Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2017
Achievements

- U.S. Vice President Joe Biden rallied the region’s leaders to invest in infrastructure more aggressively in his keynote speech at RPA’s annual Assembly.
- The first phase of the Second Avenue Subway opened to the public. The project was one of the key recommendations of the Third Regional Plan.
- Scott Rechler, Chairman and CEO of RXR Realty, was elected chairman of RPA’s board of directors.
- 4C, a special initiative launched by RPA, sparked new design ideas to help our region adapt to a growing population, changing climate and new technologies.
- At the request of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, RPA proposed concrete ways to minimize the impacts of the “Summer of Hell” repairs on suburban commuters.
- Plans for prioritizing transit and pedestrian improvements in the East Midtown rezoning materialized, thanks to RPA advocacy.
- RPA released innovative research detailing the impact of community planning and design on public health and life expectancy.
- A groundbreaking RPA report titled Under Water documented the impacts of one, three and six feet of sea-level rise on the region’s communities and infrastructure.
- The pressure of gentrification and displacement in the region was documented through data and residents’ voices in an RPA report entitled Pushed Out.
- RPA created a new online toolkit to guide citizen planners who want to use planning and design tools to improve their communities.
- RPA informed community leaders and elected officials about how to preserve affordable housing through the ongoing process to rezone East Harlem.
What we do

Regional Plan Association is a nonprofit civic organization dedicated to improving the economic health, resilience and quality of life of the New York metropolitan region. We conduct research on transportation, land use, housing, good governance and the environment. We advise cities, communities and public agencies. And we advocate for change that will contribute to the prosperity of all residents.

Our goals for the year ahead

- Propose a plan for systematically and rapidly modernizing the New York City subway system
- Advocate for dramatically expanding transit capacity across the Hudson River
- Recommend ways to reduce the cost of building rail infrastructure
- Call for reforming the way the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are governed and funded
- Lay out a dual strategy of building more housing – including more affordable housing – and protecting existing residents from displacement
- Help local elected officials better understand housing policy and develop strategies for overcoming local opposition to affordable housing
- Advocate for the establishment of a regional coastal commission to coordinate and fund the implementation of climate adaptation plans – all while continuing to work with communities on specific short-term resilience measures
- Propose turning the New Jersey Meadowlands into a national park to both mitigate climate change and demonstrate its impacts
- Launch a campaign with government, land trusts, trails groups and others to develop a tri-state trail network for biking, hiking and walking
Among our 2017 speakers...

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was awarded the John Zuccotti Award at this year’s Assembly. In his keynote speech, he exhorted the civic and business leaders in attendance to be more vocal about the need for modern infrastructure in the tri-state area. Biden was one of many prominent speakers at the Assembly who sounded the alarm about the state of the region's infrastructure and the institutions charged with overseeing it. The Assembly also showcased research and emerging recommendations for RPA's Fourth Regional Plan, to be released in the fall of 2017.
Over the last generation, the New York metropolitan region has flourished. Job growth has climbed steadily; people are choosing to move here; safety, public health and quality of life have improved. The region has been able to capitalize on global trends that favor places with large concentrations of highly educated workers and walkable, transit-oriented communities.

Yet our success is fragile. There are too many people who haven’t shared in this prosperity, and the affordability crisis has reached dramatic proportions. Years of neglecting our infrastructure have led to daily disruptions on our transit system, troubles looming in our train tunnels, outdated airports and unrelenting traffic. Five years after Superstorm Sandy, we remain unprepared for the next big storm and rising sea levels. And above all, our governing institutions are failing to make the hard choices necessary to address these most intractable problems.

These challenges are not tomorrow’s problems. They are here today. The continued success of our region depends on our ability to meet these challenges head-on. The New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan area must become a place that fulfills its promise of equal opportunity; a coastal region that shows the rest of the world how to adapt and prosper in an age of rising seas and temperatures; and a global hub that harnesses its immense resources and innovative talent to make this fast-paced, expensive metropolis an easier, healthier and more affordable place to live and work.

Learn more at fourthplan.org
Support

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

The board and staff of Regional Plan Association thank all our supporters.

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Operating Revenue FY2017
- Foundations $922,232
- Corporations $1,900,336
- Individuals $378,605
- Government $185,000
- Interest/Miscellaneous $1,326
Total Operating Revenue $3,387,499

Endowment Revenue
- General Endowment $15,000
- Peter Herman Chair $32,500
- Dividends and Capital Gains $510,000
Total Endowment Revenue $178,759

Total Revenue $4,123,758

Operating Expenses
- Research $3,846,034
- Public Affairs $551,851
- Management and General $645,267
- Fundraising $328,443
Total Operating Expenses $5,371,595

Net Income - $1,247,837*

Total Assets $5,087,448
Total Liabilities $282,510
Total Net Assets $4,804,938

* Net negative in 2017 reflects RPA's investment in the once-in-a-generation effort to publish the Fourth Regional Plan.
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* Term expired in 2017   ° Deceased