

STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

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Division of Municipal Finance

Municipal Memo: This Legislative Reference Service can be found at www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation. Both current and past issues are available.

Directory of City & Town Officials: This 2012 directory, updated through March 13 is available at www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications The 2012 edition is only available electronically.

Power of Place Summit

The theme of this year's Summit, "Beyond Austerity: Leveraging the Power of Place for a Stronger Rhode Island Economy", will drive the keynote address and the more than 20 workshops at this day-long forum which will take place Friday, May 11 at the Rhode Island Convention Center .

Grow Smart RI believes there's no reason why a dynamic state like Rhode Island can't have one of the nation's most prosperous economies and continue to be one of the most charming and distinctive of the 50 states, given how much we have going for us.

The 4th biennial Power of Place Summit is a chance to celebrate and promote successful development and planning in Rhode Island. And it's also an opportunity to examine the many ways to better leverage the Power of Place for a stronger state economy. The Summit brings together nearly 500 business and civic leaders, state and local officials, developers, architects, community activists, real estate professionals, planners and staff from many policy advocacy groups.

The keynote presentation will be given by Christopher Leinberger, a prominent national real estate developer, land use strategist, teacher, researcher and author, about compelling trends driving the demand for smart growth and how more developers, builders and municipalities are responding. There will also be more than 20 workshops presented by teams of respected and accomplished local and regional professionals. An added feature of this year's Summit is a lunch ceremony celebrating our first-ever Smart Growth Award winners.

Who should attend this summit? Anyone who cares about the future of their neighborhood or state including: professional practitioner (e.g. planners, architects, environmental engineers), developers and builders, Members of municipal board and commissions, Citizens and citizen planner, Elected officials, Municipal planners and managers, Representatives from State and Federal agencies, The financial and lending communities, Nonprofit organizations, and Students

Registration fees range from \$50 for students, to \$95 for government and nonprofit, to \$125 the regular rate; online registration is open. Additional information on the Summit can be found at www.growsmartri.org/power-of-place-summit/overview/

Economic Development Investment Assistance

The Office of Strategic Planning & Economic Development is seeking proposals for projects from eligible applicants interested in applying to the federal Economic Development Administration for public works or planning grants in Fiscal Year 2012. This is an opportunity to submit proposals for projects using federal funds to implement some of the state's long range economic development objectives and policies on the local and regional level. Project proposals will undergo a selection process.

Selected projects that meet federal and state criteria will become part of a "Priority Project List" that will be presented to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This will qualify these projects to compete for grants under the EDA's Public Works and Development Facilities Program. Applications are received on an ongoing basis but must be received no less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal quarter in which the applicant intends to apply for funds.

Potentially eligible CEDS applicants include cities and towns, public agencies, academic institutions, and local and regional non-profit economic development organizations. They can contact via email [Robert Griffith](mailto:Robert.Griffith@ceds.org) if they are interested submitting a proposal and/or if they are interested in receiving application instructions and materials.

Private Well Water Workshops

Learn how to protect your private well through regular testing, private well maintenance, and good housekeeping practices. The programs are free, but pre-registration is required as space is limited. This workshop is hosted by the [Rhode Island Department of Health](http://www.health.state.nh.gov) and the [University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program](http://www.uri.edu/cooperativeextension). The program is scheduled for Thursday, May 3 at the [Cross Mills Public Library](http://www.charlestownlibrary.org); 4417 Old Post Road Charlestown from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. To register and for other information call 874-4918. This program is co-sponsored by the Charlestown Conservation Commission.

Main Streets & Growth Centers Sessions to be featured at May 11th Power of Place Summit

Whether you call them Main Street Districts or Growth Centers, these places are vitally important to our state's future well-being and they play a critical role in our state's long-term vision for growth as outlined in *Land Use 2025*. There will be 3 sessions on Main Streets & Growth Centers. Session 101, will be moderated by Kevin Flynn Associate Director of Planning. It will examine national trends, regional successes, efforts in other New England states and will provide an introduction for identifying specific community assets critical to creating growth centers using geographic information systems technology.

Other panelists for Session 101 will be: Edgar Adams, Professor, Roger Williams University Noelle Mackay, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development Brian Boisvert, Graduate Student, Roger Williams University

Complete information about the Summit, including registration information, can be found at www.growsmartri.org/power-of-place-summit/programagenda/

Ignite Spatial Providence

The New England Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (NEURISA) and RIGIS welcome you to attend the first ever Ignite Spatial event in Rhode Island to be held at Brown University in Providence on Monday, May 7 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you are not familiar with Ignite events, they are held in a speed presentation format where each speaker has 5 minutes to present 20 slides (15 seconds each) with automatic forwarding of slides. The result is a very highly entertaining time for attendees and a fun and challenging situation for the presenters! It will be up to each presenter to put their own entertaining spin on a geospatial subject. After this event, the evening continues at a nearby pub as all presenters will be urged to join us for follow-up questions by attendees.

Free On-site Registration & Networking will be between 4:30 and 5:00. A full agenda and additional information can be found on the [RIGIS Event Calendar](http://www.rigis.org).

Grants Training Workshop

The Warwick Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Warwick on June 7 and 8. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here](#). Please contact The Client Services Team Grant Writing USA, at 800.814.8191, or cs@grantwritingusa.com; or Sgt. Lori Michailides, The Warwick Police Department at 468.4321 or wpdanalyst@warwickri.com

The Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation

The R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Preserve Rhode Island seek nominations for the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Awards. The awards honor great preservation achievements, people who make a difference in their communities, and projects that inspire others to protect Rhode Island's special places.

And save the date: the Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation will be presented at Rosecliff in Newport on Thursday, October 18.

The nomination deadline is Friday June 15. For more information and to download a nomination, visit www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/awards/awards_nomination.php.

Grow Smart Rhode Island

Conducting Effective Land Use Reviews

Led by experienced Land Use Attorneys and Planners, Conducting Effective Land Use Reviews will guide you through your legal responsibilities as a public official in Rhode Island and discuss in detail the legally required procedures and best practices that should be followed in conducting land use reviews. The workshop provides ample time for questions.

The workshop will be held Thursday, May 24 at the West Warwick Senior Center, 145 Washington Street, West Warwick. This site has a limited seating capacity and pre registration is required. The registration deadline is May 17 at 5:00 p.m.; the form can be found [here](#).

The registration fee is \$30.00 and includes a light supper. Registration fee assistance is available to communities through the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust and the Land-Use Training Collaborative. For additional information please click [here](#).

New Data Bulletin Series

The Rhode Island Division of Planning is issuing a new bulletin series that will explore data on topics of planning interest. This month, the bulletin looks at Rhode Island's population aged 65 and older. Senior citizens often have particular planning needs, such as access to appropriate housing and transportation options. While Rhode Island has a larger share of older adults than the average state, the absolute number of residents in this age bracket declined between 2000 and 2010. Read why experts believe this happened, and why we shouldn't expect the trend to continue, at www.planning.ri.gov/census/bulletin_may2012.pdf

Technical Assistance Survey

The Rhode Island Division of Planning is soliciting input from cities, towns, and state agencies on priorities for technical assistance. This input will help guide the expenditure of capacity building funds allocated in the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant as well as future investments. If you are a municipal planner, you probably have received a link to a survey on this topic; please help shape technical assistance offerings by responding by May 8, 2012. If you did not receive a link to the survey, or if you have any questions about it, please contact Amanda Martin at amanda.martin@doa.ri.gov.

ArcGIS Courses

ArcGIS Online

In this half-day course, you will work with ESRI's FREE online mapping services available at ArcGIS.com giving you the tools to access the volumes of data being served from RIGIS. You will explore ready to use map services from RIGIS and others (hundreds of maps); query existing data; build your own maps using readily available data from RIGIS and other sources; create your own data (import: .csv, .txt, addresses, .gpx, heads-up digitizing); and share your maps via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter or embed the code into your own website

This course will be held Tuesday, June 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be held on the University of Rhode Island's Kingston Campus. The registration fee for this workshop is \$100 and pre registrations if required. For details on this course and to register, please visit the [geospatial extension program webpage](#).

Introduction to ArcGIS 10

This three-day hands-on computer course provides an introduction to the capabilities of GIS. Using ESRI's [ArcGIS 10](#)®, software. You will be taught the fundamentals of working with GIS data, how to query a GIS database, edit spatial and attribute data and how to present data using maps, reports, and graphs. You will also work extensively with the [Rhode Island Geographic Information System \(RIGIS\)](#) database.

All students receive hands-on software instruction, course books with exercises with accompanying training data. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive a **URI Certificate of Course Completion**. Classes are taught at [URI's Kingston campus](#).

This course will be held June 5 to 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. The registration fee for this course is \$750 and pre registrations if required. For details on this course and to register, please visit the [geospatial extension program webpage](#).

Community Connection RI

Grow Smart Rhode Island / Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Calendar

This [calendar](#) is available for use by elected and appointed municipal officials and planners, citizen advocates, the natural resource protection community and the design and development community.

WTS-Rhode Island

2012 Member/Sponsor Breakfast

Do not miss this exciting event! Become a member or corporate partner and join WTS-Rhode Island for their annual Member/Sponsor Breakfast on Wednesday, May 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the CAV Restaurant in Providence. Colin Kane, chairman of the I-195 Commission, will discuss redevelopment of the I-195 land in downtown Providence. This complimentary event is open only to WTS-Rhode Island members and representatives of our corporate partners. To become a member please contact [Maggie Florio](#). To become a corporate partner contact [Maureen Chlebek](#). For more information on the breakfast please click the [Member/Sponsor Breakfast flyer](#).

Division of Planning Committee Meetings



Technical Committee Meeting

Scheduled for May 4 at 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#).

State Planning Council Meeting

Scheduled for May 10 at 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#).

Rhode Island Water Resources Board

Scheduled for May 21 at 1:00 p.m.; meeting location will be posted on the [Secretary of State's website](#). The Finance Committee meets one hour prior to the board in the same location. For the latest schedule information please see the [Board calendar](#).

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Scheduled for May 24 at 6:30 p.m.; Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the [Committee Calendar](#).

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant awarded to the Division of Planning by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officially started on February 15 and will provide the state with a number of exciting opportunities over the next three years. This grant is one of several offered through the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, a collaboration of HUD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program supports metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact. The major outcome for grantees is a “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development” that incorporates all of these things.

Rhode Island’s grant will specifically be used for the following planning and performance activities:

- Building on existing plans such as *Land Use 2025*, *Transportation 2030* and *RI Water 2030*, create a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) as defined by HUD.
- Develop components of the RPSD, including new statewide Housing and Economic Development plans.
- Compile statewide data and mapping layers and create technical guidance that will help municipalities identify and define areas appropriate for growth and village centers.
- Build capacity within state and local government and among participants in the planning process to implement sustainable development strategies from the plan.
- Establish a Social Equity Advisory Committee to represent underserved populations in the state and ensure social equity is infused in all plans.

- Utilize a public participation and communications strategy to reach target populations, engage them in the planning process and ensure sustained participation.
- Develop meaningful performance measures that can easily track Rhode Island’s progress toward sustainability and equity over time.

This grant will be managed by a consortium currently consisting of seven state and quasi-state agencies, nine municipalities and three non-profits. The work of the consortium will be supported by a number of committees, focusing on topics such as housing, economic development, growth centers, social equity and performance measures. The consortium hopes to attract participation and input from all different backgrounds and perspectives, to help ensure that these plans are not developed in their usual silos, but are truly coordinated. Cross-fertilization of ideas will be a major theme throughout the planning process.

The Division of Planning will be using a portion of the grant to hire a Supervising Planner and Principal Planner to manage the day-to-day and long term activities of the grant. These positions should be on board no later than early June. We expect to release an initial RFP for consultant services in early summer, and hope to begin the public planning process no later than early next year.

In Memory—William R. Haase, IV

Rhode Island and Southeastern Connecticut lost a caring, knowledgeable, curious, thoughtful planner with the recent death of William R. Haase IV on April 10, 2012. Bill first came to the area as planner for Ledyard, Connecticut in the era of casino planning and a Six Flags proposal. He then became the planner in the Town of Westerly, and most recently the planner for Stonington Connecticut.

Both Connecticut and Rhode Island were fortunate to have Bill involved in planning. He served as a member of the Technical Committee and brought a valued perspective on the varied issues of planning, along with his passion, vision and sense of humor. His interests in anthropology/archeology, along with his degree in Urban and Regional Planning brought an enhanced perspective for all facets of planning.

Bill will be missed by many in the planning profession and those he served in the community.