

Rhode Island Department of Administration Division of Statewide Planning December 2017

A Look Back at 2017

Dear Friends-

2017 has been a great year for the Division of Statewide Planning. Some of the initiatives we have undertaken include:

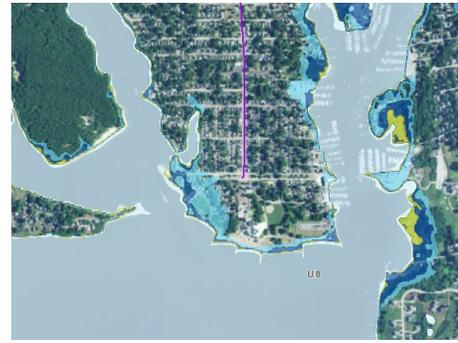
- Started a new Long Range Transportation Plan;
- Started the State's first Bicycle Master Plan;
- Began the RI Transit Master Plan;
- Completed an update of our State Transportation Improvement Program (*see below*);
- Partnered with seven communities to review and approve local comprehensive plans;
- Completed a white paper to assess the vulnerability of the State's transportation infrastructure;
- Launched the "Planning for a Livable Future" technical assistance program to encourage active transportation opportunities in the State (*see below*);
- Launched a new "open data" RIGIS website (www.rigis.org);
- Hosted a number of special events to increase outreach to municipal planners and other stakeholders, including: a transportation planning forum that was attended by over one hundred people; a Planning Director's Roundtable, attended by thirty-two municipal planning directors; and a tour of the American Tourister project in Warren.



We look forward to working with you in 2018 to make Rhode Island one of the most livable states in the country. Happy holidays!

Parag Agrawal, AICP- Associate Director
Division of Statewide Planning

In 2017, a new provision was added to RIGL §45-22-7 that requires each member of a municipal planning board or commission participate in two hours of training and education concerning the effect of development in a flood plain and the effects of sea-level rise and climate change in RI. The bill for this mandate was introduced by Rep. Lauren Carson (D-Newprt) and requires that the training must be completed once every two years, by September 30,



2019. Upon completion of the training, a member must file with the municipal clerk a statement asserting that the training has been completed. The **PREP-RI** online series of six educational modules provides one hour of eligible training. For more information, please see the [guidance memo](#) on the RI Division of Statewide Planning website.

State's \$6.5 Billion TIP Receives Approval



The RI State Planning Council gave their final approval to the \$6.5 billion 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is a ten-year program that includes transportation projects that are eligible to receive federal funding. This TIP allocates \$1.5 billion to bridge improvements, \$856.4 million to pavement capital and \$160 million to

transportation alternatives (such as bicycle infrastructure). The STIP update included a full solicitation of new projects from Rhode Island state agencies, municipalities, organizations, and individuals. These projects were reviewed by committees comprised of staff from various state agencies, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, and representatives from the State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). View the approved TIP (and related documents) [here](#).

Technical Assistance Awarded to Three Projects



Statewide Planning is pleased to announce the funding for our "Planning for a Livable Futures" technical assistance program for three communities. They are:

- [Lincoln](#)- A placemaking study to help in transformation of streetscape on Front Street commercial area
- [Newport](#)- A plan to create a new public space at the Intersection of Spring and Touro Streets, as well as bicycle and pedestrian enhancements



- Pawtucket/Central Falls- A bicycle and pedestrian master plan for both communities

"These projects will help increase transportation choices while improving the local economic development climate," says Parag Agrawal, AICP, Associate Director of the RI Division of Statewide Planning. Statewide Planning received a total of twelve applications for assistance; we hope to offer the program again next year.

State Planning Council Recognizes Smithfield

At their December meeting, the State Planning Council recognized the Town of Smithfield for the approval of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. DOA Supervising Planner Kevin Nelson remembered that the town "first submitted draft chapters in 2013 and has been working steadily on the plan since that time." Town Planner Michael Phillips emphasized the support he has received for the plan from the Town Council and the Town Manager. The Smithfield Comprehensive Plan can be viewed [here](#).



Pictured (l to r): DOA Director Michael DiBiase; Smithfield Town Manager Randy R. Rossi; Town Planner Michael Phillips; and DOA Supervising Planner Kevin Nelson.

Statewide Planning Employee Spotlight



Linsey Callaghan, Supervising Planner Linsey Callaghan is the Supervising Planner of the Rhode Island Division of Planning's Transportation Unit. She has held this position since 2010 and manages the development of Rhode Island's various transportation plans and programs, including the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), freight and goods movement plan, performance monitoring, and congestion management process. Linsey is a member of the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Urban Freight Transportation. Prior to that, she served as a Principal Planner for the Town of North Kingstown since 2005. Linsey holds a BA in History from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master of Community Planning from URI. Outside of the office, Linsey can be found with her family on the beach in Narragansett, running along the sea wall, golfing, or playing with her two young boys. Contact Linsey at linsey.callaghan@doa.ri.gov.

We want your news!

Do you have an article about a planning project or item of interest from your town that you would like to include in our newsletter?
Please contact [Roberta Groch](#) and you might see it here.

Upcoming Meetings

State Planning Council

January 11, 2018 at 9AM
Conference Room "A"
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Transportation Advisory Committee

January 25, 2017 at 6:30PM
Conference Room "A"
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Technical Committee

Meets on an as-needed basis

PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where in RI this building is located? See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter.



Events and Announcements

- **December 20 Resiliency Roundtable**- Statewide Climate Resiliency Strategy from 5PM – 7PM, Coventry Town Hall, 1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
- **January 5** Application deadline for Cities of Service "**Engaged Cities Award**". The award "will elevate city-led strategies that most successfully engage citizens to help create and implement solutions to pressing local problems." The winning city will be awarded \$100,000 and two additional cities will each receive \$50,000.
- **January 11** RIAPA Annual Awards and (Post) Holiday Party from 6PM-9PM at **Breaktime Bowl**, Hope Artiste Village, 1005 Main St. in Pawtucket. Ticket information is coming soon.
- **January 18** URI FOODX Summit 2018. Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences. 120 Flagg Road, Kingston. 1PM-5PM. Free; **registration** is required.
- **January 26** Transportation Speaker Series: Jerry Friedman, Supervising Engineer for the City of Cambridge DPW, will discuss the planning and implementation of Cambridge's "complete streets" program. 12:30P-1:30P in DOA Conference Room 2B, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence. 1 CM credit pending.

Check out our website for plans, maps, publications, and more!

www.planning.ri.gov

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER: The Granoff Center for the Creative Arts,

Brown University

Photo: www.vmzinc-us.com website