

**2008 National Conference
Semi-Annual Business Meeting/Reception**

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

62 in Attendance (per sign-in sheet)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Noel Comeaux, TPD Chair, called the meeting to order, reviewed the meeting agenda, and facilitated introductions by the TPD Executive Board and meeting attendees.

II. Chair's Report

- Noel Comeaux introduced the mission of the TPD, "to become the go-to resource for transportation planning both within the profession and to external sources." The division is focusing on providing a network to our members and encouraging others to see members as an information resource.
- The Division hosted two by-rights sessions for the 2008 APA National Conference:
 - Congestion Pricing 101
 - You Can Get There from Here: Retrofitting Roadways for Pedestrians and Bicyclists
- The Division also co-sponsored a booth in the Exhibitor's Hall to raise awareness of TPD and encourage membership. With much positive feedback, the Division will co-sponsor a booth at next year's conference.
- The Division's website has been reorganized and now includes information about division activities and reports, job opportunities (at no cost), and discounts for Elsevier Journals.
- The Division is always seeking volunteers to participate in activities. Specific volunteer opportunities will be discussed throughout the meeting.

III. Legislative/Policy Committee

- Dan Reuter reported on the APA's Transportation Policy Paper and its relation to the legislative actions on the upcoming SAFETLU 2/Green TEA Bill. APA distributed a transportation policy survey to members. Of the approximately 400 responses, about half were transportation planners, which provided significant input on developing the Transportation Policy Paper



(TPP). The TPP outlines key policies APA endorses and can be used as a preliminary primer on transportation priorities. Dan Reuter will be leading this effort throughout the coming year on the APA's complete TPP. Dan Reuter requested volunteers from TPD be active participants in the TPP working groups.

- Jason Jordan presented APA's legislative affairs efforts and encouraged all members to utilize the TPP when working with elected officials. APA is available to help members develop local policy briefings and invited members to attend the Policy and Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in October. APA is also coordinating with like-minded organizations to present a unified front in the upcoming SAFETLU 2/Green TEA bill, including T4America Coalition and the Complete Streets Coalition. Legislative field hearings will also be held, to encourage participation without requiring trips to Washington, DC.
- David Fields, TPD Secretary, reported on the APA Climate Change Paper:
 - Input provided by the Division on the draft was adopted directly in the Paper, with support from the Delegate Assembly.
 - The Paper addressed significant policies related to transportation on both the national and local levels, ranging from long and short-haul freight rail, intercity rail, regional transit, and local parking policies.
 - The Paper will be revised and posted for additional comments.
 - The Paper can immediately be used as a guide in draft form, for planners to quote as APA's proposed national policy.

IV. Vice-Chair's Report

Hilary Perkins, TPD Vice-Chair, outlined TPD's new Mentor Program which will include:

- A process for how mentees can select a mentor based on geography and specialization;
- A timeline for the mentor/mentee relationship;
- A review period for both parties to decide if the relationship is beneficial; and
- Guidelines for the objectives and anticipated time commitment of the program.

An e-mail blast for mentors and mentees is anticipated within the next month. A program handbook will be posted on the TPD website explaining the program.

Hilary also mentioned the TPD Blog – apa-tpd.blogspot.com – and encouraged participants to read and participate (it has an RSS feed, so changes can be updated in an aggregator (such as Bloglines).

V. Treasurer's Report

Todd Ashby, TPD Treasurer, reported on the state of the Division's finances:

- The Division budget was approved in January.
- We are currently in line with our budget projections, including a slight drawdown of our reserve funds to pay for the Division's National Conference Sponsorship Booth, shirts, and mailings.

VI. Secretary's Report

David Fields reported on two topics: the TPD Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) program

- The PAC is a TPD resource comprised of TPD members who can serve as transportation experts in response to requests from APA or the media on different topics. The PAC currently has 25 members and is open to any TPD member with at least 10 years of transportation planning experience. Interested TPD members should e-mail David Fields, including their résumé and areas of expertise.
- In response to member concern voiced at the January TPD meeting regarding the AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) program, the Executive Board surveyed the wider membership regarding the CM program. The survey received a 20% response rate and highlighted members' issues. The Executive Board utilized this input and submitted a letter to APA and AICP, focused on the following three concerns:
 - Registration of Educational Providers;
 - Relevance of CM Programs; and
 - Cost and Equity.

The Division's letter was submitted to APA and AICP in advance of the Annual Meeting. Paul Farmer, APA President, has agreed to meet with the TPD Executive Board as an opportunity to provide more direct input. Attendees expressed appreciation regarding the letter and the Board's actions.

TPD is also investigating opportunities to provide transportation programming that would be eligible for CM credits. Two proposed options include:



- TPD reimburses local APA chapters for their costs for providing CM-eligible transportation programming, as long as the chapter does not charge members for the credits. For this option, TPD would allocate a budget, distribute a letter to all chapters explaining the offer, and evaluate funding requests with respect to topic and geographic diversity.
- TPD hires a consultant to develop transportation-related courses. Local chapters could then pay for the courses to be taught in each area. This option would be more costly to the Division.

Attendees provided the following recommendations:

- CM credit should be provided to AICP's who teach a course; and
- CM credit should be provided to AICP's who write articulates published in an APA-affiliated publication.

VII. Student Paper Awards

Professor Black presented awards to students for excellent transportation planning research. Award winners in attendance presented a synopsis of their research and answered questions.

- First Prize: "Congestion Pricing on Doyle Drive," by Laura Stonehill, UC Berkeley (not present);
- Second Prize: "Analysis and Future Direction of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy," by Philbert Wong, USC (present); and
- Honorable Mention: "The Elusive Connection between Density and Transit Use," by Steve Hands, UIC (present).

VIII. Membership Committee Report

Noel Comeaux reported that Madhu Narayanasamy has been named as the new Chair of the Membership Committee. Madhu was instrumental in designing the TPD polo shirt (for sale) and will continue Division efforts to work with local chapters and other divisions in coordination of future activities. The Membership Committee's focus in the next year is to increase membership.

IX. Newsletter Editor's Report

Kerry Ashby, TPD Newsletter Editor, reported that the newsletter is intended to further the Division's goals of providing members with information and expanding the Division's reputation as a go-to resource. Newsletters include technical articles, Division activities, and profiles of members. Copies of the



current issue (Spring 2008) were distributed and it is available on-line. The next issue will be Summer 2008 and will include conference activities; all members are encouraged to recommend topics and write articles.

X. APA Airport Committee

Charnelle Hicks, Airport Committee Chair, reported that TPD is actively involved in re-establishing its airport-related activities. Charnelle attended the Airport Cities 2007 Conference in Singapore in September 2007 on behalf of APA and TPD; the presentation was very well received, as noted by Banu Kannu of IBC Asia (S) Pte Ltd, who organized the conference. Charnelle was the only US representative. She noted that the Division is putting together a proposal to APA, possibly Planner's Advisory Service, for Airports-in-the-Region funds. The AIR initiative educates planners and elected officials on best practices to prevent the closing of both hub/commercial airports and general aviation facilities due to local land use issues.

XI. Research Committee

Noel Comeaux reported the Research Committee is focused on developing transportation criterion for sustainable development. Members should submit ideas via the Division's blog.

XII. 2009 Elections

Noel Comeaux reported that a call for staffing the 2009 Elections Committee returned many volunteers. Noel will be in touch soon to outline a process and responsibilities.

XIII. New Business

One TPD member asked the attendees their response to the calls for leadership for national transportation and infrastructure policies, from the multiple speakers at the conference. Attendees responded with enthusiasm regarding the call to action.