



## **THE LOOP PROJECT AT THE STATE HOUSE IS NOW COMPLETE: TIMELINE 2016-2019**

In 2016, the Joint Committee on Legislative Services (JCLS), RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH), and The Rhode Island State Office of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA-RI) worked together to upgrade hearing assistive technology at the State House. Hearing loops were installed in five of the most used rooms at the State House: House Finance Committee Hearing Room (Room 35), State Room (Room 222), the largest Senate Hearing Room (Room 313), the Senate gallery and both House galleries. The initial loop installation was completed before the 2017 legislative session started.

December 14, 2016 Press Release:

[http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/pressrelease/\\_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=12278](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/pressrelease/_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=12278)

Progress from the initial 2016 Loop Project installation continued in 2019 during a major renovation project that included carpet removal, which allowed for the installation of additional hearing loops in both chambers for the Senate and House. Renovation and hearing loop installation were completed before the first day of the General Assembly's 2020 legislative session.

The completion of the Loop Project was completed with the collaboration and dedication of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Rhode Island State Office of the Hearing Loss Association of America. During Legislative Opening Day January 7, 2020, legislators recognized the RICDHH and HLAA-RI for this accomplishment.

January 2, 2020 Press Release:

[http://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/\\_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=370648&randId=0.7484444259514256](http://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=370648&randId=0.7484444259514256)



(L to R) Stu Nunnery, member of HLAA-RI, Dave Abell, leader of RI Loop Project, and Steven Florio, former RICDHH Executive Director, July 2016. (Credit: RICDHH)



Dave Abell, leader of RI Loop Project, checking the flat copper wire on the floor, July 2016. (Credit: RICDHH)



The flat copper wire being installed under the carpet, July 2016. (Credit: RICDHH)



(L to R) Frank Montanaro, JCLS Executive Director and Pamela Zellner, former RICDHH Interim Executive Director in House Chamber, July 2019. (Credit: RICDHH)



The newly installed flat copper wire in Senate Chamber, October 2019. (Credit: RICDHH)



(L to R) Frank Montanaro, JCLS Executive Director, Nicholas A. Mattiello, Speaker of the House and Earnest Covington, III, RICDHH Executive Director during the General Assembly's Legislative Opening Day on January 7, 2020. (Credit: Providence Journal)