



## September 2023

### September is National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month was created to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies and to remind Americans to be ready for any natural or man-made disaster that could affect them, their homes, communities, or businesses. The month aims to reduce the impact of emergencies by reminding everyone to be prepared.

Remember, the time to take these actions is not when a disaster is at your door: at that point, it's too late! Things to do now to be prepared include:

- Sign up for emergency alerts in your area to receive life-saving information and download apps like the American Red Cross emergency app;
- Store important phone numbers somewhere else besides your cell phone;
- Store important documents and items like passports, birth certificates, and electronics in resealable water-tight plastic bags in a flood-safe place, like a high shelf or upper floor;
- Sign up for direct deposit and electronic banking so you can access funds and make electronic payments;
- Create an emergency kit;

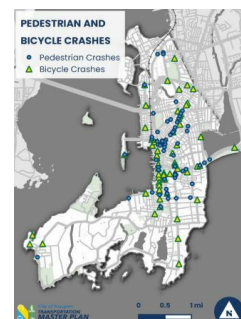
[Read More](#)

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### Planning Technical Assistance Applications Open

The Division of Statewide Planning has opened the application process for two planning technical assistance programs. RI municipalities can apply for assistance for either active transportation planning or climate vulnerability planning.

The application for both programs, including FAQ sheets, instructions, and additional information, are available on our website: [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov). **Applications are due on Monday,**



**October 2 by 4PM.**

Examples of past active transportation technical assistance projects include a [Pawtucket/Central Falls bicycle/pedestrian plan](#) and a [transportation master plan](#) recently completed with the City of Newport.

There will be a [virtual information session](#) on Thursday, September 14 at 12PM to learn more about the programs and to ask questions. A recording of the session will also be posted to our website afterwards for viewing. Contact Principal Planner [Caitlin Greeley](#) for more information.

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## Planners' Roundtable: September 7



There will be a roundtable discussion will be held on for municipal planners and others on **Thursday, September 7** from **2:30PM-4PM** at the **Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane**.

Join other Rhode Island planners to hear how individual municipalities are progressing with the changes needed as a result of [bills passed](#) by the General Assembly in 2023. Our last roundtable on this topic in June was both lively and informative. This discussion and sharing session will help inform your work through learning from your peers.

Please [email Roberta Groch](#) if you plan to attend, as there are space limitations. This event is co-sponsored by the [RI Division of Statewide Planning](#) and the [Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association](#).

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## Upcoming Historic District Commissioners' Training

Save the date! There will be a free workshop held on **October 26** as part of our [2023-2024 Municipal Education Program](#) that will fulfill the [required](#) three hours of training required for commissioners and will cover many topics specific to historic preservation.



Historic district commission members and municipal staff who regularly deal with historic property issues will receive priority for registration. The final details for the workshop are still being developed, so stay tuned for the location, time, and registration process.

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## New Staff Spotlight



**Bobby Echevarria** is the new Principal Planner on the transportation team of the Division of Statewide Planning. Starting in May of 2023, his duties include working on the congestion management process, social equity analysis platform development, and other long- and short-range transportation projects.

Bobby has planning experience working for a non-profit organization in his hometown in Norwich, CT, assisting with mixed-use development projects. He has also worked in community development for the Town of Stonington, where he helped with zoning text amendments and parking studies. Bobby holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Master's degree in Geography/Sustainability from Central Connecticut State University. His interests within planning include transit-oriented development, Complete Streets, and equitable transportation.

Outside of planning, Bobby enjoys baseball, basketball, football, spending time near the ocean, traveling around the country and, most importantly, spending time with his family.

Contact Bobby at [Roberto.Echevarria@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Roberto.Echevarria@doa.ri.gov).

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## Statewide Planning Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public!*

**Technical Committee/  
Planners' Roundtable Discussion**  
**September 7- 2:30PM**

Warwick Library, 600 Sandy Lane

**Water Resources Board**

**September 15 - 9AM**

Room 300, 235 Promenade St.  
Providence

**State Planning Council**

**September 14- 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill- Providence

**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**September 28 - 5:30PM**

Room 300, 235 Promenade St.  
Providence

### PHOTO TRIVIA

Where in Rhode Island can you find this building?



See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!

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## Events

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

**September 5 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in Transportation: Key Concepts, Use Cases, and Workforce Development Issues** Learn about research results for AI's potential in transportation and hear practical knowledge that can promote equitable applications of AI technologies in transportation. Time: 12:30PM. Free.

**September 6 RI Infrastructure Bank Workshop** on Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program, infrastructure to support affordable housing projects, local match for funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and more. Time: 10AM. Free.

**September 7 Planners' Roundtable**. Join R.I. municipal planners to discuss the progress of changes needed as a result of bills passed by the General Assembly in 2023. Location: Warwick Library, 600 Sandy Lane. Time: 2:30PM-4PM. Free, but please

[register](#).

**September 7 [Performance Metrics: Transparency, Accountability & Evaluation](#).**

Webinar on essential strategies to monitor and evaluate the impact of roadway safety projects within the context of Vision Zero Action Planning. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**September 7 [Reimagining the Purpose of Tourism in Outdoor Communities](#).**

Learn more about destination stewardship and how it can improve quality of life attributes, enhance visitor experience, and safeguard a sense of place. Time: 1PM. Free.

**September 11 [Sequestering Carbon, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, and Building Climate Resilience through Organic Soil Health Practices](#)**

Hear research on GHG mitigation and climate resilience potential of organic systems, and learn how organic producers and conservation professionals can work toward climate-neutral farming. Time: 1PM. Free.

**September 12 [Supply Chain Disruptions: Impacts on Vulnerable Communities](#).**

Workshop on impacts on communities by supply chain disruptions from extreme weather, pandemics, and climate change; challenges faced in preparedness, response, and recovery; and innovative approaches to improve resilience. Time: 11AM-5PM. Free.

**September 12, 19 & 26 [Supporting Small Businesses on Main Street](#).**

Live online course to prepare local leaders to more effectively work with small business owners and create an environment that is supportive of entrepreneurship. Time: 2PM-3:30PM. Fee: \$350.

**September 13-15 [Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Wildland Fires](#)**

Identify opportunities to improve measurements and consider how changes in emissions could affect our ability to achieve net-zero GHG emissions targets. Time: 10:30AM-4PM. Free.

**September 13 [Innovative Approaches to Establishing Trees in Harsh Environments](#).**

Join the Forest Service and City of Philadelphia to hear about their innovative tree planting and establishment practices for harsh sites. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**September 14 [Development Agreements & Other Contract-Based Value Capture Techniques: The Primer & Case Studies](#).**

Learn practical information for implementing development agreements, community benefits agreements, joint development agreements, and hear about real-world examples. Time: 1PM-3PM. Free.

**September 14 [Technical Assistance virtual information session](#)**

for two Statewide Planning planning assistance programs (see article, above). 12PM. Free.

**September 15 [First-Year Planning Directorship: Drinking From the Firehouse](#).**

Join peers for a virtual APA roundtable on the challenges and opportunities of being a new leader. Connect in an informal setting with current planning directors to identify key management skills to improve while on the job. Time: 3PM. Free.

**September 19 [Energy Efficiency Unraveled: Analyzing RI's Incentive Programs](#)**

Part of the URI Lecture series, "Energy Efficiency in the Marketplace." Location: Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center, 45 Upper College Road, Kingston. Time: 6PM-7:30PM. Free.

**September 20 [Community-led Temporary Demonstrations & Partnerships](#).**

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals session will explore the challenges of temporary safety demonstrations, community buy-in, and moving a temporary project toward implementation. Time: 3PM. Fee: \$50-\$85.



**September 20 [Equity in Roadway Safety](#).** Session will include a presentation on USDOT's "Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making" and integrating public involvement into local plans. Time: 1PM. Free.

**September 20 [Resilience Hubs as Community Superheroes of Climate Preparedness and Disaster Recovery](#).** Resilience Hubs are one-stop-shops for essential services/supplies before, during and after a hazard event. Learn how to advocate for (and participate in) the planning and establishment of hubs in your community. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free.

**September 21 [Adaption-Innovation Theory and Community Planning](#).** Webinar designed to empower community leaders, planners, and developers with the essential skills to foster sustainable development. Time: 12PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

**September 21 [Best Practices in Disaster Public Communications](#)** How can public agencies collaborate with social media organizations to get the right messaging out? How do we ensure messaging engenders life-saving action? Time: 3PM. Free.

**September 22 [Ethics for Planners](#).** Join APA-RI for this one-hour virtual session on ethics issues faced every day by planners. Take your pre-SNEAPA ethics training now and attend another conference session instead! Time: 12PM. Free for APA-RI members, \$5 for others. 1 CM Ethics. Registration is required [here](#).

**September 22 [Food + Freight in Metropolitan Areas](#).** Presentation will discuss the interdependent relationship between freight movements and land use in metropolitan areas. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**September 23 [Understanding Nitrogen-Reducing Septic Systems](#).** Visit URI's septic system demonstration center and view full-scale models of a variety of advanced systems. Location: 55 Peckham Farm Rd, West Kingston. Time: 10AM. Free, but registration is required.

**September 26 [Advancing Digital Equity in State and Local Government](#).** State and local governments can make significant progress by building inclusive IT teams, engaging with community groups, and measuring outcomes with holistic data. Time: 2PM. Free.

**September 26 [New England Climate Change and Resiliency Summit](#).** The fifth annual EBC Summit is a forum to listen, learn, and ask questions related to developing policy and programs connected to climate change. Time: 9AM-3PM. Location: Online and in person at Foley Hoag, 155 Seaport Blvd., Boston. Fee: \$50-\$190.

**September 27 [Getting Started with ArcGIS Urban](#)** You can create an urban model of your neighborhood, town, or city without needing 3D data! Webinar will show how to use modeling and analysis to create models for planning work. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free.

**September 28 [Engaging, Enabling, and Motivating Families and Diverse Trails Users](#).** Webinar will look at ways to expand the universe of trail visitors and how welcoming more groups can build a stronger base of support by engaging a more diverse constituency of trails enthusiasts. Time: 1PM-2:15PM. Free.

**October 5 & 6 [SNEAPA 2023](#).** Join more than five hundred local planners and others at the Southern New England Conference of the American Planning Associations ("SNEAPA") to share experiences, collaborate, network, and learn! Location: Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple Street, New Haven, CT. Fee: \$55 -\$315.

# Grants & Deadlines

**September 1** [National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance](#) for implementation of community programs that develop local capability in planning, training, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action.

**September 8** Deadline to submit comments on [proposed amendments](#) to Rhode Island's Low Emission Vehicle Program (250-RICR-120-05-37).

**September 8** [Southeast New England Program \(SNEP\) Network Stormwater Planning Series](#) deadline for free training and technical assistance to develop a conceptual design for a nature-based stormwater retrofit in local communities.

**September 10** [Refuges Enhancement/Infrastructure grants](#) enable communities to increase outdoor recreation opportunities and be more deliberate in using partnerships to help the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service address infrastructure repair and improvement.

**September 14** [Climate Smart Humanities Organizations program](#) supports comprehensive assessment and strategic planning by humanities organizations to mitigate physical/operational environmental impacts and adapt to a changing climate.

**September 15** [SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities \(SOAR\)](#) will improve resilience of disadvantaged communities for the anticipated effects of climate change and the historic impacts of environmental and social injustices.

**September 26** [Solar for All](#) grantees will provide subsidies and other financial assistance to residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar projects in (and benefiting) low-income and disadvantaged communities.

**September 28** [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program](#) will assist economically disadvantaged/undeserved communities with planning, construction, and regional partnerships to restore connectivity through the removal, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure.

**September 28** [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#) is a first-come, first-served, no-match grant program with the goal of funding early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects.

**September 30** [Energy Future Grants](#) will enhance energy affordable and access, ensuring the benefits of a clean energy economy flow to disadvantaged communities.

**September 30** [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#) helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and helps meet the nation's critical energy needs.

**September 30** [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program](#) provides assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

**October 15** [RIDOT Municipal Road & Bridge Program](#) provides funding to municipalities for the construction and maintenance of roads, sidewalks, and bridges.

**October 27** [RIDEM Open Space Grant program](#) provides up to fifty percent matching funds to municipalities, land trusts, and non-profit conservation land organizations to

preserve open space throughout the state.

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## Articles of Interest

[Sand volleyball complex proposed for former landfill](#)

[Planners face tight deadline for RI zoning changes](#)

[It's not just cities: suburbs and exurbs need climate plans, too](#)

[Where are all the planners?](#)

[How small wealthy suburbs contribute to the housing problems](#)

[America's homes are shrinking](#)

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## Contact Us

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

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## Photo Trivia Answer

**NEWPORT**

[Great Friends Meeting House \(1699\)](#)

Photo: Wikipedia

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