

TAPA Fall 2019 Conference Schedule Overview



Wednesday, October 9th

1:30- 2:15 pm	Introductory Comments		
2:30- 3:30 pm	Downtown Collierville Plan	Health & the Built Environment	Franklin Mobile Tours (3 options) 2:30-4:30 pm 4:00-6:00 pm (2) **Requires pre-registration
3:45- 5:00 pm	Nashville Small Area Planning	Marshall County: A Rural Perspective	

Thursday, October 10th

8:00- 9:15 am	Annexation Panel (Breakfast Starts at 7:30)			
9:30- 10:30 am	Downtown Cleveland Plan	Affordable Housing	Clarksville & Montgomery County Growth Plan	South Nashville Mobile Tour 8:30-11:00am **Requires pre-registration
10:45- 11:45 am	Memphis UDistrict Shared Prosperity	TDOT Project Development Process	Environmental for Planners	
12:00- 1:45 pm	Lunch & Keynote Speaker			
2:00- 3:15 pm	TDOT Transportation Demand Management	Urbanism & Mobility in Small Towns	GIS for Planners 2:00-2:45pm	West and Downtown Nashville Mobile Tour 2:00-5:00pm **Requires pre-registration
3:30- 5:00 pm	Ethics Session	Memphis 3.0 Plan	PC/BZA Training 3:00-5:00pm	

Friday, October 11th

8:00- 9:00 am	Stormwater for Planners (Breakfast Starts at 7:30)		Future of Nashville's Music Row (Breakfast Starts at 7:30)	
9:15- 10:15 am	TDOT Railway Safety	TDOT Corridor Management Agreements	PC/BZA Training (9am-11am)	
10:30- 12:00 pm	Legal Session	Age-Friendly Communities and States Network		
12:15- 1:30 pm	Landscape Architecture for Planners (Boxed Lunch Provided)		Accessory Dwelling Units (Boxed Lunch Provided)	

TAPA Fall 2019 Conference

Speakers



Wednesday, October 9th

Downtown Collierville Plan

Jaime W. Groce | Town of Collierville

Jaime W. Groce is the Town Planner for Collierville and has worked with the Town since 2008. He is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners. While in Collierville he has worked on projects such as the Collierville 2040 Plan and the Downtown Collierville Small Area Plan. Over the past 11 years he's also worked on numerous updates and re-writes of the Town's Zoning Regulations and Design Guidelines that have helped to more fully implement the Downtown Collierville Small Area Plan. He also serves as the project manager for the Collierville Center Connect streetscape project, which is the Town's largest streetscape effort since 1994. Before coming to Collierville, Jaime served as a planner in the Tennessee communities of Franklin and Fayetteville. Jaime lives in Collierville's Historic District just a 10-minute walk from the Square.

Health & the Built Environment

Leslie Meehan, MPA AICP | Tennessee Department of Health

Leslie Meehan oversees the Office of Primary Prevention in the Commissioner's Office of the Tennessee Department of Health. The Office serves as a hub for upstream, primary prevention policies and strategies that impact social influencers of health. Her work includes increasing physical activity through the built environment to positively impact social, emotional and physical health. Previously, Ms. Meehan served ten years as the Director of Healthy Communities for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Tennessee. At the MPO, she focused on the intersection of transportation and health, specifically transportation's impacts on physical activity, air quality and injury. Her work has been recognized nationally and internationally, most recently by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (2018 Vision Award), the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (2017 Joseph W. Cullen Excellence Award) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (2017 Transportation Achievement Award for Planning). Ms. Meehan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals, the League of American Bicyclists and the Tennessee Public Health Association. She is co-author of the Transportation Sector of the National Physical Activity Plan, served as expert advisor on the U.S. Department of Transportation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Transportation and Health Tool, was appointed by Transportation Secretary Peters to the National Safe Routes to School Task Force and has presented at a White House event on transportation and health. She currently serves as a panel member on the National Cooperative Highway Research Program's Research Roadmap for Transportation and Health and the Guidebook for Communications between Transportation and Public Health Communities. She is a member of the Transportation Research Board Taskforce on Arterials and Public Health.

Nashville Small Area Planning

Anna Grider | Metro Nashville Planning Department

Anna is a Community Planner for the Metro Nashville Planning Department where she specializes in long-range planning and the community visioning process. Her passion is public engagement, particularly through the Planning Department's design charrettes, where she tailors the visioning exercises to the needs of each community. A native of Nottingham, England, Anna has spent 15 years in the US. She has a Bachelor's degree in Human Geography from the University of Sheffield, England and a Master's degree in Urban Studies from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to moving to Nashville, Anna worked for the Planning Departments of the City of Broken Arrow and the City of Oklahoma City, and for the Institute for Quality Communities at University of Oklahoma. Anna lives with her husband and two children in East Nashville.

Gene Burse, AICP | Metro Nashville Planning Department

Gene Burse is a community planner for the Metro Nashville Planning Department where he specializes in long-range planning, community visioning and the land development process. His passion is public engagement, particularly through community meetings where he helps the public understand implementation of land use policy. Gene is from Peoria, Illinois. He has a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from Southern Illinois University, a Master of Architecture, and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis. Prior to moving to Nashville, Gene worked for the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Planning and Development. Gene lives with his beautiful wife in Rutherford County.

Stephanie R. McCullough | Metro Nashville Planning Department

Stephanie has worked with communities in Nashville on planning, urban design and community engagement since returning to Middle Tennessee in 2005. Her career in Nashville began at the Nashville Civic Design Center, where she served as Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator. She worked on the Nashville Next Comprehensive Plan with the Metro Nashville Planning Department, and spent two years in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement (ONCE), facilitating communication of the Mayor's initiatives to neighborhood groups. She returned to Metro Planning in October 2018 to work on long range planning. She is currently leading planning efforts in the Wedgewood Houston and Chestnut Hill Neighborhoods. Stephanie is a native of Franklin, TN and has a degree in architecture from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, as well as a master's degree in Civic Leadership from Lipscomb University. She lives in the Woodbine community with her two cats, Bagheera and Pete.

Marshall County: A Rural Perspective

Preston Elliot, AICP | KCI Technologies

Preston Elliott is a Practice Leader in Transportation Planning with KCI Technologies. He is a certified planner with over 25 years of professional transportation and comprehensive planning experience. Throughout his career he has worked on a variety of local, regional, and statewide transportation plans. He has a passion for inclusive processes and has developed and implemented numerous public and stakeholder outreach efforts. He has a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Social Science.

Liesel Goethert, AICP | KCI Technologies

Liesel Goethert is a Senior Planner with KCI Technologies. Liesel has worked on a range of community and statewide planning documents throughout her career. She currently manages Metro Nashville's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program where she is responsible for organizing and presenting at community meetings and assisting neighborhoods. She is a certified planner and has extensive experience in community and public engagement. She has a Master's in Community Planning and a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies.

TAPA Fall 2019 Conference

Speakers



Thursday, October 10th

Annexation Panel

Rick Emmett | City of Knoxville

Rick Emmett is Special Assistant to the Mayor and the Downtown Coordinator for the City of Knoxville and is also serving as the City Census Liaison for Census 2020. He grew up in Kentucky where he was employed as Chief Surveyor in the coal industry before moving to Knoxville 27 years ago to work for the City of Knoxville as Technical Services Administrator in the Engineering Department. Emmett attended Southeast Community College, the University of Kentucky, and Lincoln Memorial University and is a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in Tennessee and Kentucky. He serves as ex officio member of Public Art Committee, Downtown District Association, the Historic Old City Association, and the 100 Block Association and is currently a Board member for the Central Business Improvement District and Visit Knoxville. Emmett is also currently a member of the Mid South Parking and Transportation Association, the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors and the International Downtown Association. He has served as a Board member on the Public Property Naming Committee, the Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, and was Chairman of the Knox County Redistricting Committee.

John Zeanah | Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development

John Zeanah is the Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. In this role, he leads a cross-functional division that provides planning, zoning, and building services to the city and county. Prior to this role, Mr. Zeanah served in the roles of Deputy Division Director and administrator for the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability. Recently, Mr. Zeanah led the development and adoption of the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan, the city's first general plan since 1981, as well as an initiative to improve development permitting across multiple agencies of city and county government. Mr. Zeanah holds a BA in Political Science from Rhodes College and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and an accredited member of the Congress for the New Urbanism.

Margaret Ann Green | City of Murfreesboro

*Speaker description will be provided at the conference.

Downtown Cleveland Plan

Doug Delaney, AICP, PMP | WSP

Doug Delaney is a senior supervising planner in WSP's Nashville office. Doug has served as a public and private sector planner in Tennessee for the past 22 years. Doug has experience in community and regional planning, transportation, public involvement and outreach, transit studies, environmental studies, environmental management systems, and context sensitive solutions. Doug is also a certified instructor for two National Highway Institute (NHI) courses: NEPA and Transportation Decision-Making and Advanced Seminar on Transportation Project Development: Navigating the NEPA Maze. Prior to joining WSP, Doug served both as the Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning and Director of the Environmental Division for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Doug holds a B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning and a B.S. in Environmental Design, both from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Greg Thomas, AICP | Cleveland Metropolitan Planning Organization

Greg Thomas has served as a public sector planner in Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee for over thirty years. His work has spanned a range of planning areas including land use and zoning, housing and community development, economic development, and transportation. Greg has led in beginning of two local Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs, and in the beginning of a Metropolitan Transportation Organization (MPO) for transportation planning. As planning director in Cleveland, Tennessee, Greg has led the community in the BCC2035 Strategic Plan process and in the development of a new comprehensive plan. He developed the program proposal and provided local oversight for the University of Tennessee's Smart Communities Initiative (SCI) inaugural year program in Cleveland. He served as a member of the Cities Advisory Committee for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Urban Dynamics Institute. He serves on the board of City Fields, a local community development corporation involved in neighborhood revitalization efforts. He led in the development of Cleveland's Walkability Action Plan and in the beginning of the BikeWalk Cleveland effort. Recently, he has provided planning oversight for Cleveland's Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and he has become the City's Transportation Director while continuing to serve the Cleveland MPO as MPO Coordinator. Greg holds a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.S.P. in Planning, both from the University of Tennessee.

Affordable Housing

Ben Miskelly, AICP | Kimley-Horn

Ben is a planning professional with a broad range of experience in both the public and private sectors. He began his career working in the City of Nashville's Planning Department's Design Studio. In his current role as Project Manager, his passion for strengthening the community's knowledge about planning grew, and he continues to value public education and enrichment of planning as a core component of each of the projects he supports. Ben brings an innovative approach to projects by combining lessons learned in the private sector with his knowledge of public-sector principles and goals, believing that private/public partnerships are of the utmost importance. As a project manager, his preferred work focuses on creating spaces that people love to be in and that support immediate and/or long-range community goals to improve the quality of life. Ben believes that no matter where you are planning, all spaces should be sustainable and functional for all people who interact with them. He is committed to listening to what people have to say and illustrating their vision with the use of effective graphics and eye-catching visual products.

Ben Brewer | Elmington

As a founding member and President, Ben is responsible for the overall growth objectives and development strategies of Elmington and its family of companies. He is involved in the growth of the existing business and the expansion of Elmington into new opportunities. Through this role, he has been an integral part in developing the over \$600 million investment portfolio and helping grow Elmington Property Management into an organization managing over 25,000 units in 11 states with over 800 employees. Additionally, Ben focuses on investor relationships where he has successfully raised over \$150 million in high net worth equity over the past several years. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Mississippi.

Clarksville & Montgomery County Growth Plan

Jeff Tyndall | Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission

Jeff Tyndall's experience as a planner spans 21 years of both public and private sector service at the county level and for the Air Force and Marine Corps. He is a northern transplant, but don't hold that against him, and has lived in the south for the past 13 years. In March of 2018, he was selected as the Director of the Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Tyndall is a graduate of Rutgers University with an MA in City and Regional Planning; he also holds dual BAs in geography and urban studies with honors, from Rutgers. He served as a county planner for over 10 years in New Jersey and South Carolina before working in the private sector completing multiple types of plans for communities and military installations across the country. He is a Certified Planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners and his blend of public and private sector experience is a strength when working with developers and consultants. He is married with four boys ages 3 to 10 years old; things are busy at work AND at home.

Memphis UDistrict | Shared Prosperity

Andrew “Andy” Guthrie, PhD | University of Memphis

Dr. Guthrie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Memphis. His research interests include transit planning, transit-oriented development, cumulative opportunity accessibility analysis, geospatial analysis, planning for social equity, the interactions between transportation and land use and expanding the use of mixed and qualitative methods in the transportation field. He explores these fields of research in an urban governance and economics framework and has particular interests in democratically controlled alternative community governance and economic structures.

Anthony “Andy” Kitsinger, AICP-AIA | University of Memphis

Andy Kitsinger’s notable 30-year career as an architect, planner, professor and researcher, has primarily focused on community building. He currently serves as the Director of the University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC), where he leads a multi-discipline research team and teaches the UMDC Studio. He helped found and served on the Board of the Memphis Regional Design Center, which led to the creation of the Design Collaborative. As a practicing planner and architect, Kitsinger currently serves as principal of The Development Studio, a Memphis-based firm, where he leads multiple community-building and neighborhood planning and initiatives for local and national clients.

TDOT Project Development Process

Mike Gilbert | TDOT Strategic Transportation Investments Division

Mike Gilbert is a Professional Engineer who has worked for TDOT for 11 years. He currently works within the Strategic Transportation Investments Division where the initial scoping for most projects within TDOT occurs. This division develops Road Safety Audits, Interstate Access Request Reports, Technical Reports, Bridge Transportation Investment Reports, Needs Assessments, and Feasibility Studies in order to jump start the project development process. Mike is married with 5 kids and is involved in his church where he and his wife lead their youth group.

Sharon Schuttz, PE | TDOT Region 3 Project Development

Sharon Schutz is the Project Development manager of Survey and Design at TDOT Region 3 in Nashville. She is a professional engineer in the state of Tennessee and has been with TDOT for over 4 years. Before TDOT, Sharon worked for 2 other civil engineering firms for a total of 29 years. She started out as a draftsman “back in the day” and went back to school to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee State University. Her background includes a variety of different types of projects including roadway design, traffic signal design, roadway lighting design, airport design and construction management as well as erosion control design, environmental permitting, and compliance inspection. She is currently the Regional Director for the Middle Tennessee Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers. She has 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren and enjoys reading and running.

Environmental for Planners

David Jackson, PG, PH | Ragan-Smith Associates

David Jackson is a consulting geologist and hydrologist with over 35 years of experience. He has been a Principal at BDY Environmental for nearly 20 years. Mr. Jackson holds B.A. and M.Sc. degrees in geology from the University of Tennessee. Mr. Jackson’s technical interest include characterizing the geological context of stream and wetland hydrology, perched water, groundwater occurrence, and contaminant hydrogeology with regard to regulatory permitting and enforcement, site uses, and both civil and criminal litigation. He is registered as a Professional Geologist via national and state board examinations.

Sarah Samoray | Ragan-Smith Associates

Sara Samoray is a biologist with experience consulting since 2005. She received her Master's degree in Biology from Auburn University where her thesis work involved conducting surveys for bats and assessing their habitat associations. Her primary focus has been Section 7 Endangered Species surveys, state-listed species surveys, and agency coordination. Sara's field expertise includes survey techniques for bats and other small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, raptors, bald eagles, songbirds, crayfish, and plants. Her consulting experience includes wetland delineations, hydrologic determinations, habitat assessments, Federal and State permitting assistance, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, preparation of technical reports, and geographic information systems (GIS) analyses.

Chris Fleming, M.S. | Ragan-Smith Associates

Chris Fleming, M.S., is a consulting biologist with over 19 years of consulting experience. His fields of practice include botany of the southeastern United States, rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) species surveys, wetland delineations and restoration, stream determinations, water quality permitting, Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments, erosion and sediment control inspections, monitoring and reporting for remediation sites, and geographic information systems (GIS) analyses. He has provided services for a wide range of prospective and existing corporate, not-for-profit, and governmental clients.

Keynote Speaker

Josh Westerhold | RNM Alliance Future Lab

Josh Westerhold is senior manager of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance Future Lab, which looks years ahead to identify potential issues and opportunities for the industry today and into the future. With extensive expertise in urban planning and business development, he studies transportation trends and crafts new business concepts to address mobility needs for the future. Josh has worked in varying capacities in the startup mobility space, including project manager and consultant for VentureScout; consultant and chief operating officer at Startupbootcamp; and chief operating officer and co-founder at SHIFT/Project 100, an all-electric, multi-modal, mobility startup. Josh received his bachelor's in finance from Auburn University. He also holds an MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's in Urban Planning from Harvard University.

TDOT Transportation Demand Management

Susan Steffenhagen Griffith, AICP Candidate | TDOT Long Range Planning

Susan is a Planning Specialist in TDOT's Long Range Planning Division. Working in the Air Quality Planning Office, Susan touches a variety of different areas, including CMAQ, TDM, and Rural Regional Planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration – Operations & Supply Chain Management from Georgia Tech, as well as a Master of City and Regional Planning Degree from the University of Memphis. In her free time, Susan enjoys knitting, reading, and working through her "Nashville Pizza Bucket List".

Peter Williams | TDOT Long Range Planning

Peter is a senior transportation planner in the Long Range Planning division at TDOT. In the freight planning office he manages the National Highway Freight Program, coordinates the freight advisory committee, and provides research and analysis to support planning efforts. Prior to joining TDOT, Peter earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs from the University of Southern Indiana and a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Louisville. Outside of work, Peter enjoys reading and spending time with his wife and two sons.

Urbanism & Mobility in Small Towns

Steve Auterman, AICP AIA | Urban Design Associates

Steve Auterman is a Principal with Urban Design Associates in Pittsburgh, PA. His architecture and urban design projects focus on urban neighborhood revitalization, mixed-use district planning and design, street transformations for improved mobility, development feasibility and approvals, infill architecture, and strategic plans for municipalities and community-based non-profit organizations. Recent work in Fayetteville (NC), Greenville (SC), Huntsville (AL), Chattanooga (TN), and in California include downtown plans, mixed-use centers, mixed-income housing, and UDA's first web-based Pattern Book for infill residential in historic neighborhoods. Steve is an AICP certified planner and a licensed architect in Tennessee and Florida. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Sydney, Australia.

G. Wade Walker, P.E., Hon. ASLA | Alta Planning + Design

G. Wade Walker is Vice President and Director of Engineering for Alta Planning + Design, East Coast Region. For the past 25 years, he has worked in the realm of complete streets and context sensitive solutions, focusing on the restoration of livability to streets, smart growth, and walkability, often working in an intense collaborative charrette setting. He ascribes to a multidisciplinary design approach, often working closely with planners, landscape architects, and urban designers to focus on creating active, vibrant, and great communities where people have real choices of how they move about. He is a registered professional engineer in seven states including TN and a member of the Congress for New Urbanism.

GIS for Planners

Keith Cooke | ESRI

Keith Cooke is an Account Executive for ESRI working with local governments. He has been a GIS professional since 1994 and has worked for planning and community development agencies at the regional and local level in Alabama and North Carolina. In addition to his local government duties at Esri, Keith coordinates development efforts on the Planning and Community Development Team and is a frequent speaker at GIS, Planning, and Economic Development events. He is an active member in the American Planning Association, where he has conducted nearly 100 hands-on GIS workshops for planners since 2004 at the National Planning Conference and state chapter conferences.

Memphis 3.0

John Zeanah, AICP | Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development

John Zeanah is the Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. In this role, he leads a cross-functional division that provides planning, zoning, and building services to the city and county. Prior to this role, Mr. Zeanah served in the roles of Deputy Division Director and administrator for the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability. Recently, Mr. Zeanah led the development and adoption of the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan, the city's first general plan since 1981, as well as an initiative to improve development permitting across multiple agencies of city and county government. Mr. Zeanah holds a BA in Political Science from Rhodes College and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and an accredited member of the Congress for the New Urbanism.

Angelica Carey | City of Memphis Office of Comprehensive Planning

A native of Lynn, Massachusetts, Angelica Carey attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst and graduated as a dual degree in Anthropology and Civic Environmentalism. After graduating in 2012, she accepted a position to teach K-8 Music with Teach for America in the small town of Palestine, Arkansas. In 2014 she decided to pursue a dual degree in Regional Planning and Sustainability Sciences back at UMass. She finished her Master's degrees in February 2018 with her thesis focusing on climate change adaptive capacity of farmers in the Pioneer Valley region of Massachusetts. Angelica values a holistic approach to planning and strives for transparency in her work with the Memphis community.

Ashley Cash | City of Memphis Office of Comprehensive Planning

Ashley Cash is the Administrator of the Office of Comprehensive Planning for the City of Memphis. Her recent project has focused on developing the first comprehensive plan for the City of Memphis' 650,000 residents and 340 square miles. Ashley has a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of Memphis. Ashley has worked over the past ten years in varying areas of community development. Ashley's work has centered on quality of life planning and ensuring that all neighborhoods have equitable access to basic needs, opportunities, and amenities. She is experienced in managing and implementing complex projects and leading teams to success. When she is not working, Ashley enjoys spending time with her husband and their young daughter.

Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals Training

Kristen L. Corn | City Attorney, City of Brentwood

Kristen L. Corn has served as the City Attorney for the City of Brentwood since March 2018. Prior to joining the City, Kristen worked for the City of Franklin for over ten years, most recently serving as Assistant City Attorney. Kristen is a graduate of The University of Tennessee at Knoxville and the Nashville School of Law. She is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and is currently the chair of the Local Government Section. She is a past president of the Williamson County Bar Association and is also active in the Tennessee Municipal Attorney Association and the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

George A. Dean | Tune Entrekin & White, PC

George A. Dean has represented a wide array of clients in land use, zoning, and administrative hearings during his time with Tune Entrekin & White since 2010. Formerly Assistant Metro Attorney for the Metro Nashville Legal Department and a partner at Parker Lawrence Cantrell & Dean, George received his JD from the Vanderbilt University School of Law and holds a BA from Lafayette College. George is a member of the America, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations, has authored multiple books regarding zoning practices and law, and is a frequent lecturer for the International Code Council.

Ethics

Doug Demosi, AICP | Rutherford County

Doug Demosi received his Masters in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University in 1996. He has worked as a senior planner for the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission from 1996 through 1997, at the City of Murfreesboro, as a planner and principal planner from 1997 through 2006 and is currently employed with Rutherford County where he served as assistant planning director from 2006 through 2007 and planning director since 2007. He received his AICP certification in 2008 and has been a member of APA and TAPA since 1998. He has served as the Middle Tennessee Section's Vice Director from 2009 through 2013, Director from 2013 through 2015, Chapter Vice President from 2015-2016 and is currently Chapter President.

TAPA Fall 2019 Conference

Speakers



Friday, October 11th

Stormwater for Planners

Laura Jones, PE, CFM | Ragan-Smith Associates

Laura Jones is a professionally licensed engineer in the State of Tennessee with more than 16 years of experience in the field of civil and environmental engineering. Experience includes an extensive knowledge of stormwater management, environmental permitting, natural resource management, stream and wetland restoration, hydrology and hydraulics. During her career she has worked with both the public and private sector in various roles including her time with Metro Nashville Stormwater. While serving as an engineer for Metro Stormwater she was integral in the development and implementation of the stormwater regulations and guidelines. She assisted in developing the water quality regulations that are used in Metro and a majority of middle Tennessee including the management of water quality, quantity, attenuation and removal of pollutants. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager and assists communities with floodplain regulations, environmental resource recovery, emergency preparedness and response to flooding.

Alan Thompson, PLA, LEED AP | Ragan-Smith Associates

Alan Thompson has 26 years of experience in land development consulting with specialized knowledge in landscape architecture including urban land planning, zoning entitlements, landscape design, innovative storm water design and sustainable site design. Further experience includes large scale land use planning, zoning ordinance development, and land planning for commercial, retail, office, industrial, institutional, multi-family, single family, and mixed-use developments. Alan currently serves on the ULI Building Healthy Places Committee, the Connect Mid TN Steering Committee, the City of Franklin Development Services Advisory Commission, Bellevue YMCA Board, Bellevue Harpeth Chamber of Commerce Board and Executive Committee, and the Nashville Christian School Board of Directors. Alan worked on many projects in the past 26 years and understands they are all different and unique in their own way. Like wise developing a solution for each challenge is unique as well. Alan believes you must be willing to think outside the box in order to arrive at best solution. Simply by adopting a mentality that ask the question "How can we solve this issue?" instead of focusing on all the reasons why you can't, you lay a positive foundation which will produce a productive outcome.

Future of Nashville's Music Row

Joni Priest Williams | Metro Nashville Planning Department Design Studio

Joni Priest Williams manages the Nashville Planning Department's Design Studio, focusing on the regeneration of Nashville's urban neighborhoods and corridors through planning and zoning efforts. By creating, refining, and implementing various form-based zoning codes, Joni oversees growth and preservation in neighborhoods as diverse as Downtown Nashville, West End Park, and Lenox Village. Joni began her career in the Design Studio in 2005, and then worked for four years in the private sector as director of planning for a local architecture firm and as a consultant in real estate and development. She returned to public service in the Planning Department in 2018. Joni holds a master's degree and an undergraduate degree in architecture from Judson University.

Greg Claxton | Metro Nashville Planning Department

Greg Claxton joined the Planning Department in 2012 as a Community Planner working on NashvilleNext. In 2016, he began leading the Department's Capital Planning and Grants team, focusing on aligning Nashville's capital improvements and implementation efforts with the General Plan. Greg previously worked as a planner in Austin, Texas, and Springfield, Illinois, and in survey research and program evaluation at the University of Nevada, Reno, and University of Maryland, College Park. He has a master's degree in Urban Planning and a certificate in Industrial Ecology from the University of Michigan and a bachelor of arts in Sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

TDOT Railway Safety

Erik Andersen | TDOT Multimodal Division

Erik Andersen is a professional engineer who manages the Rail Crossing Safety Program in the Multimodal Division of TDOT. Erik has worked at TDOT for over 16 years and his experience includes management of statewide highway maintenance, disaster response, roadway safety, bridge design, and roadway planning. Prior to TDOT, Erik worked with wastewater treatment plants, industrial process control, and hazardous materials management. Erik is a Tennessee native, growing up in Memphis and now resides in Nashville.

TDOT Corridor Management Agreements

Jonathan Russell | TDOT Long Range Planning

Jonathan is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a BS in Geosciences, concentrating in Geography/GIS with a double minor of History and Political Science. Jonathan spent five years as a public school teacher in Tennessee before obtaining his Masters in City and Regional Planning from the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University. Prior to joining TDOT, Jonathan worked in land-use planning for the City of Dublin, OH, and for the Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation Department.

Ian Preston | TDOT Long Range Planning

Ian holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis with a focus on transportation planning. He also has a background in Environmental Studies, having obtained his undergraduate degree in the field from Rhodes College and worked in the NEPA division at TDOT. Prior to his work with the State DOT Ian has interned with community development organizations in Memphis, concentrating on asset management, housing, and active transportation safety ordinances. Born and raised in New Orleans, LA, Ian has lived in Tennessee for over 12 years.

Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals Training

Kristen L. Corn | City Attorney, City of Brentwood

Kristen L. Corn has served as the City Attorney for the City of Brentwood since March 2018. Prior to joining the City, Kristen worked for the City of Franklin for over ten years, most recently serving as Assistant City Attorney. Kristen is a graduate of The University of Tennessee at Knoxville and the Nashville School of Law. She is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and is currently the chair of the Local Government Section. She is a past president of the Williamson County Bar Association and is also active in the Tennessee Municipal Attorney Association and the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

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Legal & Ethics Session

Deborah Fisher | Tennessee Coalition for Open Government

Deborah Fisher is executive director of Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, a non-partisan non-profit organization, specializing in the state's open meetings and open records laws and press access to court proceedings and records. Fisher spent 25 years as a journalist, holding positions of reporter, city editor, business editor, managing editor and executive editor. She managed news teams across topics, including business reporting, public policy and data reporting. She worked 10 years at The Tennessean, where she was senior editor for news, and 15 years in Texas where for part of this time she served as vice president and executive editor at the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. She is a past president of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and is currently on its board as its FOI chair. She graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in journalism from Baylor University. She is co-author of a booklet with former Tennessee Press Association public policy director Frank Gibson, Keys to Open Government: A guide to Tennessee's open records and open meetings laws.

Bill Terry, FAICP

Bill Terry is currently working as an independent consultant in comprehensive planning, growth planning and land use controls. His consultant practice has included: consultant expert for two Administrative Law Judge Panels in disputed growth plans under Public Chapter 1101, the Tennessee Growth Planning law; revisions to the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and sign ordinance for the City of Goodlettsville; planning assistance, zoning revisions and land use policy plan for the Town of Nolensville; expert witness for Farmer & Luna in HNA, Inc. v. Lincoln County Planning Commission; expert witness for Stephen T. Greer, PC in Coulson v. City of Dunlap; consultant to Cumberland Region Tomorrow providing background data for the Quality Growth Toolbox; associate consultant with the national firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Inc. on Tennessee projects in Goodlettsville, Goodlettsville Retail Development Strategy, and Lebanon, a new comprehensive zoning ordinance; registered lobbyist for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association; consultant on PC 1101, growth planning and legislative assistance for the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Prior to forming Bill Terry & Associates, Bill was the Planning Director for the City of Goodlettsville. Bill is a charter member of the American Planning Association and a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP). He serves as the TAPA Chapter Lobbyist and is a member of Tennessee Planning Leadership Council.

Age-Friendly Communities and States Network

Rebecca B. Kelly | AARP

Rebecca B. Kelly has served as State Director for AARP Tennessee since 2005. In this role, Rebecca oversees the work of a team of eight staff and more than 1,000 volunteers, who are among the state's 640,000-plus members. Rebecca has spoken consistently and passionately on issues of interest to people over 50 and their families and has served on numerous regional and national working groups with AARP. Most recently, she served on Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's Task Force on Aging. Prior to serving as State Director, Rebecca worked for nine years as Associate State Director, focusing on volunteer management and community organizing. Before moving to Nashville in 1996, Rebecca served as AARP's Southeast Regional Economic Security Representative for 14 states, managed Senior Employment Programs for Louisiana's State Unit on Aging, was a Teaching Associate at Louisiana State University and, just prior to joining AARP, served as a consultant to older worker programs for the Georgia Department of Labor. Rebecca has more than 30 years of experience in the field of aging. She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia State University.

Mitchell Olszewski | Retired, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Mitchell Olszewski retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in January 2014. During his 38 years at ORNL he served as a research engineer and a line manager before assuming program management and strategic planning duties. He first became involved in community activities when he served on several United Way allocations panels. After his six-year term expired he was requested to work with new applicants on an ad hoc basis and help them understand and prepare for the review process. Olszewski also contributes via his position as the AARP Volunteer Lead for Knoxville. An example activity is a current project to develop a caregiver portal cooperatively with the East TN AAAD office and the provider community in Knoxville. He is also the state volunteer lead for the AARP Age Friendly Community Network (AFCN) and chairs the AARP TN Livability Council. In this capacity he develops the AFCN effort in TN and works with communities assisting them in joining the AARP AFCN program.

Landscape Architecture for Planners

Brett Smith, RLA, AICP | Ragan-Smith Associates

Brett Smith is a native of Middle Tennessee and received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Auburn University in 1991. He is a Registered Landscape Architect in seven states and also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1994. Using his experience, as both Landscape Architect and Planner, Brett has created a 28 year career in Master Planning, Park and Public project Design, and Residential/Commercial Site Development (primarily planning/zoning aspects) and detailed landscape architecture for projects throughout the southeast. He has been active in various organizations including the American Society of Landscape Architecture, the American Planning Association, Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, and was the recipient of the Tennessee American Society of Landscape Architecture Merit Award for the Master Plan of Centennial Park in Nashville. Brett is a Vice President at Ragan-Smith Associates and oversees the landscape architecture department. Brett has helped write several jurisdictions' Zoning Ordinances and Subdivision Regulations, as well as consulted as Cheatham County Planner for Cheatham County for 6 years.

Heather Grimes, PLA | Ragan-Smith Associates

Heather Grimes received her landscape architecture degree from the University of Georgia and has over 7 years of experience. She is also a registered Landscape Architect. She has expertise in both large and small scale aspects of the landscape architecture practice. From large scale land planning and project entitlement all the way down to detailed courtyard hardscape and landscape plans for projects such as the TSC Corporate Headquarters. Heather has become well versed in projects that require knowledge of zoning and land planning issues as well as landscape ordinances and signoff criteria. As well as design, Heather has experience in construction detailing, field inspection and installation. This has given a well-rounded understanding of different aspects of projects from the early stages of development down to the final permitting/sign-off approvals.

Accessory Dwelling Units

Amanda Rose, AICP | City of Franklin

Amanda Rose is the Preservation Planner for the City of Franklin. In this capacity, she serves as staff liaison to the Franklin Historic Zoning Commission and the Franklin Civil War Historical Commission. Previously, Rose worked on archival and oral history projects with the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center, the James E. Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University, and the Vanderbilt University Eskind Biomedical Library. A Tennessee native, she received her graduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University's Public History Program in 2010, where she assisted with projects at the Center for Historic Preservation. Rose is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Preservation Trust and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Robin Zeigler | City of Franklin

Robin Zeigler is the historic zoning administrator for the Metro Nashville Historic Zoning Commission. She was formerly senior historic preservation planner for the Planning Division of the Salt Lake City Corporation and the preservation planner for the City of Bowling Green in Kentucky. While in Kentucky, she served as the vice-chairperson of the state-wide non-profit, Preservation Kentucky and was an adjunct professor at Western Kentucky University. Currently she is a National Alliance of Preservation Commission's trainer (Commissioner Assistance and Mentoring Program) and serves on the Training Committee. She is a past co-chair of the organization's biennial conference and a former board member. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University's Public History Program where she worked for the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.