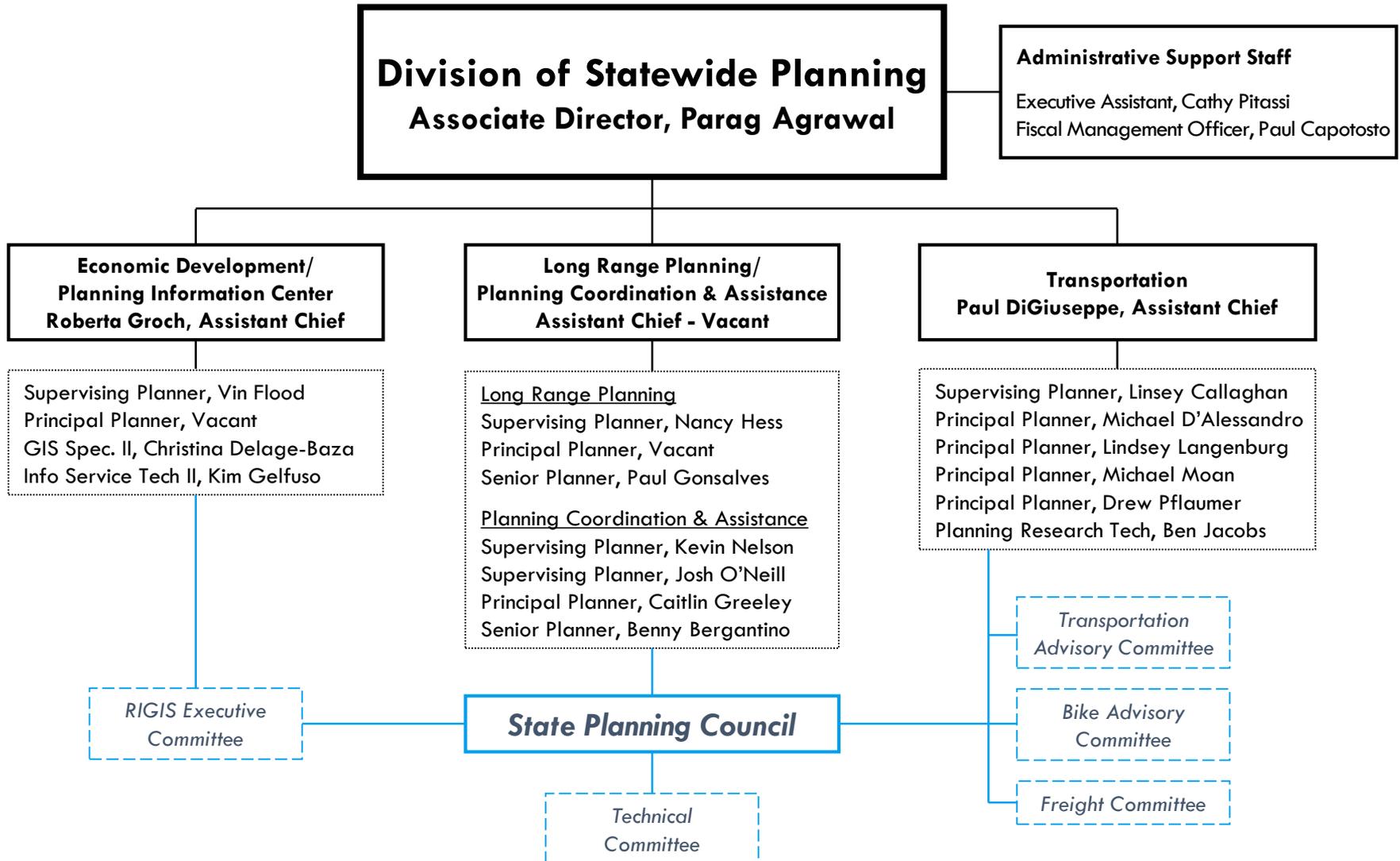
(SPC appoints for 3 year term)

- *TC - Technical Committee (17)*
- *TAC - Transportation Advisory Com (23)*
- *RIGIS Executive Committee (28)*
- *Bicycle Advisory Committee*
- *Freight Committee*

## Primary Duties

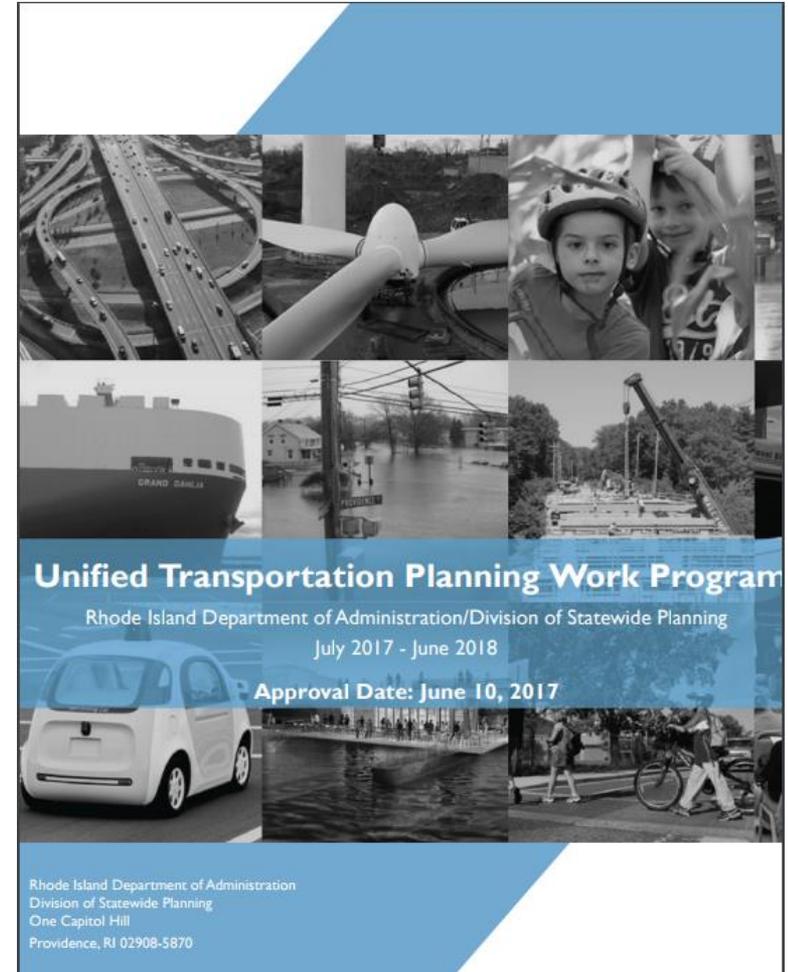
- ✓ Serves as the State's MPO
- ✓ Set State land use & development policy (State Guide Plan)
- ✓ Programs Federal & State transportation investments (TIP)
- ✓ Ensure SGP consistency of economic development projects
- ✓ Establish the annual Unified Planning Work Program

# Rhode Island – State Planning Organization



# Division of Planning FY 2018 Budget

- **\$6.5 million total FY18 UPWP budget**
- 68% Federal funds/32% State funds
- 44% Personnel/57% Programs
- State Funds – General Revenue \$  
+ State Gas Tax \$ (\$500,000)



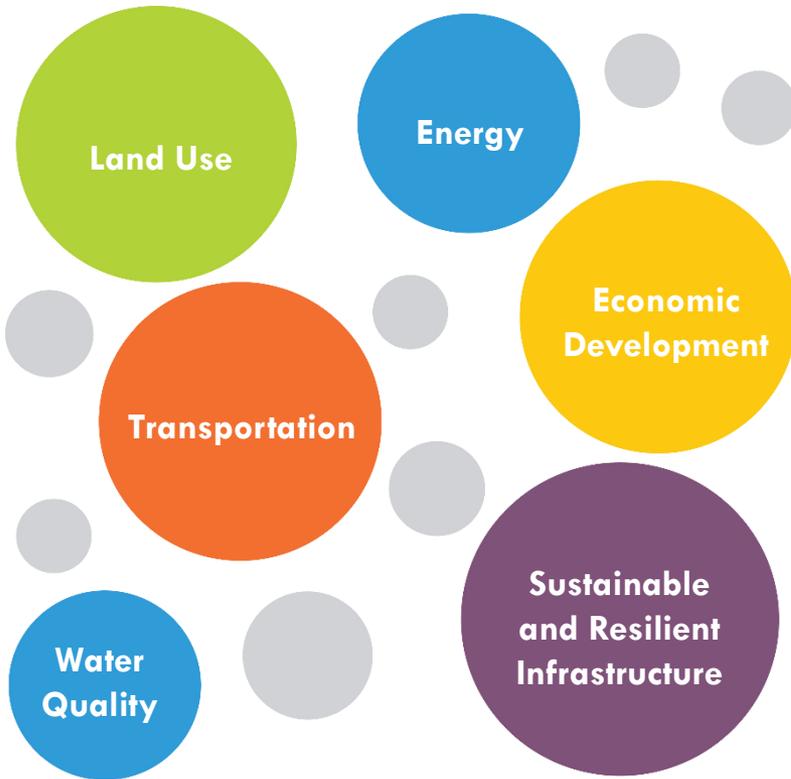
# Municipal Collaboration



## RI Comprehensive Planning

- RIGL 45-22.2 Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act
- Reciprocal System of Land Use Planning
- State sets goals and policies through State Guide Plan
- Municipalities make local recommendations through municipal comprehensive plans
- State review of local plans for consistency with state policies
- Coordination between state and local governments
- Since the 2011 amendments to the Act, 35 plans and plan amendments have been reviewed

# State Guide Plan



## Establishment of State Guide Plan

### **42-11-10 – State Guide Plan established – Managed by the Statewide Planning.**

- Shall be a means for centralizing, integrating, and monitoring long-range goals, policies, plans, and implementation activities.
- Basis for Federal funding, State Agency and municipal comprehensive plan reviews.
- 18 Elements of State Guide Plan
- 4 related to Transportation Planning

# Partnerships – Municipalities



## Technical Assistance Programs

### Technical Assistance

- Pawtucket/Central Falls Access Plan
- Zoning Code updates
- Planning For Active Transportation: Lincoln, Newport, Pawtucket/Central Falls

### Transit Oriented Development Group

### Workshops

- 12-14 per year
- EPA Sustainable Communities Program
- Grow Smart RI

### Speaker Series

### Planning Directors Roundtable

# Federal Transportation Planning Requirements



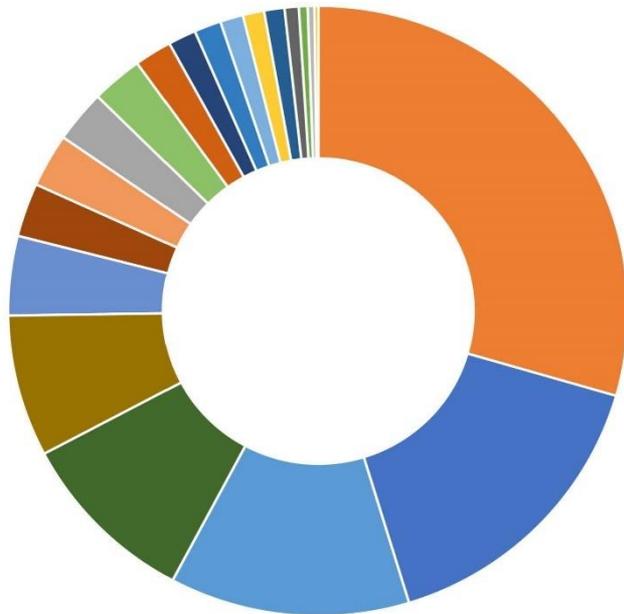
## MPO Requirements

### Long Range Transportation Plan

- Required to be updated after every 5 years
- Sets direction for transportation investment over 20 years
- Currently drafting 2040 Master Plan

### State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

- Required to be updated at least once every four years
- SPC adopted STIP FFY18-27 in December 2017



- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Route 6/10 Project              | Bridge Capital Program         |
| Bridge Preservation             | Contingency Inflation          |
| Debt Service                    | Drainage Capital Program       |
| Drainage Maintenance            | Headquarters Operations        |
| Maintenance Capital Program     | Maintenance Operations         |
| Pass Thru                       | Pavement Capital Program       |
| Pavement Maintenance            | Planning- Program Development  |
| Toll Capital Program            | Toll Operations                |
| Traffic Safety                  | Traffic Safety Capital Program |
| Transit Capital Program - RIDOT | Transit Operations- RIDOT      |

# Statewide MPO



## Other Major Projects

### Travel Demand Model

- Forecasts travel behavior to produce data and test policies for required projects

### Transit Master Plan

- Identify opportunities for enhancement of efficiency, quality, and size of transit network over 5-20 years

### Bicycle Master Plan

- Provides a set of policy and infrastructure recommendations to advance bicycle mobility and safety

# Statewide MPO



## Other Major Projects

### Sea Level Rise Studies

- Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure to Sea Level Rise
- Socioeconomics of Sea Level Rise

### Freight Master Plan

- Improve the free flow of freight to allow the improvement of the economy

### Congestion Management

- Congestion Management Task Force monitors congestion and implements the Congestions Management Process

# Statewide MPO



## Challenges

**Staffing turnover**

**Very low understanding of MPO operations in the state**

**Increasing the municipal representation**

**Access to local match**