

Main Street RI Roundtable – June 13, 2024
Healthy Main Streets: Discussing Gil Peñalosa's Summit Keynote
Zoom Meeting Chat

00:11:45 Jessica David: Hi all! So happy to be here with you all. I'm Jessica David with Local Return and the new Rhode Island Community Investment Cooperative. We are focused on building community wealth in RI neighborhoods through ownership and investment — and love the work that Jillian is doing around main streets.

00:17:53 Josh Daly: Hi, folks. Josh Daly with the RI Food Policy Council and, with Jessica, cofounder of Local Return/RICIC

00:18:13 George Andoscia: Hi Everyone! George Andoscia, RI Department of Health (Healthy Eating & Active Living Program)

00:18:29 Scott Wolf: Exciting to have you all participating in our inaugural Main street Roundtable

00:18:32 Jessica David: Reacted to "Hi, folks. Josh Daly..." with 🌻

00:18:44 Jessica David: Reacted to "Hi Everyone! George ..." with 🙌

00:18:47 Brenda Clement: Hi all, Brenda Clement from HousingWorks RI

00:19:00 Jessica David: Reacted to "Exciting to have you..." with 🥳

00:19:16 Mark Pereira: Hi all - Mark Pereira w/ Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and the Woonasquatucket River Greenway

00:19:16 Jessica David: Reacted to "Hi all, Brenda Cleme..." with 🏡

00:19:31 Lisa Aurecchia: Lisa Aurecchia, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, working on developing the Woonasquatucket River Greenway in historic Esmond Village Smithfield, RI

00:19:39 Jessica David: Reacted to "Hi all - Mark Pereir..." with 🌳

00:19:50 Jill Davidson: I'm Jill Davidson, Director of Development and Communications at the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (along with Mark and Lisa!).

00:19:53 John Flaherty: Hi All. When I'm not at the office in PVD, I spend a lot of time in downtown Slatersville (in the Blackstone Valley).

00:19:56 Justan Baker: Hello Everyone! Justan Baker with the Rhode Island Department of Health Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Stroke Program

00:20:11 Jessica David: Reacted to "Lisa Aurecchia, Woon..." with 🗨️

00:20:20 Annette Bourne: Annette Bourne with HousingWorks RI

00:20:38 Jessie Ernster: Jessie with the City of Providence

00:21:20 Francisco Lovera: Francisco Lovera, Chair of the Barrington Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Working as the Complete Streets Engineer for MassDOT

00:21:29 Tim Thomson: Hi Everyone - Tim Thomson FHWA RI Division - Safety & Operations Engineer

00:21:31 Bob Rulli, GSRI Board Member: Good Afternoon everyone, Bob Rulli, Director of Community & Economic Development (Bridgewater, MA), Grow Smart Rhode Island Board Member

00:21:36 Neal Bijlani: Hi to everyone. Neal Bijlani from Pragmaticam in Providence. Facility analysis and planning services, previously of LLB Architects.

00:22:06 Nancy Sutton: Good afternoon! Nancy Sutton, Center for Chronic Care and Disease Management, RIDOH

00:22:10 Barry Schiller: Barry Schiller, No. Prov, advocate with RI Transit Riders, RI Bike Coalition

00:22:21 Isha Gadkari: Hi Everyone! Isha Gadkari with the RI Department of Health (Healthy Eating and Active Living Program)

00:22:45 William Hollinshead: I'm especially thinking about Gil's 8-80 points. As a pediatrician, I've spent a lot of energy on 8yo's and their needs for healthy places to grow and play. As a 81yo, I'm personally interested in sharing such places, with those kids, their families, and everybody, even the CAVE dwellers!

00:22:59 Victoria O'Connor: Reacted to "I'm especially think..." with ❤️

00:23:29 Nancy Sutton: Reacted to "I'm especially think..." with ❤️

00:26:45 Jessica David: I scored RI a D, although possibly influenced by the interests that were prioritized this week at the General Assembly. I think there's a huge difference between what's happening on the ground/in small pockets and where institutional resources go.

00:27:28 George Andoscia: Agreed! If we had implemented all of the plans we've got in place, we could achieve an A!

00:27:52 Francisco Lovera: I gave a D grade. Infrastructure projects in RI do not address the gaps in ped and bike networks. The day that my children can walk to the store/pharmacy safely I can give a grade of B or higher.

00:28:05 Jill Davidson: Reacted to "I gave a D grade. I..." with 👍

00:28:11 Josh Daly: I said a C, but with wide disparities between communities.

00:28:22 Josh Daly: Reacted to "I gave a D grade. I..." with 👍

00:28:22 Nancy Sutton: Reacted to "I gave a D grade. I..." with 👍

00:28:30 Tim Thomson: Reacted to "I gave a D grade. I..." with 👍

00:28:31 Josh Daly: Reacted to "I scored RI a D, alt..." with 👍

00:28:41 Josh Daly: Reacted to "I'm especially think..." with 👍

00:28:53 Neal Bijlani: I gave it a B-. Compared to other cities in the US, we have an advantage of a smaller fabric. It seems there is a disconnect between large infrastructure projects and their connections back to the smaller streets.

00:33:26 John Flaherty: i could only pick one.

00:33:50 Jessica David: I chose "other" as my first choice: would like to prioritize hyperlocal economic development, how to keep assets local, and how to invest meaningfully and positively at local level in communities that need it. This goes hand in hand with my second priority, which was capacity building.

00:34:03 Dwayne Keys: Capacity Building, because the work to address these issues cannot be done if orgs/groups don't have the talent & resources to make it happen.

00:34:05 Francisco Lovera: if we work on children mobility, the roadway network would work for all.

00:34:11 Josh Daly: Reacted to "I chose "other" as m..." with ❤️

00:34:23 Annette Bourne: Sorry I missed the voting. Would have been another vote for housing.

00:34:25 Neal Bijlani: Reacted to "I chose "other" as m..." with 👍

00:35:22 Morgan Devlin: If we don't have basic safety/accessibility for pedestrians, we compound the challenges facing our most disadvantaged community members from accessing their communities and services.

00:35:50 Lane Sparkman: Coming to the intro late - I'm here primarily as an interested RI resident (but I also run an educational program for 4th graders in Bristol/Warren). I'm between Bristol and Providence and I think there is so much we could do to improve RIPTA - especially the 60 which I believe is the busiest route in RI. I also love bikeable cities and the idea of creating playful spaces.

00:36:12 Justan Baker: Reacted to "Coming to the intro ..." with 👍

00:36:45 George Andoscia: Transportation (public transit and active transportation, which include a few of the options in the polls) would help with many public health issues (physical activity, community connectedness, greenhouse gas emissions, access to healthcare, education, food outlets, etc.)

00:36:49 John Flaherty: Great point, Jessica

00:37:00 Justan Baker: Reacted to "Transportation (publ..." with 👍

00:37:00 Lane Sparkman: I thought about selecting "transit" because that can/should cover busses, sidewalks and bikes!

00:37:43 Mark Pereira: I agree with Jessica! I think a lot of these elements can be tied together nicely!

00:39:02 William Hollinshead: I voted for MS leadership development, because this is all about building from the (main and other) street level, and we'll learn about options and priorities as we draw in lots of new local voices.

00:40:46 Josh Daly: I will jump up on the soapbox with Jessica, not surprisingly. It's really about the who and how we address these interconnected issues. Ownership - a voice and a stake - is the most important thing.

00:40:47 Kristin Read, she/hers, Warren HEZ: Lane! It would be amazing if RI Public Transportation Authority include bike paths/lanes and water travel/ferries. A more holistic approach to getting to work

00:42:42 Lane Sparkman: Reacted to "Lane! It would be am..." with 👍

00:43:06 Lane Sparkman: Replying to "Lane! It would be am..."

we were big ferry users when the bridge first closed. it was wonderful!

00:43:39 Neal Bijlani: Replying to "Lane! It would be am..."

This would add to a connected design language as well

00:43:52 Jessie Ernster: Car have been given decades of fine tuning, the benefit of the doubt, and buy in. Bike lanes, buses must operate perfectly immediately it seems, otherwise they are deemed inefficient, waste of money resulting in piecemeal systems

00:44:28 John Flaherty: Reacted to "Car have been given ..." with 🙌

00:44:53 Lane Sparkman: Reacted to "This would add to a ..." with 👍

00:46:03 Jessica David: This is a really good question!

00:46:38 Morgan Devlin: Strong organization can help to address some of these other items such as education and communication which are both also important.

00:47:18 Jill Davidson: I've lived elsewhere (Bay Area) where stipends to support public transportation commuting got lots of people out of their cars. Not a full solution but clearly meaningful.

00:47:32 John Flaherty: Reacted to "I've lived elsewhere..." with 👍

00:48:11 Jillian Finkle: Book recommendation: Palaces for the People by Eric Klinenberg - talks about social infrastructure

00:48:49 Jessica David: Great point — local news/information networks are key to this work.

00:49:00 Jessica David: Reacted to "Book recommendation:..." with ❤️

00:49:03 Josh Daly: Reacted to "Book recommendation:..." with 👍

00:49:14 Jessica David: Replying to "Book recommendation:..."

I LOVE this book. Which also makes me think that libraries could be a critical part of this conversation.

00:49:22 Jessica David: Replying to "Book recommendation:..."

(Says the library nerd.)

00:49:25 Josh Daly: Reacted to "I LOVE this book. Wh..." with ❤️

00:49:39 Jessie Ernster: Reacted to "I LOVE this book. Wh..." with 🙌

00:51:33 Neal Bijlani: Organic technology is extremely powerful, but comes at a security cost. It becomes a point of contention or confusion when trying to incorporate that fluidity into built infrastructure

00:51:42 Morgan Devlin: Reacted to "I LOVE this book. Wh..." with ❤️

00:52:18 Morgan Devlin: Replying to "Book recommendation:..."

I think libraries are already playing an important role and can certainly be tapped more :)

00:52:35 Jessica David: There was a program in MA, I can't quite remember the name but it was something like Technical Assistance Fellows, where people were placed into local communities/districts. I don't know if that still exists or what the outcomes are, but it's intriguing to me as a way of addressing local capacity-building.

00:52:42 John Flaherty: Reacted to "(Says the library ne..." with 😂

00:54:33 John Flaherty: Keep breaking your promise, Bob!

00:56:55 William Hollinshead: It is a challenge to bring out and cheer for the positive voices in these times. The CAVE dwellers are pretty loud at town meetings, and certainly on modern media forums. It feels to me that this group can help shift that toward a more positive mood.

00:57:17 Morgan Devlin: Excellent point, Scott! Helping citizens be active is critical!

00:57:23 Josh Daly: Reacted to "Excellent point, Sco..." with 👍

00:57:27 Josh Daly: Reacted to "It is a challenge to..." with 👍

00:59:33 John Flaherty: Stay tuned for future workshops that will demystify how statewide transportation decisions are made and how community based groups can better influence them to improve neighborhoods.

00:59:40 Jessica David: Local Return has a slack channel where we're trying to build a network for discussion. Everyone is welcome to join! (We tend to focus on community wealth and place-based investing). https://join.slack.com/t/localreturn/shared_invite/zt-2krnfp39-uOpkyzzgtYeuLeWLarsLbA

00:59:53 Josh Daly: Reacted to "Local Return has a s..." with 👍

01:00:00 Morgan Devlin: I really appreciate updates and calls to action in the email newsletters I receive.

01:00:23 Morgan Devlin: Reacted to "Local Return has a s..." with 👍

01:01:11 Scott Wolf: Replying to "Book recommendation:..."

Yes, excellent point. Today's libraries are really emerging as multi purpose community centers.

01:01:46 Jessica David: One thing to mention that hasn't come up so far: There are some really interesting participatory budgeting efforts happening in RI at the local level. The two I'm aware of are in Central Falls and the Central Providence HEZ. Pam Jennings from Rhode Island is a national leader on this.

01:02:47 Kristin Read, she/hers, Warren HEZ: making democracy fun, Josh Lerner- Book recommendation

01:03:15 Kristin Read, she/hers, Warren HEZ: Neighbors Welcome! Rhode Island (neighborswelcomeri.org)

01:03:56 Jessica David: Reacted to "Yes, excellent point..." with 🎉

01:04:13 Josh Daly: It also makes me think about play and games, not as something frivolous, but as something deeply human, and the way we most like to learn and connect.

01:04:30 Kristin Read, she/hers, Warren HEZ: Reacted to "It also makes me thi..." with 👍

01:04:43 William Hollinshead: The recent start of the Providence Eye news site, and the much wider Next City site are examples of "happy warrior" places for action conversations. We might spend more time finding and cheering and supporting the folks in those places.

01:04:49 Jillian Finkle: Reacted to "It also makes me thi..." with 👍

01:05:09 Neal Bijlani: Reacted to "The recent start of ..." with ❤️

01:06:25 Neal Bijlani: Replying to "The recent start of ..."

Yes, there are many, I really like the journalistic approach in tandem with social media

01:07:12 John Flaherty: Book recommendation (Transit) Human Transit: How Clearer Thinking about Public Transit Can Enrich Our Communities and Our Lives

01:07:21 Jessica David: This has been a really great conversation. Thank you, Jillian and Kristin, for convening this. I'd love to continue to stay in touch with this group.

01:07:24 John Flaherty: https://www.amazon.com/Human-Transit-Revised-Thinking-Communities/dp/1642833053/ref=pd_lpo_sccl_1/135-9624590-0628764?pd_rd_w=R82RZ&content-id=amzn1.sym.4c8c52db-06f8-4e42-8e56-912796f2ea6c&pf_rd_p=4c8c52db-06f8-4e42-8e56-912796f2ea6c&pf_rd_r=M8AZ8B7ZM7MW9M0BEZ5A&pd_rd_wg=NoJKv&pd_rd_r=d6ba93b0-cc16-4f58-8f62-8b0353edc9cb&pd_rd_i=1642833053&pssc=1

01:07:31 Josh Daly: Reacted to "This has been a real..." with 👍

01:08:12 Kristin Read, she/hers, Warren HEZ: I'd like to see Grown Smart continue to explain and strengthen the role of business and health/wellness

01:08:43 Jill Davidson: Thank you!

01:08:46 Josh Daly: Great meeting! Thanks, all.

01:08:49 Morgan Devlin: Thanks for the great kick off event! Love all the discussion!

01:08:54 Justan Baker: Thank you for all the work you do!

01:08:59 Neal Bijlani: Thank you!