

THE TENNESSEE PLANNING LETTER



American Planning Association
Tennessee Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association

Volume I, Issue 2

January, 2011

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Employment

Check www.planning.org/jobs

Check www.planetizen.com/jobs

RFP/RFQ/RFI

Check back for more opportunities!

Training Opportunities

The TAPA Fall Conference dates are set!! Mark September 28-30 to be at the Doubletree in downtown Nashville. More information to come!

TAPA Chapter Leadership

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2011 TAPA Winter Retreat

Planning Nuts & Bolts

Sessions for TAPA's annual Winter Retreat are scheduled for **January 27 and 28, 2011** at Montgomery Bell State Park. Registration must be completed by **Friday, January 21**, with payments due by January 27. **Please note the new cancellation policy for conferences, now in effect.** The policy is posted on our TAPA website on the conference registration form, and is as follows:

"Cancellations received by January 6, 2011 will be eligible for a refund minus a \$25 processing fee. Cancellations received after January 13, 2011 will not be refunded. If you register without paying and do not attend, you will be charged the full conference rate unless you notify TAPA as outlined above. With prior notification, you may substitute a different name for your registration, should you become unable to attend. Appeals may be made to the Executive Committee for emergency situations."

The new policy is intended to help us make our conferences more successful by accurately accounting for all registrants, and assuring that all conference expenses are covered.

AICP credits are pending for the sessions. The TAPA Executive Committee meets on Wednesday, January 26. Full conference sessions for all members begin Thursday morning. See below for the agenda:

TAPA 2011 WINTER RETREAT

Planning Nuts and Bolts

Thursday, Jan 27

OPENING REMARKS—*Karen Hundt, AICP, TAPA Chapter President*

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW - *Bill Terry, AICP; Sam Edwards, AICP*

AWARD WINNING PLANNING IN TENNESSEE, PART 1

2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Small Community Plan: Downtown Collierville Small Area Plan, Collierville, TN—Jamie Groce

2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Large Community Plan; Hendersonville Land Use and Transportation Plan, Hendersonville, TN—Lisa Milligan, AICP

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AICP'S CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK—*Ken Reardon, AICP*

INTRODUCTION TO SKETCHUP—*To Be Confirmed*

AWARD WINNING PLANNING IN TENNESSEE, PART 2

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2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Small Community Project/Program/Tool:
Bristol Established Residential Zoning District, Bristol, TN—TBA

2010 Outstanding Planning Award for a Student Project: Vance Avenue Collaborative
(University of Memphis) - Student & Ken Reardon, AICP

HIGH SPEED INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL—WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR PLANNERS? - John
Palm, AICP

Friday, Jan 28

AWARD WINNING PLANNING IN TENNESSEE, PART 3

2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Plan Implementation, Small Community:
Downtown Gallatin Master Plan, Gallatin, TN—Jim Svoboda, AICP

2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Large Community Plan: Jackson Neighborhood
Revitalization Plan, Jackson, TN—Steve Auterman

URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS—Ken Reardon, AICP

CORRIDOR PLANNING—LESSONS LEARNED—Keith Covington

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—Bill Terry, AICP; Sam Edwards, AICP

WRAP-UP/CLOSING REMARKS—Karen Hundt, AICP

Section News

West TN News -

People—The Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development welcomes **Josh Whitehead** as its new Director. Congratulations to Memphis-native Josh. For an interesting article about Josh and his love for “all things old”, click [HERE](#).

Projects—“A New Face For An Old Broad” - click [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for information on real “grassroots planning” that resulted in a restriping of Broad Avenue in Memphis to create bike lanes and angled parking. There is a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm for the area that’s been building for several years now, partly as a reaction to the opening of the Sam Cooper Boulevard extension and related road construction work that diminished traffic along Broad Avenue and the city’s planning efforts from about five years ago. This is planning in action!

A 1.5-mile section of the Wolf River Greenway was [officially opened in December](#).

University of Memphis Planning on The Move -

The Graduate Division of City and Regional Planning continues to grow and develop! This fall the program hired its newest faculty member. Dr. David Westendorff, a Charleston native, received his Bachelor of Architecture from Yale University and his MRP and Ph.D. degrees in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. David served as a Senior Researcher for the United Nations Institute for Social Development for more than a decade living and working in Geneva. More recently, he was the founding partner of UrbanChina - one of the Peoples' Republic of China's most successful private planning consulting firms. Editor of four books and more than fifty reports on various aspects of international development, Professor Westendorff will be directing the University of Memphis' newly-established Mid-Size City Policy Research Institute.

The Graduate Division is also delighted to be welcoming Dr. Laura Saija, a faculty member from the Department of Architecture, at the University of Catania in Sicily. Professor Saija was recently awarded one of Europe's most prestigious academic awards. For the next two years, she

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recently awarded one of Europe's most prestigious academic awards. For the next two years, she will be participating in the U of M's research, teaching, and outreach activities in the area of resident-led community change efforts as a Madame Curie Research Fellow. Professor Saija could have used her award to study at any of the world's major research universities, she chose to come Memphis to participate in the Graduate division of City and Regional Planning's rapidly expanding participatory neighborhood planning efforts.

Finally, the Graduate Division of City and Regional Planning is thrilled to announce that it will be hosting the 2011 National Conference of Planners Network on May 18-21. More than 500 citizen leaders, professional planners, elected officials, and urban scholars from the US and abroad will be attending this important professional development event which will be held at the UM's new University Center. The focus of this year's conference in alternative approaches to improving regional competitiveness for job generation and business development. Among the tracks featured in the conference will be: affordable housing, job generation, urban food systems, alternative transportation, urban design, energy conservation, and intergovernmental cooperation. One of the unique features of the conference will be a day in which all conference participants will participate in local planning and design charettes led by local groups from throughout the Tri-State Region. The registration, housing, and meals will cost participants approximately \$200. For more information visit either: www.plannersnetwork.org or www.planning.memphis.edu. Those interested in becoming involved in the organization of the conference are urged to contact Ken Reardon at kreardon@memphis.edu!

Contact Sean Isham at (901) 457-2365 or sisham@ci.collierville.tn.us with news or information.

Check it Out

The TAPA Executive Committee has created an exciting new award category to honor Tennessee planners!! Nominations were due earlier this month, and the Executive Committee will be voting on the first inductees for the Tennessee Distinguished Planner Award. Announcements will be made at the Fall Conference in September. Just one more reason to be at the Fall Conference in Nashville!

Middle TN News -

People—

Rodney Joyner, AICP, joined Sumner County as their new County Planner in November.

Projects—

Middle Tennessee Mayors Adopt Regional Transportation Plan

In December, the Executive Board of the Nashville Area MPO adopted the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan that includes three major policy initiatives:

1. A bold, new vision for mass transit.
2. Increased support for active transportation and walkable communities.
3. Preservation and enhancement of strategic roadway corridors.

More information about the Regional Transportation Plan can be found at www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/rtp/.

TDOT Heading Up Corridor Management Agreements

Tennessee is participating in the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Policy Academy on Shaping a New Approach to Transportation and Land Use Planning. TDOT is developing a Corridor Management Agreement between Sumner and Wilson Counties' jurisdictions involving access to and land use decisions involving Highway 109. The primary purpose of these agreements are to coordinate land use planning decisions along primary corridors so infrastructure development is balanced with mobility, accessibility, safety, emissions, financial stability, demographics, and topography. Detailed information about this initiative can be found at www.tdot.state.tn.us/longrange/ngac.htm.

Sumner County Jurisdictions Update & Adopt Comprehensive Plans

The Tennessee Planning Letter

includes articles and feature pieces from our Chapter members, national APA publications, and notable contributors from the planning community.

Would you like to contribute?

Contact our Editor at the phone number or email address on the left! We want to hear not only from planners, but planning commissioners, attorneys (yes, attorneys), elected officials, developers, and others who affect the planning profession in Tennessee and the Nation.

Do you have a topic you would like to see addressed? Email or call the Editor or your Section contact today!

Sumner County and its cities have recently undertaken efforts over the last few years to update and develop comprehensive plans that now cover the entire county.

The Sumner County Regional Planning Commission and the Sumner County Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2035 Comprehensive Plan: Sumner County's Blueprint to the Future in September. This is first comprehensive plan completed for unincorporated Sumner County since the 1970s. More information about the plan is available at www.sumner-tn.org/Planning%20and%20Zoning.html.

The City of Hendersonville's Regional Planning Commission adopted their Land Use and Transportation Plan available online at www.hvilletn.org/comprehensiveplan.aspx. This plan was recently honored with TAPA's Large Community Plan Award.

The City of Gallatin's Regional Planning Commission adopted a new comprehensive plan, Gallatin on the Move 2020 General Development and Transportation Plan Update. The entire plan is available at www.gallatin-tn.gov/2020.htm.

The Cities of White House and Westmoreland also recently completed comprehensive plan updates. The Tri-County Land Use & Transportation Study that has led to some of these comprehensive plan updates and evolved because of local planning efforts is also nearing completion. Information is available about this study involving Robertson, Sumner, and Wilson Counties at www.nashvillempo.org/regional_plan/land_use/study_tri_county.aspx.

Contact Michael Briggs at (615) 862-7219 or Michael.Briggs@nashville.gov with news or information!

Chattanooga News -

People—John Bridger Named New Planning Agency Director

John Bridger has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency. Mr. Bridger was the unanimous choice of Planning Agency's Executive Committee which includes the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission Chairman Dale Mabee, City of Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield, Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey, County Commission Chairman Fred Skillern and City Council Chairman Manny Rico.

Mr. Bridger worked 10 years for the RPA as Comprehensive Planning Director prior to taking a position as program director for Community Impact of Chattanooga.

He is a graduate of Emory and Henry University with a master's degree in planning from the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Mabee said, "The community is very fortunate to have the services of John Bridger. He is the ultimate professional and a consensus builder.

"Our community has a unique opportunity to shape our forecasted growth and insure a greater quality of life. John and his staff are poised to play a key role as we plan that growth."

Contact Karen Rennich at (423) 757-5216 or Rennich_karen@mail.chattanooga.gov with news or information!

Knoxville News -

Congratulations to the City of Knoxville, Knox County, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission for being awarded one of the highly competitive **HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants!** Click [HERE](#) for the press release.

Contact Kathryn Baldwin at (865) 425-3585 or kbaldwin@cortn.org with news or

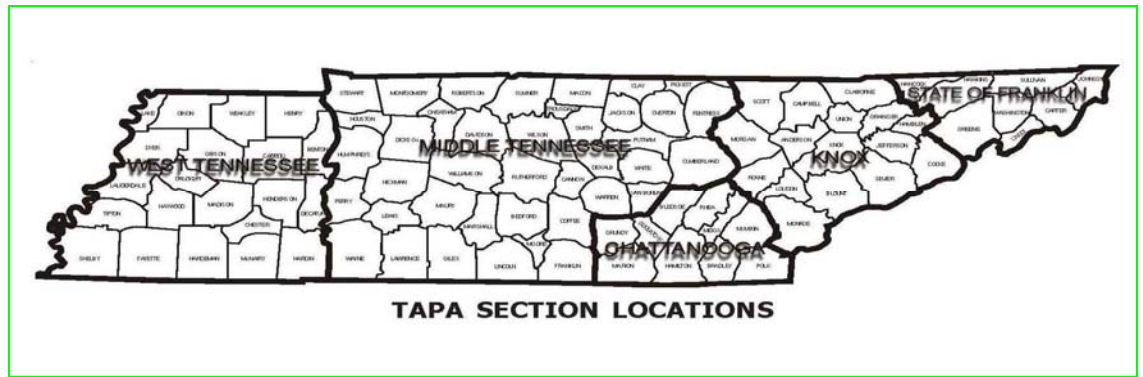
information!

State of Franklin News -

The State of Franklin Section held a training seminar on Friday, December 3rd. Stanley Harrison of the Department of Economic and Community Development was the featured speaker. He presented “**Lessons Learned - What Communities Need to Know after a Flood**.” Stanley discussed the flooding disaster that occurred earlier this year in Nashville and surrounding counties. He also addressed some of the problems faced by communities due to their lack of proper preparedness and discussed how communities could use the permitting process to better prepare for such disasters. Over thirty people attended this training session.



Contact Steve Neilson at (423) 434-6053 or develop@johnsoncitytn.org with news or information!



Features and Articles

Coming in future editions:

- * They used to be mostly for Historic Zoning purposes, but now, Design Guidelines are becoming more and more common throughout multi-family, commercial, and industrial areas. Does your community include Design Guidelines as part of your development review process and regulations? Using Middle Tennessee as a sample, we'll take a look at the where, what, how, and even the why's of Design Guidelines.
- * Sustainability Planning is not just for large cities or metropolitan areas. Sustainability should be a part of every community's planning efforts! Does your community have a Sustainability Plan? Want to? We'll explore how community planning incorporates sensitivity to climate change, environmental policy, and renewable resources.
- * Tennessee's Greenway network continues to grow and expand. We'll follow up on the Fall Conference focus on Connected Communities and how greenways help us make those connections!

Message from the President

The Tennessee Planning Letter

*A Publication of the
Tennessee Chapter of
the American Planning
Association*

*Newsletter produced
by: Greater Nashville
Regional Council*

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We're on the
Web!

www.tnapa.org

TAPA Members,

I hope you all enjoyed the recent snow as much as I did!

In fact, we're STILL enjoying it in Chattanooga.

Keep your fingers crossed that weather doesn't impact the upcoming Winter Retreat too much. If you haven't registered yet, the deadline is January 21st. Valerie Birch has a good agenda lined up for us, so I hope to see many of you at Montgomery Bell State Park on January 26 – 28.

During the Winter Retreat, the Executive Committee will be voting on the first round of members to our new *Tennessee Leadership Council*. As you may recall, the TAPA Executive Committee recently approved the establishment of this new program to recognize Planners across the state who exemplify special areas of achievement. We will officially induct the first group of "Fellows" during the fall conference, which will be held in Nashville on September 28 – 30. If you have ideas for sessions or speakers for the fall conference, please contact Lisa Milligan – Conference Coordinator - at lmilligan@hvilletn.org.

I want to welcome some new members to the TAPA leadership. Andrea Barbour is our new student representative from the University of Memphis. Thomas Skehan is the new West TN Section Director and Jason Meredith is the new State of Franklin Section Director. Feel free to call on them and the other TAPA officers at any time. You can find all of our contact information on the TAPA website at <http://www.tnapa.org/>.

As you all know, we have a new Governor-elect. We will be reaching out to Governor-elect Haslam, and his new appointees, in the coming months to keep Planning on the forefront of our state agenda. If any of you know him or his future appointees personally, please let us know, so we can keep strong contacts across the state. Also, anytime you have local issues that could have an impact on statewide legislation, please contact your Section Director so he/she can bring it to the attention of our Lobbyist and the Executive Committee.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Winter Retreat. Stay warm.

Karen Hundt, AICP
President, Tennessee Chapter, American Planning Association

