



APA Transportation Planning Division  
Business Meeting and Reception  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 16, 2007

2008 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting  
January 15, 2008, 5:45PM

22 in Attendance at Call to Order

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**II. Chair's Report**

- Noel Comeaux reported that the Division had been continuing several initiatives started under the past leadership. Each item will be discussed by the Board members leading the effort.
- The Executive Board is currently drafting the Annual Report, which will be submitted to APA by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- TPD's Business Meeting and Reception at the 2008 APA National Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.
- TPD submitted and had approved 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
- David Fields summarized the new AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) program:
  - AICP members are responsible to earn 32 CM credits every two years.
  - For an organization's course to be available for CM credit, the organization must apply to AICP and pay a fee.
  - APA chapters and divisions are in the process of organizing CM courses.

Attendees then voiced significant concern regarding the new CM program. Aside from attending the APA National Conference, few transportation-related



courses are available. Those present voiced strong concern that transportation conferences (such as TRB) and courses offered by government or not-for-profit organizations should be available for CM credit without requiring the sponsoring agency to pay for the certification. Since external agencies are likely to pass that cost on to AICP members, this procedure adds a financial burden to many planners, and may be discriminatory against young planners. Many attendees have expressed their doubt about remaining AICP-certified and instead become certified as an ITE Transportation Planner.

Attendees voted for the Executive Committee to survey the complete TPD membership regarding their opinion of this issue. If the majority is unhappy, the Executive Committee is authorized to write a letter to the AICP Board of Directors protesting the new process. This letter is to be submitted in time for the 2008 APA Annual Conference.

### **III. Legislative/Policy Committee**

Dan Reuter presented the following transportation-related issues from APA's Legislative and Policy Committee:

- APA distributed a transportation policy survey to members. Of the approximately 400 responses, about half were transportation planners. The responses indicated progressive positions on transportation policies including:
  - Prioritization of energy efficiency;
  - General support for transportation demand management over expansion of roadways; and
  - Support for roadway tolling.
- APA is currently drafting a Climate Change/Global Warming Policy which will be available at the 2008 Annual Conference.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission (created by Congress in 2005) released a report recommending fundamental changes in the way transportation is planned and funded in the U.S. The report can be found at: <http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org>

### **IV. Vice-Chair's Report**

Hilary Perkins 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.

A call for mentors will be distributed in the next few months.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

Noel Comeaux presented the TPD's proposed budget for 2008, highlighting the following:

- Funds unspent from last year have been rolled over into this year's budget;
- A portion of the unused budget from last year has been allocated to the Executive Committee's travel to the 2008 National Conference (airfare and one night of hotel); and
- \$5,000 has been allocated for a TPD research project related to a transportation project and available to a TPD member. TPD plans to integrate its research efforts with other divisions/chapters.

The budget was approved by a vote of 11-2, with the following amendment: "The Executive Board shall appoint a TPD Research Committee which shall draft guidelines for TPD research, peer review, and how the funds may be awarded, to maximize the value of the research grant. This Committee and their recommendations shall be adopted by the Executive Board prior to the distribution of the \$5,000 allocated in the current budget."

#### **VI. Secretary's Report**

David Fields reported on the Policy Advisory Committee. 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 experience. Interested TPD members should e-mail David Fields, including their résumé and areas of expertise.

#### **VII. Membership Committee Report**

Noel Comeaux covered the Membership Committee for Ikroop Kaur, Chair. He first noted that TPD has developed several logo options for polo shirts to be sold



at the 2008 National Conference. He also noted Ikroop's efforts to contact other division chairs and chapter presidents to further integrate TPD's efforts.

**VIII. Newsletter Editor's Report**

Noel Comeaux reported that TPD has published two newsletters since the 2007 National Conference. Extra copies were offered to meeting attendees.

**IX. Website Report**

Noel Comeaux showed that the new TPD website is up and running, including information about division activities and reports, job opportunities (at no cost), and discounts for Elsevier Journals. Attendees requested a policy be established for advertisements on the website, limiting postings to transportation-related employment and research opportunities.

**X. APA Airport Committee**

In lieu of Charnelle Hick's (Chair) attendance, Noel reported that TPD is actively involved in re-establishing its airport-related activities. Charnelle Hicks attended the Airport Cities 2007 Conference in Singapore in September 2007 on behalf of APA and TPD. She was the only US representative. Noel also noted that TPD lost the Division Council's funds for the Airports-in-the-Region's program, yet plans to get it back.

**XI. New Business**

Finally, TPD is looking for volunteers to organize the 2009 Elections for its Executive Committee. Those who wish to assist cannot run for office.