

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

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UPCOMING CHAPTER ELECTIONS

It's that time again. The election of TAPA officers will be held soon, with the winners being announced at the fall conference, which is being held September 6-8 in Nashville. Keep an eye out for the ballot, which will be emailed to all members soon. Our current officers are:

- Steve Neilson, AICP, President
- Mark Haga, Acting Vice President
- Monica Austin, AICP, Secretary
- Burk Renner, AICP, Treasurer

We will also be voting on changes to the Chapter bylaws.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE 2006 JOINT TAPA, TN ASLA, TENNESSEE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 6-8 AT THE DOUBLETREE IN NASHVILLE.



SafeRoutesToSchool

Hamilton County, TN

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency (RPA) March 2006

SAFETEA-LU

Safe Routes to School was enacted by the 2006 SAFETEA-LU Federal Transportation Bill placed under the direction of the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of its creation is "to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools".

TDOT & MPO/TPO

Funds for the program are managed by the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) under the direction of the Long-Range Planning Division Safe Routes to School Coordinator John Houghton (interim) and expected to be funneled through the local Metropolitan Transportation Organization known as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). Local allocation of these funds is expected towards the end of 2006.

Hamilton SRTS & Activate Chattanooga

Who's who?

Hamilton County SRTS program planning & coordination is guided by Activate Chattanooga a coalition of planning, health, city and county engineering, university, school system, and community professionals proactively addressing community design to improve health and reduce inactivity. A list of members is attached.

What have we done?

Over the last few months Activate Chattanooga members have been working to understand the SRTS program and how it may best be implemented in Hamilton County. Members participated in a school selection workshop to select the 10 most suitable schools to begin SRTS programming. The selection criteria included elementary or middle school, student arrival and departure safety issues, neighborhood proximity, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and traffic congestion issues. All public schools in the county

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Once again, the Executive Committee is asking you to amend the Chapter Bylaws. This time the amendments are primarily clerical in nature. The first amendment is to separate the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer duties, which, under the current bylaws, are described as one Secretary/Treasurer position. We have been electing both a Secretary and a Treasurer for several years and this would officially separate the positions. The second

amendment is to recognize a number of new committees (Public Relations, Strategic Planning, Education and Policy Committees) which have been created by the Executive Committee to better serve the needs of the Chapter.

For those of you who are planning to take the AICP Exam in the fall, you will be interested to know that the Chapter has ordered 10 copies of the AICP training manual on CD. These will be made available for loan as soon as they are delivered, which should be in the next few weeks. Also, Gene Pearson, Chapter Professional Development Officer will be conducting an AICP Exam workshop at the fall conference in September. We also hope to have some recent exam takers there who can give you a little insight on the test.

The national APA conference in San Antonio was a great success. There were over 4,700 people in attendance. Tennessee sent over 40 of its members. It was great to see so many of you at the Tennessee Chapter Reception. The warm sun and the Riverwalk were a great escape from the unseasonably cool weather we were having here in Tennessee.

As always I am very interested in your concerns. If you have any thoughts you would like to share, please contact me at [develop@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:develop@johnsoncitytn.org)

**Steve Neilson, AICP**  
**Tennessee Chapter President**  
**American Planning Association**



**Greetings from San Antonio!**  
**Left to right:**  
**Jaime Groce, Kelly Dannenfelser, Bill Albright, Angie Charles, and Steve Neilson.**

### CORRESPONDENTS

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## Tennessee Conference of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry



September 6-8, 2006

Nashville, Tennessee

## 2006 JOINT TAPA, TN ASLA, TN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

### Mark Your Calendars!

The 2006 conference will be in Nashville September 6-8 at the Doubletree. The conference is being again being jointly hosted by TAPA and the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Joining us for the first time this year is the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. The conference is shaping up to be an exciting one!

### Opening Reception

The opening reception will be held at the Parthenon. View displays of the park master plan, listen to some cool music, and catch up with folks you haven't see since last year's conference.

### Sneak Preview of Conference Sessions

Currently, there are 21 scheduled sessions. The sessions represent a variety of topics ranging from how to avoid a first amendment challenge to natural solutions for stormwater management to tools in a quality growth toolbox and tips for getting to form-based codes without completely overhauling your code. A brief description of each session will be posted on the TAPA website ([www.tnapa.org](http://www.tnapa.org)) in mid-June.



### Mobile Workshops

Mobile workshops include a tour of Murfreesboro, a downtown Nashville walking tour, and a tour of exciting Nashville redevelopment projects. For those of you who would like to experience Music City after dinner, we are also putting together a self-guided honkey tonk tour.

### Planning Commissioner Training

This year, Dan Hawk will conduct a workshop for planning commissioners to help them get their required continuing education credits.

### AICP Exam Session

For those of you taking the AICP exam in November or just starting to think about taking the exam, Gene Pearson will be hosting an exam session. He will provide an overview of the exam. You will also have a chance to talk with several people who took the exam this past May.

### Annual Awards

This year's annual award nominations are due June 30. Beginning this year, the winners of the Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan; Outstanding Planning Award for a Project/Program/Tool; and the Outstanding Planning Award for Implementation will be nominated for the National APA awards. The 2007 APA

awards will be presented at the April 14-18 APA conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For more information, see pages 4 - 5.

### Sponsors

We have a variety of sponsorship levels available for those of you who would like to become a conference sponsors. Please spread the word to anyone else you think would be interested. For more information, please contact Katie Guenther, our chapter administrator, at [katieguenther@comcast.net](mailto:katieguenther@comcast.net) or 615-793-7694.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play an important role in the success of our conferences. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Valerie Birch ([birchv@pbworld.com](mailto:birchv@pbworld.com) or 615-340-9186), Michelle Kubant ([kubant@pbworld.com](mailto:kubant@pbworld.com) or 615-340-9190), or Katie Guenther ([katieguenther@comcast.net](mailto:katieguenther@comcast.net) or 615-793-7694).

### Register On-Line

For the first time, you will be able to register for the conference on-line. You will also be able to pay for the conference with a credit card. A link to the on-line conference registration will be available on the TAPA website ([www.tnapa.org](http://www.tnapa.org)) beginning in mid-June.

## Tennessee Conference of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry



September 6-8, 2006

Nashville, Tennessee

### 2006 TAPA Call for Award Entries

The Tennessee Chapter of APA is pleased to invite nominations for the **2006 TAPA Planning Awards**, to be presented at the Annual Conference, September 6-8, 2006 in Nashville, Tennessee. This is a great opportunity to showcase distinguished individuals and successful planning projects!

In addition to the actual award or honorable mention, the Awards Committee will provide a press release to news media organizations throughout the state with contact information for each of the winners and honorable mentions for each category. Winners of the Outstanding Planning Awards for a plan, a project/program/tool, and implementation will also be nominated for the APA awards. The 2007 APA awards will be presented at the April 14-18 APA conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Nomination forms plus submission and eligibility requirements can be found on the TAPA website at [www.tnapa.org](http://www.tnapa.org). For further information contact:

Valerie Birch, AICP  
 2006 TAPA Awards Committee Chair  
[birchv@pbworld.com](mailto:birchv@pbworld.com)

#### DEADLINE

Nominations and all accompanying materials must be postmarked or delivered no later than **June 30, 2006**. Any application forms or supporting material received after this deadline will be returned at the nominator's expense.

#### CATEGORIES

- Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan
- Outstanding Planning Award for a Project/Program/Tool
- Outstanding Planning Award for Implementation
- Outstanding Planning Award for Student Project
- Planner of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award

# 2006 TAPA AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



Nominations and all accompanying materials must be postmarked or delivered no later than **June 30, 2006**.

Name of plan, project, program or tool nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of responsible agency, organization, institution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate category:

- OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR A PLAN**
- OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR A PROJECT/PROGRAM/TOOL**
- OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR IMPLEMENTATION**
- OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR STUDENT PROJECT**

### NOMINATOR (please fill out this section)

The nominator will serve as liaison and contact for the awards process and notification.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below the names of all other agencies and/or firms involved in the project:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you include five copies of the nomination form and agency authorization, the one-page summary, the narrative, the complete document (print and digital), if any, and the cd with the digital copy of the project images?**

# 2006 TAPA AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



Nominations and all accompanying materials must be postmarked or delivered no later than **June 30, 2006**.

**Name of person nominated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate category:

- PLANNER OF THE YEAR**
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **NOMINATOR (please fill out this section)**

The nominator will serve as liaison and contact for the awards process and notification.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below the names of all other agencies and/or firms involved in the project:

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Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Did you include five copies of the nomination form, narrative, resume of nominated individual and digital image of the individual?**



# 2006 WINTER RETREAT

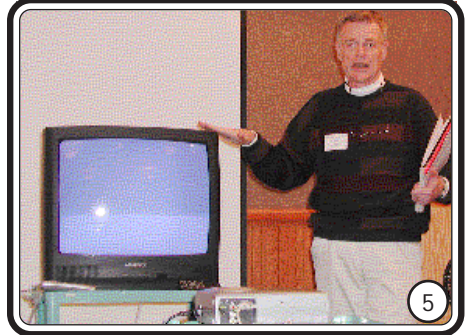
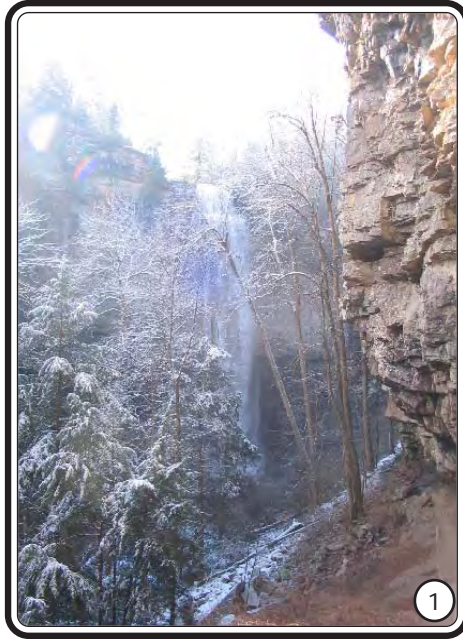
This year's Winter Retreat was held at Fall Creek Falls, February 9 - 10.

The conference opened Thursday with a presentation about the City of Germantown's automated enforcement. The informative session was presented by Andy Pouncey, Assistant City Administrator with the Germantown Department of Administration and Senior Patrolman David Bennett of the Germantown Police Department.

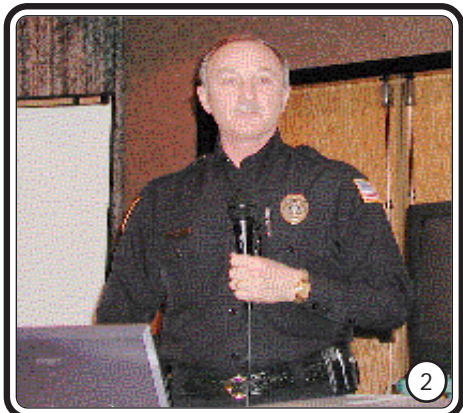
Sam Edwards wrapped up Thursday's session with an update on legislative affairs. This being an election year, little is expected to occur.

On Friday Bridget Jones, Executive Director of Cumberland Region Tomorrow, opened with an update on the Quality Growth Toolbox that the organization is helping to develop. Jim Ozment, Tennessee Department of Transportation, and Darlene Reiter, Bowlby & Associates, presented TDOT's new traffic noise policy and discussed the concept of noise compatible land use planning. Ed Cole, TDOT's Chief of Environment and Planning, gave a brief update on the status of TDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan. He then discussed the need for TDOT, TAPA, and other professional groups and organizations to work together to further the goal of making citizens and local officials aware of the link between land use and transportation. Valerie Birch, Parsons Brinckerhoff, provided an update on the Context Sensitive Solutions approach to transportation projects in Tennessee.

One of the most eagerly anticipated events of the annual Winter Retreat is Cabin Fever, and this year was no exception. Monica Austin made the event even more exciting by involving everyone in a rousing game of Planning Pictionary. It was a blast!



1. Scene from Fall Creek Falls (courtesy Steve Neilson).
2. City of Germantown Senior Patrolman David Bennett.
3. Bridget Jones, Cumberland Region Tomorrow presents the Quality Growth Toolbox.
4. Sam Edwards presents the legislative update.
5. Ed Cole, TDOT Chief of Environment and Planning presents the Long Range Transportation Plan.
6. Jim Ozment, TDOT Manager of Hazardous Materials, Air and Noise Sections wraps up a presentation on noise compatible land use planning.
7. Tom Brashear and Katherine Baldwin play Planning Pictionary, while everyone cheers them on.



## Gulf Hurricanes Increase Construction Costs in Tennessee

The extraordinary damage caused by the hurricanes that battered the Gulf Coast in August 2005 has had wide-reaching effects. Material and labor costs have surged in the Southeast as Gulf region rebuilding continues. The Board of Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) offered some relief to affordable housing developers working in Tennessee.

Of the five Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments underway in Washington County, three have made application for relief.

The Housing and Development Reporter noted prices had been rising before Hurricane Katrina as a result of increased construction across the country, flat production of materials by existing plants, and an increased need for building supplies for recovery efforts in Florida following the 2004 hurricanes. Katrina further limited supplies by damaging gypsum wallboard and other construction material production plants in Louisiana and the Gulf region.

The THDA Board responded at its March meeting by offering developers some financial relief. Housing developers who had received awards of Low Income Housing Tax Credits in 2004 or 2005 were offered the opportunity to apply for "extraordinary relief" if certain criteria were in effect. Developers could apply for additional credits, or reduce the number of units being presented. Developments where financing had closed before August 28 were not eligible for additional credit. The Board felt those projects had been insulated from the labor and materials increases related to the hurricanes.

The federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) was designed to encourage the construction and rehabilitation of rental housing for individuals and families of very low and low income. THDA administers the LIHTC in Tennessee. The state receives an allocation reflecting \$1.90, plus the cost of living adjustment specified in the tax

credit law (Section 42), per Tennessee resident. Each year, THDA includes any unallocated credits from the previous year, credits returned during the previous year, and any allocation from a national pool of unused credit. In turn, developers apply for a reservation of those credits to support housing development costs. The credit is used to offset the federal income tax liability of the development's owners. The program has allocated credits for the development of over 30,000 units in Tennessee since the program's creation by Congress in 1986.

"The LIHTC is the only tool offered by the federal government to encourage affordable rental housing development," said THDA Board Chair Eddie Latimer. "Developers know from THDA and others' research that the lack of affordable rental housing is interfering with Tennessee's growth, and the stability of its families. Looking from a business perspective, there are financial risks involved and a low profit margin for this type of housing. The Tax Credit makes it feasible. The extraordinary costs from the hurricanes increased the risks. I'm glad the Board showed leadership by offering the developers options."

The application deadline for the 2006 Extraordinary Relief Tax Credit was March 31, 2006. A list of competitive 2006 tax credit applicants to which THDA anticipates issuing Reservation Notices will be posted to the Agency's website in early July.

More information about Tennessee Housing Development Agency, LIHTC and other housing programs, is available online at [www.tennessee.gov/thda](http://www.tennessee.gov/thda).

**Patricia M. Smith**  
**Director of Public Affairs**  
**Tennessee Housing Development Agency**



### Safe Routes To School Continued from page 1

were rated on having or not having these criteria then ranked accordingly upon discussion of each criterion. The list of 10 priority schools is attached. These schools are listed by suitability, the first being the most suitable. Additional schools will be added as school interest or request occurs. For example, Battle Academy heard of the program and requested to be included in the initial process.

### **Where are we now?**

Activate Chattanooga is in the process of outlining program components and assigning responsibilities. Though funding may not be available for this year's initial kick-off, the group expects to identify eligible priority projects to be considered for funding next year. To qualify for project funding, the program must be comprehensive and address the following elements known as FHWA SRTS program's the "5 E's": Education, Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement, and Encouragement. At present, Activate Chattanooga has discussed all but one of these elements and that is enforcement. In order to gauge the challenges of the enforcement component, the group presented the program at the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and was well received. Meetings with the school patrol & other law enforcement officers are expected in May. Aside from the process mentioned in this packet produced by Activate Chattanooga, no other local guidance exists for the development of SRTS projects and their implementation. As a member of Activate Chattanooga, the local MPO/ TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) is aware of the group's progress and will be a primary agency in the funding process.

### **Project Funding Eligible Projects**

As previously mentioned, the project must be part of a comprehensive program. A project, once demonstrated



## SECTION NEWS

### STATE OF FRANKLIN SECTION

#### State of Franklin Section Hosts Local MPO/RTPO Coordination Seminar:

#### *Attendees Learned Where to Turn to When the MPO Planning Boundary Dead-ends in Their Communities*

The State of Franklin Section of TAPA hosted its third hour-long continuing education seminar on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to assist local Planning Commissioners, Boards of Zoning Appeals members and area-wide planners in obtaining their state-mandated annual training hours. As Section Director, Ambre Torbett, AICP, coordinated the event and introduced the three speakers: Bill Albright, coordinator of the Kingsport MPO; Rex Montgomery, coordinator of the Bristol MPO; and Matt Garland the new Rural Transportation Planning Organization coordinator.

The purpose of the meeting was to not only assist in obtaining certifiable continuing education, but to help community leaders learn about the new avenue for rural transportation planning and how the MPOs, RTPOs and TDOT coordinate transportation needs and prospective projects. It is hoped that with the creation of the RTPOs across the State, rural local governments will have more input into the transportation planning process – from public transit, enhancements, safety issues, bike routes, to highway funding. Attendees learned about the current planning efforts of each agency, the new TDOT Long-Range Plan and how each community can get involved in these planning efforts.

Bill Albright spoke about the current projects of his region and the Long-Range Plan. He also briefed folks on the Context Sensitive Solutions process in which he and a local resource team recently

participated for the Highway 126/Memorial Boulevard project overseen by TDOT. Rex Montgomery presented a fact sheet on the purpose of a Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Transportation Planning Process and the long-range planning efforts of Bristol MPO. Matt Garland presented maps of the First Tennessee Development District region wherein he assists local governments with rural transportation planning needs. Rich DesGrosseilliers, coordinator of the Morristown MTPO was also present to answer any questions from the planners, as his study boundary is contiguous with the upper east Tennessee region. Over forty planners and board members attended the seminar over a “Dutch-treat” luncheon, which was held at the newly renovated Sunny’s Restaurant located in an historic warehouse in downtown Johnson City. TAPA President, Steve Neilson, AICP, certified the program as attendees received a TAPA Certificate. For more information on the transportation organizations in the region, visit their websites: [www.tennessee.org/tdot](http://www.tennessee.org/tdot), [www.ci.kingsport.tn.us](http://www.ci.kingsport.tn.us), [www.bristoltn.org](http://www.bristoltn.org), [www.ftdd.org](http://www.ftdd.org).

Pictures by: Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County Director of Planning & Zoning



*Rex Montgomery, Bill Albright, Matt Garland, and Rich DesGrosseilliers*



*Attendees enjoyed the coordination seminar in the newly renovated Sunny’s Restaurant*

## CHATTANOOGA SECTION

Congratulations to the new Chattanooga Section officers!

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tim.roach@state.tn.us

Vice Director  
Karen Rennich  
rennich\_karen@mail.chattanooga.gov

Secretary  
Melissa Taylor  
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Treasurer  
Wayne Kohlwes  
Wayne.Kohlwes@state.tn.us

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE SECTION

Congratulations to the new Middle Tennessee Section officers!

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Vice Director  
Magi Tilton, AICP  
tiltonm@lebanontn.org

Secretary  
Nedra Jones  
615-373-2044

Treasurer  
Michelle Kubant  
kubant@pbworld.com



### Women in Planning

The APA PLANNING AND WOMEN DIVISION is seeking new members and chapter liaison to the division. If you are interested, feel free to view the division web site for in depth information [www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw](http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw) For further information, please contact Division Chair Pattsi Petrie at [pattsi@uiuc.edu](mailto:pattsi@uiuc.edu)

### Safe Routes to School continued from page 8

to be part of a comprehensive program, is eligible for funding as either a "hard" or "soft" project. Approximately 70 percent of the available funding can be used for physical construction projects and a remaining 30 percent for educational, outreach, and/or marketing projects. Together, these hard and soft projects are expected to produce the following outcomes as stated by the FHWA:

- Increase bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety
- More children walking and bicycling to and from school
- Decrease traffic congestion
- Improve childhood health
- Reduce childhood obesity
- Encouragement of healthy and active lifestyles
- Improved air quality
- Improved community safety
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased community security
- Increased community involvement
- Improvements to the physical environment that increase the ability to walk and bicycle to and from schools
- Improved partnerships among schools, local municipalities, parents, and other community groups, including non-profit organizations
- Increased interest in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations throughout the community

The agency under which the project is being developed or engineered, otherwise known as the applicant, can be a local government or under certain conditions a non-profit agency.

### **Possible Selection Process**

As with any state managed program, there will be an application and selection process. At this time it is not apparent as to how the State of Tennessee

Department of Transportation plans to allocate these funds, but a statewide meeting is being planned to address this and other SRTS issues. Activate Chattanooga hopes to serve as the recommending review committee for project selection prior to any state or local board decision.

## APA NEWS

### Propose a 2007 National Planning Conference Session

APA's 2007 Conference next April 14-18 in Philadelphia offers a variety of options for sessions and presentations. Poster sessions and exhibits accommodate single presentations; Technology Showcase presentations highlight software, online databases, and other applications; and traditional sessions are perfect for group presentations. Submit your proposal by August 25. For more information, visit <http://www.planning.org/2007conference/sessionproposal/index.htm>.

### 2006 APA-AICP Election Results

Results of the 2006 APA-AICP election were announced April 25, 2006, at the APA National Planning Conference in San Antonio. The winners will take office on June 6, 2006.

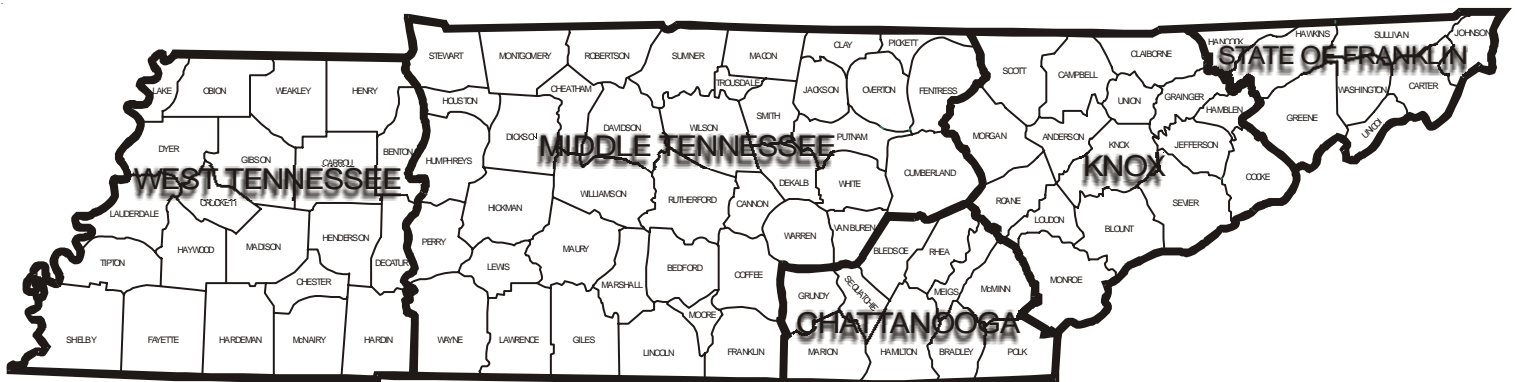
**APA President-Elect**  
Robert Hunter, FAICP

**APA Director at-Large**  
Mitchell Silver, AICP

**APA Director at-Large Focused**  
Debra March

**AICP President-Elect**  
Graham Billingsley, AICP

The Tennessee Planning Letter  
A Publication of the Tennessee Chapter  
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## TAPA SECTION LOCATIONS

### **Change of Address?**

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Chicago, IL 60603-6107  
Email: [membership@planning.org](mailto:membership@planning.org)  
Telephone: 312-431-9100

### **Deadline for Submissions**

The next issue of the Tennessee Planning Letter will be emailed in August. The deadline for submission of articles, information and other tidbits is July 14, 2006. For more information, contact Valerie Birch: [birchv@pbworld.com](mailto:birchv@pbworld.com) or 615-340-9186.