

# Infrastructure Summit

Rhode Island

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*September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*Rhode Island Convention Center*

*1 Sabin St, Providence, RI 02903*

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# 2019 RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT AGENDA

**8:30am** Registration & Coffee/Breakfast

**9:00am** **Introductory Remarks** [Ballroom A]  
 Merrill Sherman, Chair, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank  
 Jeffrey R. Diehl, CEO, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

**9:15am** **Video from Elected Officials** [Ballroom A]

**9:30am** **Keynote Address** [Ballroom A]  
 Christina Paxson, President of Brown University

**10:00am** Secretary Pryor Remarks, Rhode Island Secretary of Commerce [Ballroom A]

**10:15am** **Networking and Coffee**

**10:40am** **Breakout Sessions**

<i>Clean Energy</i> <i>[Room 550]</i>	<i>Economic Development</i> <i>[Room 551]</i>	<i>Green Infrastructure &amp; Resiliency</i> <i>[Room 552]</i>	<i>School Infrastructure</i> <i>[Room 553]</i>
Saving Green by Going Green: Clean energy case studies in the hospitality industry	Maximizing Equitable Development in Opportunity Zones	A Watershed Moment, Managing Stormwater at the Regional Scale	Investing in School Infrastructure, Investing in Our Future

**12:00pm** **Lunch** [Ballroom A]  
 Video Remarks  
**Keynote Address**  
 Honorable Henry Cisneros

**1:30pm** **Breakout Sessions**

<i>Clean Energy</i> <i>[Room 550]</i>	<i>Economic Development</i> <i>[Room 551]</i>	<i>Green Infrastructure &amp; Resiliency</i> <i>[Room 552]</i>	<i>Sustainable Development</i> <i>[Room 553]</i>
Completing the Capital Stack with PACE and State Incentives	Off-Shore Wind as an Economic Development Opportunity	Climate Resilience as Economic Development	Rhode Island’s Food Economy, What’s Next?

**2:30pm** **Networking and Coffee**

**2:45pm** **Plenary Discussion: “Resilient Infrastructure, the Final Frontier”** [Ballroom A]  
 Closing Presentation: Dr. Louis Gritzko, FM Global, Elle Hempen, the Atlas  
 Moderator: Shaun O’ Rourke, Director of Stormwater and Resilience  
 Panelists: Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager, South Kingstown; Dr. Louis Gritzko, FM Global; Elle Hempen, the Atlas  
 Closing Remarks: Jeffrey, R. Diehl

**3:30pm** **Reception**

## Keynote Speakers



### Christina Paxson

*President | Brown University*

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### The Honorable Henry Cisneros

*Principal & Executive Committee Chair | Siebert, Cisneros & Shank*

*Mayor of San Antonio (1981 – 1989)*

*US Secretary of Housing & Urban Development (1993 – 1997)*

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## Breakout Session Descriptions

### **A Watershed Moment: Managing Stormwater at the Regional Scale (10:40 AM – Noon)**

*Participants: Mike Gerel, Executive Director of Narragansett Bay Estuary Program; Pallavi Kalia Mande, Director of Watershed Resilience, Charles River Watershed Association; Joanne Throwe, President, Throwe Environmental; Dr. David Goshorn, Ph.D., Senior Bay Restoration Coordinator, Maryland Department of Natural Resources | Moderator: Shaun O'Rourke, Director of Stormwater & Resilience, RIB*

A watershed-scale approach to stormwater management encourages the development of solutions that can solve multiple problems at once. Municipalities, state agencies, and environmental organizations are looking to satisfy several regulatory requirements and simultaneously, access new funding and financing opportunities. This calls for collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders and creation of new partnerships to achieve common water quality goals. This panel will feature case studies from experts on how to implement regional stormwater projects and programs.

### **Maximizing Equitable Development in Opportunity Zones (10:40 AM – Noon)**

*Participants: David Taylor, Director of Business Development, Twain Financial; (Invited) Jeanne Boyle, Director of Commerce, City of Pawtucket | Moderator: Jesse Saglio, President, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation*

The Opportunity Zones program is a new economic development tool for designated Rhode Island communities to attract private equity investment in businesses and real estate. This federal program provides a tax incentive for private investors to direct capital gains into equity investments in qualified projects within designated Opportunity Zones. This breakout session will highlight the development opportunities made available through Rhode Island's opportunity zone allocation and presenters will engage the audience on how municipalities and developers can leverage opportunity zones for long-term, sustainable economic development. Furthermore, presenters will highlight how Opportunity Zone benefits may be complemented and amplified by a cadre of tools made available through various state and quasi-state agencies.

### **Save Green by Going Green: Clean Energy in the Hospitality Sector (10:40 AM – Noon)**

*Participants: Farouk Rajab, General Manager, Providence Marriott; Michael Doty, Director, Energy Efficiency, Greenworks Lending; Sarah Bratko, VP and General Counsel, RI Hospitality Association | Moderator: Michael Baer, Managing Director, RIIB*

On average, America's hotels spent over \$2,000 per available room each year on energy. A ten percent reduction in energy consumption would have the same financial impact as increasing the average daily room rate by over \$1.35. Energy efficiency provides hotel owners and operators with cost savings that benefit the bottom line while also enhancing guest comfort and demonstrating a commitment to the environment. Come hear how the Providence Marriott is Leading by Example in the industry through their recent hotel upgrade and new ways to finance these upgrades.

### **Investing in Our School Infrastructure, Investing in Our Future (10:40 AM – Noon)**

*Participants: Sam Bradner, Managing Partner, Peregrine Group; Kimberly Mooers, Executive Director, Rhode Island Health Education Building Corporation; Christine Lopes-Metcalf, CEO, School Building Authority | Moderator: Kelly Rogers, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the General Treasurer*

Clean, quiet, safe, comfortable and healthy learning environments are imperative to ensuring students extract the upmost value from their classroom experiences. Whether Urban or Suburban, every Rhode Island School District has at least one building in a designated state of disrepair. As the state makes a once in a generation investment towards School Construction initiatives, stop by this breakout session to learn how additional programs at the quasi-state level can complement existing funding mechanisms to further the reach of each dollar invested. Presenters will draw on case studies and current initiatives to highlight actionable opportunities for revitalizing school infrastructure across Rhode Island.

### **Climate Resilience as Economic Development (1:30 PM - 2:45 PM)**

*Participants: Gavin Buckley, Mayor of Annapolis Maryland; Nicole Boothman-Shephard, Vice President of Resilience + Recover, AECOM; Cliff Wood, Executive Director, Providence Foundation | Moderator: Shaun O'Rourke, Director of Stormwater & Resilience, RIIB*

As economic impacts from climate change are more accurately calculated and understood, cities and town are looking for ways to prepare for these risks and plan for the future. Businesses are also weighing climate impacts as they invest and evaluate growth opportunities. Both municipalities and their local business communities can use resilience planning to position themselves to address a changing climate, attract new investment and stimulate economic development. This panel will feature stories from communities and regions that are considering how to proactively plan for climate change while seeking economic opportunity and how session attendees can apply these lessons in their businesses and municipalities.

### **Off-Shore Wind as an Economic Development Tool (1:30 PM - 2:45 PM)**

*Participants: Carol Grant, Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources; Laura Hastings, Grant Advisor, Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training; Steven King, Managing Director, Quonset Development Corporation | Moderator: Hilary Fagan, Executive Vice President of Business Development, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation*

Wind Turbine developments are becoming a staple of Renewable Energy generation throughout the Northeast United States. As a State on the forefront of adopting Wind-based energy solutions, Rhode Island has positioned its local economies and tradespeople to benefit in the long-term from the downstream effects of this emerging industry. Stop by this wind focused breakout session to learn about the economic and workforce benefits that stem from wind-based development.

### **Completing the Capital Stack with PACE (1:30 PM - 2:45 PM)**

*Participants: Ethan Esler, Vice President, PACE Equity; Peter Case, Principal, truthbox Architects; David Gabrielson, Executive Director, PACENation | Moderator: Michael Baer, Managing Director, RIIB*

Commercial real estate developers have a number of options to consider with developing a capital stack for a construction project. Tough choices have to be made when running up against tight development budgets. This session will show how seamless Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing can be integrated into a capital stack for new construction, reducing the overall cost of capital by displacing higher cost debt and equity while also stretching construction budget.

### **Rhode Island's Food Economy, What's Next? (1:30 PM - 2:45 PM)**

*Participants: Diane Lynch, Chair, Rhode Island food Policy Council; Tim Schartner, Chairman, RI Grows Rhode Island Grows; Viraj Puri, CEO, Gotham Greens | Moderator: Sue Anderbois, Director of Food Strategy, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation*

In recent years, Rhode Island's food economy has seen a surge of capital flow into the space. From large-scale greenhouse developments, to enhancing commercial fishing infrastructure, one thing is abundantly clear: A hole in the market was identified and investors are rushing to fill it. Our Panel on the growth outlook for Rhode Island's food economy will feature representatives from the Rhode Island Food Policy Council, Rhode Island Grows and RI Commerce Corporation. Stop by to learn about what progress has been made and what further investments are needed for this nascent Rhode Island industry.

### **Plenary Discussion (2:45 PM - 3:45 PM)**

*"Resilient Infrastructure, the Final Frontier"*

*Closing Presentation: Dr. Louis Gritz, FM Global; Elle Hempen, the Atlas*

*Panelists: Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager, South Kingstown; Dr. Louis Gritz, FM Global; Elle Hempen, the Atlas*

*Moderator: Shaun O' Rourke, Director of Stormwater and Resilience, RIIB*

*Closing Remarks: Jeffrey, R. Diehl, CEO & Executive Director, RIIB*