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March/April 2009

Building a Regional Vision – One County at a Time

By Edward Burroughs, AICP
MetroPlanner Editor

The May edition of APA's national *Planning* magazine presents a fascinating palette of planning issues and trends under the theme "Celebrating the Next 100 Years." In his introductory column, APA Executive Director Paul Farmer suggests an alternative to "regional governance." Noting that citizens are already distrustful of remote government, he suggests "narrowly focused regional coalitions" be formed to tackle major challenges.

Here in the bizarrely complicated government structure of the New York metropolitan area with three states, dozens of counties and hundreds of local governments, the idea of regional government does not rise even to the level of theory. And yet, the region plans.

New York City – a one-time shocking consolidation of governments of five counties – has the well-known long range planning effort PlaNYC. But what else is going on in the region in terms of big picture planning?

MetroPlanner asked that question to the planning departments of the nine counties in the NY Metro Chapter region outside of NYC. The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council was also asked as this agency is responsible for maintaining a regional transportation plan for NYC and five Metro counties. The responses highlight a wealth of regional planning initiatives by governments that have no land use control. How effective the counties are and how easily their work joins together as a larger vision warrants increased attention.

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SAVE THE DATE!

APA New York Metro Chapter's Annual Meeting
& Awards Presentation

Times Square Information Center, 7th Ave (btwn 46th and 47th
Streets, across from Duffy Square), NYC
RSVP: office@nyplanning.org

ROCKLAND COUNTY



The Rockland County Planning Department prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for preparation of a new County Comprehensive Plan in late 2007. In early 2008, the County received four responses to the RFP and started the review process. Since the written evaluations scored very close, all four consulting firms were asked to prepare oral presentations. By mid-2008 the selection was narrowed down and the County Legislature then began their review of the evaluations. A draft contract has been prepared and the Legislature is continuing its review process for the final selection of the consultant team and the final contract.

For more information, visit www.co.rockland.ny.us/planning.

Department of Planning
Salvatore Corallo, Commissioner



SUFFOLK COUNTY



Comprehensive Plan Update: The Suffolk County Planning Commission has begun the process of updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. This effort, expected to occur over the next 18 months, is aimed at inventorying existing planning documents, gathering public input and helping to establish a framework for future long range planning efforts.

Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan: Suffolk County, through the Department of Health Services, is conducting a comprehensive analysis of its water quality standards including 3-D modeling of the groundwater supply. This effort will help to identify the impacts of various development densities on the aquifer, the effect of pharmaceuticals on water quality and the effectiveness of various treatment facilities. The Department of Planning is providing land use and build out analysis.

Municipal Referral Guidelines Update: The Suffolk County Planning Commission adopted a comprehensive update to its Municipal Referral Guidelines in January 2009. The Guidelines established and updated review procedures, application requirements and, for the first time, provided guidelines associated with affordable housing, public safety, energy efficiency and universal design.

Demographic, Economic and Development Trends: The Suffolk County Department of Planning prepared an updated version of its demographic data. This information, used by both the public and private sectors, provides valuable demographic, economic and development data on a county-wide basis.

For more information, visit www.co.suffolk.ny.us/departments/planning.aspx.

Department of Planning
Thomas A. Isles, AICP, Director

DUTCHESS COUNTY



Directions: The Plan for Dutchess County, a policy plan, was completed in 1987. The County later collaborated with the state Hudson River Valley Greenway to produce **Greenway Connections**, a model Greenway Compact program with illustrated design guidelines. Since its adoption in 2000, 29 out of the 30 municipalities have joined the Greenway Compact and cross-referenced **Greenway Connections** in their local zoning and subdivision regulations. **Greenway Connections** is now considered the county's operational comprehensive plan and additional Greenway Guides are being prepared this year.

A series of major countywide planning elements have been completed over the years to supplement **Directions** and **Greenway Connections**. Recent transportation plans, for example, include **Connections 2025** in 2003 and **New Connections** in 2007. A **Transit Development Plan** is ready to be released in 2009. The Community Development and Housing section adopted its **2008-2012 Consolidated Plan** in 2007 and has just completed a **Regional Housing Needs Assessment 2006-2020**, in cooperation with Orange and Ulster counties to address shared housing affordability issues.

The principal county planning project for 2009 is the **Centers and Greenspaces** initiative, a primarily web-based planning tool integrating multiple GIS data layers with local plans, potential growth centers and greenspaces targeted for protection. In the traditional build-from-the-bottom-up Greenway approach, the department has been working over the last several

years with two rural communities, two more suburban towns, and one city on local **Centers and Greenspaces** plans. They not only identify specific growth areas and priority greenspaces, but also illustrate what new close-in and infill development might look like within walking distance of village and hamlet centers or city neighborhoods. The new website will build on these local examples as a way of providing the most up-to-date map information, exemplifying our best planning practices, and showing countywide patterns where centers can be designed to save greenspaces. The department is also working with several local communities on detailed plans for the county's best transit-oriented development locations as a way to shift the momentum from suburban sprawl to walkable, transit-friendly centers.

For more information: www.dutchessny.gov

Department of Planning and Development
Roger P. Akeley, AICP, Commissioner



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NASSAU COUNTY



In December 2008, under the leadership of Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, the Nassau County Planning Department began assembling the framework for New Suburbia in what will be the **2009 Nassau County Master Plan – A Vision for New Suburbia**. This plan will provide guidance on how Nassau County should evolve over the next twenty years. It will identify and capitalize on the County's assets, as well as address its challenges.

In concert with the County Executive's 10 Point Plan for New Suburbia, the Master Plan will address challenges such as high property taxes, the loss of young people, traffic congestion and pockets of poverty. Addressing such challenges will require a comprehensive solution that involves strategic growth and preservation. The Plan will focus on synthesizing land use planning, supporting high skilled employment and economic development, improving public transportation and encouraging energy conservation, while enhancing cultural institutions and preserving undeveloped land throughout the County.

The County has hired Buckhurst, Fish & Jacquemart, Inc., along with subconsultants Stantec and Urbanomics to prepare the Plan in coordination with the Planning Department. The resulting partnership has brought together a dynamic mix of professional expertise, knowledge and perspective.

The Plan is scheduled to be completed in early 2010. Starting in early February of this year, the County Executive and Planning Department have been conducting public outreach among key stakeholders, including local and state officials, major employers, business groups, civic groups and planners. Of particular

note, the County has been working with Nassau's local jurisdictions to learn more about their development priorities and challenges. This ongoing communication will ensure that all local interests and concerns are taken into account when developing the Plan for New Suburbia.

On March 16, 2009, over 200 people attended the first public workshop. The participants received an overview of the master planning process and were given an opportunity to provide input on a number of issues that will be addressed in the Plan. Drawing on the information gathered at the public workshop and stakeholder meetings, the consultants are preparing a draft concept plan that will include an asset inventory and trends analysis.

The draft concept plan will be presented to the public at a second workshop scheduled for June 9. The County Executive will summarize the findings of the concept plan and explain how these documents will help shape the final Master Plan. There will also be an opportunity for roundtable discussion on a number of topics that will be addressed in the final Plan. Looking forward, the final draft master plan is scheduled to be completed in early fall 2009.

Concurrently, the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) is expected to commence work on its Sustainability Plan for Nassau and Suffolk Counties later this year. The County met with key members of the LIRPC in April 2009 to discuss the projects and to establish a coordinated data sharing process.

You may track the progress of the 2009 Nassau County Master Plan or access reports and presentations by visiting www.nassaucountymasterplan.com. Additional information about the June 9 workshop will also be available on this site.

Nassau County Planning Commission
Patricia Bourne, Executive Commissioner

PUTNAM COUNTY

The Putnam County Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation's focus over the years has been on the production of action oriented plans such as the recently released Main Street Partnership Planning Study (2009) and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan released in 2004. In addition to these plans, the Department has produced more long term studies such as the Vision 2010 Plan produced in 2003 and the Groundwater Protection and Utilization Plan produced in 2004. In regard to county planning as a whole, the Department has always balanced immediate needs and priorities with long term County goals.

Besides planning activities, the Department spends much of its resources on short and long transportation planning and managing County bus operations. Additionally, the Department manages construction projects such as bikeways and commuter park and ride lot projects now in progress.

Comprehensive land use planning is primarily left to the county's nine municipalities. The Department has had input into municipal comprehensive plans over the years and the municipal plans have incorporated recommendations and findings of county plans.

For more information and to view/download the "Putnam County Main Street Partnership Planning Study, visit www.putnamcountyny.com/planning/.

Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation
John J. Lynch, Commissioner



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SULLIVAN COUNTY

The Sullivan County Division of Planning and a community-wide steering committee consisting of different representatives from the non-profit, private, and public sectors completed Sullivan County's strategic plan, *Sullivan 2020: Defining an Image and Managing Change*, in fall 2005. The Sullivan 2020 process was a broad-based stakeholder involvement enterprise that developed a living County-wide strategic plan, which is now a policy tool for the county.

The development of the 2020 Plan was a participatory problem-solving process where stakeholders of Sullivan County collaborated to develop a proactive decision making guide to assist the County and its constituent municipalities to address future growth and development to the year 2020. The 2020 Plan has done the following: (1) identified critical policy areas common among municipalities within the County that need effective solutions; (2) determined where County resources can best be mobilized and/or act in a support capacity for Towns and Villages in addressing key policy areas; (3) identified and designed County-Town collaborations for effective problem-solving and resource sharing; (4) identified where the County can offer technical assistance to Towns and Villages in addressing infrastructure, community development and planning needs and (5) acts as a resource guide for Towns and Villages as they revise and update their comprehensive plans in addressing growth issues.

Key policy outcomes of the 2020 Plan include: (1) a county-wide flood mitigation program funded by the Sullivan County Legislature which has led to proactive measures for watershed planning and collaborations with Congressman Hinchey and the Army Corp of Engineers to mitigate flooding; (2) an open space and farmland protection plan that involves acquisition of properties in flood plains for recreation and farming and the development of an agricultural light industrial park; (3) installation of solar voltaic panels in the county's new transportation building complete with an education curriculum for local farms and businesses to learn about the efficacy of alternative energy approaches; and (4) planning and development of a green technology park at Sullivan County Community College to advance economic development and higher education.

Sullivan 2020 has also laid the ground work for criti-

cal policy studies produced by the planning staff which have assisted the county legislature in planning for resource allocation and protecting public assets. Examples of these studies include A Cost of Community Services Study for Sullivan County, Second Home Owner Study: Assessing Attitudes, Consumer Behavior and Housing Tenure in Sullivan County, and Preparing for Natural Gas Development: Understanding Impacts and Protecting Public Assets. All work and updates on the 2020 Plan, and development of program outcomes of the plan, has been completed by in-house staff and volunteer steering committee members.

For more information visit: <http://www.scgnet.us/orgMain.asp?sid=&orgId=83> or contact Jill Weyer, Chief Planner, at planning@co.csullivan.ny.us.

Sullivan County Division of Planning
Dr. William J. Pammer, Commissioner of Planning



WESTCHESTER COUNTY



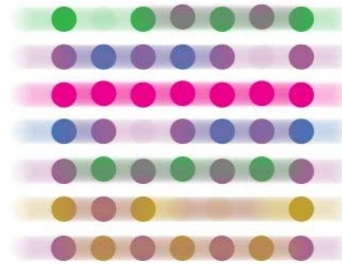
The Westchester County Department of Planning and the Westchester County Planning Board kicked off *Westchester 2025* with a public forum in January 2008.

County Executive Andy Spano introduced this new long range planning effort before nearly 200 local

officials. The event featured the launch of a new web site and a campaign to stress the importance of conducting reliable and meaningful comprehensive planning at the local level. Four months later, the County Planning Board adopted new policies to guide land use decision-making under the *Westchester 2025* umbrella.

Consistent with the full title of the project, *Westchester 2025 - plan together. A partnership for Westchester's future*, work continues with local outreach and the development of tools to aide local planning. The website now has available individual resource pages for each of Westchester's 43 municipalities with land use authority and for each of the county's 53 "downtowns." Resources include land use maps, demographic data, historic and current aerial photographs, street level photos and a comprehensive analysis of character, conditions and planning concerns. Each page provides direct links to local plans and initiatives. In 2009, the web site will be expanded with the addition of similar resources describing the county's 16 developed corridors outside of centers.

Also underway in 2009 is a project to convert the web site into a 3-D graphic environment and to add visioning tools. In addition, a countywide "build-out" under current regulations will be completed. The "build-out" results will be reviewed with each of the 43 municipalities and compared to local plans and county policies. These discussions are aimed to align local comprehensive plans, local land uses regulations and county infrastructure planning so as to create a realis-



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tic and shared regional "vision plan."

Three key factors characterize the development of *Westchester 2025*. First, from the start it was decided that the project would be web-based with no expectation of producing paper products. Second, the process is not being conducted under the "comprehensive plan" provisions of New York State General Municipal Law. Third, all work to date has been performed in-house by county staff.

Westchester 2025 is the third major Westchester County long-range land use planning initiative. The department and the county planning board produced the first county-wide plan for guiding land use, *Assumptions, Goals and Urban Form*, in 1975. This was updated by *Urban Form Refinement* in 1985. A new approach was taken in 1995 with the adoption by the County Planning Board of *Patterns for Westchester: The Land and the People*. *Patterns* was endorsed by the County Board of Legislators and the County Executive. Each of these earlier plans was also completed by in-house staff and volunteer board members.

For more information visit:

www.westchestergov.com/2025 or contact Ed Buroughs, Deputy Commissioner at eeb6@westchestergov.com.

Westchester County Department of Planning
Jerry Mulligan, AICP, Commissioner

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) is currently engaged in the development of its next Regional Transportation Plan, which will cover the period 2010 through 2035. NYMTC's new Plan, titled *A Shared Vision for a Shared Future*, will be built around the shared vision of its member agencies on the growth of the region and the needs of the transportation system. Ten desired growth areas are envisioned throughout the region, at which growth can be optimized through strategic improvements to the transportation system. Other strategic improvements are envisioned to respond more generally to the growth which is forecast for the region. Through the Plan, NYMTC's member agencies will define long-term needs for the state-of-good-repair of the region's transit systems, roadways, bridges and supporting facilities, as well as anticipated improvements to that system over the next twenty-five years.

The shared vision also commits to completing four "foundation" improvements – the extension of the MTA Long Island Rail Road to Grand Central Terminal, the construction of a Second Avenue Subway on the east side of Manhattan, the extension of the #7 subway to the far west side of midtown Manhattan and the construction of a new rail tunnel from northern New Jersey to midtown Manhattan – as a basis for enhancing the transportation system over the next 25 years.

NYMTC is a regional council of governments which is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. NYMTC's members include: Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties; the City of New York; the New York State Department of Transportation; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In its role as metropolitan planning organization, NYMTC is responsible for fulfilling federal planning regulations so that its region can make use of federal transportation funding.

NYMTC's Plan serves as the foundation for the metropolitan planning process required by regulation. It provides a long-range view of its region's transportation needs and potential improvements. The Plan forecasts the key socio-economic and demographic elements of travel demand over the planning period and uses them to estimate future transportation congestion. These future forecasts, which represent a consensus of NYMTC's members, are built in part from the master plans of the jurisdictions which comprise NYMTC's planning area.

NYMTC will release a draft of its new Plan for formal public review in June 2009. Adoption of the new Plan is anticipated in September 2009. A draft of the shared vision of its members was released at the NYMTC Annual Meeting in March 2009 and is currently available for review through NYMTC's website.

For more information visit: www.NYMTC.org or contact Gerry Bogacz, Planning Director, at gbogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
Joel Ettinger, Executive Director

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Chapter President's Message



By Donald Burns,
Chapter President

I thought that the Annual American Planning Association conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a great conference. The Minnesota Chapter was a terrific host and the city is fantastic.

Minneapolis is a walkable city that boasts to be second to

Portland, Oregon, as the most bikeable city in America. From what I saw, Minneapolis is a very bicycle-friendly city. For example, there are bike racks in front of many buildings, some buildings had employee-only bike racks and I noticed one woman bringing her bicycle into an office building. The downtown is a mix of old and new architecture. Many older buildings have been adaptively reused as office or residential buildings. The Hiawatha Line is the light rail line that takes you from the Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport to downtown Minneapolis or the Mall of America, if you wish. There are bicycle racks and lockers at the non-downtown light rail stations.

There were many informative panel sessions, mobile workshops and speakers. There were two Metro Chapter area awardees. John R. Nolon of the Pace University Law Center was awarded the Leadership Award for a Planning Advocate. The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service New York University won the APA Student Representatives Council Award for Outstanding Student Organization Award for Best Practices for the student conference "Planning Ahead: Opportunities for Professional Growth." Congratulations to both awardees.

Lastly, in these difficult economic times some planners may be laid off from their present employment. Please be aware that APA/AICP has an unemployment rate that is reduced from the membership rate. Please go to the APA website for more information: www.planning.org/customerservice/index.htm#12a.

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New Professional Open House Program Proves Popular

By Julie K. Simon, NYU Wagner Student Representative, Master of Urban Planning Candidate, 2010

The NY Metro Chapter School Relations Committee (SRC) launched its Professional Open House series in March. Six transportation organizations opened their doors for planning graduate students over three Fridays during the month. Envisioned as an opportunity for practicing professionals to share with students their role in the larger context of planning, each firm offered students a brief tour of their facilities or related sites, a presentation of their organization's projects and a Q&A session. The SRC recruited transportation-related agencies and organizations across the public, private and nonprofit sectors including Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, Project for Public Spaces, Transportation Alternatives, NYC Department of City Planning – Transportation Division, NYC Department of Transportation – Pedestrian Projects Group, Bike Program, Division of Planning and Sustainability; and MTA NYC Transit.



Each open house drew great turnout ranging from 10 to 25 students depending on the organization's capacity.

Students found the open houses to be informative, relevant and stimulating. The following is a sampling of student feedback regarding what they appreciated about the open houses:

- The rare opportunity to meet with a wide range of staff including principals and directors.

- The considerable amount of time and preparation the professionals contributed to these open houses, several of which ran late or transitioned into happy hours.

- An informal, in-depth, and candid interaction with planning professionals.

- A clearer picture of the presenters' various academic preparation, previous positions and career paths.

The ability to attend multiple open houses which afforded students a comprehensive understanding of issues and projects from various viewpoints. For example, students who attended open houses at NYC DOT, the NYC Transit and Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates obtained a robust and multi-dimensional context for Select Bus Service in the Bronx and other boroughs.

Our host professionals expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to connect with current students and new planners entering the field and found the discussions and questions to be energizing and thought provoking.

The open houses are designed to be informative and educational and are not intended for networking or job searches purposes. However, many organizations were able to share with students the qualities and skill sets they seek in potential full-time and internship candidates. This information is extremely valuable for students in their career searches and interview preparations, especially in today's challenging and unpredictable job market.

Building on the popularity of the Transportation series, the SRC organized Economic Development and Environmental Open Houses in April. We were fortunate to be able to recruit the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Appleseed, LISC NYC, AKRF, Sustainable South Bronx and New Yorkers for Parks. Future Open House series will focus on Housing, International, Waterfront, Design and more. The SRC welcomes suggestions for Open House topics and organizations.

Contact the SRC at:

apa_ny_metro_src@yahoogroups.com with suggestions or if your organization would like to host an Open House. Thank you again to all of the students and professionals who contributed to the overwhelming success of the Professional Open Houses.

LONG ISLAND SECTION NEWS

By David Berg, AICP
Long Island Representative

2009 ARTHUR H. KUNZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST



Over 60 attended this year's breakfast in honor of planner, Arthur Kunz. Mr. Kunz played an integral part in Suffolk County's development for almost 30 years. His efforts were instrumental in balancing the growth and development of Suffolk County with environmental protection. Mr. Kunz worked for the Nassau County Planning Commission from 1958 to 1969, becoming its Assistant Director. In 1969 he became Assistant Planning Director for the Suffolk County Department of Planning and in 1989 its Director. He was a member of the APA and American Institute of Certified Planners. Arthur Kunz was an honest and decent man whose planning knowledge, commitment to public service, and professionalism improved the quality of life in Suffolk County.



Supervisor Steve Bellone of the Town of Babylon was the featured speaker. He spoke of the town's successful efforts in revitalizing downtowns, building workforce housing and the particularly innovative "Green Homes" program. Green Homes is a creative new self-financing homeowner program that provides energy efficiency retrofits for existing homes in the Town of Babylon. The program enables residents to make their homes greener and healthier with little or no out-of-pocket cost.

The breakfast was made possible in part by the generous support of [Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP](#), [Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers](#), and [VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, PC](#).

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY THE SECTION

The Long Island Section received numerous excellent applications for scholarships to attend this year's APA National Conference in Minneapolis. Three young planners were selected and presented with scholarships at the Arthur Kunz Breakfast. Winners included Tracie Goldman with the Town of North Hempstead, Jessica Kalmbacher with the Suffolk County Planning Department and Maxwell Sokol with the Nassau County Planning Department. An appreciation was also presented to John Corral with the Suffolk County Planning Department for his kind assistance in Section meetings and events.



David Berg, John Corral, Jessica Kalmbacher, Steve Bellone, Steve Jones, Tracie Goldman, and Maxwell Sokol (L to R)

SECOND ANNUAL EAST END PLANNING CONFERENCE

The Long Island Section's Second Annual East End Planning Conference was held on the Stony Brook Southampton campus on April 22. Over 80 planners, zoning and planning board members and students attended the special event. Three AICP CM credits were submitted to APA for approval. After a welcome from David Berg, AICP, Director of the Long Island Section, the college's Dean and Administrative Vice President, Dr. Mary Pearl (photo on the right), introduced the unique and new programming of the college, much of which focuses on planning for a sustainable future. The Dean was followed by Professor James Quigley who spoke on environmental planning.



The first of two panel discussions, "Agriculture: What's Planning got to do with it?", was moderated by Valerie Scopaz, of VMS Planning Services. The

Continued on next page

Second Annual East End Planning Conference Continued

panel examined the changing nature of the agricultural industry on the East End, including the results of farmland preservation efforts up through the close of 2008. The panel discussed how the current economic downturn and local land use planning policies are affecting the industry.

Panelists included: Joseph M. Gergela, Executive Director, Long Island Farm Bureau; John Halsey, President, Peconic Land Trust; Thomas A. Isles, AICP, Director, Suffolk County Planning Department; and Karen Karp, Principal, Karp Resources.

The second panel, "Planning for the Nose-dive: How a Softening Economy Can Affect Land Use Decisions," was moderated by Stephen M. Jones, AICP, CEO of Suffolk County Water Authority. The panelists were all east-enders deeply involved in the continuing civic debate about what the planning goals should be for the five eastern towns. They reflected



Attendees at the East End Planning Conference

on how the current economic downturn might show itself to land-owners, developers, preservationists, regulators and others in the real estate industry. They asked decision makers to adhere to planning principles in the face of pressures from development interests and tax-starved, budget-strained local officials. They suggested that the state of the economy should not change the need for good planning. Panelists included: Tim Caufield, Vice-President of Peconic Land Trust; Bob DeLuca, President, Group for the East End; Kevin McDonald, The Nature Conservancy; Fred Thiele, State Assemblyman; and Rick Whalen, Principal, Land Marks, Inc.

The Conference was made possible in part by the generous support of [Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP](#) and [Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers](#).

2008 Suffolk County Planning Federation Fall Planning Conference Awarded AICP CM Credits

The 2008 SCPF Fall Planning Conference was recently awarded AICP certification maintenance credits. Go to the AICP CM portion of the APA website and search by provider for the APA NY Metro Chapter. The event, "Long Island Autumn Planning Conference" was held October 23, 2008. Each of the nine workshops was awarded 1.75 credits. Two of the programs were approved for Law and Ethics certification maintenance.

Save the Date! 2009 Suffolk County Planning Federation Fall Planning

This year's Fall Planning Conference will be held on October 21, 2009 at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The event will be co-sponsored by the Long Island Section.

Send your contact information to LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org to stay informed about Long Island Section events.

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By Lukas Herbert, AICP
Hudson Valley East Director

MAKING WESTCHESTER MORE BICYCLE FRIENDLY

Many bicyclists are familiar with Westchester County's trailway system as well as with many of the low traffic routes that offer a bucolic cycling environment for recreational weekend rides. But riding a bicycle for transportation purposes (such as to go to work, shopping, school, etc.) in Westchester can be anything but relaxing if you need to travel to a number of Westchester's downtown centers or areas that are not served by a trailway. The Westchester Cycle Club along with the East Coast Greenway Alliance and the Westchester County Department of Planning set out to tackle this issue at the Westchester Bike Summit which was held at the Westchester County Center on April 7.

The Bike Summit brought together cyclists, public officials, planners, transit officials and employers to discuss ways in which to build a constituency to push for better bicycle access and better bicycle facilities throughout Westchester. The discussion included a keynote address from Andy Clarke, President of The League of American Bicyclists, and continued with panel discussions involving the creation of on-street bicycle routes, bikes-on-transit, bicycle parking and the East Coast Greenway effort in Westchester. The end result of the summit was to form the new Westchester Bicycle/ Pedestrian Alliance to carry out the various goals that were identified at the summit.

Westchester County Executive Andy Spano and Congresswoman Nita Lowey were in attendance to voice their support for bicycling initiatives. County Executive Spano called for a look into the feasibility of installing bicycle racks on the County's Bee-Line buses. Congresswoman Lowey highlighted the potential to use federal funding and earmarks to accomplish these projects – particularly a new pathway or bicycle lane project along Westchester's Platinum Mile – which would also serve as a segment of the East Coast Greenway.

CM CREDIT COURSES COME TO THE HUDSON VALLEY

If you live or work in the northern reaches of the Metro Chapter region and are worried that you will not be able to keep your AICP credentials because you can't make CM course offerings in New York City or can't go to far away multi-day conferences, your worries are over. The Westchester County Planning Department, in conjunction with the NY Metro Chapter, is now offering monthly CM courses at its offices in White Plains. By offering these courses once a month, we hope to be able to make CM courses cheap, accessible and convenient to planners from the lower Hudson Valley area so that the CM requirements can be fulfilled conveniently and at low cost. Three courses have already been held. The upcoming schedule is:

Wednesday May 13 — 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: AICP CM Webinar Program: Inclusionary Housing – 1.5 CM credits

Wednesday June 24 — 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: AICP CM Webinar Program: 2009 Law Review – 1.5 CM credits (fulfills mandatory law credit)

Wednesday July 22 - 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: AICP CD-ROM Program: Community Based Brownfields– 1.5 CM credits

And for those who live and work further north, we are looking into conducting courses in Poughkeepsie.

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Certifications Panel Precedes Young Planners Spring Mixer

By Rachel Thieme, Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, Pratt Institute,
Master of Science City and Regional Planning
Candidate 2009

More than 50 planning students and recent graduates filled a room at NYU's Kimmel Center on February 27 to hear four planners, some of whom are recent planning school graduates themselves, discuss certification options and their experiences in the job market. The panel, sponsored by the NY Metro Chapter's Student Relations Committee, shed light on the anxiety faced by planning students trying to navigate the job market during the economic climate. The panelists offered their experience and suggestions, such as becoming AICP and LEED certified to distinguish oneself in the job market. Panelist Emre Edev, a recent graduate of NYU's planning program and a Senior Legislative Financial Analyst with the New York City Council, suggested that in their job search planning students should also consider fields outside of traditional planning that could benefit from planners' multidisciplinary viewpoint.

Reyna Alorro, a panelist and the NY Metro Chapter's School Relations Chair, reminded students of the resources offered by APA to assist planners with the AICP exam, such as test preparation courses. Although planners must have two years of experience before taking the AICP exam, anyone may take the LEED AP exam. One of the LEED certified panelists, Roger Torino, a strategic design consultant at DEGW, discussed how the LEED exam will be changing within the next few months. He noted that like AICP certification, LEED-certified planners who become certified after the changes go into effect will need to participate in ongoing professional development in order to maintain their certification.

Students in the audience weighed the relevance and cost of receiving and maintaining these certifications with the potential for advancement and distinction they can provide. Lisa Santoro, a recent graduate of Pratt Institute's planning program and a current employee in the Staten Island office of the Department of City Planning, is contemplating taking the LEED and AICP exams and said that her questions were answered by the panelists. "In my estimation," she said,

"the greatest resource for new planners is the advice and experiences from planners, architects and designers of varied backgrounds."

After the Friday evening panel, planning students converged upon the Apple Restaurant and Bom Bar near NYU with more than 100 young planners at the Young Planners Spring mixer, also sponsored by the NY Metro Chapter. Keeping with the theme of the earlier panel, attendees at the mixer were asked to write on their nametags if they were AICP or LEED-certified in order to facilitate discussion between planning students and young professionals.

Beth Seward, a planner with the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development attended the mixer and later reflected that it was a good opportunity for practicing planners like her to meet planners from other fields and talk to graduate students about current research.

Both the Student Relations Committee and the Young Planners Group of the NY Metro Chapter have a variety of events planned in the upcoming months and encourage NY Metro planners and planning students to get involved and network within the profession.



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My View from the Board



By David W. Woods, Ph.D., AICP/PP,
APA Director, Region 1

For the last three years, I have had the honor of serving on the APA Board of Directors elected from Region 1, the Northeastern part of the United States and Canada. During this time, I have been struck by the many ways that we as planners can serve the public and the profession while realizing professional and personal growth. In short, it is an exciting time to be a planner! I have been able to attend a number of Chapter conferences, which have provided me with a firsthand feel for the economic, communication, infrastructure and environmental problems that planners in Region 1 are struggling with and the challenges we are going to continue to face for the foreseeable future.

Recently I received the newsletter from the Ohio Chapter, in which my fellow Board member, Cynthia Bowen, AICP, LEED AP, APA Region IV Director wrote an excellent status report. Instead of writing very similar things I have asked Cynthia's permission to reprint her report – with a few changes to make it relevant to Region 1.

As this article reaches you, I know that many planners in our region are struggling in the planning profession with the economy. Planning directors are struggling with budget cuts, consultants are struggling to get work and all planners have limited resources to obtain CM credits. APA as an organization is aware of these concerns and is tracking the impacts on our planners in order to appropriately respond to our members' needs. The APA Board met in February to update our strategic plan as well as discuss the issues – and APA responses – planners are facing. I have provided a summary of some issues that emerged from that meeting:

INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN APA AND THE CHAPTERS AND ITS MEMBERS—APA will continue to send out its INTER-ACT newsletter that will have pertinent information on what is happening at APA and how the slow-down in the country is affecting planners.

Continued on next page

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Additionally, board members will be trying to attend more of their region's chapter board meetings to understand the issues that each state is facing and how APA can help. Some of the things that APA is doing include holding off on filling vacant positions, cutting department budgets and determining how the organization can be more efficient at providing services. In Region 1, David Woods and Anna Breinich, AICP, Region 1 AICP Commissioner, are strategizing how communication can be improved within our region.

CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS—APA has put together budget projections for the next several years. Three scenarios have been projected to help the APA Board make decisions on how to handle the economic slow-down and how it might affect services to our members. We are encouraging each chapter to put together their own projections in order for local chapters to make sound fiscal decisions regarding their chapter and to help better weather this economic climate. The organization is also looking at ways to provide lower cost services and events to help planners get through this recession. The AICP Commission is also looking into low cost/no cost CM sessions.

WEBSITE—APA understands that there have been significant issues with its website. They are currently working through this. The Board felt it was important that we should not take the entire website off-line for 3 months while it was updated. Instead, we decided that we would make some major overhauls and keep it on-line while continuing to tweak it. This has caused some problems. If you are experiencing issues, please submit a comment to APA about your problem so they can get it fixed. The other issue that planners have experienced with the website is lack of connection. The organization realizes that the Chicago office where our servers reside does not have enough broadband width to handle all of the Internet traffic. The Board has approved money, not originally allocated in the budget, to immediately upgrade our system to a fiber optic line that will increase bandwidth and speed for our members.

MEMBERSHIP—APA is now in Phase II of our membership growth strategy. APA has 44,500 members. At this time, we have not seen a drop in our membership; however as the economic situation continues to unfold, we understand that the organization could be impacted. A focus group will be created to discuss how we can target membership, what services are of interest to our members, and how we can con-

tinue to grow without compromising customer service. The membership committee will also focus on attracting more students, young professionals, planning commission and zoning board members. We will work with chapters to help increase their membership as well, which will benefit their local budgets. Currently, the membership committee is reviewing membership categories and bundles to determine how they need to change to meet the needs of existing and future members.

INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE—In order to understand the existing conditions of our country's infrastructure, the Board formed a task force to look at long-term solutions to infrastructure problems. This is a 3-year program to evaluate current conditions and challenges, develop a new vision and identify recommendations for changes in public policy and planning practice. The task force steering committee will include the chairs of six subcommittees focused on the topics of transportation, water, energy, technology and telecommunications, public facilities and green infrastructure. Several regional forums are being held.

MAGAZINE—Most of you realize that APA has redesigned Planning Magazine – the first redesign in 30 years. Several new items have been added, including a “By the Numbers Section” that planners can reference in their day to day activities and pull graphics off the website to incorporate into reports.

APA NATIONAL CENTERS OF PLANNING—APA has created four national centers, including Hazards Planning, Green Communities and Planning and Community Health. The purpose of these national centers is to obtain outside funding to help APA research specific topics and potential solutions that communities throughout the country can use. This research then is translated into PAS reports, free CM credit audio webinars, conference presentations and smaller articles in Planning Magazine. You can learn more at www.planning.org/nationalcenters/index.htm.

This should bring you up to date with the APA's efforts to help you succeed as a planner in a challenging time. We're moving forward on communicating our message that planning will help to rebuild the economy and green our communities. Please don't forget to check the APA website periodically for news about these initiatives. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at david@greenwoodsassociates.com or 631.365.3604.

Brooklyn Habitat for Humanity Development Toured by Housing Committee

By Carol Van Guilder, AICP
Co-Chair, Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee

The Chapter's Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee arranged a tour of a Habitat for Humanity building in Brooklyn on March 27.



New Condo Developed by Habitat for Humanity NYC located at Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn



The project contains 41 units in three 4-story buildings



The Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee checks out an apartment under construction



Learning about sweat equity, neighborhood involvement and green building

Waterfront Zoning Revisions Generate Lively Rock the Boat at City Planning

Adapted from articles by Linda G. Miller in e-Oculus and Jessica Sheridan in [Reports from the Field](#)

A panel of planners, architects and landscape architects applauded the NYC Department of City Planning's intentions and efforts to amend the [Waterfront Zoning Provisions](#) of the 1993 Zoning Resolution but at the same time raised significant concerns. The discussion took place at the Center for Architecture on February 20 that began with a presentation by Claudia Herasme, Urban Designer & Program Manager for Guidelines at DCP.

The DCP is pursuing a comprehensive review and revision of the current urban design regulations, which mandate public access to the waterfront. These rules have successfully produced public waterfront access areas, but it has become apparent that they impose design constraints and limitations.

Drawing upon the city's experience with waterfront developments in recent years, the new standards are designed to address a wider variety of waterfront conditions than anticipated by the existing text. Many of the elements of the DCP's proposal already exist at the Greenpoint and Williamsburg waterfronts and at the Ikea site in Red Hook — all in Brooklyn. In brief, DCP's proposal is intended to improve the quality of future waterfront space by promoting inviting spaces that “read as public,” allowing a greater diversity of experiences through design flexibility, enhancing the variety and quality of plantings and better accommodating storm water management and other green practices.

Bonnie Harken, AIA, co-chair of the waterfront committee of the NY Metro Chapter, said the APA supports the goals of the revision — to make the waterfront more open and accessible to the public and introduce more flexibility into the design standards — but added, “What we'd like to see next is for the waterfront zoning to fit more consistently with some of the broader planning issues facing NYC.” With climate change already bringing rising sea levels and more intense storms, NYC's low-lying waterfront areas need to be designed for flood-proofing and absorption, storm water management and shoreline protection. She believes coordination of the zoning with agencies responsible for the environment, such as the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and

NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and climate change initiatives of PlaNYC is needed to plan in a larger sense for the future sustainability of NYC's waterfronts.

Attendee Stephen Whitehouse, RLA, AICP, spoke of Gowanus Green, one of the first sizable projects to start a review under the new regulations. His firm, Starr Whitehouse, is part of a competition-winning team composed of Rogers Marvel Architects and West 8 to create affordable housing along the Gowanus Canal in Carroll Gardens. The new waterfront zoning brings the canal under its jurisdiction; the project must comply with the new waterfront zoning's bulk regulations and criteria for public waterfront access. Whitehouse agrees the new regulations will result in engaging spaces but, based on his experience, the regulations are “complex and require significant effort to demonstrate compliance to the satisfaction of the department. With the changing regulations, the methods of demonstrating compliance have not been standardized, so we've had to create them, with an eye both to the text and to feasibility.” He explained that with the large site, for example, compliance formulas are generating requirements for too many benches and tables. The standards for compliance are “far too onerous to demonstrate, and it should be dropped,” he argued.

The proposal is now undergoing review by the City Planning Commission, which is weighing the recommendations from the AIA, APA and ASLA, along with other recommendations from the Borough Presidents and Community Boards.

The other panelists were Howard Slatkin, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning, DCP; Bill Woods, Director of Waterfront and Open Space, DCP; Susannah Drake, New York Chapter President, ASLA; Lee Weintraub, FASLA, ASLA National Trustee; and Michael Samuelian, AIA, Co-chair, AIANY Planning and Urban Design Committee. The event was organized by AIANY Planning and Urban Design Committee, NY ASLA and the APA NY Metro Chapter.

Upcoming Events

PLANNERS SCAVENGER HUNT!!!

Think you know a lot about the city? Come out and prove it. Bring a team or come and we'll form teams that day. Feel free to invite others (planners, non-planners, families, friends, and pets are all welcome!) All you need is your brain, a camera, and your excitement.

Meet at Columbus Circle (middle of plaza) at 12:30 PM on Saturday, May 16th.

Questions? Contact:
David Fields
planman72@yahoo.com
or
Janet Jenkins
jjenkins@eng-wongtaub.com

NEW APA National Free Webinar for CM Credits

Community Strategies for Dealing
with Distressed Properties

Thursday, December 10, 2009
1-2:30PM

Session is sponsored by Planning and Law Division and is available for CM law credits.

For more information to reserve a place, go to
<https://www.2gotomeeting.com/register/962073883>

Upcoming 2009 Planning Law Review CD-ROM (1.5 CM Credits)

Wednesday, June 24, 2009
5:00-6:30 PM
Cameron Engineering
100 Sunnyside Blvd #100
Woodbury, NY

RSVP: LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org

APA NEW YORK METRO CHAPTER SPRING MIXER

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009
6PM—8PM

Rebar ("LOWRIDER" space)
147 Front Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
<http://www.rebarnyc.com>
RSVP to Lisa Santoro at
LSantor2@gmail.com

Upcoming Ethics in Planning CD-ROM Programs (1.5 CM Credits)

Thursday, May 14, 2009 (7-8:30PM)
Sullivan Cty. Govt. Ctr.,
100 North St., Monticello, NY
RSVP: planit@hvc.rr.com

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 (5-6:30PM)
Cameron Engineering
100 Sunnyside Blvd #100
Woodbury, NY
RSVP: LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org

Westchester County Planning Department Monthly CM Credit Program

Inclusionary Housing (1.5CM)
AICP Webinar
Wednesday, May 13, 4-5:30PM

2009 Planning Law Review (1.5 CM)
Wednesday, June 24, 4-5:30PM

Main Conference Room
4th Floor
County Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY

Price varies for each event but should not exceed \$10 per person. Please contact Lukas Herbert at: lah5@westchestergov.com or 914.995.2085 for questions to register.

Upcoming Events

ONE CITY/ONE FUTURE FORUM:

On NYC's Economic Development & Recovery
A Blueprint for Growth That Works for All New Yorkers

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 9:30am-5:30pm
New York University Kimmel Center,
60 Washington Square South

For more information, contact Sadaf Khatri at
sadaf@nyjwj.org or
212.701.9471

To register:

<http://www.unionvoice.org/jobswithjustice/events/onecityonefuture/details.tcl>

New York City Bar Association

*Climate Change:
What Actions are the Federal, State,
and Local Governments Taking?*

A panel discussion:
Thursday, May 14, 2009, 6-8pm
NYC Bar Association, 42 W. 44th St., NYC

Landmark West FREE Seminar

*Legal Strategies for Landmarks:
Defending Architecture, Neighbor-
hoods and the Public Interest in the
Development-Driven City*

Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6-8pm
Law Offices of Sullivan and Cromwell
125 Broad Street, NYC

Planning Academy at Virginia Tech

New Professional Development
Opportunities in National Capital Region

May-June 2009

All courses approved for CM credit

5th Annual St. Mark's Day Lecture

Preservation Without Limits:
*The Work of James Marston Fitch and the
James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation*

Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6:30pm
St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery,
Parish Hall, NYC
131 East 10th Street at Second Avenue

FREE. RSVP required at 212.228.2781 or
info@smhlf.org

*Sustainable Urbanization in the
Information Age:
Role of Infrastructure in Metropolitan
Development*

Conference organized by UN-Habitat,
UNDESA-DPAMD GAID, AIA/NY, RPA

Wednesday, May 13, 2009
9:30am-5:30pm
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters,
NYC

FREE! RSVP: www.aiany.org/calendar

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Write an Article for MetroPlanner!

Have you created an innovative zoning approach? Are you involved in a groundbreaking or controversial development proposal? Do you know a planner who would be great to interview? Let us know.

MetroPlanner welcomes submissions of articles, reports, photos and illustrations on current planning issues, topics and developments throughout the NY Metro Chapter region which includes New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster. Feel free to first run an idea by us.

E-mail news, articles and suggestions to editor@nyplanning.org. You must include METROPLANNER in the subject line.

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