



East Providence Comprehensive Plan

TOPIC WORKSHOPS: Economic Development & the Waterfront Transportation & Connectivity

October 5, 2021

Agenda

City Snapshot

What We've Heard So Far

What's Happening How

Some Ideas to Consider

Small Group Discussions





City Snapshot



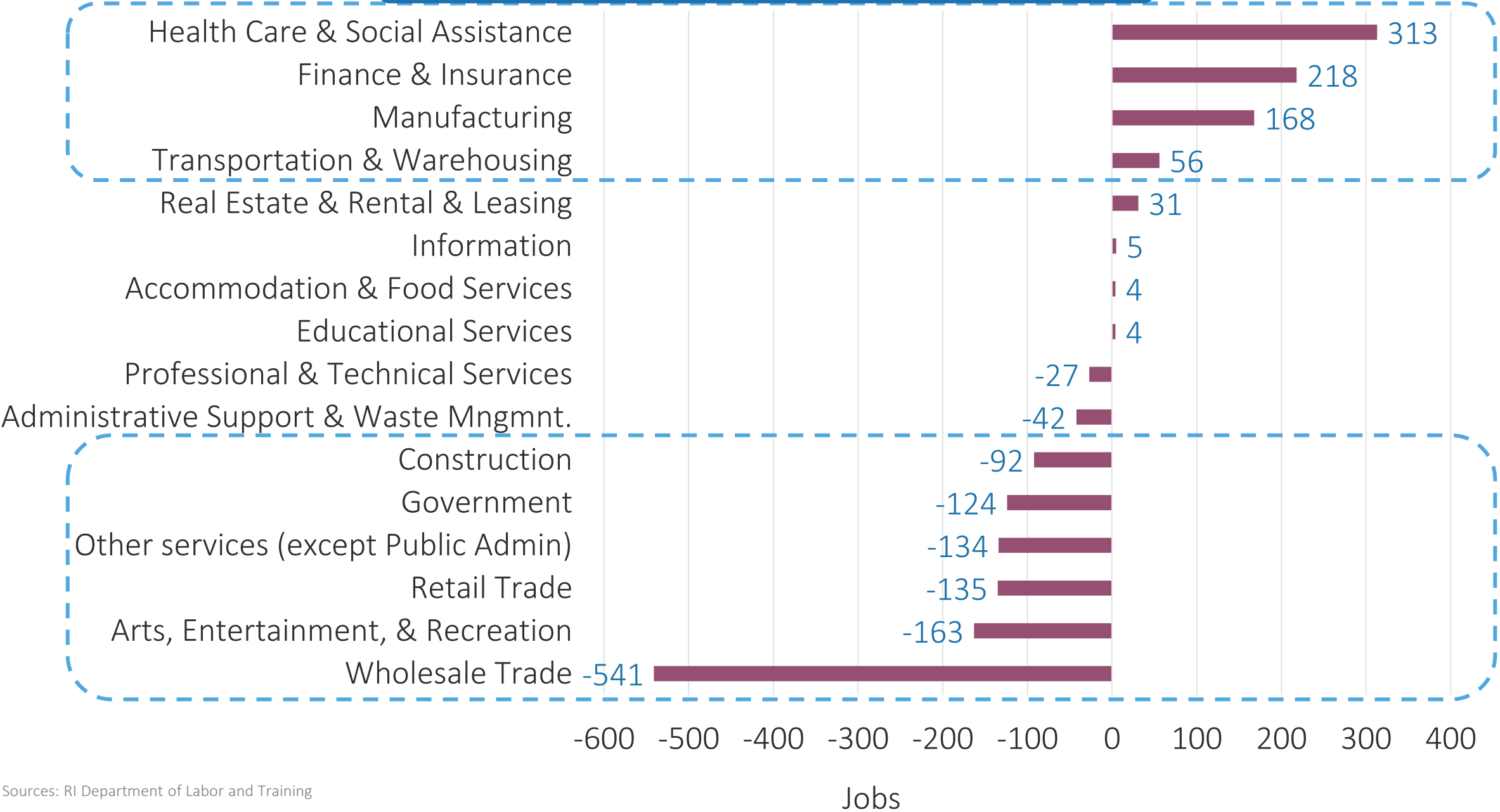
Economic Development

Top 5 Sectors in 2020

Combined make up 63% of the City's total employment

Top 5 Industries (2020)	Number of Businesses	Average Employment	Total Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	174	4,305	\$204,862,650
Finance & Insurance	99	3,357	\$243,906,744
Manufacturing	79	2,148	\$124,995,654
Retail Trade	127	1,646	\$67,560,692
Accommodation & Food Services	119	1,495	\$30,964,708

Change in Number of Businesses, 2010 - 2020

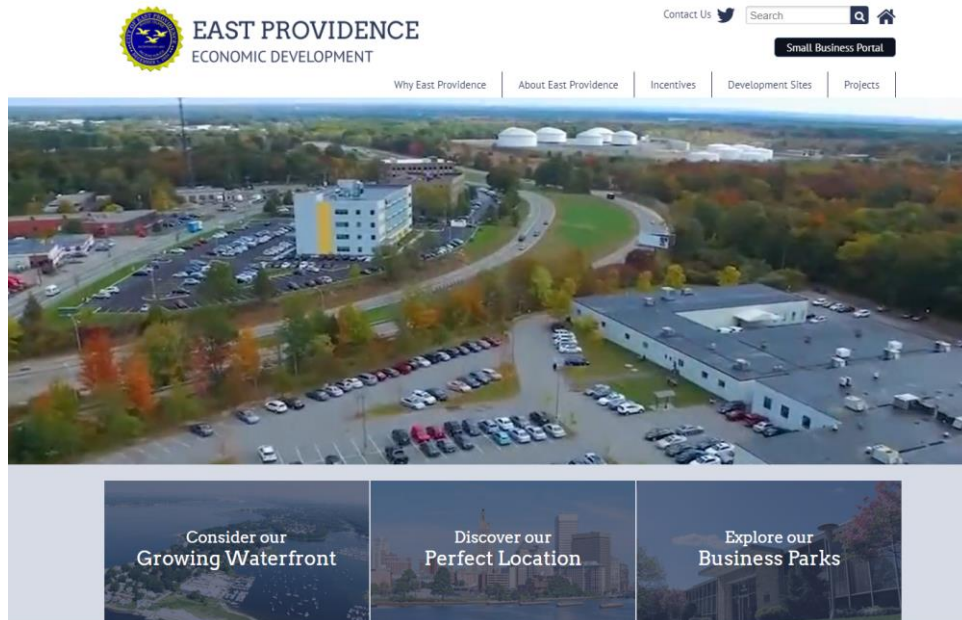


Sources: RI Department of Labor and Training

Economic Development

Promote a healthy and vigorous local economy

eastprovidencebusiness.com



EP Economic Development Commission

City-Wide Programs

Commercial Loan Program

Commercial Microloan Program

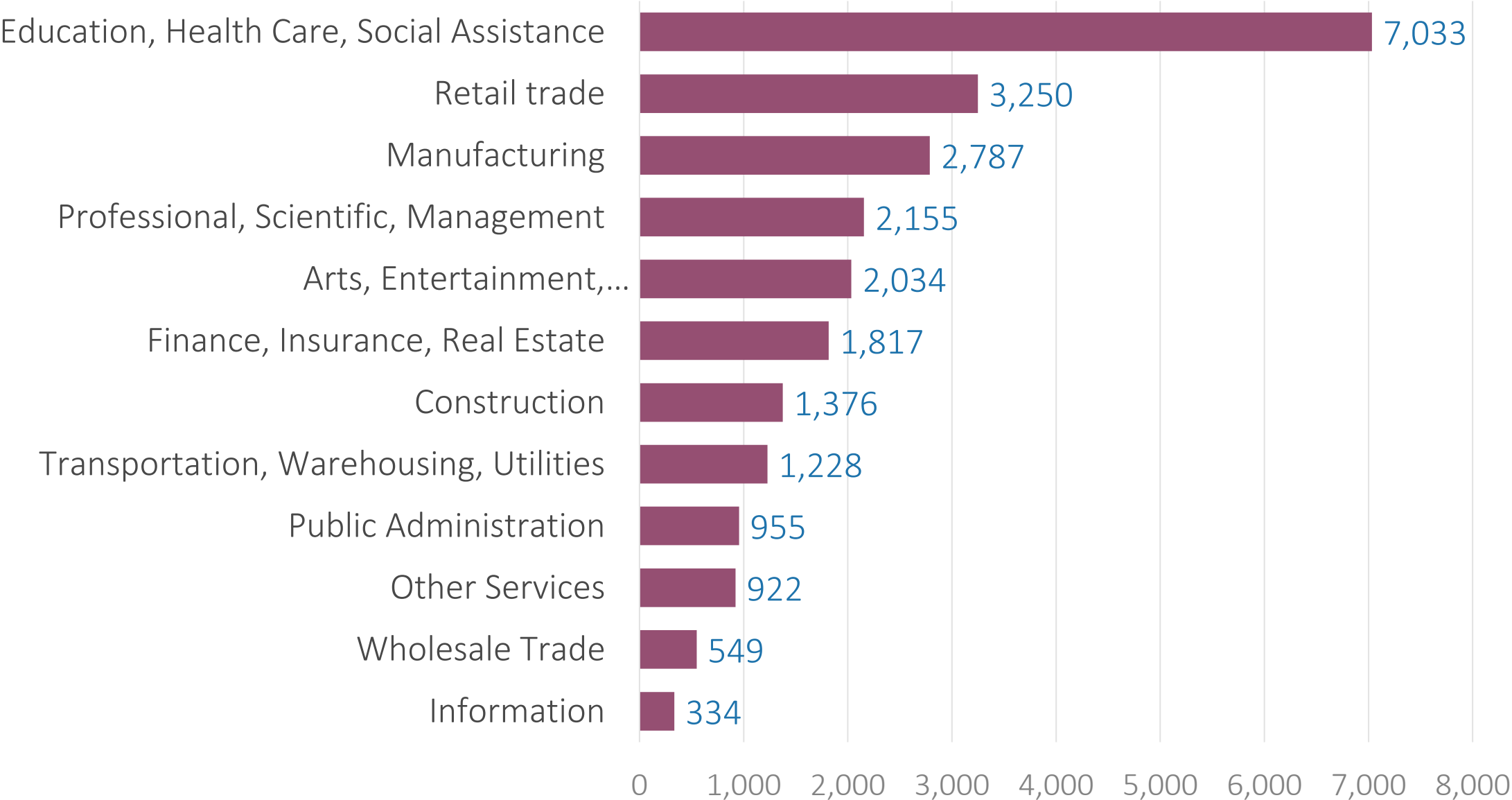
Roger Williams University Training Opportunities

East Providence Opportunity Zone

Tax Stabilization Program

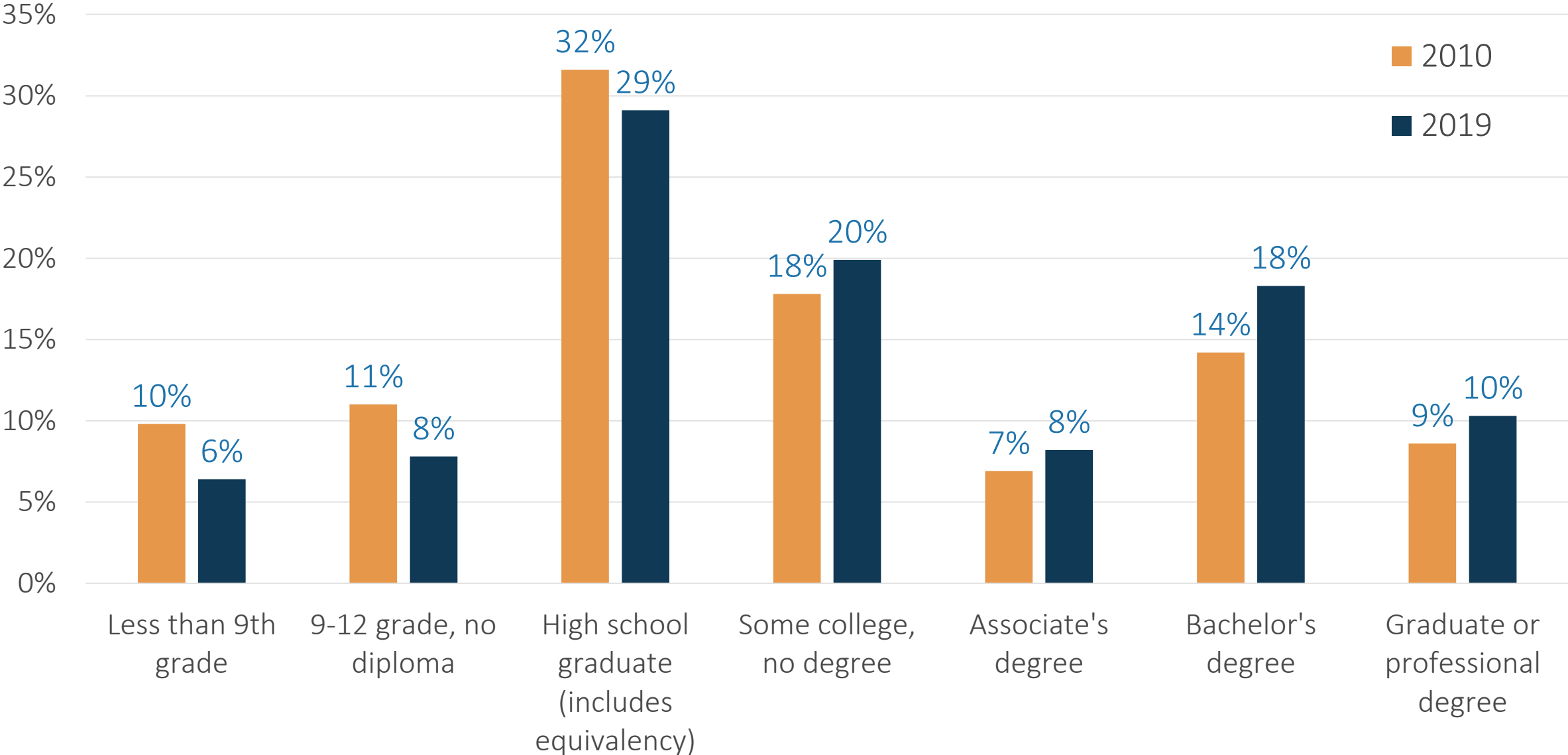
Local Workforce

Civilian residents 16 years and older (24,591)



Local Workforce

Education (25 years and older), 2010 – 2019



Sources: American Community Survey

Waterfront District



2003 Waterfront District
Comprehensive Plan

Waterfront District Enabling
Legislation

Waterfront District
Commission

Vision

Environmental Improvements *Mixed-Use Development*

Public Access

Quality Product

Economic Development

Community Sensitivity

Fiscal Impact

Waterfront District

East Providence Waterfront Commission

Quasi-governmental organization
created by State Legislation in 2003

2003 Waterfront District Comprehensive
Plan

Reviews and permits development and
redevelopment in the Waterfront District

Tools

Tax Increment Financing

Inclusionary Housing Ordinance



eastprovidencewaterfront.com



What We've Heard So Far



Assets & Opportunities – Economic Development

A strong
commercial and
industrial tax base
exists

More arts and
culture related
businesses,
restaurants

More support for
small businesses,
property
maintenance

Encouraging good
design, including
signs, building
exteriors

Waterfront has a
lot of potential for
new development,
public access

Neighborhoods
centers can be
opportunities for
new businesses

Challenges – Economic Development

Lots of empty storefronts, vacant lots along business corridors

Lack of design standards along business corridors

More engagement of the business community

Lack of space for entrepreneurs and start up businesses

Helping businesses recover from pandemic

Creating employment opps with good wages for residents, job training

Lack of customer-based businesses that offer a unique experience

Building a commercial-industrial base to reduce resident tax burden



What's Happening Now





Moving Forward



Build a Local Workforce

- East Providence School District
- Partnerships with local colleges and universities
- Job training opportunities, skill development

Invest in Aging Commercial & Retail Corridors, Neighborhood Centers

- Regulatory needs
 - Revisit zoning
 - Design guidelines
- Public and private investments
 - Building and site improvements, new amenities, utilities
 - Walking and biking amenities
 - Access to RIPTA



Grow New Industries & Sectors

-> Outreach and site development
-> Entrepreneurs, makers, home businesses, shared workspaces
-> Regulatory needs
 - Revisit zoning
 - Design guidelines



Support Arts & Cultural Resources as Economic Investments

-> Shared workspace/studios, business development opps
-> Partnerships with local organizations, associations and City depts/committees
-> Housing opportunities



Support the Waterfront District as a Regional Destination for Living, Working, and Playing

- Maintain and dedicate public access
- Incorporate affordable housing with market rate development
- Provide quality jobs for people of all skill levels
- Encourage a mix of uses
- Create high quality

Developing Complete Streets

-> Draft Complete Streets Policy
-> Identify priority corridors
 - Proximity to schools, transit, commercial centers
 - High crash locations
 - Missing links in bike/ped networks



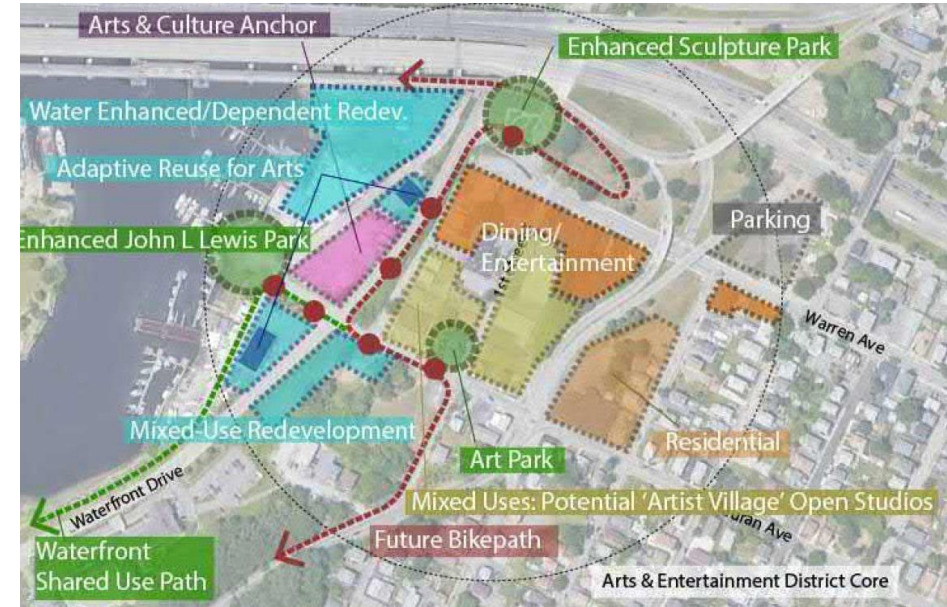
Improving Connectivity & Safety

-> Complete ADA audit of pedestrian crossings
-> Evaluate corridors for bicycle facilities
 - Bike friendly streets/bike boulevards
 - Dedicated bike lanes
-> Update City Pedestrian Plan
-> Develop City Bicycle Plan



Expanding Access to Developing Areas

- New Options: water taxi, shuttles, trolley
- Developer incentives
 - Transportation demand management (TDM)
 - Multimodal improvements (i.e. bus stops)
- City parking requirements
 - Zoning
 - Shared parking agreements



Enhancing Public Transit

- Local transit hub
- RIPTA service changes
- Senior/on-demand service
 - City funded paratransit
 - TNCs (Uber/Lyft)





Tonight's Conversation

1. Confirm the Issues – Now & Future
 - Agree? What's missing?
2. Are we headed in the right direction?
 - What could be better?
 - New ideas!
3. How do we get there?
 - Who's involved?



Ground Rules

Everyone should have an opportunity to talk

Focus on the group's discussion

Be concise

Listen, be honest, and avoid criticizing other's ideas

Think big!

Have fun!

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Thank you!

**Recreation and Open Space
Natural Resources and Climate Change**

Thursday, October 7