

Rhode Island Department of Administration Division of Statewide Planning October 2017

Planning Directors' Roundtable Round-up

Thirty city and town planning directors came together on September 28 to hear about inter-municipal coordination and to discuss several issues that have become priorities in their municipalities. The group first heard from Jillian Finkle, coordinator of the Broad Street Regeneration Project 2.0, which is helping to revitalize Broad Street through Pawtucket, Central Falls and Cumberland. This important commercial corridor will soon be reconstructed with traffic calming, streetscape upgrades, and safety and stormwater improvements and involves all three communities working closely together. The lively discussion that followed the program focused on planning-friendly legislation and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. After the roundtable, one planner commented on how useful it was and said "I hope we can do another event in the future". We plan to, so stay tuned!



Long Range Transportation Plan Feedback Received

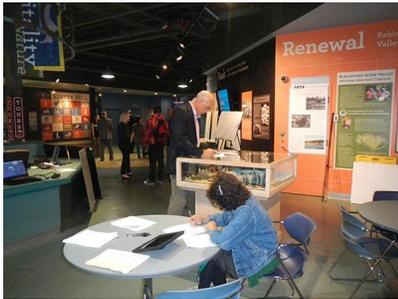
Discovery public workshops were held for the *RI Moving Forward 2040* Plan, the state's guide for future investments in all modes of transportation. The public had an opportunity to comment on the upcoming Long-Range Transportation Plan and Bicycle Mobility Plan efforts and to tell the project team about their experiences with the state transportation network. These workshops were held in three locations around the state: Pawtucket, South County, and East Bay, with the same activities at each location.

The most important issues found were to:

- Increased funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities/open space
- improve existing public transportation
- Expand public transportation options

- Ensure safe and walkable communities
- Create a comprehensive intermodal transit system
- Increase bike-friendly businesses
- Reduce environmental impacts

We still want your input, so please take our online survey. Browse the website, draw in your ideal bike route on our Interactive Bike Map, email us with your questions, or invite us to speak to your organization. Your input matters! Please see the Plan website: www.PlanRI.com



Statewide Planning Employee Spotlight



Jared Rhodes Jared has worked at the Division of Planning since 2007: his responsibilities have included serving as Chief of the Statewide Planning program; management of the State's Transportation Improvement Program; serving as the secretary to the State Planning Council's technical Committee; and providing assistance to other State agencies and RI communities. Jared started his career working as a marine research specialist for the URI Coastal Resources Center. He spent eight years in the City of Cranston, working his way up from Planning Assistant to Planning Director. Jared received

both his B.A. in marine affairs and his Master's degree in community planning from the University of Rhode Island. Jared's last day at the Division of Planning was October 13th: he is headed to a new job as the Policy and Programs Coordinator at the RI Resource Recovery Corporation. Good luck, Jared: you will be missed!

PREP-RI Showcases Resiliency Lessons Learned

PREP-RI is an online module series aimed to increase the capacity of municipal decision-makers to make effective choices supporting resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change. Relevant examples and lessons learned from Rhode Island communities are included, as well as ways to use resources and tools in decision-making. PREP-RI is a partnership of the URI Coastal Resources Center, the RI Sea Grant, and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Contact Pam Rubinoff at prep-ri@crc.uri.edu.

RI Commerce Offers Funding to Streamline Permitting

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is providing funding for municipalities to participate in “Municipal Initiative II-Simplifying the Building Permit Process”. This initiative involves Lean consultants working directly with a municipality to formulate areas of opportunity in the current permitting process using business process and workflow mapping. The goal is to remove wasteful steps and improve the current process by creating a streamlined application and a simplified and transparent process for development. This initiative will help municipalities preparing to offer online services through e-permitting, as well as those that are already online and have yet to streamline their processes. For more information on either Initiative, please contact [Julietta Georgakis](#) at 401-278-9155.

We want your news!

Do you have an article or item of interest that you would like to include in our newsletter? Please contact [Roberta Groch](#) and you might see it here!

Upcoming Meetings

[State Planning Council](#)

November 9, 2017 at 9AM
Conference Room "A"
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

October 26, 2017 at 6:30PM
Conference Room "A"
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

[Technical Committee](#)

November 3, 2017 at 9AM
Conference Room "A"
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

PHOTO TRIVIA:

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



Upcoming Events

October 26-27: Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA)
Conference- Providence www.sneapa.org

November 5-8: Northeast Arc Users Group Conference (NEARC)- Newport,
www.northeastarc.org

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER: Bell School House, Richmond, RI

Photo: Wikipedia