

September 2018

From the Associate Director

Welcome to the September 2018 issue of *Plan Rhode Island*, the Statewide Planning newsletter. I've now been in my new position for seven weeks, a transition and experience that has, at once, been utterly terrifying, occasionally frustrating, sometimes sleep-inducing, and ultimately remarkable, rewarding, and fulfilling. I've met with each member of the Division of Statewide Planning staff individually, learned about what brought them to the group, what motivates them, and what they think we can do better. I've met with a number of agency directors, attended committee meetings, and started to shape my own personal vision of the course we're charting.

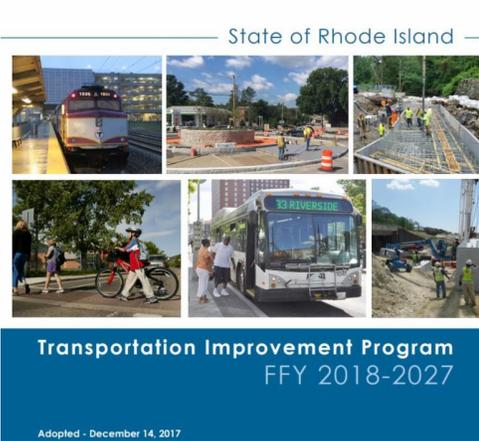
While working on the Budget submission for FY2020 this week, I had to identify how my proposals related to the agency mission. So I came up with an answer, which has since become my starting point for developing a vision for the Division of Statewide Planning: "The Division of Statewide Planning: reaching out a hand to Rhode Island government to inform plans for growing a resilient, innovative, and adaptable future." What do you think? Suggestions? Ideas? We'll be working over the next several months to align ourselves in the appropriate direction and answer the question: what do we want to be, as an agency, when we grow...

I will be getting out to each city and town over the next month. If there is an event or meeting upcoming that you'd like me to attend, please let me know and I'll try to schedule my visit around that time. Please e-mail me at Meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov or call me at (401) 222-6496 and I'll do my best to respond around EFSB hearings and the many initiatives currently underway.

Improving the TIP Process

In an effort to improve Rhode Island's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) the Division of Statewide Planning, along with RIDOT, will be hosting a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sponsored STIP peer exchange on September 13-14 in Providence.

Assistant Chief Linsey Callaghan says, "The goal of the peer exchange is to help Rhode Island migrate to an electronic based STIP (or E-STIP)." The exchange will also improve overall STIP processes (update frequency schedule, amendment/adjustment procedures etc.), and upgrade the Transportation Alternative Program's project submission and selection process.



We are lucky to have the following peer agency representatives participating in the exchange:

- Van Argabright, Director of Planning and Programming- North Carolina DOT
- Rick Murphy, Senior Capital Programs Coordinator- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Council (MPO for the Philadelphia area)
- Bryan Pounds, STIP Coordinator- MassDOT

We will also be joined by facilitators from FHWA. We anticipate that this will be an informative, productive event and will report on the findings in next month's newsletter. For more information, please contact Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov.

2018 Legislative Round-up

The 2018 Legislative session has ended: what planning-related bills were passed? When the General Assembly is in session, the Division of Statewide Planning reviews transportation and other planning-related proposed bills and recommends policy positions for new bills to the Director of Administration (DOA) and the Governor's Policy Office. A [legislative summary](#) is available on our website to provide information for municipalities, State agencies and other interested parties: it includes a brief synopsis of bills identified, accompanied by links to the bills (and associated RI General Laws) and their final statuses. Check it out to see what bills could directly impact the work you do!

Need Assistance with Your Draft Comp Plan?

The RI Division of Statewide Planning (RISP) is here to help! RISP's Comprehensive Planning team wants your community's comprehensive plan to be the best it can be: staff is available to assist you long before your plan is ready for city or town council approval.

One important way we support comprehensive planning efforts is by reviewing draft chapters or amendments. Draft review enables discussions between RISP and your local team about issues that could hinder State approval of the plan.

During draft review, RISP can alert the local team to any unmet requirements of the Act, possible conflicts with State goals and policies, or possible inconsistencies within the plan's text or maps. Draft chapters may be submitted either individually or collectively. By addressing "approvability" issues prior to local approval and adoption, revisions can



be avoided, saving time and eliminating the need for additional public hearings; it will also reduce the statutorily mandated, post-adoption State review time period from up to 120 days to 30 days.

Many municipalities also choose to submit draft chapters or amendments for review by other State agencies as well as by RISP. By including State agencies in these early reviews, it is likely that any comments submitted when the final plan undergoes a formal review will be less extensive. For more information, please contact Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner, at 401/222-2093 or Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov.

Planning Employee Spotlight



Michael D'Alessandro, AICP, is a Principal Planner with the RI Division of Planning. Michael has worked in the planning and engineering industry for thirteen years and joined the Division of Planning in October 2016. Michael's primary responsibilities have been to assist with the preparation of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Michael has been involved

in transportation projects throughout the country in roles ranging from planning and project development, environmental review, and program oversight. Prior to joining the Division of Planning, he was a private consultant working from offices in Southern California and New York City. He holds a Master's degree in City Planning from San Diego State University and a Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from the University of Vermont. A Rhode Island native, Michael spends time surfing in South County, learning Old Time music on the mandolin, and skating with teams at Hockey Night in Kingston. Contact Michael at Michael.Dalessandro@doa.ri.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

[State Planning Council](#)

September 13 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

September 27 at 5:30PM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

[Technical Committee](#)

October 5 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

[RIGIS Executive Committee Meeting](#)

October 18 at 2PM

USDA-NRC Offices
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick

PHOTO TRIVIA:

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



Upcoming Events

DESIGN WEEK RI Events:

- **September 14** "[Solving the Housing Crisis: Where Does Design Fit In?](#)" 8:30AM - 10AM. AS220, 115 Empire Street, Providence. Free.
- **September 21** "[Small Builds, Big Futures: A Solution to the Affordable Housing Crisis in Providence.](#)" 5PM-8PM. Southside Cultural Center, Trinity Square, 383 Broad Street, Providence. Free.

"Books and Beer" Planning Book Club:

- **September 27** Brutopia, 505 Atwood Ave., Cranston. 5:30PM - 7:30PM. Book: *Future Shock* by Alvin Toffler.
- **October 29** Location TBD. 5:30PM - 7:30PM. Book: *The Last Good Chance* by Tom Barbash.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Thom Deller: tdeller@centralfallsri.us.

September 20-23 [YIMBYtown](#) 2018 Conference. YIMBYtown is a three-day gathering for grassroots community organizers, political leaders, educators, and everyday people to identify problems, create solutions, share resources on the issues that impact housing on local, state, and national levels. The theme of this year's meeting is inclusive communities: how can we overcome local opposition to new housing, especially affordable housing? Location: Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Boston. Registration is [here](#).

September 28 "[Ethics for Planners.](#)" 12P-1:30P. RIAPA presents the American Planning Association's "cases of the year," along with discussion about ethical issues that planners encounter every day in their jobs. Although this workshop meets the AICP ethics requirement of 1.5CM, all planners are welcome to join us for answers to common issues. Location: [Warwick Public Library](#), Sandy Lane, Warwick. Free, but please [email Roberta Groch](#) if you plan to attend. Pizza will be served!

URI Landscape Architecture Lectures:

- **September 20** Lisa DelPlace, Principal- Oehme, van Sweden- Washington, DC. "Pushing the Palette Forward: Innovation in a Dynamic World."
- **October 11** Martha Schwartz, Principal- Martha Schwartz Partners, Brooklyn, NY. "My Existential Crisis and Other Random Acts."

Lectures begin at 7PM and will be held in the [URI Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences Center](#), Room 105, 140 Flagg Road, on the Kingston Campus.

October 18 & 19 [SNEAPA 2018](#), Hartford. The Southern New England American Planning Association Conference is an annual two-day event hosted jointly by the Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts chapters of APA. Join nearly seven hundred planners, landscape architects, architects, engineers, academics, students and others at the Hartford Convention Center! See the [SNEAPA website](#) for information. There are still [sponsorship opportunities](#) available.

Grant Opportunities

September 17 Deadline for HUD's "[Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant](#)

[Program.](#)" The grant will support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans to: replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing; improve outcomes of households in the target housing related to employment, health, and children's education; and create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods. Funding opportunity #FR-6200-N-34.

October 4 Deadline for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's ["Public Engagement with Historical Records"](#) grant. The grant will fund projects that encourage public engagement with historical records, including the development of new tools that enable people to engage online and will create models and technologies that other institutions can freely adopt. For example, an applicant can enlist volunteer "citizen archivists" in projects to accelerate access to historical records, especially those online. Funding opportunity #ENGAGEMENT-201810.

October 8 Deadline for the National Park Service's ["African American Civil Rights Grant Program"](#). Grants will help document, interpret, and preserve the sites related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century and will fund a broad range of preservation projects for historic sites including: architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and physical preservation to structures. Funding opportunity #P18AS00485.

November 1 Deadline for ["Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Underrepresented Communities."](#) Department of the Interior/National Park Service grants will support the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. Within one year of the completion of the grant, all projects must result in: the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program OR an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities. Funding opportunity #P18AS00554.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Denver aims to double affordable-housing fund with pot-tax hike](#)

[Inside a Barcelona pedestrian-first 'superblock'](#)

[Why job seekers are relocating at historically low rates](#)

[Cities trying to manage the dockless craze](#)

[Silo-busting data analytics help Mass. cities tackle vacant properties](#)

[The bi-partisan cry of "Not in My Backyard"](#)

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

www.planning.ri.gov

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

Major General Nathanael Greene homestead ("Spell Hall")

Built 1770, Coventry

Photo: Nathanael Greene Monument Foundation website