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WORKSHOPS SET ON NEW STATE LAND USE PLAN

Providence, Rhode Island, January 27, 2006 The State Planning Council has authorized public hearings and workshops on *Land Use 2025*, the State Land Use Policies and Plan that establishes a State vision to direct the future physical development of Rhode Island. As a cornerstone element of the State Guide Plan, the document sets forth goals, policies, objectives, and strategies to coordinate municipal and state agency land use plans, regulations, and projects.

This is the first update of this plan since 1989 and the first examination of the state’s development since the approval and adoption of local comprehensive plans as required by changes in state enabling legislation in the late 1980’s. *Land Use 2025* documents that, in spite of these plans, Rhode Island is using up land at a rate nearly nine times greater than population growth. Kevin Flynn, the Associate Director of the Division of Planning, noted “that unless we change the way we develop our land we could run out of good land within another generation or two”.

Using computerized mapping and analysis, *Land Use 2025* presents a number of alternative scenarios to the current development trends. The alternative selected would focus future development over the next twenty years within a designated “urban services boundary” or locally designated “growth centers”. This would in turn support the goal of retaining valuable open spaces, forests and agricultural lands outside designated growth areas. The proposed land use strategy is to be supported by targeted state investments that promote growth within these designated areas.

The workshops and hearings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Feb 27 th	2PM	RI Dept. of Administration	Providence
Feb 27 th	6PM	Visitors Center	Pawtucket
Feb 28 th	6PM	Corliss Auditorium, URI Bay Campus	Narragansett
Mar 2 nd	6PM	Town Hall	Middletown

Copies of *Land Use 2025*, State Land Use Policies and Plan are available for review at the Offices of the Statewide Planning Program, One Capitol Hill, Providence or at their web site: www.planning.ri.gov.

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