

CNU33 New England at Providence

June 11-14, 2025

Local Government Training at CNU 33

Municipal staff and elected officials are at the forefront, in implementing the principles of New Urbanism across the country. At CNU 33 New England *at Providence*, we aim to support their transformational work by providing a full day of programming specifically tailored to the needs of our local government audience.

AGENDA

Opening Session: The Case for New Urbanism in the Municipal Setting

Speaker: Jacob R. Day, Maryland Secretary of Housing and Community Development

- This opening session will make the foundational arguments for why new urbanist practices have a place in the work of municipalities of all sizes. Attendees will hear from Maryland's Secretary of Housing and Community Development, who has decades of experience advocating for accessible urbanism, including during his tenure as the Mayor of Salisbury (MD).

Primary Educational Session: Regulatory Reform: New and Established Approaches to Legalizing Better Urbanism

Speaker: Sarah Lewis, Senior Planner, City of Somerville (MA)

- This full-group session will look at the evolving practice of code reform at the local level – from incremental approaches to complete zoning overhauls. Established code reform advocates and former local government officials will provide best practices, discuss what you need to know when presenting the case-for-need, and share advice on how to build a coalition of support for reform efforts in your community.

Breakout Session Block 1

Attendees will select from the following concurrent breakout sessions:

Option A: Expanding Transportation Reliability Options

Speaker: Corinne Kisner, Principal, Corinne Kisner Consulting; former Executive Director, NACTO

- Attendees will learn current best practices and cutting-edge implementation of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, new incremental steps for improving public transportation systems and the movement of people, as well as how to apply stakeholder engagement strategies to effectively expand transportation infrastructure in a sustainable and community-centered way.

Option B: Using Data to Leverage Land Value

Speaker: Joe Minicozzi, Principal, Urban3

- Attendees will examine how market forces impact the built environment. Specifics include how land is valued and taxed, what publicly available data exists and how it can be leveraged, and unique ways to use data to drive progress in your municipality.

JOIN US:

**Wednesday, June 11th
from 9am – 5pm at the
Omni Downtown
Providence,
home of CNU 33.**

**\$100 includes lunch and
at least 7 hours of AIA,
APA, LA-CES, and
CNU-A continuing
education credits.**

*Learn more at
cnu.org/cnu33/agenda*



Courtesy of GoProvidence

AGENDA (Continued)

*Lunchtime Presentation: **Not Fighting Alone***

Speaker: Mitchell Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Raleigh City Council Member (NC); former Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NY)

- During a seated lunch, attendees will listen to an inspirational message on the power of community in tackling the transformation we all wish to see in our municipalities. Speakers will discuss how it can feel isolating (and even threatening) to advocate for changes to the way we build our cities and towns in the face of established practices, and the importance of building a connection with other municipal staff and elected officials across the country who have taken on similar agendas.

Breakout Session Block 2

Attendees will select from the following concurrent breakout sessions:

*Option A: **Progressive Public Works and Services Solutions***

Speaker: Wayne Feiden, FAICP, Director, Center for Resilient Metro-Regions; Lecturer of Practice UMass-Amherst; former Planning & Sustainability Director, City of Northampton (MA)

- Attendees will learn about the physical solutions in the public realm that impact quality urbanism – from streets to parks to traffic calming – from the perspective of a public works director. Learn how to communicate more efficiently with public works, understand the multiple stakeholders they may be reporting to, and learn new solutions to managing the streetscape to optimize urban design.

*Option B: **Municipal Financing Solutions***

Speaker: George Proakis, AICP, City Manager, City of Watertown (MA)

- Attendees will hear about the development of municipal budgets and discuss key financing strategies to support walkability and density, including traditional bonds, public-private partnerships, grants from higher levels of government, impact investing, and other innovative forms of financing.

*Primary Educational Session: **Wins and Losses: Finding Success in a Shifting Political Landscape***

Speakers: Katya Spear, Managing Director of the Mayors Innovation Project (WI); Heather Worthington, Principal, Urban3; former Director of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis (MN).

- This full-group session will feature case studies in which municipal staff were able to maintain the momentum to build more walkable, sustainable, and equity-supportive urbanism in the face of major political wins (or losses). Speakers will discuss how to continue pushing forward even when their political landscape has changed – sometimes for the better, though oftentimes for the worse. Attendees will learn tips for shifting messaging to influence public perception, navigating pushback, and educating new leaders on the importance of walkable urbanism from multiple perspectives – from economic to social and beyond.

*Closing Session: **Progress over Perfection: Small Wins for Long Term Success***

Speakers: Jim Brainerd, former Mayor of Carmel (IN); Rico Quirindongo, Director of Planning, City of Seattle (WA).

- Attendees will hear from long-time public servants about the importance of marking small wins, common setbacks that will likely be faced across various reforms, and pitfalls to avoid when running this marathon. With a combined 60 years of experience, our speakers will discuss the importance of incremental successes over the long-haul.

