Advocacy and Accomplishments
Regional Plan Association continued to advance a wide range of strategic priorities and notched a number of key victories.

► **NYCHA Living Conditions** — This summer New York lawmakers created the NYCHA Preservation Trust, a new entity that will fund desperately needed maintenance, renovations, and improvements to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties. RPA called for a very similar solution in our 2020 report *Time to Act: Restoring the Promise of NYC’s Public Housing*.

► **Interborough Express** — In January 2021, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced her support for a new transit project in New York City: Interborough Express (IBX), or the Brooklyn and Queens portions of RPA’s Triboro proposal. RPA first proposed Triboro in 1996 and we have ramped up our advocacy since 2017. Governor Hochul directed the MTA to conduct an environmental review of IBX and announced encouraging results of an MTA feasibility study.

► **Congestion Pricing** — RPA manages the Congestion Pricing Now coalition and continues to advocate for congestion pricing by testifying at hearings, speaking at rallies, educating the public about the policy, and discussing its merits in the media.

► **Hurricane Sandy 10-Year Anniversary** — RPA marked the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Sandy by organizing two hearings with the New Jersey Assembly on legislation we helped to develop. The legislation would create multiple new sources of state funding for resilience efforts, boost existing resilience funding, and require the State to track and report spending around disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

► **The “City of Yes”** — RPA was instrumental in bringing about proposed citywide zoning changes and building mayoral support for more affordable housing production in New York City, setting a new positive tone in the public conversation around housing production in the city and region.

► **Accessory Dwelling Units** — The New York State FY 2022 budget included $85 million to support and regulate the creation and improvement of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). In New Jersey, RPA has been working to legalize the creation of ADUs statewide through its work with the legislature and with aging advocates such as AARP and Age-Friendly North Jersey.

► **Growth in Connecticut** — After leading the charge for land use reform in 2021, the DesegregateCT coalition became a program of RPA, increasing both groups’ capacity for organizing in Connecticut. With our partners Fairfield County’s Center for Housing Opportunity, all three entities worked together to focus media and civic attention on the local affordable housing plan process.
Gateway & the Post-Covid Economy — RPA analyzed four projections of job and population growth in tandem with increased remote/hybrid work and concluded that trans-Hudson ridership is likely to bounce back to pre-COVID levels around the same time the Hudson Tunnel Project is scheduled for completion. The report garnered an exclusive with the NY Times and over 20 other media credits.

Surveying the Region — RPA and Global Strategy Group continued to conduct public opinion polls to gauge how residents feel about the region’s recovery. To widespread media attention, results were released the morning of the annual RPA Assembly. The polls showed strong support for RPA’s priorities indicating that residents desperately want more affordable housing and investment in transit, cycling, and resiliency projects.

E-Commerce Crossroads — RPA published a report on e-commerce detailing the industry’s current status in the region and the potential choices lawmakers have when it comes to supporting and regulating the industry in a sustainable, equitable way.

Community Resilience Map — Working with Environmental Defense Fund and many community-led organizations, RPA and Rebuild by Design published an interactive map highlighting the community-led climate resilience work undertaken by organizations across New York City — visualizing for the first time the city’s collective response to risks like storm surge, extreme rainfall, and urban heat island effect.

Stormwater Management — Through dozens of media appearances and a new report, Preventing Another Ida, RPA outlined the steps New York State and City should take to improve stormwater management practices and protect tenants living in basement apartments.

Equitable Infrastructure — As part of the Healthy Regions Planning Exchange, RPA published a pair of reports — Investing in Infrastructure for Healthy Communities and Pathways to Health Equity — that outlined how communities across the United States can leverage federal infrastructure funding to advance health equity.

New Bus Terminal — RPA’s Urban Design Committee offered 10 recommendations to make the new Port Authority Bus Terminal a civic destination that improves the whole west side of Manhattan, especially the pedestrian experience.

Street Design — Alongside Design Trust for Public Space and Tri-State Transportation Campaign, RPA positioned the Alfresco NYC coalition as the go-to advocacy group to improve New York City’s Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs to better support businesses and communities and spark a larger conversation about how public space is managed.

Renewable Rikers — Following the New York City Council’s passage of the Renewable Rikers legislation in 2021, RPA commissioned a design vision for how a green infrastructure hub on Rikers Island could look and function. This advances the recommendations of the Renewable Rikers coalition and recommendations from the Fourth Regional Plan.
Congratulations on 100 years. It’s not lost on me that this organization was founded just a few short years after the last global pandemic brought this area to its knees. So you’ve been there transforming this state for over 100 years, but you’ve been there at the times we needed you most.

— New York Governor Kathy Hochul at the RPA Centennial Assembly

For the tri-state region, an area that’s home to 24 million people and a tenth of U.S. GDP, this team of planners and advocates functions as an in-house guru, guiding the trajectory of the country’s greatest megalopolis.

— John Surico, Bloomberg CityLab on the RPA Centennial

So much of the region’s landscape emerged from the proposals of this group, which many of you have probably never even heard the name of, the Regional Plan Association.

— Brian Lehrer, WNYC on the RPA Centennial
Supporters, Partners, and Friends:

First and foremost, my deepest thanks for your support. 2022 has been an exceptional year for RPA as we launched into our second century as the original, preeminent regional planning and advocacy organization in the country. Included in this Annual Report are highlights—made possible through your generosity, partnership, and commitment.

2023 marks another new beginning. After serving two terms as Chair of the RPA Board of Directors, I will be passing the baton to new leadership. In these final weeks of my tenure, I’ve reflected on how as an organization and a region we navigate one of the most consequential transformations since the end of World War II. I refer to this period as “The Great Recalibration” — a period where we will have decades of outsized growth and unprecedented investments in decarbonization, deglobalization, and digital transformation.

Fortunately, there is no other place in the world that is better positioned to capitalize on this moment than the New York Metropolitan Region. And there is no other organization that is better positioned to lead our region with thoughtful planning and smart policies than RPA. Staying above parochial politics, RPA is grounded in research and advocates for policies that drive long-term positive change. It is the only organization whose sole mission is tied to building a stronger region for all.

This is RPA’s greatest strength, and this is RPA’s charge.

For the past 100 years, our region has done nothing but evolve and reinvent itself. Progress has never been a straight line, but our evolution has enabled this region to become the most dominant in the country. The Great Recalibration is our opportunity to position our region for success for the next 100 years.

I am proud to conclude my time at RPA with the utmost confidence in the leadership of Tom Wright and Kate Slevin, our Board, and the staff of this incredible organization. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve such an esteemed institution.

Sincerely,

Scott Rechler
Chairman
### Contributions

#### $250,000 and above

- Open Philanthropy
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

#### $100,000 – $249,999

- Amtrak
- Anonymous
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- The Durst Organization
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- Siegel Family Endowment
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#### $50,000 – $99,999

- AECOM
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- Anbaric
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- Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
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#### $10,000 – $24,999

- Anbaric
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- Audible
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- Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
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- AECOM
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- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Supportive Housing Works
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- Turner Construction
- United Airlines
- UPS

### Government

- City of Bridgeport
- City of Hartford
- City of Poughkeepsie
- City of Stamford
- CT Department of Housing
- New Haven Parking Authority
Thank You

RPA is deeply grateful to all of our supporters, whose generosity makes our work to create a more equitable and sustainable tri-state metropolitan region possible. To learn more about how you can support RPA's groundbreaking research and advocacy and the special benefits of giving, please visit rpa.org/support
Celebrating a century of research, planning, and advocacy

For 100 years, Regional Plan Association has guided the growth of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan region with long-range planning and advocacy.

RPA is an independent, non-profit, civic organization that develops and promotes ideas to improve the economic health, environmental resiliency, and quality of life of the New York metropolitan area. RPA conducts research on transportation, the environment, land use, and good governance, and advises cities, communities, and public agencies while publishing a long-range Regional Plan for each generation.

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Board membership as of December 2022. Regional Plan Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible under applicable laws.