

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023









Advocacy and Accomplishments

Regional Plan Association advanced policies across the tri-state region — including key victories in transportation, the environment, and housing — using equity, sustainability, health, and prosperity as our guiding principles.

- ▶ **Building Gateway** 2023 was a momentous year for the Gateway Program. In June, the Biden administration awarded \$6.9 billion for the Hudson Tunnel Project, the largest federal grant for a transportation project in history, and then followed it with an additional \$3.8 billion in November, bringing the federal commitment to almost \$7 billion and over 70% of the cost of the project. Pre-construction work has started in New York and New Jersey. The Build Gateway Now coalition, which RPA coordinates, has continued to emphasize the project's great importance to the region and the nation.
- ▶ Moving Forward on Congestion Pricing Following decades of advocacy from RPA staff and board members, congestion pricing passed its final federal regulatory hurdle this summer. RPA has been managing the Congestion Pricing Now coalition and is actively involved in advocating for equitable implementation of the program when it starts next spring.
- ▶ **Protecting Communities in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary** RPA pushed for a revamped approach to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Harbor and Tributary Study that addresses multiple flooding hazards, not just storm surge, a phased approach to planning and implementation, and better focus on environmental justice communities.. In November of this year, the New York State DEC officially requested an overhaul of the Corps' plan in comments that echoed RPA's advocacy.
- ▶ Addressing New York's Housing Crisis At the beginning of 2023, RPA launched the New York Neighbors coalition a statewide, pro-homes coalition advocating for a menu of policy options to increase housing supply and create more affordable homes for all New Yorkers. Although it had the strong support of Governor Hochul, state legislation did not pass this year. However, the coalition made strong progress and is organizing for the next legislative session.
- ▶ **Building a More Equitable New Jersey** RPA New Jersey successfully advocated for key priorities including the creation of a new infrastructure bank fund for resilience projects, mandatory flood disclosure for tenants and homeowners, and the advancement of Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinances in cities such as Newark and Teaneck. RPA also helped launch an update of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and generated grassroots and legislative support for NJ Transit's operating budget.
- ▶ Supporting NYC's Small Businesses and Updating NYC's Zoning Codes New York City created a permanent outdoor dining program this year, with guidelines for sidewalk and roadside structures now open to public comment. RPA was instrumental in advocating for the program via Alfresco NYC. This spring, RPA continued to support small businesses across the city via a series of workshops co-hosted with the NYC Department of Small Businesses Services.
- ▶ **Decarbonizing NYC Buildings** RPA and other organizations worked closely with the Adams administration to craft the Department of Buildings' Proposed Rule to implement Local Law 97, the groundbreaking law to decarbonize buildings in NYC.
- ▶ Ending Housing Segregation in Connecticut RPA and partners presented "The Practice of Democracy: A View from Connecticut," an interactive exhibit about the history of housing and redlining in Connecticut. DesegregateCT pushed for Work Live Ride, a statewide proposal to promote transit-oriented communities and local/state planning which did not fully pass, but led to significant victories by establishing the Office of Responsible Growth and securing new funding for additional staffing.

Research and Reports

RPA released new research that helped government officials, the media, and the general public better understand complex issues in our region.

- ▶ **Commuter Dividend** Despite working from home trends, RPA research suggests that commuting from across the region to New York City is more prevalent than ever before. Data shows that commuters make up 22% of New York City's workforce, earning billions of dollars that are then spent in the surrounding region, generating more jobs, spending, and income. Crucially, both the absolute and relative income of suburban households generated by jobs based in New York City increased during the pandemic, showing that the region's economy is becoming ever more intertwined.
- ▶ **Building Better Streets** RPA analyzed the way City agencies deliver capital street infrastructure projects and proposed solutions to create a faster, cheaper, more efficient process. The report follows our 2021 report, Re-envisioning the Right-of-Way, in examining how streets can be used for more than just car traffic and how to make that vision a reality.
- ▶ **State of the Region's Health 2023 Update** RPA provided updates on its 2016 State of the Region's Health report, revisiting key indicators of health for communities throughout the region. RPA's research found that, though common morbidities have declined across the region, racial and geographic disparities still exist and can be addressed with good public health planning.
- ▶ Making Offshore Wind Transmission Work for Communities In collaboration with Karp Strategies, RPA looked at communities that stand to benefit the most from offshore wind transmission, including success stories of community benefit agreements in Long Island.
- ➤ Renter Empowerment and Neighborhood Tools (RENT) for Health Equity: Housing Profiles for Anchor Communities in New Jersey

 To improve the health of New Jersey residents, RPA compiled a series of housing profiles as a resource to help understand housing inequality around the state.
- ▶ Planning for Affordability in New London, CT RPA, DesegregateCT, and the Center for Housing Opportunity continued to assess affordable housing plans in Connecticut, scoring municipalities' housing plans in New London county.
- ▶ **Parking Policy is Housing Policy** RPA released detailed mapping analysis that demonstrated how the reduction of parking requirements in New York City has stimulated affordable housing production in recent years.
- ▶ Policy Choices & Housing Permits in the Region RPA released a comparative analysis of housing permit trends in the region from the past three decades that demonstrated the increasing housing production gap between New York suburbs and northern New Jersey. The report was widely cited during discussion of Governor Hochul's proposed NY Housing Compact.
- ▶ **The Comprehensive Plan for Brooklyn** RPA provided research and community engagement assistance for Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso's Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan, a long-term vision for the borough's development.
- ▶ Planning for Economic Growth in Suffolk County In collaboration with JLP+D, RPA analyzed the economic and development outcomes from the planning and community engagement work that the County's Industrial Development Agency has supported since 2014.



Commuter Dividend

The Economic Value of Commuters for City and Suburbs in the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Region



Building Better Streets

Improving Capital Street Infrastructure Delivery for a Reenvisioned Right-of-Way



State of the Region's Health 2023 Update

Energy & Environment New Jersey New York

Making Offshore Wind Transmission Work for Communities



More than 1,000 people participated in the 2023 Assembly, where all three governors of the tri-state region received the Zuccotti award. Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor to the President, delivered the keynote address (pictured on next page).

RPA hosted the first annual New Jersey Reception in February of this year, honoring Kris Kolluri, CEO of the Gateway Development Commission, with the inaugural Governor James J. Florio award.





Leader Hakeem Jeffries kicked off the Assembly at our Speakers and Sponsors event in May.

RPA's Celebrate the Tri-State benefit honored Jun Choi, CEO of Menlo Realty Ventures, with the Above and Beyond award; Janno Lieber, chairman and CEO of the MTA, with the Making It Happen award; and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with the Project of the Year award, which was received by Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary of the USDOT.



The Practice of Democracy: A View from Connecticut, a traveling exhibit present-

ed by RPA, Designing for Democracy, The Housing Collective, and regional partners examined how justice, equality, and power appear in our built environment.







RPA SINIDI RPA Assembly

The 2024 Assembly will be held virtually from April 29 to May 2, and in-person on May 3.



The RPA Reunion gathered current and former staff, representing five decades of service to the region.



In Memoriam: Peter W. Herman — This year, we lost one of RPA's greatest champions and longest-serving board member — Peter W. Herman, pictured second from right with President Tom Wright and President Emeriti H. Claude Shostal and Bob Yaro. Peter joined RPA as Counsel in 1970 and served as Chair from 1997 to 2010. In the words of H. Claude Shostal, "RPA has lost a giant, and his friends and colleagues have lost one of the kindest and most decent human beings we will ever know."

Peter's legacy endures at RPA through the Peter W. Herman Chair for Transportation, established in 2018.

From Inspiration to Implementation

Guiding RPA as our research becomes a reality

Supporters, Partners, and Friends:



Your unwavering commitment to RPA and our shared mission has inspired my pending first year anniversary as RPA's Board Chair.

There is perhaps no more important time, especially in our recent history, when our focus on advocating for a more equitable, healthy, safe, and prosperous future for the New York metropolitan region is needed. It is an honor to lead such an informed, highly resourced, and dedicated board of directors and staff. Our effectiveness

and impact are supported by our extraordinary civic, corporate, government and philanthropic partners.

In 2022, both RPA and the region were at an inflection point. RPA marked our 100th year of guiding the future of the metropolitan region, both as a celebration of great accomplishments and as an opportunity to study and learn from our journey. As we emerged from the pandemic, in the face of monumental social and economic challenges, we planned for an uncertain future with enormous opportunities. With an unprecedented commitment of federal funds not seen since the New Deal, RPA led advocacy efforts that helped launch a range of projects for mobility, connectivity, energy transition, housing and fundamental infrastructure.

We are also in the midst of several defining moments on some of RPA's biggest long-term priorities. Congestion pricing, which RPA proposed in the middle of the last century, is now on the cusp of being implemented in New York City as we continue to advocate for equitable treatment across the region. The Hudson Tunnel Project continues to propel forward, and the Interborough Express has emerged from the MTA's latest ranking of long-term projects as promising the greatest benefits for the city of any major investment.

We are only able to celebrate these successes because of the planning, research, advocacy, and effort put in by those before us. To that end, we cannot rest on our laurels; we must continue the hard work of creating a better region for all. Only then will we be able to feel secure that we are leaving the next generation a better region than the one we inherited. As we continue to confront proactively the challenges and opportunities of the future, please grant our leadership leave to acknowledge the broad and ever strong shoulders on which RPA stands, especially and specifically those of Dick Ravitch, who passed earlier this year. Dick was a personal mentor, champion, and friend, and he played a significant part in my decision to accept the role as Chair.

Dick, a longstanding RPA Board Member, was one of New York City's most highly respected and admired leaders and a true public servant. His leadership at one of New York's greatest times of need set the city's vast but troubled public transit system on a path to a better future. His life's mission of service to the public good and magnanimity towards so many of us who sought his advice over the years will continue to be a guiding force for me and the RPA team. Dick pushed RPA to achieve our current heights of respect and impact. We are forever grateful.

I am proud to start my time at RPA as we begin our second century. I am grateful for my predecessor Scott Rechler's leadership and the leadership that Tom Wright and Kate Slevin provide, the support of my fellow board members, the dedication and talent of the staff, and the collaboration of our many partners. I look forward to working with each of you as we embark on this journey to ensure that Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York's best days are ahead of us, guided by the impact of RPA.

With respect and gratitude, I am,

Raymond J. McGuire

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11% Public Sector	25% Foundations
10% Individuals 54% Corporations	FY2023 Operating Revenue

Operating Revenue	FY 2023
Foundations	\$1,531,569
Corporations	\$3,342,279
Individuals	\$586,127
Public Sector	\$662,148
Other	\$10,568
Total Operating Revenue	\$6,132,691
Endowment Revenue	
Peter Herman Chair	\$86,239
Dividends and Capital Gains	\$201,933
Total Endowment Revenue	\$288,172
Total Revenue	\$6,420,863
Operating Expenses	
Research and Advocacy	\$4,895,429
Public Affairs	\$268,958
Management and General	\$331,558
Fundraising	\$593,425
Total Operating Expenses	\$6,089,370
Net Surplus	\$331,493
Total Assets	\$7,982,756
Total Liabilities	\$2,064,631
Total Net Assets	\$5,918,125



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