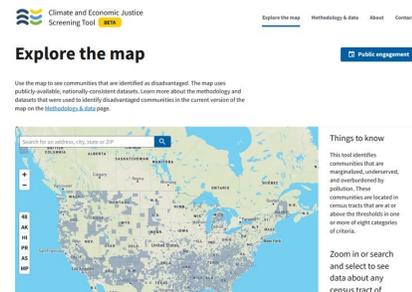




April 2023

Transportation Equity Analysis Platform

The RI Division of Statewide Planning, in partnership with other RI state agencies, is currently working to develop a platform to better align social equity policies, decisions, and outcomes into our planning process. This effort is a result of the Justice40 federal initiative, which requires that forty percent of the benefits of certain federal investments are directed to disadvantaged communities.



This work will include the development of an model to advance equity in demographics, transportation, health, environment, and housing for underserved and marginalized groups, including low-income and communities of color. The platform will significantly revamp and expand the transportation equity methodology that Statewide Planning currently uses to evaluate RI transportation investments, including those in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Staff has reviewed other social equity analysis tools to develop best practices that can be implemented in Rhode Island, including: social equity performance measures for the STIP; a social equity online dashboard to track and monitor performance towards the equity goals; and an Equity Index Analysis that can be integrated into the upcoming electronic STIP's intake application. Project manager Mason Perrone says: "This analysis under the equity platform will better inform planners and decision makers. Using this data can protect disadvantaged populations, planners can plan for- and implement-better projects in these communities."

The next step will be to develop a dataset of various layers in ArcGIS that can be turned on and off, depending on a user's needs. The multi-agency GIS working group for this project will continue working to establish a definition of equity that is aligned across state agencies. The outcome of this work will be recommendations, actions, and a methodology for equity analysis that can be used in the statewide transportation planning process.

For more information on this project, please contact Mason Perrone, Assistant Chief of the Transportation team, at Mason.Perrone@doa.ri.gov

Mandatory Municipal Board Training



Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning
is conducting
Free Municipal Educational Workshops

for Historic, Planning, and or Zoning
Boards/Commissions

To meet new mandated educational requirements
for board volunteers



Introductory workshop for three hours of
educational credits will be offered on varying
dates in 2023

Workshop dates are yet to be determined

To be notified of upcoming workshops: Email your
name, phone number, board & community
affiliation to:

nancy.hess@doa.ri.gov or paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov

RIRC&D Seeks Volunteers

The Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Council (RIRC&D) needs volunteers! The program helps people care for natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities by strengthening local citizen's access to available sources of assistance through state and federal agency partnerships. Interested? Email [Paul Dolan](mailto:Paul.Dolan), Area Director, or call 401/500-0399 for more information.

Data on Municipal ADUs/Comp Permits

Municipal planners throughout Rhode Island recently received requests from Statewide Planning for their local data on Comprehensive Permits and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The compilations of these requests are now available on our website for both comp permits and ADUs.



Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.

State Planning Council

April 13 - 9AM

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Technical Committee

April 14 - 9AM

Rm 300, 235 Promenade, Providence

PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in Rhode Island
you can find this building?

See the answer at the bottom of the
newsletter!

Water Resources Board

April 21 - 9 AM

Rm 300, 235 Promenade, Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

April 27 - 5:30PM

Rm 300, 235 Promenade, Providence



Events

Events may be held in person, virtually, or as a hybrid format.

April 1- May 31 [RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks](#) Learn about Rhode Island's historic cemeteries and burial grounds by participating in clean-ups, tours, and conservation workshops. All events are free and open to the public.

April 3 - 23 [21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge](#). The Challenge is simple! You commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for twenty-one consecutive days in April to raise your own awareness.

April 4 [Update on the RI's Environmental, Energy, and Climate Programs](#). The RIDEM and RI Office of Energy Resources will speak on programs and priorities. Location: District Hall, 225 Dyer St., Providence, and on Zoom. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$30-\$140.

April 5 [Stop Asking Us to Be Resilient: Community Perspectives on the "Resilience" Myth](#). What is needed to pivot from "resilience" as a stopgap toward more permanent solutions? Are practitioners asking the right questions? Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Free.

April 5 [Transportation Utility Fees/Roadway Maintenance Fees](#). Learn practical information on what TUFs are and examples of how municipalities are using them in this USDOT webinar. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

April 6 [Carbon Reduction Strategy: State Practices](#). Webinar will showcase notable practices in the development of Carbon Reduction Strategies by three State DOTs: Colorado, California and Massachusetts. Time: 3PM. Free.

April 6 [Helping Wheelchair Hikers Find Hiking Trails](#). Overview of a recently developed wheelchair-friendly filter showcasing how it was made, lessons learned, and how it serves their community of hikers. Time: 1Pm-2PM. Free.

April 8 [RI Land and Water Conservation Mini Summit](#). The Mini-Summit will feature a keynote, a panel discussion and opportunities to network. Location: URI Center for Biotechnology & Life Sciences, 120 Flagg Rd, Kingston. Time: 9AM-1PM. Fee: \$55.

April 10 [RI Climate Justice Hour](#). RIOER and RIDEM want to hear from community voices, organizers, and environmental justice advocates about the pressing RI climate change issues around transportation and energy. Time: 6PM-7:30PM. Free.

April 11 [Car-free Urbanism](#). Hear from urban designers/architects involved with Culdesac, Tempe and Culdesac, Atlanta, two highly watched developments that are eliminating cars in residential areas. Time: 12PM. Free. 1 CM, 1 CNU-A.

April 11 [Community Learning Event About Residential Stormwater Solutions.](#) Learn best management practices like rain barrels, permeable pavers, and bioretention. Time: 6:30PM-7:30PM. Location: Rogers Free Library, 525 Hope Street, Bristol. Free.

April 11 [Safer Fleets Challenge: How Adopting Intelligent Speed Assistance Can Make Your Community a Better Place to Walk.](#) Intelligent speed assistance (ISA) is a commercially-available technology to help maintain posted speed limits. Learn how municipalities are installing ISA and the results. Time: 2PM. Free.

April 12 [A State to Local Model for Producing Climate-Adapted Urban Trees.](#) This webinar will share a municipal partnership model for producing native seed and diverse tree species for local planting projects that can be replicated. Time: 1PM-2:15PM. Free.

April 12 [Let's Do It: Actionable Climate Action Plans.](#) Overview of the characteristics of Climate Action Plans and will provide attendees with a perspective of how and the best way to implement them. Time: 9AM-11:30AM. Fee: \$30-\$140.

April 12 [Measuring Accessibility: Planning for Success.](#) Learn about the benefits and challenges of incorporating accessibility into regional plans, GIS tools, and grant applications. Time: 2PM. Free.

April 12 [The Policy Roadmap to Parks for All.](#) Explore a wide variety of park equity solutions that both address this disparity head-on and leverage parks to create healthy, thriving, equitable cities. Time: 2PM-3PM. Free.

April 13 [A Conversation with Pulitzer Prize-Winner Elizabeth Kolbert](#) Join the author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* and *The Sixth Extinction* on what can be done to save our planet. Location: Higgins Welcome Center, URI, 45 Upper College Rd., Kingston and livestreamed. Time: 4PM. Free.

April 17 [Equity in Roadway Safety Leadership Panel.](#) Join national leaders as they discuss key actions and tools they are implementing to close disparities in traffic fatalities and serious injuries for underserved communities. Time: 12PM. Free.

April 18 [Integrating Equity and Adaptation into the Planning and Environmental Process.](#) Speakers will share their experiences, best practices and lessons learned in a variety of settings like community-based organization outreach, tribal engagement and language access. Time: 4PM. Free. 1.5 CM, 1 Eq.

April 20 [Critical Conversations: Environmental Justice](#) Hear environmental justice scholars discuss the uneven burdens presented by climate change. Time: 4PM-5:30PM. Location: Pembroke Hall- Room 305, 172 Meeting St., Providence, and online. Free.

April 20 [The Use And Influence Of Health Indicators In Municipal Transportation Plans](#) Researchers and practitioners have called for health indicators as one way to integrate public health concerns into transportation decision-making. Time: 3PM. Free. 1 CM.

April 21 [Monuments of the Future: Planning for a More Equitable Public Space.](#) Learn about monument removal and the National Monument Audit to better understand the dynamics that have shaped our landscape. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

April 22 [Earth Day 2023.](#) [Check here](#) for cleanups and other Earth Day events in Rhode Island or [organize a cleanup](#) in your neighborhood!

April 25 [Inclusionary Retail: How Planning & Law Can Safeguard Small Business.](#)

Webinar will feature a panel of planners, lawyers, and community advocates developing and implementing legal safeguards for the small businesses and neighborhood-focused commercial tenants that make cities and communities vibrant. Time: 1PM. Free. 1 CM

April 26-28 [APA NPC23 Online](#) For those who cannot attend the American Planning Association's in-person conference in Philadelphia, join the online conference for live sessions and networking. Fee: \$75-\$450.

April 26 [Spring Stormwater Maintenance](#) Attendees to this Stormwater Innovation Center training will learn green infrastructure maintenance issues affecting BMPs, maintenance plans, and a stormwater BMP anatomy primer. Time: 8AM-10:30AM. Free.

April 26 [The Challenge of Net Zero: Can We Electrify to Our Goal?](#) Experts will discuss what it will take to meet the immense increase in electricity demand required to accomplish the move away from fossil fuels. Time: 9AM-11:30AM. Fee: \$30-\$140.

April 26 [Transportation Reinvestment Zones: The Primer](#) Learn about TRZs and how they help communities throughout the country narrow the existing funding gap while accelerating the delivery of transportation projects. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

April 27 [The Halo Effect: How E-Commerce Can Actually Save Main Street](#) Hear Main Street specialists on retail trends, particularly clicks-and-bricks and how digital adoption can support downtowns, small businesses and entrepreneurs. Time: 2PM. Free. 1 CM.

April 28 [APA's New "Equity in Zoning" Guide](#) Join this APA-RI Lunch 'n Learn with Jenny Baker, an author of the American Planning Association's new "[Equity in Zoning](#)" policy guide and a facilitated discussion with the author. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Free. 1.25 CM.

April 28 [What Are They Teaching Those Planning Students?](#) Get an overview of what is being taught in today's planning schools and the current state of accreditation. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

Grants & Deadlines

April 7 [Community Spark Grant](#) deadline for projects and programs that spark change and catalyze a community's ability to create places where bicycling is a safe, easy, and more accessible option.

April 7 [SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant \(SWIG23\)](#) will award \$2.9 million in grants to programs and partnerships working to restore clean water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities throughout Southeast New England.

April 12 [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) deadline for pre-proposals for the implementation of nature-based solutions to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems to climate threats.

April 13 [Low or No Emission Grant Program \(Low-No Program\)](#) from the FTA is for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

April 14 [The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative](#)

[Agreement Program](#) provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities.

April 14 [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program](#) provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level for measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms.

April 17 [Clean Air Act Grants under the Inflation Reduction Act](#) will help deliver cleaner air through programs that address air quality, transportation, indoor air, and climate change.

April 21 [Strengthening Rural Communities by Design](#) deadline for communities with populations of 50,000 or less is to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of rural America through planning, design, and creative placemaking.

April 21 [Rhode Island Statewide Natural Systems Demonstration Project](#) provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and forestland owners to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices.

April 21 [Scituate Reservoir Watershed Farmers for the Rhode Island Farm Conservation Implementation Project](#) for conservation assistance to farmers and forestland owners to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices.

April 27 [AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps](#) deadline for high-impact service projects for non-profits, faith based organizations, government entities, public schools and Native American Tribal Councils between August 2023 and May 2024.

April 30 [Cohesive Fire Strategy Program](#) will support and carry out the first two goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Restore and Maintain Landscapes and Create Fire Adapted Communities.

Articles of Interest

[Thirty-eight unit development would be 'devastating'](#)

[A winery/campground?](#)

[All signs point towards demolition of old train station](#)

[Will Johnston's Amazon warehouse deliver?](#)

[Planning board approves affordable development amid community concerns](#)

[Accusations hurled over hiring of grantwriter](#)

RI Statewide Planning Staff

Click [here](#) for staff contact information.

Photo Trivia Answer

WARREN

Lyric Theater (1916)

(Photo: www.giftimagine.com)

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