

September 2019

## Save Your Stamps! No More Notices to RI Planning

Governor Gina Raimondo recently signed Bill S 0586, ending the requirement for Rhode Island municipalities to send notices of zoning and other changes to the RI Division of Statewide Planning, including:



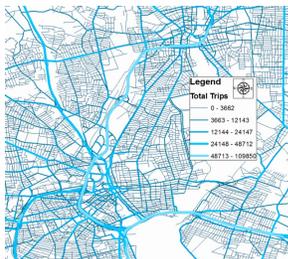
- Notices for planning or zoning board hearings regarding zoning ordinances that are being adopted, repealed, or amended;
- Printed copies of local regulations or any amendments to the local regulations;
- Printed copies of revised zoning ordinances or maps, and any amendments to them;
- Newspaper ads for public hearings about zoning ordinances that are adopted, repealed, or amended.

The requirement was from the pre-Internet era and was burdensome to local cities and towns. The Division of Statewide Planning staff did not need the notices for any purpose and immediately recycled them, which wasted both local effort and resources.

Please inform your planning and zoning staff and boards, as well as your Town or City Clerk, that these notices and copies no longer need to be sent to the RI Division of Planning, effective immediately.

The full text of S 0586 is available [here](#).

## A STIP/TIP Amendment - Feedback Requested



Recently, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) proposed changes to the FFY 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP). "Major Amendment #19" had an impact on most STIP program areas: the amendment proposed some 496 changes in order to align the STIP with asset management priorities, as well as reflect currently available funding sources.

One of the things we heard, loud and clear, was that the STIP amendment process is difficult to understand. It made us step back and reevaluate the kind of information we provide and how we disseminate it to staff, stakeholders, committee members, and the general public alike. Things have changed a lot since the FHWA and FTA required a two-year TIP, on one hand, but it's important to remember that our first four-year TIP was only adopted in 2008 (FFY2009-FFY2012) and the first iteration of the ten-year plan was conceived in 2015.

Over the next couple of years, we expect more change, including new e-STIP software that will help us administer the TIP and minimize opportunities for human error. We expect to develop processes and technology to assist decisionmakers in determining which projects are ready to advance, and, given fiscal constraints, which projects best help Rhode Island to meet long-range planning goals. We'll be working to complete a new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will help guide big transportation system decisions and will incorporate transit, congestion management methods and projects, bikes and pedestrians, freight, and more. We will be entering into new Memorandum of Agreement with RIDOT and RIPTA to define the process surrounding STIP amendments. Most of all, we hope to be transparent about our processes, and to involve you.

Major Amendment #19 was approved by the State Planning Council on August 29, 2019, but not before more than 200 people took part in the public participation process and responses to feedback were provided by RIDOT and Statewide Planning staff. How can we make the amendment process clearer? We're working on ways to better communicate: what information would be helpful to you as we move forward?

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## From the Associate Director- Moving Along

I feel that perhaps I am a bit out of practice: we skipped a month with the newsletter, and now we are hurtling toward fall, changing leaves, the smell of wood fires wafting through the evening air, sunrise coming later and sunset earlier, football season, and more traffic. Yes, more traffic.

We've been here before, you and I. Last fall, I wrote my second-ever newsletter column for *Plan Rhode Island*. I've had so many people reach out to assist me along the way this first year. I've got a phenomenal staff. We have many tasks ahead. There are things I had wanted to accomplish that don't yet exist: we need to hire vacant positions. We need to get out into the communities. We need to reacquaint everyone with the Division of Statewide Planning.

The most important thing I can tell you about right now is our impending move. Yes, you heard that right, we're moving. On Monday and Tuesday, September 9th and 10th, we're shifting from the Department of Administration to The Foundry.

Our new address is:  
235 Promenade Street, Suite #230  
Providence, RI 02908

Our phone numbers will remain the same. We have busy days ahead of us: if you need to contact the Division of Statewide Planning on September 9th or 10th, please e-mail me at [meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov](mailto:meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov) - once the move is done, we'll host an open house and get back to the work of planning. *"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up*

## Upcoming Meetings

### Transportation Advisory Committee

**September 26 at 5:30PM**  
DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### Technical Committee

**October 4 at 9AM**  
DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### State Planning Council

**October 10 at 9:00AM**  
DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

**The September Technical Committee  
and State Planning Council meetings are  
canceled.**

### PHOTO TRIVIA:

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



## Upcoming Events

**September 11** [RIPTA "Transit Forward RI 2040"](#) program feedback meeting. "Transit Forward RI 2040" is an initiative to design Rhode Island's next-generation transit network, including urban, suburban, rural, and seasonal/special event services. Join us to share your vision and priorities for the future of transportation in your community. Please register [here](#).

- Time: 10A. Location: RI Interlocal Trust, 501 Wampanoag Trail, Suite 301, East Providence.

**September 11** "[LID Workshop: Getting That Checklist Done](#)" a workshop on the updated Rhode Island Low Impact Development (LID) Municipal Self Assessment (the "checklist") that RIDEM plans to distribute to all MS4s this fall. This workshop is designed to both introduce you to the self-assessment and provide support in getting started. Time: 9:30A-12:30P. 3.0 CM credits. Registration is required: contact Jen West at [jennifer.west@dem.ri.gov](mailto:jennifer.west@dem.ri.gov)

- Location: Warwick Public Library- 600 Sandy Lane.

**September 11** [RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Rules Revisions Workshop](#) The RIDEM Office of Water Resources have developed revisions to wetlands rules in close coordination with CRMC. The rules reflect changes in law and aim to strengthen wetlands protection and achieve streamlining in the permitting processes. RIDEM will also accept written comments through September 25, 2019 to: [waterresources@dem.ri.gov](mailto:waterresources@dem.ri.gov). For more information, please contact [Sue.Kiernan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Sue.Kiernan@dem.ri.gov) or [Alicia.Good@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Alicia.Good@dem.ri.gov).

- Time: 2P-4P. Location: The Foundry Cafeteria/Room 309- 235 Promenade Street, Providence.

**September 20 [PARK\(ing\) Day Providence](#).** Downtown streets are going green during the annual PARK(ing) Day in Providence! On-street parking spots throughout downtown will become temporary parklets, creatively designed and managed by sponsors, as part of this worldwide event. For more information and to create a parklet, contact [providenceparkingday@gmail.com](mailto:providenceparkingday@gmail.com).

- Time: 8A-4P. Location: Westminster, Eddy and Washington Streets, Downtown Providence.

**September 20 [Cultivating the Urban Landscape: Three Strategies at Providence's Waterfront](#).** 10,000 SUNS, Living Edge, and The Shack Garden, are all three recent projects by the Landscape Architecture office Design Under Sky. The tour will start at the Living Edge, then follow to 10,000 SUNS, cross the new pedestrian bridge, and end at Dune Brothers Seafood. Free.

- Time: 5P-7P. Location: Living Edge, South Water Street kayak ramp, Providence.

**September 26 [RI Infrastructure Summit](#).** The RI Infrastructure Bank is proud to host the 3rd annual Rhode Island Infrastructure Summit. The Summit convenes hundreds of public and private sector professionals to collaborate on solutions for the State's infrastructure challenges, great and small. Free, but [registration is required](#).

- Time: 8:30A-3:30P. Location: RI Convention Center- 1 Sabin Street, Providence.

**September 27 "[Ethics for Planners](#)."** Join APA-RI for our annual Ethics presentation and discussion. We will talk 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. Pizza will be served! Free, but please register to: [roberta.groch@doa.ri.gov](mailto:roberta.groch@doa.ri.gov).

- Time: 12P-1:30P. Location: Warwick Public Library- 600 Sandy Lane.

**September 28 [Doors Open RI: Pawtucket + Central Falls Unlocked](#).** Imagine receiving a set of keys to the community landmarks and hidden gems all around you – for FREE! Doors Open Pawtucket + Central Falls will provide you with behind-the-scenes access to one-of-a-kind places and spaces across these neighboring cities, activated with programming and interpretation.

- Time: 10A-4P. Locations: McCoy Stadium, The Guild, Old Slater Mill, Pawtucket City Hall, the Industrial Trust Company building, Jenks Park Cogswell Tower, and more.

**October 17-18 [SNEAPA 2019](#).** The Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA) Conference is an annual two-day planning conference hosted by the Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts chapters of APA. It draws nearly six hundred planners, landscape architects, architects, engineers, academics, students and others. Sponsorship and exhibitor information is [here](#).

- Location: MGM Springfield- One MGM Way, Springfield, MA.

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## Grant Opportunities

**September 25 "[FY2020 RSVP Competition](#)"** Senior Corps grant round deadline. Open only to the municipalities of Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton, and Warren. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) seeks to increase the impact of national service for seniors.

**September 30 "[Place-Based Opportunity Ecosystems](#)" grant** deadline. The Kresge Foundation seeks to promote collaborations across sectors and integrating service

delivery, community engagement and economic development at local levels.

**September 30** Deadline for "[Developing Supportive, Aligned Public Policy](#)" grant program. To provide greater pathways to social and economic mobility, the Kresge Foundation will work with local, state and national partners across sectors to address structural barriers and advance policy solutions that move people out of poverty and toward inter-generational cycles of success.

**October 3** Deadline for "[Access to Historical Records: Archival Project](#)" grant offered by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Funding is available for projects that ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections. The Commission is especially interested in collections of America's early legal records.

**October 3** Deadline for the "[Public Engagement with Historical Records](#)" grant offered by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The grant will fund projects that encourage public engagement with historical records, including the development of new tools that enable people to engage online.

**October 11** "[Landscape-Scale Restoration Grant](#)" program deadline, offered by the US Forest Service. The purpose of the program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and support priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans. Partners must submit an initial draft of their application to involved State Foresters by September 13, 2019.

**October 25** [RIDEM "Local Open Space Grant"](#)'s deadline. This grant program provides up to fifty percent matching funds to municipalities, land trusts and non-profit conservation land organizations to preserve valuable open space throughout the state. RIDEM anticipates awarding approximately \$4 million for projects; individual grant requests up to \$400,000 will be considered.

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## Planning Articles of Interest

[R.I judge upholds rejection of solar farm proposed in Coventry](#)

[Tired of waiting for national push, a buzzing hive of climate resilience innovators is at work in Boston](#)

[Council allows longer tax stabilization agreements](#)

[Home buyers weary of Greater Boston prices are slipping south to Rhode Island](#)

[A view from afar: What Newport, Tiverton can learn from Cranston's Chapel View](#)

[Robocalls. Canvassing. Development efforts in Boston are looking more like political campaigns](#)

[America's hot spots: R.I. among the fastest-warming states in U.S](#)

[Developers: Build the micro-lofts and they will come](#)

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## Seeking Workshop Leaders!

**Enjoy talking shop as much as we do?** The [Land Use Training Collaborative](#) (LUTC) seeks planners and attorneys with experience in land use willing to volunteer their time in providing these critical workshops. Attorneys with municipal experience are especially encouraged to get involved.

The LUTC is an alliance of agencies and organizations that share a commitment to the principles of smart growth and sustainable community development. The group focuses on providing support for the LUTC's training program and is led by Grow Smart RI and the RI Division of Statewide Planning. The LUTC's core workshops ("Writing Sound Decisions," "Conducting Effective Land Use Reviews," and the in-development "Citizen Planning 101") are led by planners and land use attorneys, and serve as primers for planning and zoning board members, planners, council members, historic district commission members, and others.

To sign up for a preliminary Q&A and orientation session (*with no obligation!*), [please fill out this very brief form](#) by September 30. **Pizza is on us!**

Questions? Contact C.J. Opperthausen, Director of Training & Placemaking, Grow Smart RI [cjopperthausen@growsmartri.org](mailto:cjopperthausen@growsmartri.org) or 401-273-5711 x103.

### RI Statewide Planning contacts:

Meredith Brady, Associate Director  
(401) 222-6496  
[Meredith.Brady@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Meredith.Brady@doa.ri.gov)

Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner  
(401) 222-2848  
[Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Greeley@doa.ri.gov)

Benny Bergantino, Senior Planner  
(401) 222-1755  
[Benny.Bergantino@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Benny.Bergantino@doa.ri.gov)

Roberta Groch, AICP- Assistant Chief  
401/222-4720  
[Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov)

Linsey Callaghan, Assistant Chief  
401/222-6479  
[Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov)

Nancy Hess, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-6480  
[Nancy.hess@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Nancy.hess@doa.ri.gov)

Paul Capotosto, Fiscal Management Officer  
(401) 222-6170  
[Paul.Capotosto@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.Capotosto@doa.ri.gov)

Benjamin Jacobs, Principal Research Technician  
401-222-3949  
[Benjamin.Jacobs@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Jacobs@doa.ri.gov)

Michael D'Alessandro, AICP- Principal Planner  
(401) 222-2177  
[Michael.Dalessandro@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Michael.Dalessandro@doa.ri.gov)

Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-2093  
[Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov)

Christina Delage ~~Baza~~, Data Analyst I  
(401) 222-6481  
[Christina.DelageBaza@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Christina.DelageBaza@doa.ri.gov)

Josh O'Neill, AICP- Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-4849  
[Josh.Oneill@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Josh.Oneill@doa.ri.gov)

Vincent Flood, Supervising Planner  
(401) 222-1243  
[Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov)

Mason Perrone, Principal Planner  
401-222-7966  
[Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov)

Kim Gelfuso, Information Services Technician II  
(401) 222-5764  
[Kim.Gelfuso@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Kim.Gelfuso@doa.ri.gov)

Catherine Pitassi, Executive Assistant  
401-222-7901  
[Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov)

Paul Gonsalves, Senior Planner  
(401) 222-1756  
[Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov)

**PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:**

Touro Synagogue (1763)

Newport

Photo: National Park Service [website](#)

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