# <u>HE TENNESSEE PLANNING LETTER</u>

Volume I , Issue 1 October, 2010

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American Planning Association Tennessee Chapter

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**Employment** 

Check www.planning.org/ <u>jobs</u>

Check www.planetizen.com/jobs

RFP/RFQ/RFI

Check back for more opportunities!

Training Opportunities

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Planning Association is holding its 2010 Annual **Conference** on November 4-5 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The conference theme is **Designing** Livable Communities.

14.25 CM hours are pending for the sessions.

For more information, Click <u>HERE</u>.

December will be here soon, are you and your Planning Commissioners in compliance with PC 862?

#### **Did You Know?**

Media Release - The **Tennessee Department** of Transportation is currently gathering information for an update to the state bike route network, and is inviting citizens to complete a short online survey regarding their experiences bicycling Tennessee's highways. Input from the survey will help guide the department in developing a comprehensive bicycling network that will assess state routes with respect to bicycle suitability and determine future action items pertinent to the furtherance of the goals of TDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

In 2005, as part of PlanGo, TDOT's Multi-Modal Long Range **Transportation Plan** included a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan element that recommended a statewide bicycle system. Since that time, the department recognized that changes in infrastructure and data collection necessitate an update to the existing bicycle route network. In order to provide meaningful connections to cyclists' destinations, TDOT invites the public to participate in the online survey by October 10, 2010.

Here is the survey link - http:// www.surveymonkey.c <u>om/s/TNBikeSurvey</u>

## **2010 TAPA Fall Conference Highlights**

Greenways & Highways: Paths Leading to Connected Communities

The 2010 TAPA/TSITE Fall Conference was a rousing success, with 246 registrants and 25 students filling over two dozen sessions. Some 20 speakers presented information of value to planners and engineers over the 2-day period, and 8 exhibitors displayed products and services of interest. Included in this edition are photos of award winners, and a summary of sessions, along with comments from our Thursday Lunch Keynote Speaker Chuck Flint of Greenways Incorporated.

The conference featured a variety of speakers and sessions, all centered around our conference topic of Connected Communities. Listed below are the conference sessions and speakers. Links to the Powerpoint presentations will be made available at the Tennessee Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (TSITE) webpage soon, check out <u>http://www.tsite.org</u> for more information.

Don't forget your credits!

#### TAPA/TSITE 2010 FALL CONFERENCE Session Listings with Moderators (M) and Presenters Greenways and Highways - Paths Leading to Connected Communities Wednesday, Sept. 29

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PLACES - Chris Kirby (M)

Nashville Northeast Corridor Mobility Study - Jim Czarnecky, Felix Castrodad Bridging the Gap. Creating Real Connections Between Your Transportation and Land Use Plans - Stephen Stansberry, Matt Noonkester

GREENWAYS AND PARKS: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES - Chris Rhodes (M) Public and Non-Profit Partnerships in Developing and Implementing a Park and

- Greenway Plan Michael Carberry, Doug Bataille, Joe Walsh, Carol Evans TOOLS FOR YOUR TOOLBOX, PART I - Karen Hundt (M)
- Is Your Community Ready for Quality Growth? Jane Fowler
- REGIONAL COORDINATION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING Jeff Welch (M) We're All In It Together: Coordinating Planning Activities Beyond Our Borders -Michael Briggs, Lisa Milligan

ALTERNATIVE MODES - PEDESTRIANS - Houston Daugherty (M) A Community-Based Natural Experiment: Does Retrofitting the Built Environment with a Greenway Impact Physical Activity? - Eugene C. Fitzhugh Pedestrian Demand and Our Communities - Preston Elliott

Partnership Building with Corridor Management Plans - David Coode TOOLS FOR YOUR TOOLBOX, PART II - Ruth Hawk (M)

True Sustainability: More Than Just Gizmo Green - Craig Lewis, Kathleen Rose Thursday, Sept. 30

PLANNING TO ENHANCE LIVABILIYT FOR EVERYONE - Mary Leary

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS - CHOOSING AN ALTERNATIVE - Hollis Loveday (M) Context Sensitivity, An EIS Case Study in Great Smoky Mountains National Park -Kristina Miller, Martha Register, Barney O'Quinn

My Way or the Highway - Michale Oakes

- SIX CONCEPTS FOR GREEN DEVELOPMENT Todd Napier (M) Jennifer Languell
- REALITIES OF GREENWAYS IN FLOODPLAINS Terry Shupp (M)

Chris Soro, Stanley Harrison, Andrew Sonner, Chris Granju

STATE LEGISLATIVE PLANNING ISSUES - Kathryn Baldwin (M) Sam Edwards

REACHING AGREEMENT: STRATEGIES FOR GETTING THINGS DONE RIGHT - Chris Hamby (M)

Elaine Seat

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS - STREET DESIGN - Cindy Pionke (M)

Calm Green Streets - Alan Childers, Jason Elliott

Context Solutions for Designing Thoroughfares-the ITE Manual - Fred Schwarts **GREENWAYS CASE STUDIES - Chuck Flink** 

PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - Kevin Cole

Sustainable Infill Housing - Jeff Archer Value of Sustainable Design, How the LEED Process Promotes Community Planning,

Healthy Lifestyles, and Public Transportation - Alan Thompson

CREATION OF GREENWAYS - Valerie Birch (M) Chuck Flink

EXPERT WITNESS - Chris Rhodes (M)

- Interface of Engineering and Legal Issues Jack Humphreys, Bob Stammer, Alan Parham
  - ALTERNATIVE MODES-BIKES Steve Allen (M)
    - The State of Bike Planning in Tennessee Jeff Hammond
    - Bikeway Infrastructure Innovations from Portland to NASCAR John Cock, Kelley Segars
  - COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE FUTURE Steve Bryan (M) Electric Bike Sharing on UT Campus - Christopher Cherry
    - Oak Ridge Energy Corridor Integrated Transportation Project: A DOE Energy Park Proposal - Gary Gilmartin
  - Accomplishments and Future Steps for TDOT's Pedestrian and Bicycle Program -Jeanne Stevens, Jessica Wilson

PLANNING COMMISSION TRAINING - Kathryn Baldwin (M)

Sam Edwards Friday, Oct. 1

- BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES Dan Hawk (M)
- Rick Meredith
- TOWN PLANNING FOR CONNECTIVITY Buz Johnson (M) Vision to Reality in No Time Flat: The Success Story of Bolivar - G. Wade Walker, Steven Auterman
- Downtown Colierville Small Area Plan: Long-Term Vibrancy Through Interconnected Roads and Greeways - Jaime Groce, Scott Henninger COMPLETE STREETS - Kevin Tilbury (M)
- Working Together to Create Complete Streets Ellen Zavisca, Anne Wallace, John Hunter, Jeff Jones, Marshall Elizer

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION - Mark Donaldson (M)

Land Use, Public Process, and the Memphis Riverfront - Steve Auterman Knoxville's South Waterfront: From Plan to Implementation - Dave Hill

TRANSIT - David Coode (M)

Middle Tennessee State University Traffic and Parking Master Plan - Daniel Spann Ride for Change: KATamorphasis and Other Recent Efforts to Improve Public Transit in Knoxville - Cindy McGinnis

Mass Transit in Middle Tennessee: Planning, Politics, and People - Ed Cole ETHICS IN PLANNING - Monica Austin (M)

Ken Reardon

MUTCD CHANGES - Hollis Loveday (M) Matt Cate

## **CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT** -**Thursday Keynote Speaker: Chuck Flink**



Charles A. "Chuck" Flink is Founder and President of Greenways Incorporated, an environmental planning and landscape architecture company established in 1986 and based in Durham, North Carolina. He is widely regarded as one of the nation's leading greenway planners, having completed comprehensive greenway, trail and open space plans for more than 200 communities within 35 States and consulting work in Argentina, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Japan, and St. Croix, USVI. Flink co-authored Greenways. A Guide to Planning, Design and Development, in partnership with The Conservation Fund. Flink has lectured on the creation of greenways at more than 150 national and international conferences since 1986. For more information on Greenways, Incorporated, visit <u>www.greenways.com/index.html</u>

Even in the best of economic conditions, funding for greenways and other pedestrian accesses must compete with roadway improvements and expansions for public support and investment. Before his Keynote Address on Thursday the 30th, Greenways Incorporated President Chuck Flink spoke with the Tennessee Planning Letter Editor to preview his comments and emphasize some key points:

Greenways provide Economic Benefits. Chuck noted that hard-hitting case studies of the benefits of investing in greenways show contributions to community job creation and tourism. For example, Chuck noted the Grand Forks Greenway, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project connecting two communities in North Dakota. At the first local meeting, after he suggested that building greenways could have an economic benefit of up to \$16 million, Chuck though he might be tarred and feathered, then run out of town! However, 10 years later, studies show that the Grand Forks Greenway did indeed generate more economic benefit than its original investment. In fact, the Corps of Engineers called the Grand Forks Greenway the best project ever done by the Corps from a cost/benefit standpoint.

Greenways connect People to Their Communities. While Tennessee has done a better job than most Southeastern states in keeping jobs during the economic downturn, especially manufacturing employment, the future is bleak. Connecting great assets with great people spurs creativity and local business opportunities. Greenways have also produced public/private partnerships that engage the community and increase volunteerism. Greenways help communities toward their goals of walkable, bikeable communities by allowing more compact, vertical development, less dependant on automotive access.

Tennessee Projects. Chuck has a track record in Tennessee that demonstrates the success of his approach. Chickamauga Creek (Chattanooga), 3rd Creek (Knoxville), Stones River Greenway (Rutherford County), Bells Bend Environmental Park (Nashville), and the Wolf River Greenway (Memphis) are all projects with which Chuck and Greenways Incorporated have brought their vision of providing economic, recreational, health benefits from greenways. For the future, Chuck has challenged Tennessee to develop a northeast-to-southwest Greenway across the State, the "Rocky Top Greenway" or "Volunteer Greenway" that would take advantage of existing greenways and trails, and highlight the unique character of Tennessee's 3 Grand Divisions. What a great idea!

More information. Future editions of *The Tennessee Planning Letter* will include information on how the State of Tennessee and its communities promote the use of greenways and trails. For information on Tennessee's Greenways and Trails program and plans, click HERE.

> **Photos from the Conference** (courtesy of John Gould at Wilbur Smith Associates)









Large Community Plan Award: Hendersonville Land Use and Transportation Plan



Small Community Plan Award: Downtown Collierville Small Area



Planner of the Year Award: Mike Carberry



Large Community Plan: Jackson Neighborhood **Revitalization Plan** 

#### TAPA Chapter Leadership **President:**

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Knoxville— Kathryn Baldwin, AICP kbaldwin@cortn.gov

State of Franklin -**Jason Meredith** JasonMeredith@Kings portTN.gov



#### **Check it Out**

The TAPA Executive **Committee has** ated an exciting new award category to honor Tennessee planners!! You should have received an email from our Chapter **Secretary Ambre Torbett on** 10/25/2010.

**Read about the new** Distinguished **Planner Award and** how you can get involved!!

> Need another copy?

**Email Ambre at** planning@sullivanco unty.org

See all the Conference photos at <u>TSITE's</u>

Facebook Page!



Downtown Gallatin Master Plan

TAPA sends a big THANK YOU to our Conference Sponsors:

Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development

- **Tennessee Department of Transportation**
- **RW** Armstrong

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\*

## Parham Engineering Consultants

See you at the Winter Retreat, January 26 –bookmark

## **Section News**

#### West TN News -

Award Winner! - The Collierville Downtown Area Plan won the 2010 TAPA Award for Outstanding Planning/Plan for a Small Community! Congratulations to the Staff. See the conference highlights for photos!

*Staff*—The Memphis MPO welcomes Kyle Wagenschutz as their new Bike/pedestrian coordinator! In his new position, Mr. Wagenschutz will be responsible for training and education on bicycle and pedestrian planning and design issues to all municipalities within the Memphis MPO jurisdictions and will coordinate activities within Memphis to ensure integration and partnership with surrounding communities in the Memphis MPO area. He will also actively engage and seek partnerships with the state transportation policy organizations in Tennessee and Mississippi, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Click <u>HERE</u> to learn more about the Memphis MPO.

Plans and Regulations – Memphis/Shelby County has adopted a new Unified Development Code (UDC) in August of this year, that is a complete re-write of the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, including form-based codes, mixed use zoning. Highlights of the new Code include: allowing and promoting urban infill development, pedestrian-focused streetscapes, a "form-based" toolkit, Neighborhood conservation, diverse range of housing types, flexible parking requirements, allowing innovative subdivision types to encourage sustainable growth, and a greater emphasis on the public realm. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information.

**Projects**—The Greater Memphis Greenline is open! This is a public-private partnership with local government in the development of the GMG and other unused railway right-of ways and easements in Memphis and Shelby County, and to create a world-class recreational park/hikingbiking trail system. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information.

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

Middle TN News -

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

Chattanooga News -

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

#### Knoxville News -

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

#### State of Franklin News -

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

Student News-Mike McConnell at the University of Memphis Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning will be supplying us with information from the academic world! He will fill us in on the activities of the graduate school and upcoming events, like the Planners Network Conference next June. If you're a student or know a planning student in Tennessee, put them in touch with Mike at mgmccnnl@memphis.edu.



## **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.

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 Tennessee's Greenway network continues to grow and expand. We'll follow up on the Fall the phone number or Conference focus on Connected Communities and how greenways help us make those connections! email address on the left! We want to hear not only from planners, **Message from the President** but planning commissioners, attorneys (yes, TAPA Members, attorneys), elected officials, developers, and others who affect Congratulations to all AICP members! Tennessee ranked higher than the national average for completing all of their the planning profession required CM credits this year. Now we start "round two", so in Tennessee and the don't let it slip up on you. Just before each conference, I always receive several inquiries about whether CM credits will be offered. We have a policy of providing enough credits at each of the fall conferences and winter for you to fulfill about half of your AICP requirements. We always submit all of the retreats sessions to APA, and so far, most all of them have been approved, but the approval process take a little time, so we don't always know exactly how many credits we will be able to offer until the conference starts. For those who can't make it to the conferences or retreats, we try to let you know anytime we hear of other CM opportunities across the state, or in neighboring states (ergo, all of those emails you get from me). Speaking of conferences, thank you to Monica Austin, and the other host committee members, for organizing an excellent 2010 Fall Conference in Knoxville. And congratulations to all of our Award Winners. Read on in this newsletter to garner some highlights from the conference. That being said, it's time to mark your calendars for the 2011 Winter Retreat. We'll be meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park on **January 26 – 28**. If you have ideas for sessions or speakers, please contact our Vice-President Valerie Birch. If you haven't already heard, all of the TAPA officers were elected to a second term (so much for The Tennessee voting out all incumbents). Brett Roler, from West Tennessee, will be taking Terry Langlois' **Planning Letter** place as the Chapter's Professional Development Officer. Thank you to both Brett and Terry. And Kasey Talbott, from the University of Memphis is the new Student Representative to TAPA. A Publication of the By now, you have received an email from Ambre Torbett, our Chapter Secretary, about the new Tennessee Chapter of Tennessee Leadership Council – Distinguished Planner Award. The TAPA Executive the American Planning Committee recently approved the establishment of this new program to recognize Planners Association across the state who exemplify special areas of achievement. If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the nomination form attached to Ambre's message and submit it Newsletter produced before December 31, 2010. by: Greater Nashville **Regional Council** This first year, up to 10 members will be selected by the Executive Committee from the list of 501 Union Street, 6th Floor nominees. In subsequent years, up to 2 new members will be added annually. The Executive Nashville, TN 37210 Committee will vote on the nominees at the Winter Retreat and new members will be inducted **Editor: Tim Roach, AICP** each year at the Fall Conference. **PHONE:** The Executive Committee felt this was a good way to recognize some of our Planners who have (615) 862-8843 contributed over the years to the Chapter, to Planning education, and to the profession as a FAX: (615) 880-3901 whole. **EMAIL:** troach@gnrc.org I look forward to seeing many of you at the Winter Retreat. We're on the Karen Hundt, AICP Web! www.tnapa.org President, Tennessee Chapter, American Planning Association