

**2014 Grow Smart RI Work Plan  
Approved by Board of Directors 1-30-2014**

**Goal 1: Expand public/private decision-makers' and general public's understanding of smart growth principles and benefits and awareness of Grow Smart by proactively providing information in a variety of compelling formats.**

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<b>1. Leverage and strengthen Grow Smart's proven communication tools to expand Grow Smart's audience, communicate its message and engage supporter in e-advocacy</b>	1.1a Enhance website with mobile device application to facilitate broader stakeholder engagement.	PH Foundation / Richardsons	
	1.1b Add an e-advocacy tool to website enabling supporters to easily contact their legislator(s) when prompted by Grow Smart.	PH Foundation / Richardsons	
	1.1c Publish 12 monthly e-newsletters in 2014	PH Foundation /Richardsons Broad Grow Smart RI Coalition	
	1.1d Issue periodic e-alerts to draw attention to issues of particular concern or opportunity.	PH Foundation / Richardsons	
	1.1e Grow Facebook audience from 788 to 1,100	PH Foundation / Richardsons	
	1.1f Grow Twitter followers from 200 to 500	PH Foundation / Richardsons	
<b>2. Use the 2014 Power of Place Summit as a vehicle to explain and build support for Grow Smart's policy priorities and objectives.</b>	1.2a Present the 5 <sup>th</sup> biennial Power of Place Summit that reflects the variety of Grow Smart priorities for 2014 and attract at least 500 participants.	Summit sponsors	
	1.2.b Present the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Smart Growth Awards Program to showcase and honor successful smart growth leaders, projects, policies and plans in Rhode Island.	Broad Grow Smart RI Coalition	
<b>3. Generate greater media coverage about Grow Smart and smart growth.</b>	1.3a Cultivate print, radio, television and internet media contacts and maximize free media opportunities.		
	1.3c Develop a system to track and measure media results.		
<b>4. Utilize the occasion of the 2014 elections to draw attention to opportunities for advancing smart growth and community / economic development.</b>	1.4a Develop, publish and disseminate a <u>2014 Briefing Book for Candidates and Voters</u> that outlines Grow Smart's key policy priorities and their connection to long-term and sustainable economic prosperity and quality of place.	Broad Grow Smart RI Coalition	

**WHITE SPACE**

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**Goal 2: State Implementation of an Asset Based Economic Development Strategy grounded in smart growth principles**

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<p><b>1. Help to transform Rhode Island's economic development strategy from one primarily focused on our weaknesses to one primarily focused on our strengths.</b></p>	<p>2.1a Secure audiences with gubernatorial candidates, legislative leaders, Commerce RI, civic and business leaders and other key opinion leaders to promote innovative policies to capitalize on Rhode Island's many place-based assets.</p>		
	<p>2.1b Pursue and accept select speaking engagements as opportunities to highlight RI's numerous assets, along with sensible and cost-effective ways to capitalize on them.</p>		
	<p>2.1c Help to define elements of an asset based economic development strategy for RI as a member of the Steering Committee for the Statewide Rhode Map RI Sustainable Communities Grant and its Economic Development Working Group.</p>		
	<p>2.1d Promote a major increase in the state's tourism promotion budget, similar to that proposed by Governor Chafee in his FY'14 Budget.</p>	<p>RI Tourism and Hospitality Association, Regional Tourism associations, potentially Chafee Administration and Commerce RI</p>	
	<p>2.1e Speak out against economic development proposals that are based on faulty, negative analysis and assumptions, eg, elimination of state sales tax vs. reduction in property taxes</p>	<p>Governor's Office, RI League of Cities and Towns</p>	
	<p>2.1f Identify partners/stakeholders to monitor efforts to improve RI's ports and to advise Grow Smart on potential advocacy/other actions.</p>	<p>Moran Shipping, Prov Port, Port of Qounset/Davisville, John Riendeau, Commerce RI</p>	

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**Goal 3:**

**Revitalized Urban and Town Centers that Attract People and Economic Growth**

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<p><b>1. Increase public and private investment in urban, town and village centers through incentives and regulatory reform.</b></p>	<p>3.1a Lead efforts by a broad coalition to extend the new State Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit, including undertaking research requested by the General Assembly, coordinating the Coalition for Neighborhood and Economic Renewal, organizing testimony before legislative committees, issuing email advisories and updating the Grow Smart website to inform supporters, providing information to media.</p>	<p>CNER, Preserve RI, Pres. Roundtable, Providence and Pawtucket Foundations, Mayors, HWRI, Northern RI Chamber of Commerce</p>	
	<p>3.1b Evaluate in December, 2014, ways to strengthen or replace the State Enterprise Zone Program</p>		
	<p>3.1c Encourage integration of State Planning's "growth center" designation as criterion to influence and prioritize state investments in such things as economic development, public transportation, affordable housing, location of state offices, library and school construction aid, etc.</p>	<p>Statewide Planning, Governor's Office, Rhode Map RI Steering Committee, RIAPA</p>	
	<p>3.1d Propose an amendment to existing MED Zone law (for distressed communities) so that more companies and communities can take advantage of its sales tax reduction provision, including companies housed in rehabbed historic structures. Providence and Pawtucket are currently ineligible to utilize the law due to a provision that excludes municipalities over 50k in population.</p>	<p>Cities of Pawtucket, Providence</p>	
	<p>3.1e Continue to encourage and remind Administration to comply with a provision of State Properties Committee statute (RIGL 37-6-2) giving preference to siting state offices and facilities in urban and/or economically distressed locations.</p>	<p>Providence Foundation</p>	
	<p>3.1f Leverage Grow Smart's work with Smart Growth America, the Brookings Institution and RI's Congressional delegation to support federal policy reforms and investments that foster urban and town center revitalization.</p>	<p>RILCT, Commerce RI, SGA,. SGA State and Regional Caucus, Brookings Institution, RI Congressional delegation</p>	
	<p>3.1g Advocate for General Assembly action necessary to facilitate planned redevelopment of South St. Power Station property.</p>	<p>Brown University, City of Providence, Providence Foundation</p>	

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<p><b>2. Municipalities will have greater planning and technical capacity to advance urban and town center revitalization via zoning reforms and other strategies that promote mixed-use centers.</b></p>	<p>3.2a Restructure training budget and secure funding for the three components of Grow Smart's land use training work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development/delivery of workshops on legal and procedural aspects of community planning</li> <li>• Development/delivery of workshops on specific topics, including urban/town center design and revitalization.</li> <li>• Coordinate implementation of Land Use Training Collaborative's strategic plan and evaluation plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Land Use Training Collaborative Partners, RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust, RI Statewide Planning</p>	
	<p>3.2b Offer 6-8 workshops on legal and procedural aspects of community planning in different regions of the state.</p>	<p>RIAPA, pro-bono presenters, RILCT</p>	
	<p>3.2c Offer 2 workshops on specific strategies for advancing urban and town center revitalization and one 2-part workshop for Historic District Commissions .</p>	<p>Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative, RIAPA, pro-bono presenters</p>	
	<p>3.2d Advocate for creation of a Redevelopment Technical Assistance Consortium to provide T.A. to local officials on such topics as the use of the federal New Markets Tax Credit Program, TIF's and brownfield redevelopment.</p>	<p>Commerce RI, League of Cities and Towns, local universities, lawyers and accountants with requisite expertise</p>	
	<p>3.2e Coordinate implementation of LUTC strategic plan and evaluation component.</p>	<p>LUTC Partners</p>	
<p><b>3. Promote private investment in Brownfield clean-up and redevelopment, making productive use of previously developed but under-utilized properties while reducing development pressure on greenfields.</b></p>	<p>3.3a Work with broad coalition to secure November ballot placement and approval for Governor Chafee's Clean Water, Open Space and Healthy Communities 2014 Bond Referendum that includes \$5 million for brownfield remediation</p>	<p>Environmental Business Council of New England, RI Chapter, engineering and environmental consulting firms, DEM, Environmental Council of RI, Save the Bay, Audubon Society, RI Land Trust Council, TNC. AFL-CIO</p>	
	<p>3.3b Work with DEM as requested to publicize and implement federal grants for Brownfield clean up.</p>	<p>RIDEM</p>	
	<p>3.3c Serve as a sounding board for the RI Chapter of the Environmental Business Council on potential reforms in RI's Brownfield regulatory and remediation system.</p>	<p>RI Chapter of the Environmental Business Council of New England</p>	
	<p>3.3d Work to extend new State Historic Tax Credit, often used in the past for properties on Brownfield sites.</p>	<p>CNER, SGA State House of Representatives, State Senate, Governor's office</p>	
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**Goal 4: Expanded Transportation Choices that Enhance Convenience and Affordability and Strengthen Vibrant Centers**

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<b>1. Help to shape a vision and broad constituency for a first-class, robust and multi-modal statewide and regional public transportation system, including bus, pedestrian, bike, rail, air, ferry and auto.</b>	4.1a Continue to co-chair the Coalition for Transportation Choices (CTC) and lead the development of the coalition's legislative and policy agenda.	50 members of the CTC	
	4.1b Through municipal workshops, presentations, forums, Op/Ed's and e-advocacy, promote the important connection between a robust transit system and a vibrant 21 <sup>st</sup> century economy.	CTC, Providence Foundation, Chambers of Commerce	
	4.1c Continue to build awareness for and strategies to implement "Complete Streets" design principles into roadway projects at the state and municipal level through development and delivery of workshops and engagement with local advocates.	CTC, LUTC, AARP, Audubon Society, Department of Health and Sierra Club	
	4.1d Either directly through Grow Smart or through CTC's leadership team, continue to influence transportation policy decision-making through the following committees and/or regular meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RIPTA Strategic Planning Committee</li> <li>▪ Periodic meetings with RIPTA CEO</li> <li>▪ RIDOT Director's Quarterly Roundtable meetings</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Communities Consortium Advisory Committee</li> <li>▪ RI State Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)</li> </ul>		
	4.1e Take a leadership role in building consensus for a new hub system that improves the rider experience, allows for growth and better integrates RIPTA service with MBTA commuter rail service.	CTC, PVD Foundation, City of Providence, RIPTA, RIDOT, I-195 Commission, Chafee Administration	
<b>2. Shape the development of an adequate and long range, sustainable funding mechanism for a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system that enhances our economy, safeguards the environment and provides Rhode Islanders with healthy and affordable transportation choices.</b>	4.2a Through public and behind the scenes advocacy with the Administration, legislative leadership, business and civic leaders, advance CTC proposal for transportation funding reform.	CTC, House Transit Caucus, RIPTA, Providence and Pawtucket Foundations, regional chambers of Commerce	
	4.2b Draft and advance legislation that achieves predictable, sustainable and adequate funding for RIPTA.	CTC	
	4.2c Continue advocacy with the Dept. of Administration for implementation of a State Employee Transportation Plan that includes provision of a RIPTA pass in lieu of free parking privileges (per RIGL 36-6-21.1).	CTC, Providence Foundation, RIPTA, DOA	
	4.3a Adhering to one of CTC's four core principles, be an advocate for the efficient and accountable use of taxpayer funded	CTC	

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<b>3. Promote Fiscal Accountability</b>	investments in transportation.		
<b>4. Encourage implementation of RIPTA's 5-Year Strategic Plan for the Future of Transit in Rhode Island, with a focus on the following elements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase bus service by 10% to meet growing demand</li> <li>▪ Double the # of Park &amp; Ride locations</li> <li>▪ Introduce Rapid Bus program on RIPTA's two busiest routes</li> <li>▪ Bus Stop Improvement Program</li> <li>▪ Make transit use easier with improved route info, schedules and fare products</li> <li>▪ Expand peripheral hubs around downtown</li> <li>▪ Advance the Providence Streetcar project</li> </ul>	4.4a Remain an outspoken advocate on the RIPTA Strategic Planning Committee encouraging the committee, full board, the Administration and legislative leaders to fully implement the recommendations in RIPTA's 5-Year Strategic Plan.	CTC Membership	
<b>5. Identify, track and promote federal legislation that supports clean, efficient transportation choices.</b>	4.5a Utilize partnerships with Smart Growth America and Transportation for America as a resource to influence Rhode Island's Congressional delegation to work aggressively for measures within the federal transportation reauthorization bill and other pending legislation that supports investments in clean, efficient transit.	CTC, Smart Growth America, Transportation for America	

## Goal 5: Expanded Housing Options and Affordability

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<b>1. Development of a new affordable housing plan that is closely integrated with town and village center planning and transportation planning.</b>	5.1a Participate actively in the Rhode Map RI Housing Plan Advisory Committee, which is working with consultants to develop a new affordable Housing Plan, and in the Rhode Map RI Sustainable Communities consortium, which will review the completed plan.	RhodeMap RI Consortium, Housing Network, RI Housing, HousingWorks RI	
<b>2. Expand opportunities for compact affordable residential development through zoning reforms that allow smaller lots and more multi-family buildings.</b>	5.2a Develop and deliver 1-2 municipal training workshops to advance zoning reforms that allow smaller lots and multi-family housing.	Statewide Planning, Housing Network, RI Housing, HousingWorks RI	

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<b>3. Rhode Island General Assembly adopts/maintains a package of legislation that effectively addresses Rhode island's affordable housing needs</b>	5.3a Serve on Low Mod Housing Act Implementation Oversight Committee		
	5.3b Play leadership role in advocacy efforts around State Historic Tax Credit and champion continued inclusion of low and moderate income housing units as an eligible use under the State Historic Tax Credit.	CNER, Preserve RI, Preservation Roundtable, RIHPHC, HWRI, Housing Network of RI	
	5.3c Work with housing advocates and supportive legislators to identify appropriate method for determining property tax rates for affordable rental housing and advocate for that method in General Assembly.	HWRI, Housing Network of RI, RI Housing	
	5.3d Advocate for continued funding of the Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP), which was the first RI program established to provide funds to address the housing needs of low and moderate income Rhode Islanders, with an emphasis on rental housing.	Housing Network, RI Housing, HWRI, RI Coalition to End Homelessness, LISC	
	5.3e Continue to serve on HousingWorksRI Board		
	5.3f Continue to serve on KeepSpace Advisory Committee.		

**Goal 6: Strengthened farm viability, increased food production and access to local food**

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<b>1. 2014 passage of Federal and State legislation that supports farm viability and strengthens RI's food system.</b>	6.1a As Chair of RI Ag Partnership and RI Food Policy Council Policy Committees, lead legislative advocacy efforts for RIFPC and RIAP.	RI Agricultural Partnership, RI Food Policy Council	
	6.1b Use GSRI's network, media contacts, website and other public outreach and education vehicles to publicize importance of agriculture and to broaden public understanding of farms as businesses.		

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	6.1c	Add Grow Smart's support to RIAP and RIFPC legislative advocacy efforts through written testimony.		
<b>2. Local Ag and Seafood Act grants program is effective in assisting small and beginning farmers and ag/seafood marketing efforts.</b>	6.2 a	Serve on Local Ag and Seafood Act Advisory Committee responsible for implementing grants program and helping to identify private funding sources to match state funding.	RIDEM	
	6.2b	Support Governor's budget proposal for \$100,000 in funding for LASA grants program and 2014 Clean Water, Open Space and Healthy Communities bond Issue that includes \$500,000 for future-year funding of LASA grants program.	RIFPC	
<b>2. Municipal adoption of less restrictive local land use regulations on farm property and adoption of other municipal ordinances and programs that support agricultural viability.</b>	6.2a	Deliver workshops to at least 3 municipalities on Keeping Working Farms in Your Community.	Grow Smart RI Land-use Training Collaborative, RI Agricultural Partnership	
	6.2c	In cooperation with partners, complete analysis of current municipal ordinances affecting the farm economy and identify additional model ordinances that support agriculture and are appropriate for RI municipalities.	RWU School of Law	
<b>3. Over the next 10 years, the State, municipalities and private partners will permanently protect 10,000 acres of farmland and will increase farmer access to affordable farmland.</b>	6.3a	Advocate in General Assembly for placement of Governor's proposed 2014 Clean Water, Open Space and Healthy Communities Bond Issue on ballot and campaign for bond issue if placed on ballot.	DEM, Environmental Council of RI, Save the Bay, Audubon Society, RI Land Trust Council, TNC. AFL-CIO	
	6.3b	Use GSRI network and communication vehicles to broaden constituency for farmland protection.	RI Agricultural Partnership	
	6.3c	Use Land Use Training Collaborative workshops and other appropriate public education vehicles to help municipalities to better understand farmland protection strategies, such as voluntary TDR programs.,	Grow Smart RI Land-use Training Collaborative, RI Agricultural Partnership	
	6.3d	As Chair of RI Food Policy Council Policy Committee, continue to lead work with Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic on land-linking programs.	Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic	

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## Goal 7: Protecting Natural Resources

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	PARTNERS	RESULTS
<b>1. <i>Emphasize the connections between healthy natural resources and economic development and be a strong voice for protecting our natural resources for future generations.</i></b>	6.1a Use GSRI's network, communication tools and media contacts to showcase the linkages between urban revitalization and increased transit use and land conservation/natural resource protection.		
	6.1b Strongly promote RI's commitment to permanently protecting additional working farmland, forests and other open.		
	6.1c Use Land Use Training Collaborative workshops and other educational programming to promote municipal tools and programs for land conservation and natural resource protection, such as Conservation Development Design, TDRs and LID.	Grow Smart RI Land-use Training Collaborative, RI Agricultural Partnership, RIDEM	
	6.1d 3a Advocate in General Assembly for placement of Governor's proposed 2014 Clean Water, Open Space and Healthy Communities Bond Issue on ballot and campaign for bond issue if placed on ballot.		

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