THE POWER OF PLACE SUMMIT
MAY 14, 2010 - RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER

GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth & Quality of Place

Advertising supplement to Providence Business News
Thank you, GrowSmartRI. We’ve been listening.

David N. Cicilline, Mayor
PEDP Chair
Dear Friends,

We believe that Rhode Island has all the ingredients to transform itself into an economic and cultural leader. Grow Smart Rhode Island is committed to redoubling its efforts in partnership with government, private business and our nonprofit colleagues to help Rhode Island shape creative strategies to transform our economy in a way that builds upon and strengthens our outstanding quality of place.

Our 3rd Biennial Power of Place Summit on Friday, May 14, 2010 is one such opportunity to increase the capacity of public and private decision makers to recognize the opportunities for playing more effectively to our strengths and capitalizing on our many place-based assets.

The Summit is expected to draw up to 500 opinion leaders ranging from federal, state and local officials, academics, developers, architects and real estate professionals to planners, investors and staff from many policy advocacy groups. The program will take a close look at how to achieve sustainable economic prosperity using strategies that revitalize urban and town centers, increase housing options and affordability, promote clean and efficient transportation choices, maintain a vital agricultural sector and that ensure responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

You’ll hear from the Obama Administration about a new federal partnership designed to assist states and communities in making more efficient, integrated investments in housing, transportation and environmental protection. There will also be more than 20 workshops presented by teams of respected and accomplished professionals.

So please join us in exploring how Rhode Island can redefine its economic strategy by focusing on its assets. Let’s play to our strengths – strengths such as our natural resources, our nationally renowned collection of historic buildings, coastal location, transportation infrastructure, and our productive farming sector.

Grow Smart has always championed a multi-issue approach to our future well-being. We’ll continue to leverage the talents, ideas and energy of our many diverse partners in transforming our beloved and quirky Rhode Island into an economic and cultural leader for this and future generations.

We hope that you’ll be with us on the journey.

Howard M. Kilguss
Chairman of the Board

Scott Wolf
Executive Director
12 Years of bringing stakeholders together for a better Rhode Island

In 1997, six organizations came together concerned that Rhode Island’s quality of life was in danger and that the state’s economy was not performing to its potential. As they evaluated existing conditions, one thing became very clear among these leaders – the state needed to think and act more strategically about future growth and begin identifying, nurturing and capitalizing on Rhode Island’s many strengths. Then, on April 12, 1997, 600 concerned citizens, business leaders and officials came together for Preserving Place, Growing Smart, a statewide conference to more closely examine the impacts of haphazard growth and development and to consider the alternatives for sustainable prosperity. The outcome of the conference was a consensus that a focused statewide effort was needed to link these groups and educate citizens, business leaders and elected officials about the impacts of sprawl and about policies, strategies and incentives to encourage growth that adds value to Rhode Island’s quality of life.

Jim Dodge, then Chairman and CEO of the Providence Gas Company, offered to spearhead the creation of Grow Smart Rhode Island and was assisted by conference sponsors and the RI Public Expenditure Council. Those early efforts for smarter growth were bolstered by the influence and diversity of groups representing the business, environmental, preservation, housing and transportation sectors. Today, that collaboration has grown to include representatives from academia and the development community and has propelled the smart growth movement into one that is making a positive and noticeable difference in the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders.

**FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS:**
Providence Foundation, Providence Gas (now National Grid), Providence Preservation Society, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Rhode Island Builders Association, Rhode Island Housing, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, Save The Bay, Scenic Rhode Island (now the Dunn Foundation) and South County Regional Transportation Initiative.

**RI Needs a Public Destination at the Head of the Bay**

A public-private partnership creating a Gateway multi-use facility for visitors and residents to get to and from the Bay -- taking advantage of the centrally located site’s deepwater port as a maritime link to other modes of transportation, with a marina, excursion and ferry boat docks, restaurant and event space -- would bring needed economic development, jobs, and tax revenues to the City and State.

Please visit our website at makeshooterspublic.com, sign the petition, and contact info@headofthebaygateway.org for more information.

**SAVE OUR WATERFRONT!**
MakeShootersPublic.com

**Who Saves The Bay?**

ANGELINA CHIONG is your typical 12-year-old. She plays video games, watches TV and practices the clarinet. And she also cares about the Bay. Cares enough to recycle, keep the Bay free of trash, and toss back the small fish that she and her dad catch on their fishing excursions. This aspiring animator is spreading the Bay message through her artwork — a poster that won a statewide contest and is showcased as part of the Narragansett Bay Commission’s 2006 calendar. The girl can draw. And her artwork — popular with her peers — shows that even kids expect to inherit a swimmable, fishable Narragansett Bay.

How are you saving the Bay?
www.savebay.org
We’re here for Rhode Island businesses.

Washington Trust is one of the top lenders to small businesses in Rhode Island. These companies know that we are committed to helping them start up, prosper, and grow with a complete range of SBA guaranteed financing programs. They also know at Washington Trust, people come first. We provide exceptional service and easy, everyday accessibility. To learn more, stop by your local branch or call Thomas W. Quinlan, Vice President, Small Business, at 401-348-1378 or 800-475-2265. Member FDIC.
New Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities to headline Power of Place Summit

HUD, DOT and EPA officials to participate in keynote symposium

On June 16, 2009, the Obama Administration announced an unprecedented new federal partnership among three major agencies to support innovative efforts by communities to expand economic opportunity, improve community design and livability and reduce impacts to the environment. It’s called the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and is now backed by Congress, with $150 million allocated in the 2010 Budget.

This partnership - and the opportunities for advancing economic and community development in Rhode Island - will take center stage at Grow Smart Rhode Island’s 3rd Biennial Power of Place Summit on Friday, May 14, 2010 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Downtown Providence. HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims will be joined by Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration and John Frece, Director of EPA’s Smart Growth Program to discuss the status of the partnership and the opportunities for applying its principles to improve Rhode Island’s economy and communities set a vision for sustainability.

The $150 million in funding provided by Congress will be used to support integrated planning efforts and projects that indicate the livability of communities, neighborhoods and metropolitan areas. These measures could be adopted in subsequent integrated planning efforts to benchmark existing conditions, measure progress toward achieving community visions and increase accountability. HUD, DOT and EPA will help communities attain livability goals by developing and providing analytical tools to evaluate progress as well as state and local technical assistance programs to remove barriers to coordinated housing, transportation and environmental protection investments.

The HUD/DOT/EPA partnership will:

1. Enhance integrated planning and investment. The partnership will seek to integrate housing, transportation, water infrastructure, and land use planning and investment. HUD, EPA and DOT propose to make planning grants available to metropolitan areas, and create mechanisms to ensure those plans are carried through to localities.

2. Provide a vision for sustainable growth. This effort will help communities set a vision for sustainable growth and apply federal transportation, water infrastructure, housing and other investments in an integrated approach that reduces the nation’s dependence on foreign oil, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, protects America’s air and water and improves quality of life.

3. Redefine housing affordability and make it transparent. The partnership will develop federal housing affordability measures that include housing and transportation costs and other expenses that are affected by location choices. Although transportation costs now approach or exceed housing costs for many working families, federal definitions of housing affordability do not recognize the strain of soaring transportation costs on homeowners and renters who live in areas isolated from work opportunities and transportation choices. The partnership will redefine affordability to reflect those costs.

4. Revitalize underutilized sites. The partnership will work to achieve critical environmental justice goals and other environmental goals by targeting development to locations that already have infrastructure and offer transportation choices. Environmental justice is a particular concern in areas where disinvestment and past industrial use caused pollution and a legacy of contaminated or abandoned sites. This partnership will help return such sites to productive use.

5. Develop livability measures and tools. The partnership will research, evaluate and recommend measures that indicate the livability of communities, neighborhoods and metropolitan areas. These measures could be adopted in subsequent integrated planning efforts to benchmark existing conditions, measure progress toward achieving community visions and increase accountability. HUD, DOT and EPA will help communities attain livability goals by developing and providing analytical tools to evaluate progress as well as state and local technical assistance programs to remove barriers to coordinated housing, transportation and environmental protection investments.

6. Align HUD, DOT and EPA programs. HUD, DOT and EPA will work to assure that their programs maximize the benefits of their combined investments in our communities for livability, affordability, environmental excellence, and the promotion of green jobs of the future. HUD and DOT will work together to identify opportunities to better coordinate their programs and encourage location efficiency in housing and transportation investments.

7. Undertake joint research, data collection and outreach. HUD, DOT and EPA will engage in joint research, data collection, and outreach efforts with stakeholders, to develop information platforms and analytical tools to track housing and transportation options and expenditures, establish standardized and efficient performance measures, and identify best practices.

The $150 million in funding provided by Congress will be used to support a competitive grant program for entities representing state and local governments proposing multi-disciplinary planning efforts and projects that integrate housing, economic development, transportation, social equity and environmental protections. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is anticipated to be published the week of April 12, 2010, with applications due by June 5, 2010. Announcement of awards is anticipated by August 2, 2010.
What Smart Growth is:

Smart Growth is development that serves the economy, the community and the environment. It changes the terms of the development debate away from the traditional growth/no growth question to “how and where should new development be accommodated?” Smart growth is development that simultaneously achieves:

- Economic development and jobs—that create employment and business opportunities, improve the local tax base, provide neighborhood services and amenities, and create economically competitive communities.
- Strong neighborhoods—that provide a range of housing options giving people the opportunity to choose housing that best suits them. Smart growth provides the choice to walk, ride a bike, take transit, or drive. It maintains and enhances the value of existing neighborhoods and creates a sense of community.
- Healthy communities—that provide families with a clean environment. Smart growth achieves sustainable economic growth – growth that preserves open space and critical habitat, reclaims and reuses polluted land, and protects water supplies and air quality.

Prevailing development patterns of the last 50 years have brought benefits and concerns for communities across the country. Though often supportive of growth, communities are now questioning the economic costs of abandoning infrastructure in the city and rebuilding it further out. They’re now questioning the necessity of spending increased time in cars, locked in traffic or traveling miles to the nearest store. They’re now questioning the practice of abandoning brownfields in older communities while building big box malls and housing developments on open space and prime agricultural lands at the suburban fringe, which damage our environment.

Smart growth recognizes the many benefits of growth. It invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities, towns and older suburbs. Smart growth in new developments is more town-centered, is transit and pedestrian oriented, and has a greater mix of housing, commercial and retail uses. It also preserves open space and other environmental amenities. Smart growth recognizes connections between development and quality of life.

What Smart Growth isn’t:

- Not anti-growth; it’s about better growth—growth that makes sense. Smart growth leverages new growth to improve the community and finds ways to meet economic, environmental, and quality-of-life goals.
- Not anti-automobile; it’s about having transportation options—to drive, walk, bike, or take public transit.
- Not anti-suburb; it’s about building better places to live in existing suburbs, cities, and new communities. It’s about protecting existing investments and quality of life in areas where people, communities, and governments have already made a commitment.
- Not about big government; it’s about improving market efficiency, making it legal to construct the mixed-use small towns and neighborhoods we used to build, making brownfield redevelopment easier, and getting more value from the tax dollars we spend on roads, sewers, and other taxpayer investments.

The features that distinguish smart growth vary by community. No two streets, neighborhoods, or cities are identical. There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution. Smart growth in Portland, Oregon, has different characteristics than smart growth in Cranston, Rhode Island—and it should. For that reason, smart growth provides choices and seeks to build on proven successes. The Smart Growth principles (see box) reflect the experience of localities that have successfully created smart growth communities. These communities had a vision of where they want to go and of what things they value in their community.

Spurring the smart growth movement are demographic shifts, a strong environmental and energy conservation ethic, increased fiscal concerns, and more focus on growth that has staying power. People know there is a better way to grow. The result is both a new demand and a new opportunity for growth that emphasizes preservation of open space and farmland, greater choice in housing and transportation, efficient investment of limited infrastructure dollars, and the strengthening of existing neighborhoods. Smart growth can make these alternatives a reality.

Smart Growth Principles

1. Mix land uses.
2. Locate in or adjacent to established or planned centers, making full use of existing buildings and infrastructure.
3. Preserve open spaces and farmlands.
4. Promote compact building and neighborhood design.
5. Provide a range of housing types for a range of incomes.
6. Create walkable pedestrian-friendly communities that provided easy access to public transit.
7. Capitalize on existing assets to protect or create distinctive, attractive places and public amenities.
8. Follow environmentally sensitive building and site design practices.
9. Encourage citizen and stakeholder participation.
10. Foster creative public-private partnerships to finance projects and maximize resources.

Mission Statement:
Grow Smart Rhode Island is a statewide public interest group representing a broad coalition of partners that advocates sustainable economic growth that builds upon and strengthens Rhode Island’s exceptional quality of place.

We work to achieve:
- Revitalized, walkable urban and town centers
- Housing options and affordability
- Expanded transportation choices
- A vital agricultural sector
- Responsible stewardship of natural resources

WALKABLE COMMUNITIES like downtown Bristol draw people out of their cars and on to their feet.
Who Should Attend?
Professional practitioners (e.g. planners, architects, environmental engineers)
Developers and builders
Members of municipal boards and commissions
Elected officials
Representatives from State and Federal agencies
Municipal planners and managers
Citizens and citizen planners
The financial and lending communities
Nonprofit organizations
Students
Foundations with an interest in supporting smart growth in Rhode Island
Interest groups, including those promoting...
■ Land conservation
■ Economic development
■ Environmental protection
■ Historic preservation
■ Transportation and mass transit
■ Housing production
■ Improved public health and fitness

New this year:
30-MINUTE WALKING TOURS. The RI Green Building Council has arranged two 30-minute walking tours of USGBC LEED certified buildings that exemplify principles of sustainable design. Both tours are within easy walking distance of the Rhode Island Convention Center. They will start simultaneously at 5:15 p.m. and repeat. Refreshments will be served. The tours are free, but you must sign up as part of online Summit registration.

The new Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI headquarters at Waterplace Park is an urban infill structure housing 1100 employees relocated from 6 different buildings across the city. BCBS also participates in RIPTA’s Ecopass program in which many of its employees commute to work on public transit. Building features include a rainwater harvesting system, green roof, recycled materials and various indoor air quality measures to improve occupant health and productivity.

The former RI Medical Society Building (c. 1912) located in the shadow of the Rhode Island State House was renovated to provide a new LEED certified corporate center for the Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc. The renovated building features several private offices, a glass-walled conference room that is suspended within the former library stacks, an operations center, an administrative area in the large vaulted former auditorium, and a new glass and brick enclosed stairwell addition.

Morning Keynote Symposium
Emerging Federal Partnership creates Dynamic
There has never been a more energizing atmosphere for sustainable and prosperous communities than right now. It was announced early on that smart growth and sustainability are a priority in his administration. Then in June, HUD, DOT, and an unprecedented federal partnership to better integrate housing, transportation and environmental protection. It’s called the Partnership for Sustainable Communities places such as Rhode Island with a long-range plan for Congress has since backed up the Partnership with $15 million in federal grant funding to support innovative efforts by communities to support smart growth to balance economic development, transportation, housing and infrastructure design and reduce costly impacts to the environment.

The keynote Symposium will feature high ranking officials from their respective programs and investments to a
Geoff Anderson, President & CEO Smart Growth America
Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
John Frece, Smart Growth Program Director, U.S. Department of Energy

Grow Smart Rhode Island would like to thank our sponsors and partners:

REGISTER ONLINE
www.GrowSmartRI.com

Registration fees

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Registration includes lunch, refreshment breaks and conference handout materials.

Continuing Education Credits
Grow Smart Rhode Island has applied for and received continuing education credits (AICP only) for a selected number of conference sessions. These sessions are noted as “CM-Approved” on the program. See online registration for details.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTER
Frank Mullin/Urbang Smart Growth ■ RI Division of Planning
Thank the following sponsors

Summit Agenda
May 14, 2010

Schedule:
8:00a – 8:30a Registration / Networking
8:30a – 10:15a Morning Plenary
Welcoming remarks/ Summit overview - Scott Wolf, Executive Director, Grow Smart RI
Rhode Island Smart Growth Progress Report - Kevin Flynn, Associate Director, RI Division of Planning
Symposium: New Federal Partnerships for Sustainable Communities
Geoff Anderson, President & CEO, Smart Growth America (Moderator)
Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
John Frece, Smart Growth Program Director, U.S. EPA
10:15a Break in exhibit area
10:30a – 12:00p Morning Breakout Workshops
The Ocean State: Leveraging our Greatest Natural Asset for Economic Growth
A Path Toward Sustainable Transportation Choices for Rhode Island
Making Room for Urban Agriculture
Utilizing Historic Tax Credits and Achieving LEED Certification
Design Innovation as an Economic Driver
Building Strong, Healthy and Whole Communities Through KeepSpace
Welcoming Green into Your Community: Zoning for Wind, Solar and Site Design
12:15p – 1:15p Lunch & Keynote Address
Remarks by Neil Steinberg, President & CEO, The Rhode Island Foundation
Lunchtime Keynote Address
The State of the Smart Growth Movement: Our Time has Arrived
Geoff Anderson, President & CEO, Smart Growth America
1:15p – 1:30p Networking Break in Exhibit Area
1:30p – 3:00p Afternoon Workshops I
Positioning Rhode Island to Compete: Real Estate Needs and Regulatory Reform
Transit and the Transect: Understanding the Relationship Between Transit & Sustainable Development
Tale of Three Cities: Portland, Providence and New London
It Takes a Village to Effectively Manage Rural Growth
There’s No Smart Growth Without Equitable Growth
Building Green to Build our Economy
Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth: What does Public Health have to do with it?
3:00p – 3:15p Afternoon Break in Exhibit Area
3:15p – 4:45p Afternoon Workshops II
A Rare Opportunity: The Reuse & Redevelopment of Surplus I-195 Land
Cottages on Greene: An In-town Residential Infill Project
Strategies that Keep Working Farms Working
Affordable Housing: Measuring the Returns on Public Investments
YIMBY - Yes In My Back Yard - LEED for Neighborhood Development
Your Home and Rhode Island’s Water Supply
4:45p – 5:30p Cash bar reception in Exhibit Area
5:15p – 5:45p Guided tour of Blue Cross Blue Shield Facility/Moran Shipping Agencies H.Q.
Meet in RICC Rotunda Lobby near visitor Center
6:00p – 6:30p Tours repeated
The Ocean State: Leveraging our Greatest Natural Asset for Economic Growth
Rhode Island's economy, and identity, has long been tied to the ocean. Today, these historic ties to the ocean present us with one of our greatest competitive advantages for smart, sustainable economic development. Come hear how our concentration of world class public and private marine assets are working together to position Rhode Island as a leader in meeting our society's most pressing issues from development of renewable energy sources to homeland security, coastal resource management and climate change.

David Farmer, Dean, Graduate School of Oceanography, URI (Moderator)
James Miller, Chair, Ocean Engineering, URI
Paul Rich, Chief Development Officer, Deepwater Wind Rhode Island
Grover Fugate, Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council

A Path Toward Sustainable Transportation Choices for Rhode Island
This is an interesting and exciting time for transit in Rhode Island. In December 2009, after two years of study, RIPTA released a major report outlining an ambitious agenda for future growth. The plan includes bus rapid transit, new bus hubs, and a PoC to REI. This panel focuses on the nuts and bolts of both application processes as they affect each other and ultimately your bottom line as an owner. It is possible – and rewarding – to preserve, be green and save green.

Greg Gerritt, Urban Agriculture Task Force, ProsperityForRI.org
David Everett, Principal Planner, City of Providence Dept of Planning & Development

Making Room for Urban Agriculture
The Urban Agriculture Task Force has been in the middle of the action. The presenters will focus on two key areas, Planning for urban agriculture and composting. Providence has been ranked among the best in RI for making room for the urban agriculture so their strategy is worth exploring. Agriculture in RI will not be far without an abundant source of compost, which can be produced from local sources. Learn about efforts to turn RI farms into a resource for their strategy is worth exploring. Agriculture in RI will not be far without an abundant source of compost, which can be produced from local sources. Learn about efforts to turn RI farms into a resource for urban agriculture which dramatically reducing pressure on landfills and helping with our carbon budget.

Martha Werenfels, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, Durkee, Brown, Viveros & Werenfels Architects
Virginia Hesse, Architect, Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission
Paul Leveille, LEED AP, High Performance Buildings Program Manager, The Jordan Institute Scott Wolf, Executive Director, Grow Smart Rhode Island

Utilizing Historic Tax Credits and Achieving LEED Certification
Adaptive re-use of existing buildings is the ultimate form of recycling, but have you heard cautionary tales about navigating the historic tax credits process while also, and a PoC to REI. This panel focuses on the nuts and bolts of both application processes as they affect each other and ultimately your bottom line as an owner. It is possible – and rewarding – to preserve, be green and save green.

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Virginia Hesse, Architect, Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission
Paul Leveille, LEED AP, High Performance Buildings Program Manager, The Jordan Institute Scott Wolf, Executive Director, Grow Smart Rhode Island

Design Innovation as an Economic Driver
This session will examine collaborations among key public and private stakeholders invested in the renewal, revitalization and smart growth of communities. Through specific examples, participants will learn from presenters’ experiences working with the assets of a community to forge authentic, place-specific, and vibrant gathering places that enhance quality of life, and also become organizers for new development and investment. Examples include the role of universities as catalysts for neighborhood redevelopment and ground-breaking and innovative design in the public realm, from bridges in Rotterdam, to the Toronto waterfront and lighting projects in Glasgow learn how these approaches have helped transform old industrial cities in new and exciting ways.

James Lima, Partner, HRBA Advisors, Inc. (Moderator)
Frances Halbmand, FAVA, Partner, Klenert Halbmand Architects
Jerry van Eyk, ASLA, Principal, Mek Landscape Architecture PC
Leni Schwendinger, Principal, Leni Schwendinger Light Projects LTD

Building Strong, Healthy and Whole Places Through KeepSpace
Launched in 2007, KeepSpace is a partnership driven initiative to change the way we think about, build and approach “community.” To truly improve Rhode Island’s communities, especially when funds are limited, partners agree to come to the table in spirit of collaboration. The KeepSpace philosophy is about changing the way we do things: creating unprecedented partnerships to build a better, sustainable Rhode Island. KeepSpace brings together those who are concerned about Rhode Island’s economy, infrastructure, environment and homes - including community members. Come hear from KeepSpace partners about how KeepSpace has evolved over the past three years, what it has accomplished to date, and how it is moving forward.

Richard Godfrey, Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing and KeepSpace Advisory Committee Member (Moderator)
Nancy Whit, Executive Director, Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation (PCDC)
Kevin M. Flynn, Associate Director, Rhode Island Division of Planning

Welcoming Green into Your Community: Zoning for Wind, Solar and Site Design
This session will provide a detailed look at how energy efficiency can be integrated into Zoning and Land Development Regulations. One half of the discussion will examine individual energy-generating technologies, including wind and solar power at large and small scales. The second half of the discussion will examine the potential applicability of preliminary LEED-ND standards and how community and site design standards can help municipalities achieve their energy efficiency goals.

Nathan Kelp, Senior Planner, Horsley-Witten Group, Inc. (Moderator)
Kate Reardon, Environmental Planner, Horsley Witten Group, Inc.

Transit & the Transect: Understanding the relationship between transit and sustainable land development
Our country is amidst a rapid paradigm shift toward development patterns that promote multi-modal transportation choice and increased mixed-use develop. Decision makers are quickly discovering the market value of sustainability, walkability, multi-modal transit choice, density, affordability and quality of life. Come learn how investments in a robust transit, pedestrian and dense building infrastructure – balanced with parks and open space – can result in a higher quality of life. Examine real-world best practices and explore the major elements of sustainable, transit oriented development aimed at reducing reliance on the automobile.

Thomas A. Mann, Jr., Executive Director, The Pew Trust on the Environment (Moderator)
Anton C. Nelsen, PM, M. A. RI, LEED AP, UD, CNM, Principal, A. P. Nelson Associates, Associate Pro- fessor of Urban Planning, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey - Graduate Department of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Kathleen Filarski, FAIA, AICP, LEED-AP, LEED-AP BD+C, CFM, FILARKI Architecture

Tale of Three Cities: Portland, Providence, and New London
These three New England cities, connected spiritually by their history, their access to the water, their prominence on the Northeast Corridor, and their ongoing revitalization and transformation, will be the focus of discussion in this session about renewed interest in living in walkable and sustainable communities. City planners joined by an urban designer will discuss the story of their past, where these cities are today and the challenges of the future. How are we making our cities more livable and vital? How are we taking advantage of our natural assets and connection to the water? How is the issue of density in our cities being addressed? Are we encouraging all forms of alternative transportation? What are we afraid of?

Steve Durkee, AIA, Principle, Durkee, Brown Viveros & Werenfels Architects (Moderator)
Bil Needelman, Senior Planner, City of Portland, ME
Harry Smith, Office of Planning & Development, New London, CT
Bonnie Nickerson, Senior Planner, City of Providence
Steve Ceci, AIA ASLA, Principal, The Ceci Group, Inc.

It Takes a Village: Effectively Managing Rural Growth
The Borderlands Project is a 20-town collaboration along the Rhode Island-Connecticut border. When stakeholders identified an interest in village-style development, while also identifying a lack of planning resources to change their town’s paths of “business-as-usual”, The Nature Conservancy, the Orton Family Foundation, and others partnered together to offer a “Village Innovation Pilot” to two of the Borderlands towns. Hear representatives from Exeter, RI and Killingly, CT talk about how their project has begun to change the way they look at develop-
ing and preserving their towns in a way that provides for a sustainable future and for dynamic economic development opportunities. Hear about the challenges and the innovations the towns encountered in working with citizens to chart a new direction for their communities. It will show how “on-the-ground” practices can advance GrowSmartRhode’s and the State of Rhode Island’s overall planning goals to promote compact growth centers in key areas around the state, and also show where obstacles still remain.

Kevin Essington, Director, Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy
Scott Miller, Chairperson, Exeter Pilot Team
David Swedlund, Planner, Town of Exeter, RI
Linda Walden, Director of Planning & Development, Killingly, CT

There’s No Smart Growth Without Equitable Growth

The "Great Recession" hit impoverished communities in Rhode Island particularly hard; foreclosures and related evictions have emptied blocks of housing in low income and minority neighborhoods, and those same communities have, historically, the highest unemployment rates. New development in communities of color is often geared to car-oriented, low-density, family-owned or rental properties, and the good paying jobs created by that development usually require skills that residents lack. Panelists will discuss the need for new equitable economic development strategies that provide for development without displacement, and job opportunities that are accessible (both geographically and by skill set) to the chronically unemployed.

Steven Fischbach, Rhode Island Legal Services (Moderator)  
Norman Opina, Olneyville Neighborhood Association  
Rochelle Lea, Consultant

Building Green to Build Our Economy

With the improvement of state and local codes, green building is advancing both sustainability and economic goals. This session will review green building programs across the country and debunk myths behind the perceived cost and complications related to integrating green building standards. The session will outline the “Green Factor,” a method using optional design elements to improve sustainable site design, and then explore the requirements of the “Green Buildings Act,” effective January 1, 2010, and how it pertains to public and municipal construction projects in Rhode Island. The panelists will review the changes required to all building types by the adoption of the new Rhode Island energy conservation code. A case study of an existing project will serve as an illustration of how a new public building would proceed incorporating both green building standards and smart growth principles.

Kenneth Buckland, AICP, LEED AP, Principal, The Cecil Group, Inc. (Moderator)  
Robert Stein, AICP, Land Use Bureau Chief, Stamford, Connecticut  
Steven Hughes, AIA, LEEP AP, Associate, RGB Corp.  
John Leyden, CBO, RI State Building Commissioner, RI Dept. of Administration

Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth: What does Public Health have to do with it?

By the end of this workshop, participants will understand the logic behind population health strategies; why all policy is health policy; how community design influences health; and how social, environmental and biomedical determinants interact across the lifespan to influence wellbeing. Participants will learn about the evidence now informing our efforts to design places that eliminate inequality of opportunity to live healthy lives in healthy communities. Lastly, participants will learn about health opportunities that will be made in the next few years to "level the playing field" to ensure all neighborhoods provide residents with equal opportunities for healthy lives.

Ana Novoa, ED, Division of Community, Family Health and Equity, RI Department of Health (Moderator)  
Peter Simon, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Division of Community, Family Health and Equity, RIDOH  
Eliza Lawson, MPH, Program Manager, Initiative for Healthy Weight, RIDOH  
Kathleen Haneghan, MPH, Healthy Housing Coordinator

Afternoon Workshops II (3:15p – 4:45p)

A rare opportunity: The reuse and redevelopment of surplus I-195 land

It is not often that 40 acres of publicly owned land in the middle of a city is opened for redevelopment. The surplus I-195 land presents this opportunity. The subject of many plans over the last 15 years, the rare opportunity is finally becoming a reality with the demolition of the old I-195 scheduled for 2010. Panelists will discuss the key players in shaping this land’s future and will discuss their objectives and plans regarding raising funds through land sales, economic development, transportation, open space and the creation of a mixed use, walkable district.

Dan Boudreau, Executive Director, The Providence Foundation (Moderator)  
Michael P Lewis, Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation  
Thomas E. Daller, Director, Department of Planning & Development, City of Providence

Cottages on Greene: An In-town Residential Infill Project

The development landscape has changed. With shifting demographics and changes in the economic climate, in-town, community-focused, walkable living has more appeal than ever. The Cottages on Greene, a 15 unit infill “pocket neighborhood” currently under construction in East Greenwich, features a pioneering master plan design with closely knit homes clustered around a common green and vegetable garden. Located adjacent to Main Street in the center of the “Hill & Harbour” Historic District, the project appropriately transitions density from Main Street to the adjacent residential neighborhood.

The session will include a detailed presentation of the project’s intricate master plan and traditional cottage architecture; an overview of the site design which includes natural drainage systems strategically interwoven through the public space and permeable pavement; discussion of how marketing and sales strategies have differed from the norm; a review of the affordable housing component of the project; and, an overview of the Town’s perspective.

Donald Powers, AIA, Principal, Donald Powers Architects  
Lee Whitaker, AICP, Director of Planning, Town of East Greenwich

Strategies that Keep Working Farms Working

Working farms define the character of many Rhode Island communities, are an economically important local industry and enhance our quality of life. There is strong public support for protecting farmland and buying locally grown food in Rhode Island. Yet, Rhode Island has lost more than 80% of our farmland since 1940. And only about 10% of our remaining farmland is protected. This workshop will discuss farm trends, their contribution to the economy, and the challenges of protecting farmland and keeping it in agricultural production. Learn what actions your municipality can take toward retaining your working farms and keeping them economically viable.

Rupert Friday, Director, RI Land Trust Council (Moderator)  
Jan Eckhart, Sweet Berry Farm & Middletown Planning Board  
Jon Reiner, Town Planner, Town of North Kingstown  
Pat McNiff, Casey Farm & Park's Pasture

Affordable Housing: Measuring the Returns on Public Investments

For several years, national research has consistently proven that investments in affordable housing produce high economic returns, but little has been done to study the effectiveness of public investment in affordable housing development in Rhode Island. HousingWorks RI recently completed the first ever economic impact study of the state’s Building Homes Rhode Island (BHIR) program. Be one of the first to see this hot-off-the-press report, understand what the numbers mean, and learn how the program has not only contributed to our economy, but helped to keep our construction sector afloat. Given the current economic climate in Rhode Island, investing in affordable homes is an opportunity the Ocean State cannot afford to ignore.

Nellie Gorbea, Executive Director, HousingWorks RI  
Eric Hagen, AICP, President, I Squared Community Development Consulting

YIMBY – YES In My Back Yard – LEED for Neighborhood Development

The LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) ND Rating System is the first national rating system to address the neighborhood scale, integrating the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building. Released in 2009, it was developed through a collaboration of three, nationally recognized nonprofit organizations: the U.S. Green Building Council, the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Using real case studies of local urban revitalization projects and suburban town centers, this session will demonstrate how the LEED ND checklist can be used by planners and developers early in the design and permitting process to evaluate a project in the context of an entire community or incorporate the latest sustainability practices into master plans and economic development initiatives. For triple bottom line results (better impacts on community, less maintenance costs, better tenants!), LEED ND is the tool for creating environmentally, economically and socially responsible and successful communities.

Janice Greenwood, P.E., Vice President, Woodard & Curran, Inc (Moderator)  
Benjamin Morton, Carol R Johnson Associates Inc  
Caroline Wells, Director of Planning and Community Development, Town of Warren, RI  
Eric Busch, Principal, Routpadvsiory, LLC  
Greg Speck, LEED AP, Principal, Greg Speck AIA Architecture & Urban Design  
Kenneth J. Flarks, LEED-AP BD+C, Principal, FILARSK|architecture planning research

Your home and Rhode Island’s water supply

Turn on the tap and water flows, but do you know where that water comes from? How you connect to Rhode Island’s big water picture? Adapted from a program designed by members of the Coalition for Water Security for Rhode Island realtors, this session looks at the sources of Rhode Island’s drinking water, showing how both indoor and outside water use shape the household water budget and offers landscaping and indoor water saving strategies.

Meg Keel, Watershed Outreach Coordinator at Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (Moderator)  
Jane Austin, Special Coalitions Liaison, Save The Bay  
Eugenia Mets, Senior Director of Policy, Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
Kate Venturini, Manager, URI / CRMC Coastal Landscapes Program
Grow Smart RI: a link between state, regional & national Smart Growth initiatives

Grow Smart RI’s involvement in several national and regional coalitions, enables our organization to bring cutting edge smart growth policy ideas, speakers and other resources to our state.

Executive Director Scott Wolf is currently an active member of three national smart growth groups and initiatives. Scott serves as one of 16 members of the Board of Directors of Smart Growth America. Based in Washington, D.C., SGA is the smart growth movement’s national advocacy and communications organization. The Board meets 4-5 times a year and receives regular briefings and updates on critical smart growth policy issues.

Scott’s SGA Board participation has facilitated recruitment of nationally known keynote speakers for our biennial Power of Place Summit, including former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening and current SGA CEO Geoff Anderson.

Scott is also a member of Smart Growth America’s State and Regional Caucus, a Caucus he chaired for several years. The Caucus sponsors a listserv for its approximately 30 members from Massachusetts to Washington State, one that we take advantage of to find out how counterpart groups around the country are handling emerging smart growth policy and institutional development issues. Caucus members also attend two face-to-face meetings a year, which provide highly valuable opportunities for information sharing and networking.

Three years ago Scott was instrumental in getting metropolitan Providence designated as a Metro Partner for the Brookings Institution’s national Blueprint for Prosperity Initiative, an initiative that encourages the federal government to fund metropolitan-wide regional approaches to such issues as transportation, housing and sustainable economic development.

At the regional level, Grow Smart RI is a member of the New England Rail Coalition (NERC), a group formed with the last year to champion regional efforts to improve intercity and interstate rail transportation throughout New England. Grow Smart’s Director of Research & Communications John Flaherty sits on NERC’s Steering Committee.

New poll shows Americans support increased funding for public transportation, safe walking and biking

Agreement across political and geographical lines offers guidance for development of next transportation bill

As a key Senate committee drafts a new long-term transportation bill, the Transportation for America coalition (of which Grow Smart is a member) recently released poll results demonstrating overwhelming national support for increased access to public transportation and safe walking and biking.

Central to the poll’s findings was strong support for increased transportation options, and accountability for future spending, across both geographic and political lines. More than four-in-five voters (82 percent) say that “the United States would benefit from an expanded and improved transportation system,” that includes rail and buses. This view is held by an overwhelming majority of voters in every part of the country. Even in rural America, 79 percent of voters agreed with the statement, despite much lower use of public transportation compared to urban Americans.

While saying they would like to be able to use other options, 73 percent of those surveyed indicated that they have “no choice but to drive as much as [they] do,” even as a substantial majority say they would like to spend less time in the car.

“In small towns and big cities alike, Americans are saying loudly and clearly that their lives would be better, and their nation stronger, if we had world-class public transportation and more options for walking and bicycling,” said Geoff Anderson, co-chair of the Transportation for America campaign and President and CEO of Smart Growth America.

“If Americans themselves were crafting the transportation bill,” Anderson said, “we would see a doubling of the share for public transportation; an ironclad system of accountability for restoring existing roads and bridges before simply building more of them; and a strong commitment to making all our streets safe enough for kids to bicycle to school or so seniors can walk to nearby restaurants or the drug store.”

A strong majority of voters indicated that current funding levels for public transportation are insufficient, with 58 percent saying more should be allocated toward bus, rail and other services. The desire to increase the amount of funding allocated to options beyond roads and highways was shared across demographic, geographic and political lines, including:

- 67% of residents in the Northeast, 58% in the West, 57% in the Midwest, and 52% in the South
- 62% of urban residents, 59% of suburbanites, 60% in small towns and 50% in rural areas
- 66% of Democrats, 59% of Independents, & 49% of Republicans

The survey also found that Americans of every political affiliation and income level are convinced that an expanded system of reliable public transportation is needed to ensure that everyone – regardless of age or income – has access to jobs and necessities.

“Rhode Island’s opportunity to capitalize on its compact development patterns through an improved public transportation system is heavily dependent on Congress developing a new transportation law that ends the bias against adequate funding of bus and light rail systems”, said Scott Wolf, Executive Director of Grow Smart Rhode Island. “That’s why it is critical for Congress to keep in mind the hopes and desires revealed in this survey as they move forward with a new transportation bill”, he added.
The Grow Smart Rhode Island Land-Use Training Collaborative

The information communities need to make smart decisions about growth

The Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative is an alliance of agencies and organizations that share a commitment to the principles of smart growth and sustainable community development. The partnering members believe that if we are to curb the sprawling development patterns that threaten Rhode Island’s open space, urban vitality and community character, municipal officials and staff must be fluent and comfortable with the principles and practices of sound land-use planning. At the same time, citizens must be equipped with the knowledge necessary to have a stronger voice in local decisions, and the development community must also be brought into local planning efforts. Through the Collaborative, the members maximize their collective resources to develop, publicize and deliver workshops. The programs are designed to build the capacity of communities, regions and the state as a whole to adopt and implement land-use policies and practices that preserve individual community character and are equitable, environmentally sound and economically beneficial. By incorporating the input of groups representing different areas of expertise, the Collaborative ensures that the programs present a balanced, comprehensive approach to land-use issues. Since presenting its first workshop in late 2001, the collaborative has developed and presented more than fifteen different workshops. The Land-Use Training Collaborative charges limited registration fees in order to make its programs affordable. The majority of program costs are covered by state government support and grants and contributions from foundations and corporations. Coalition partners help keep costs down by contributing staff time to program development and delivery, and experienced professionals in various fields volunteer their time as workshop presenters.

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Grow Smart RI: a voice for pro-active and creative economic development strategies

The following remarks are excerpted from a previous commentary by Grow Smart Executive Director Scott Wolf.

As we develop a strategy for sustainable prosperity, we need to stop being paralyzed by hyped business-climate reports and begin playing the highly competitive economic-development game through policies and incentives that capitalize on our strengths.

Let’s, for example, reinstitute a targeted state historic tax credit, to take full advantage of our having the largest collection of historic commercial buildings per square mile of any state.

Let’s develop a statewide smart-growth site inventory to market such properties to the many high-paying, knowledge-economy businesses that have been displaying a preference, here and elsewhere, for urban, historic, walkable settings.

Let’s explore an ocean-research corridor initiative with Massachusetts and Connecticut to generate more economic value from the greatest concentration of ocean-research expertise in America.

Let’s increase significantly the small number of Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation employees currently identifying and helping to commercialize the extensive research occurring in our higher-education and health-care institutions.

In this era of rising gasoline costs, let’s invest in a more comprehensive and user friendly public-transit system to maximize our advantage as a very small, high-density state that’s easy to navigate.

Let’s reject NIMBYism and support Governor Carcieri’s initiative to develop a major offshore wind-energy farm and wind-turbine-manufacturing facility at Quonset.

Let’s promote our tourism and farming sectors more aggressively and not get sidetracked by dubious assertions that their average wages or annual output are too low to be worthy of our attention.

And let’s seek in an environmentally responsible way to make better use of our environmentally situated ports and T.F. Green Airport.
Thank you to our many funders

Grow Smart Rhode Island is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our work as a change agent would not be possible without the commitment of people and organizations listed on this page. The following are contributors from January 1, 2008 through March 25, 2010. Thank you.

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