

April 2019

Census Solutions Workshop

The RI Division of Statewide Planning, along with the RI Office of Library & Information Services and the RI Complete Count Committee, is holding a free half-day workshop to help educate local government officials and community leaders about strategies they can use to ensure that every



~~EVERYBODY~~
~~FOODS~~
~~COUNTS.~~
~~GUENTAN.~~

resident is counted during the 2020 Census. Rhode Island receives over \$3 billion in federal funding every year based on Census estimates: this is equal to one-third of the State's annual budget. Attend this workshop and help raise awareness about the Census in our communities, starting now. See "Events," below, for more details and registration.

Planning Our Next UPWP

Unified Transportation Planning Work Program

Rhode Island Department of Administration/Division of Statewide Planning

Staff at the Division of Statewide Planning are currently working on our annual UPWP, or "Unified Planning Work Program," which is a statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a given year. As Rhode Island's only Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we are required to develop a UPWP to govern work programs for the expenditure of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds, according to the FHWA Policy Guide (23 CFR 450.308)(b)). A UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds. When completed, the UPWP must be approved by the [RI State Planning Council](#); the approved work program will then be posted on our RI Planning [website](#).

Providence Freight Field Trip

On March 27, a group from State and local

government and the private-sector participated in a half-day field trip in Providence to learn about the impact freight movements have on the City and Rhode Island. The group took a bus trip through the Port of Providence, which handles cargoes such as cement, used cars, heavy machinery, petroleum, and scrap metal. Participants then toured the Central Post Office on Corliss Street (the first automated post office in the US), and saw how the facility handles between three-and-a-half to four million letters and packages *per day*.



More municipal freight field trips will be scheduled in the future and are open to anyone interested in understanding freight and goods movement and issues within their community. If you want to hold a freight field trip in your community, please contact Supervising Planner Josh O'Neill at joshua.oneill@doa.ri.gov. Also check out our [freight planning webpage](#) for more information.



From the Associate Director

Delegation: the act of empowering to act for another. A simple definition, and yet I struggle with the actual act. My to-do list keeps growing and it gets harder and harder to limit my hours of work, get through the essential items on the list, and triage what is less important to subsequent days. I feel a little like I'm mid-avalanche, rolling along, stuck in the middle of a giant cartoon snowball. You get the picture. It's times like these that I recognize the need to slow down, step back, and take a deep breath. Just because one employee is retiring one is out on medical leave, one is going on maternity leave, and there are six vacancies...

I believe it is evident where my next push is going to have to be, after budget hearings, EFSB, legislation, census, and keeping everything else rolling. Most important, we're going to be hiring several staff members, and finally announcing our reorganization, and looking forward to bringing new staff on board.

So, this month, I'm delegating to all of you and looking for your help: what are your best tips for bringing new staff on board, and handing them responsibilities without micromanaging them? Please send me an e-mail - meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov, and I'll compile and share next month. I can't be alone here in trying to improve my processes. What do you want to suggest?

RI Planner Spotlight

David Westcott currently serves as the Town Planner in North Providence. He is an AICP-certified professional planner, an environmental scientist, and an educator. Employed by Mason



& Associates of Scituate, RI, he provides planning and natural resource consulting services to clients throughout Southern New England. He previously worked at CE Maguire in Providence for over thirty-two years, managing environmental compliance for public works and private development projects throughout the U.S. and U.S. territories. Dave is an adjunct instructor at New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich, teaching courses in science, civil engineering technology, and construction management technology. In his spare time, he is the President of Rhode Island "Envirothon," an annual national and international student competition in the environmental sciences. When he isn't working, he relaxes by spinning wool and other fibers to make yarns with which he weaves textiles. Asked why he's still working at age sixty-five, Dave said, "I guess I've been doing it for so long, I don't know how to stop!" Contact Dave at planner@northprovidenceri.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

State Planning Council

April 11 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where this building
is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter.

Transportation Advisory Committee

April 25 at 5:30PM

DOA Conference Room 2C
One Capitol Hill, Providence

Technical Committee

April 5 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

All meetings are open to the public.



Events

April 2 Rally for the 2020 Census Join top business, community, government and labor leaders from across Rhode Island for a rally to urge everyone to be counted in the 2020 Census, which begins in just one year on April 1, 2020.

- Location: State House Rotunda, 82 Smith Street, Providence.

April 5 "The Future of Transportation Funding: 2019." Speaker: Terrance J. Regan, Adjunct Professor, City Planning & Urban Affairs- Boston University. Time: 12:15PM-1:15PM. For more information and to RSVP, contact Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov. Sponsored by the RI Division of Statewide Planning and APA-RI (1.0 CM).

- Location: DOA Conference Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence.

April 6 "Preservation, Recreation and Sport: The 34th Annual RI Statewide Historic Preservation Conference." All conference updates, registration and information are on the conference website. For more information, contact ripresconf@gmail.com or call

Janet Balletto at 401-222-2078.

- Location: East Providence, multiple locations (see website for [details](#)).

April 8 [RI Transit Master Plan update](#) Join RI Transit Riders (formerly RIPTA Riders Alliance) for a presentation and discussion of progress to date on the State's first-ever Transit Master Plan, *Transit Forward RI 2040*. Representatives from RIPTA, RIDOT, and the Division of Statewide Planning will share their research and ideas and invite feedback as they continue to envision how the State's passenger transportation network should look and operate in the future. Time: 4:30P-6:30P.

- Location: The Providence Foundation, 1 Union Station, Providence.

April 10 ["Census Solutions" Workshop](#). Join community leaders, planners and other government officials to learn about strategies for counting every person in your community during the 2020 US Census in RI. Time: 9AM-1PM. Free, but [registration](#) is requested.

- Location: Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane.

April 11 [Aquidneck Island Legislative Forum](#). A conversation with Aquidneck Island's State elected officials, focusing on issues important to Aquidneck Island. Moderated by Neil D. Steinberg, President & CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. Time: 8AM-10AM. RSVP [online](#).

- Location: CCRI- Newport campus, 1 John H. Chafee Boulevard, Newport..

[URI Landscape Architecture Lectures:](#)

April 11 "Resilient Landscapes: Rethinking Urban Open Space in an Era of Rapid Climate Change." Pippa Brashear, Director of Planning and Resilience of Scape, NYC. Time: 7P

April 25 Anne Spirn, Professor, MIT. Lecture Title: "This Garden is a Town." Time: 7P.

- Location of lectures: The Richard E. Beupre Center for Chemical & Forensic Sciences, Room 105A, 140 Flagg Road, Kingston.

April 30 [Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association Conference](#). 8AM to 4:30PM. Join floodplain management, hazard mitigation, and other professionals to learn and share experiences. This year's theme is "What Works? Implementing Lessons Learned."

- Location: Fidelity Investments, 900 Salem Street, Smithfield.

May 3 [RI Planners' Round-table Discussion](#) Presentation by RIDEM on RI's new wetlands regulations, to be followed by discussion (and adjournment to Duffy's Tavern for networking?!?)

Time: 2:30-4PM. For more information and to RSVP, contact Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov

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

Grant Opportunities

April 11 [Archives Collaboratives: Planning Grant](#) deadline. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will make collections from small and under-represented archives more readily available for public discovery and use. The grant program will fund best practices, tools, and techniques among member organizations; assess institutional strengths and opportunities; and develop plans and management structures for long-term sustainability and growth.

April 11 [National Endowment for the Arts' Challenge America](#) grant deadline. offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to under-served populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the

arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Grants are for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and require a minimum \$10,000 match.

April 17 [AARP Community Challenge](#) grant deadline. The program funds community-based "quick-action" projects related to housing, transportation, smart cities and public spaces. The goal is to spark change and build momentum to improve livability for people of all ages. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects. All projects must be completed by November 4, 2019.

April 19 [NRCS Agricultural Land Easement Program](#)(ACEP) deadline. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and industrial private forest land private forestland are eligible. State and local governments, non-governmental organizations and Native American Tribes that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements. For more information, contact [Diane Petit](#), NRCS-RI Public Affairs Officer, at 401/822-8843.

May 1 [Arts, Culture and Transportation Fellowship](#) application deadline. Transportation for America- a program of Smart Growth America— announces a year-long Arts, Culture, and Transportation Fellowship. Between ten and fifteen professionals will be selected who are looking to increase their knowledge of the transportation planning and design process and develop creative placemaking skills to serve as fellows. Fellows must apply in teams composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of four persons and must represent the same city or town.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Pawtucket 'lifestyle center' proceeding on Newport Ave.](#)

[SK Council sets new building height limits](#)

[Pedestrian deaths in US driven to highest number in three decades](#)

[How abandoned big-box stores can bring communities together](#)

[Woonsocket City Council approves controversial zoning change](#)

[From video game to day job: how 'Sim City' inspired a generation of city planners](#)

Check out our website for plans, events, news, and more!

www.planning.ri.gov

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

Arkansas State Capitol building (April Fools'!)!

Little Rock, AR

Photo: *Arkansas Business* website