

Regional Plan Association – New York

Mission

Regional Plan Association is America's oldest and most distinguished independent urban research and advocacy group. RPA prepares long range plans and policies to guide the growth and development of the New York- New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan region. RPA also provides leadership on national infrastructure, sustainability, and competitiveness concerns. RPA enjoys broad support from the region's and nation's business, philanthropic, civic, and planning communities.

The nation's most influential independent regional planning organization since 1922, RPA has a storied history but is more relevant than ever in the 21st Century. RPA's First Plan in 1929 provided the blueprint for the transportation and open space networks that we take for granted today. The Second Plan, completed in 1968, was instrumental in restoring our deteriorated mass transit system, preserving threatened natural resources and revitalizing our urban centers. Released in 1996, RPA's Third Regional Plan, "A Region at Risk," warned that new global trends had fundamentally altered New York's national and global position. The plan called for building a seamless 21st century mass transit system, creating a three-million acre Greensward network of protected natural resource systems, maintaining half the region's employment in urban centers, and assisting minority and immigrant communities to fully participate in the economic mainstream.

RPA's current work is aimed largely at implementing the ideas put forth in the Third Regional Plan, with efforts focused in five project areas: community design, open space, transportation, workforce and the economy, and housing.

History

The Committee on A Regional Plan of New York and its Environs was formed in 1922 to address the needs of a growing metropolis and published its landmark Plan in 1929. At that time, Regional Plan Association was incorporated as a permanent body to implement the proposals outlined in the Plan and to prepare new regional plans as they became necessary. The Second Regional Plan in the 1960s and now the Third Regional Plan, released in 1996, offered proposals on land-use transportation, open space preservation, economic development and social issues. The following partial list of achievements is based directly upon recommendations in these plans and interim studies.

RPA's Regional Committees

Regional Plan Association's three state Committees, comprised of business leaders, experts and opinion makers, provide strategic advice to RPA's state offices. Guided by the State committees, these offices ensure on-the-ground presence for the organization in New Jersey, Connecticut and on Long Island and play a critical role in the research, planning and advocacy for projects in their respective areas.

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