



# Transportation Planning Division Benchmarking Report



2006 – 2007

## Reporting Periods:

- Annual Report – 2006 through April 2007
- 2007 Annual Work Plan through April 2008
- Financial Reports –
  - 12-month period from October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006
  - October 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007

## Attachments:

- 2007 Annual Work Plan
- Financial Report for fiscal year 2006 (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006)
- Financial Report YTD from October 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007
- Minutes – Business Meetings held since the last Performance Report
- 2007 Annual Business Meeting Agenda
- Member Survey and Results

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**Division Name:** Transportation Planning Division

**Prepared by:** Lawrence Lennon, Chair

**Date:** May 1, 2007

## ***Membership Service Criteria***

### **Mission Statement**

The Transportation Planning Division exists to facilitate technical information sharing among member professionals who deal with the ways transportation effectively and efficiently moves people and goods, shapes urban form, affects economic vitality and impacts quality of life. The Division promotes professional communication among its own members, with other APA divisions and with other professional groups. We assess and make recommendations on policies and programs so as to derive the full public benefits of comprehensive and community-based planning that promote mobility and travel options.

In support of this mission, the Division's goals are to:

- Promote professional development and networking opportunities for members through high quality conference sessions and activities that are topical and relevant;
- Provide timely and useful communications to our members on a regular basis through various means;
- Promote the transportation planning profession as a valuable and rewarding career;
- Increase the value of the Division through professional development and social activities, technical and policy guidance and research activities, and



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- Support comprehensive transportation planning that reflects an understanding of social, physical and environmental relationships.

### **Communications**

#### ***Newsletters***

Editor: Ruth Fitzgerald

Newsletters were distributed electronically and are available on TPD's website. Newsletters were published in:

- January 2006
- April 2006
- September 2006
- February 2007

Volunteers contribute articles, prepare layout and design of the newsletter, proof read it, and publish it. The \$1000 stipend per issue does not cover the time required.

#### ***Website***

Web Master: Glen Duke

The division's website ([www.apa-tpd.org](http://www.apa-tpd.org)) is updated as needed, typically once a month but more often when events warrant. The website features TPD news and information (e.g. meeting minutes, agendas, work program/budget, bylaws, annual report, etc.), mission statement, contact information, links to transportation planning sites, previous newsletters, Airports in the Region notes and updates, student paper competition information and results, and periodic job postings. In 2007, TPD conducted officer elections via the website. The website is hosted separately by the division through hostway.com. TPD owns the apa-tpd.org domain name for another two years, subject to future renewals.

#### ***Listserv***

Manager: Hilary Perkins

The TPD listserv was administered by APA, and was used to make announcements to the division, such as for upcoming meetings and deadlines for conference sessions, etc. It also included job postings and availability of new reports or grant funds. During this reporting period, TPD replaced the ListServ with electronic communications provided by Vertical Response. Vertical Response, currently distributes APA's Interact, and will now be used for Division communications including newsletters, election notices, calls for proposals, meeting announcements, etc.



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### ***Member Survey***

Membership Chair: Noel Comeaux

In December 2006 TPD administered a 2006 TPD Member Survey. Noel Comeaux developed the survey questionnaire, reviewing it with APA, and arranging for its distribution under difficult circumstances. Noel is currently summarizing its findings. Please contact him if you have not received an e-mail link to the survey.

Approximately 25% of 1500 questionnaires were returned. In general, members would like TPD to increase our visibility both inside and outside the planning community and provide a greater variety of member benefits. Clearly these are our challenges for the years ahead. A detailed analysis of the survey findings are attached.

One immediate benefit of the survey has been to reinvigorate TPD's membership drive and mentor program. As a result of the survey, several members have volunteered to serve as mentors and liaisons to local planning schools and a mentor/mentee database is under development.

### **Conference Sessions/Workshops**

Vice-Chair: Hilary Perkins

#### **2007**

- Noël Comeaux, Chair, TPD Membership Committee, represented the Division in Student Facilitated Discussions held on Sunday, April 15. The discussion, organized by the APA Students Representative Council, focused on the professional planning experience.
- Todd Ashby, TPD Treasurer, presented division activities and benefits to prospective members on Tuesday April 17 in the Pavilion of the Exhibitor's Hall.
- Larry Lennon, TPD Chair, moderated a session entitled, "Transportation Development Partnerships" on Monday, April 16.
- Hilary Perkins, TPD Vice-Chair moderated a session entitled, "Thinking about Congestion" on Monday, April 16.

#### **2006**

- Larry Lennon, TPD Chair, moderated a session entitled, "Sustainability in Public Transportation" on Tuesday, April 25.
- Hilary Perkins, TPD Vice-Chair moderated a session entitled, "Planning it Safe" on Sunday, April 23.

Session proposals announcements and deadlines were noticed through the newsletter and website. TPD solicits proposal ideas through the same means, with the division's Vice Chair responsible for reviewing, recommending, developing and organizing sessions.



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### **Meetings**

The division holds two business meetings each year, one at the Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington, DC in January, and the other at the APA National Planning Conference.

TPD Executive Committee conference calls and electronic communications focused on a variety of topics including 2007 elections, membership drive/member survey, newsletter, ListServ alternatives, work plan development, budget preparation, student paper competition, website improvements, airport committee work, session proposals, rising costs of APA membership / conference registration, AICP certification maintenance and transportation planning certification.

### **Outreach**

TPD's collaboration efforts with allied organizations include those within APA and external organizations. Examples are as follows:

- The Airports-in-the-Region initiative, organized by TPD, is being conducted in partnership with APA's Divisions Council, and enjoyed support from several divisions, including Intergovernmental Affairs, ENRE, Economic Development, Federal Planning and STAR divisions.
- The TPD's annual Student Paper Competition fosters a relationship with academic planners via promotional and outreach efforts with ACSP and the PLANET listserv.
- TPD, through its Airports Committee, has established relationships with airport-related organizations like ACI-NA and AAAE, which is furthering a dialogue about airport-land use planning and compatibility. These relationships will add credibility and buy-in for the Airports-in-the-Region work plan. TPD supported APA in the *Transportation Planning Excellence Awards*, which APA co-sponsored with the US DOT.
- Through its former secretary, Larry Fabian, TPD has developed a working relationship with the Advanced Transit Association (ATRA). ATRA members have attended several of the division's business meetings/receptions.

### ***Operational Criteria***

#### **Membership**

Chair: Noel Comeaux

A Membership Committee was formed in 2006 with Noel Comeaux as Chair. This committee has been very active, developing a new TPD brochure, and conducting a member survey, in 2006. As an outgrowth of these efforts, TPD has new mentoring and outreach programs are under development. Unfortunately, membership declined by approximately 60 members in 2006. The high cost of APA and AICP membership, and annual meeting registration, has been noted by members on several occasions as deterring membership and meeting attendance.



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### **Elections**

Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were held electronically in March – April 2007. Current officers and their terms:

#### **Executive Committee**

Immediate Past Chair:

- Whit Blanton (2005-2006)
- Lawrence Lennon (2007-2008)

Chair:

- Lawrence Lennon (2005-2006)
- Noel Comeaux (2007-2008)

Vice-Chair:

- Hilary Perkins (2005-2008)

Secretary:

- Lawrence Fabian (2005-2006)
- David Fields (2007-2008)

Treasurer:

- Todd Ashby (2005-2008)

Efforts to identify new leaders primarily focus on business meeting/reception attendance and active involvement in the newsletter writing articles or involvement in committees. The chair will occasionally call or email members to invite them to participate in efforts to respond to requests from APA or other organizations.

### **Financial Reports**

Balance of \$2,570 as of December 31, 2006. Spreadsheets attached.

### **Bylaws**

No further action required at this time.

### **Division Representation**

Division staff attended the following:

- APA Fall Leadership Meeting – November 7, 2006 Fort Worth, TX Larry Lennon
- APA National Planning Conference/TPD Business Meeting – TPD Executive Committee
- TRB Annual Meeting/TPD Business Meeting – TPD Executive Committee



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During the year, TPD representatives made presentations at several conferences to promote AIR activities to traditional aviation organizations including the Airports Consultants Council. In addition, TPD, working with APA's Public Affairs Department, has fostered working relationships with the Air Transport Association (ATA), Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA), the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and other domestic and international organizations.

In May 2006, Dan Wong spoke before the Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) Sixth National Aviation System Planning Symposium, on AIR, and in June 2006, he participated in a panel on TRB's Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP).

In July 2006, two members of the Airports Committee, Stephanie Ward and Kent McLemore participated in the Airport Consultants Council/Federal Aviation Administration Summer Workshop Series on airport compatible land use/zoning.

### **Governance**

The TPD Executive Committee's participated in developing the Annual Work Plan, budget, annual meeting agenda, monitoring division activities, etc. through conference calls and e-mails.

### **Volunteers/Committee Chairs**

Newsletter Editor:

- Ruth Fitzgerald (2005-2007)

Webmaster:

- Krishna Veeragandham (2005)
- Glen Duke (2006-2007)

Student Paper Competition:

- Ruth Steiner (2005)
- Jianling Li (2007)
  - Robert Bush
  - Karen Lamberton
  - Kate Garwood
  - Mary Kihl

Membership Committee:

- Noel Comeaux (2005-2007)

Airports Committee:

- Dan Wong (2005-2007)

Elections:

- Bernard Au / Ikroop Kaur

Volunteers will be presented with certificates of appreciation.



## Transportation Planning Division Benchmarking Report



2006 – 2007

### State of the Division

- The Transportation Planning Division (TPD) continues to be the largest of APA's specialty divisions, with about 1,450 members. Membership has remained reasonably consistent over the past several years. The division is very diverse, with transportation specialists and generalists with various backgrounds who have an interest or job responsibilities in transportation planning. The division is about equally represented between the public and private sectors. It has maintained a consistently active work program and is in good financial shape. The division continues to promote collaboration among fellow divisions and with allied organizations.
- Benefits of Division membership include regular communications on topical transportation planning issues via a robust newsletter, opportunities to participate in policy and research initiatives via committees, and networking opportunities at two business meetings/receptions each year.

### Successes

- Successful programs include the Student Paper Competition, which continues to enjoy a high number of quality papers, and the Airports-in-the-Region initiative, which is slowly building relationships with airport-related organizations and developing best practices guidance on airport – land use & transportation planning efforts. Other successes include collaboration with other divisions on sessions and newsletter articles, and hosting well-attended receptions for members twice a year.

### Challenges

- Major concerns facing the division's field of planning include funding levels; improving coordination and joint planning with airports and their host communities; integrating land use and transportation to make places more livable, safe and healthy for all users of the transportation system; continuing education and training for practitioners working for MPOs, in rural areas and in local government, and planning commissioners.
- The only administrative and organizational challenges facing the division currently is ensuring a smooth transition of new officers, improving volunteer opportunities for members, promoting the division (and transportation planning in general), and growing membership.
- Efforts are underway to achieve those objectives by appointing members to serve on the above-referenced committees and continuing teleconferences among officers.



## **APA Transportation Planning Division**

### **FY 2007 WORK PROGRAM**

#### **Introduction**

The following work program describes the Transportation Planning Division's planned activities for the American Planning Association's 2007 Fiscal Year. It is intended to support the Division's mission and accomplish its goals, and is consistent with the Division's by-laws, as last amended in March 2001.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Transportation Planning Division's mission is summarized below:

"The Transportation Planning Division exists to facilitate technical information sharing among member professionals who deal with the ways transportation effectively and efficiently moves people and goods, shapes urban form, affects economic vitality and impacts quality of life. The Division promotes professional communication among its own members, with other APA divisions and with other professional groups. We assess and make recommendations on policies and programs so as to derive the full public benefits of comprehensive and community-based planning that promote mobility and travel options."

#### **Division Goals**

In support of this mission, the Division's goals are to:

- Promote professional development and networking opportunities for members through high quality conference sessions and activities that are topical and relevant;
- Provide timely and useful communications to our members on a regular basis through various means;
- Promote the transportation planning profession as a valuable and rewarding career;
- Increase the value of the Division through professional development and social activities, technical and policy guidance and research activities, and
- Support comprehensive transportation planning that reflects an understanding of social, physical and environmental relationships.



## **Work Program**

### ***Communications***

- Produce and distribute electronically four (4) quarterly newsletters
  - Provide all members with e-mail notification of the newsletters
  - Send postcard to members with faulty e-mail to about newsletter availability
  - Increase the number and diversity of technical articles per issue, and provide opportunities for members to submit articles, viewpoints and other content.
  - Increase the amount of paid advertising to augment division revenues
- Maintain and enhance the Division's website
  - Update site at least monthly with news, conferences and job ads
- Maintain the TPD's electronic Listserv to facilitate information sharing among members
- Explore other web based communications options (e.g. Vertical Response)
- Distribute the Division's brochure to members, potential members and outside organizations
- Conduct membership drive to increase membership
- Participate in APA's Messaging/Communications Task Force and support the Communications Strategy through Division reinforcement of APA's message and outreach with key audiences within and outside of the planning profession

### ***Programs***

- Continue the Division's student paper competition and award cash prize(s) in 2007
- Organize and conduct a minimum of two by-right sessions at APA's National Conference
- Propose a transportation planning-related track at the 2008 National APA conference
- Continue to lead the APA Divisions Council Airports-in-the-Region (AIR) initiative
  - Develop and implement "best practices" survey
  - The Division's Airports Committee will assist in the implementation of the AIR work program, including preparation of newsletter articles, technical activities, outreach with related professions and other activities, as appropriate.
- Support APA's education efforts by conducting one or more education-related activities in 2007
  - Develop and conduct an education assessment of available training and resources, and develop a program for practitioner-focused education that



addresses needs of younger professionals and, potentially, citizen planners and elected officials.

- Hold two Division “idea exchanges” (a.k.a. business meetings) and receptions each year (i.e. Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting and APA National Conference)
- Expand volunteer opportunities by establishing a TPD mentoring program to assist students and new planners with professional guidance and advice in making career choices
- Participate in at least three activities (e.g., sessions, workshops, white papers, etc.) as a representative for APA (may collaborate with another APA Division or Chapter)
- Participate in at least one activity (e.g., sessions, workshops, technical assistance, white papers, etc.) with an outside organization such as US DOT, ITE, ASCE, ASLA, etc.
- Increase the visibility and activity of the Planners Advisory Council

#### ***Legislative/Policy***

- Continue to provide support to APA National and advocate for sound transportation planning programs and increased funding
  - Provide support, as needed, to states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on transportation policy and funding issues
  - Monitor development of transportation planning rules and program guidelines, and prepare official comments whenever necessary
- Work in collaboration with APA National and outside partners to promote best transportation planning practices in federal, state and local programs
- Provide assistance, as needed, to APA’s Legislative & Policy Committee

#### ***Administration***

- Continue to maintain a financially feasible budget and track costs over time
- Continue to prepare meeting minutes and make them available to all members via the website
- Use conference calls to maintain communications among officers and reduce travel costs whenever possible
- Prepare an annual report on Division activities for APA and Division members
- Actively participate in the APA Divisions Council and other APA leadership functions

**Transportation Planning Division Financial Report**

**October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006**

<b>Bank balance(s) as of closing date for this report.</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Balance(s)</b>
Checking		\$13,270.70
Savings		\$0.00
Other		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$13,270.70</b>

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Rebates	Quarter 1 - 10/1 to 12/31	\$7,482.75	
	Quarter 2 - 1/1 to 3/31	\$7,298.25	
	Quarter 3 - 4/1 to 6/30	\$5,271.25	
	Quarter 4 - 7/1 to 9/30	\$5,287.20	
	<b>Rebate</b>		\$25,339.45
Grants	Division Grant		\$2,500.00
Other *	Newsletter Ad		\$85.00
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$27,924.45</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Newsletter	Design	\$4,400.00	
	Printing	\$0.00	
	Handling	\$0.00	
	Postage	\$0.00	
	<b>Newsletter Expense</b>		\$4,400.00
Annual Business Meeting	Refreshments	\$2,287.65	
	Printing	\$2,485.00	
	Postage	\$105.00	
	Other	\$0.00	
	<b>Annual Meeting Expense</b>		\$4,877.65
Travel - Officer(s)	APA National Planning Conference	\$3,542.64	
	APA Fall Leadership Meetings	\$385.27	
	Other-Airports in the region travel	\$1,685.54	
	<b>Travel Expense</b>		\$5,613.45
<b>[Add other expense categories here, as needed.]</b>			
	Web Site		\$1,500.00
	Paper Competition		\$1,150.00
	TRB Meeting Refreshments		\$2,456.98
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$19,998.08</b>

<b>Revenue over (under) Expenses for reporting period:</b>	<b>\$7,926.37</b>
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**Transportation Planning Division Financial Report**

October 1, 2006-December31, 2006

<b>Bank balance(s) as of closing date for this report.</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Balance(s)</b>
Checking		\$15,941.88
Savings		\$0.00
Other		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$15,941.88</b>

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Rebates	Quarter 1 - 10/1 to 12/31	\$6,873.81	
	Quarter 2 - 1/1 to 3/31		
	Quarter 3 - 4/1 to 6/30		
	Quarter 4 - 7/1 to 9/30		
	<b>Rebate</b>		<b>\$6,873.81</b>
Grants	Division Grant		
Other *	Newsletter Ad		\$100.00
		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,973.81</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Newsletter	Design	\$0.00	
	Printing	\$0.00	
	Handling	\$0.00	
	Postage	\$0.00	
	<b>Newsletter Expense</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Annual Business Meeting	Refreshments		
	Printing		
	Postage		
	Other	\$0.00	
	<b>Annual Meeting Expense</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Travel - Officer(s)	APA National Planning Conference		601.66
	APA Fall Leadership Meetings		
	Other-Airports in the region travel		
	<b>Travel Expense</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>[Add other expense categories here, as needed.]</b>			
	Web Site		\$930.51
	Paper Competition		
	Vertical response		\$250.00
	TRB Meeting Refreshments		\$2,621.73
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,403.90</b>

<b>Revenue over (under) Expenses for reporting period:</b>	<b>\$2,569.91</b>
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**APA Transportation Planning Division**  
Business Meeting and Reception

**MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 22, 2007

**TRB 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
Washington Hilton, Military Room

15 in attendance\*

Chair Larry Lennon opened the meeting at 5:45pm, welcoming attendees and leading a round of introductions.

1. Lennon described the FY 2006 Work Program that was distributed to attendees. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to adopt the program.
  2. Officer elections will be held this year. Both volunteers to help with the process and those interested in seeking a position should contact Larry Lennon.
  3. Lennon has not heard back from APA about our concern for the rising cost of registration for the National conference. He will contact them again about this.
  4. Vice Chair Hilary Perkins reported that there will be a transportation planning workshop on Saturday April 14 at APA National. TPD's two sessions will be *Transportation Development Partnership* on Monday April 16 at 11AM, and *Thinking about Congestion* on Monday April 16 at 4:30PM. Noel Comeaux will represent TPD at the Student Facilitated Discussion on Sunday April 15 at 2:30PM.
- A switchover to Vertical Response for internal communication (e.g. Newsletter distribution) will happen, to be announced soon. The TPD ListServ has been re-established, but members must opt in anew. This will require clear communication to the membership.
5. Mary Kihl suggested more active outreach to involve newly graduated planners. There are many ways to pursue this. It was agreed that Vice Chair Hilary Perkins would work with Mary on this, and it will be discussed at National.
  6. Secretary Larry Fabian reported that Glen Duke is willing to continue maintain the TPD website. He also reported on activity of the Airports-in-the-Region initiative. Dan Wong represented APA on a FAA Airports-Land Use Compatibility program last year, and both he and Larry made presentations at the Passenger Terminal Expo in Ft. Lauderdale last December. It was agreed that Larry and Steve Kale would work on submitting Problem Statements for the second round of the ACRP program. Dan will be relinquishing the Chair at the National meeting.
  7. Treasurer Todd Ashby reported that there is a surplus of about \$6000 from last year and distributed a 2007 budget proposal. It was agreed to increase the amount for Student Awards to \$1750 and to add another \$500 for Student Outreach. It was moved, seconded and voted to adopt the budget as amended.



8. Jianling Li of the University of Texas at Arlington has graciously accepted to coordinate the annual Student Paper Competition. Mary Kihl and Karen Lamberton are assisting. It was agreed to no longer distinguish between undergraduate and graduate students. First prize will be \$1000 and second prize will be \$750. The deadline for submissions is February 1.

9. Noel Comeaux reported that a survey of our membership has been completed with 25% (354) responding. The big message to TPD leadership is: *Be more visible!* The Newsletter is the most important element of belonging to TPD. Other interesting facts: 59% of the responding members are AICP. Only 12% consider themselves active. 96% would recommend TPD membership to a colleague. 44% are interested in mentoring. Survey results will be posted on the TPD website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

\* Sign-in sheets on file.



**APA Transportation Planning Division**  
Business Meeting and Reception

**AGENDA**

**APA 2007 National Planning Conference**  
Monday, April 16, 2007; 5:45 – 9:00 PM  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 204B

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- |                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER                                     | L. Lennon  |
| 2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS                             | L. Lennon  |
| 3. CHAIR'S REPORT                                    | L. Lennon  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Status of 2007 Work Program |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TPD Election Results        |            |
| 4. PAST-CHAIR'S REPORT                               | W. Blanton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division's Council          |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AIR Initiative              |            |
| 5. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT                               | H. Perkins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APA Conference Activities   |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Response           |            |
| 6. TREASURER'S REPORT                                | T. Ashby   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Status of 2007 Budget       |            |
| 7. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT                        | L. Lennon  |
| 8. STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION                         | J. Li      |
| 9. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE                              | N. Comeaux |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Survey Findings      |            |
| 10. INCOMING CHAIR'S REPORT                          | N. Comeaux |
| 11. NEW BUSINESS                                     | All        |
| 12. ADJOURN                                          |            |



**APA Transportation Planning Division**  
Business Meeting and Reception

**MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 16, 2007

**APA 2007 National Planning Conference**  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 204B

44 in Attendance \*

**1. Chair's Report**

Larry Lennon reported that the Transportation Planning Division (TPD) has been very busy in 2007, with its Work Program and Budget approved at the January meeting at TRB and posted on the TPD website. He continued that the Division has held its two annual business meetings (i.e. TRB Annual Meeting and APA National Planning Conference), organized two sessions at National Conference (see Vice Chair's report), and conducted the annual Student Paper Competition (see below). One newsletter has been published in February 2007 with another due in May. The TPD website has been maintained and a new vendor, Vertical Response, retained for TPD electronic communications.

TPD members have been very active at the National Planning Conference. Noel Comeaux, Chair, Membership Committee, represented the Division in Student Facilitated Discussions held on Sunday, April 15. The discussion, organized by the APA Students Representative Council, focused on careers in transportation. On Monday, April 16, Vice Chair Hilary Perkins moderated a session entitled "Thinking about Congestion" while Chair Larry Lennon moderated a session on Transportation Development Partnerships. On Tuesday April 17, Todd Ashby, TPD Treasurer described TPD activities in the APA Pavilion.

**2. Elections Committee**

Bernie Au reported on TPD's recently completed elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A Call for Nominations was distributed to members on March 20, with nominations due March 27. Ballots were distributed via e-mail, with paper ballots mailed to those individuals who did not receive an e-ballot. The new Executive Committee consists of:

Immediate Past Chair: Larry Lennon  
Chair: Noel Comeaux  
Vice-Chair: Hilary Perkins  
Secretary: David Fields  
Treasurer: Todd Ashby

Larry Lennon thanked Bernie Au and Ikroop Kaur for running a successful election, and Whit Blanton, Larry Fabian, and Dan Wong, out-going Immediate Past President, Secretary and Airports Committee Chair, respectively, for their years of service. Whit Blanton continues to serve as Chair of the APA Divisions Council.



### **3. Past Chair/Division Council Chair Report**

Whit Blanton reported that discussions continue regarding AICP certification maintenance and the implementation of additional specialty certifications including one for transportation planning. In response to a question, Whit indicated that the Transportation Planning certification now offered by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is intended for junior practitioners while APA's certification will be geared to more seasoned professionals. APA has approved new reporting requirements for divisions including changes to annual work plans and budgets.

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

Hilary Perkins described TPD's two conference sessions: "Transportation Development Partnerships" and "Thinking about Congestion".

TPD has contracted with a new vendor (Vertical Response - <http://www.verticalresponse.com/>) for electronic communications. Vertical Response, currently distributes APA's Interact, and will now be used for Division communications including newsletters, election notices, calls for proposals, meeting announcements, etc.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Todd Ashby reported that TPD's current balance is about \$12,385 and that we are on budget.

### **6. Newsletter Editor's Report**

Larry Lennon reported for newsletter editor Ruth Fitzgerald who is working on housing in New Orleans. The February issue has been published, and the next issue will be distributed in May. Larry stressed that submissions for future publications are always welcome.

### **7. Student Paper Competition**

Larry Lennon reported for Student Paper Competition Chair Jiang Li. The winners are:

First Prize: "Structured and Spontaneous: Informal and Formal Influences on Traffic Safety in Ha Noi, Viet Nam" by Wendy Tao at UC Berkeley

Second Prize: "Transportation Implications of "Towne Centre" Redevelopment in Hunt Valley, MD" by Heather Strassberger at Rutgers University

Both papers will be published in the TPD newsletter.

Honorable Mention: "Spatial Methodology for Assessing the Distribution of Transportation Impacts Using an Environmental Justice Framework" by Nicholas Klein at U Penn

Honorable Mention: "SAFETEA-LU Earmarks in Minnesota: A Rural Advantage Minnesota's Other Growing Pork Industry" by Michael Smart, a former U Penn student and now a Ph.D student at UCLA.



### **8. Membership Committee Chair/Incoming Chair's Report**

Noel Comeaux reported on the findings of the Membership Survey which highlighted the need for a focus on marketing in the future to serve existing members.

### **9. New Business**

Ashraf Jan of the FAA reported on new funding opportunities for communities to conduct airfront planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

\* Sign-in sheets on file.



## Transportation Planning Division

### 2006 Member Survey

The Transportation Planning Division (TPD) 2006 Member Survey was conducted from mid-November through December, 2006. The survey questionnaire was distributed electronically to all TPD members, approximate 1500 surveys. The response rate was approximately 25%.

#### Key Finding

The intent of the survey was to determine what TPD could do to attract new members. It was discovered that TPD has not sufficiently engaged existing members. Individual comments included:

- "I am a new member of this division and have not yet determined what the benefits are."
- "I am not aware of any transportation-specific benefits except an infrequent newsletter"
- "I am not aware of their activities on a regular basis."
- "I am not familiar with its work."
- "I am not sure of how much I really get out of the TPD. I am considering not renewing my membership in 2007."
- "I couldn't explain what direct benefits the person would receive from joining -- they'd have to determine that for themselves."
- "I do not recall what you send out or do."
- "I don't know much about this. I'm new to APA (actually returning after a long absence). Please tell me more."

Therefore, the 2007 focus of the Executive Committee will be to beef up existing services.

#### Basic Statistics

Of the 1500 approximate respondents, 77% noted their primary responsibility as transportation planning. Most noted their transportation experience to be in urban and regional planning. Most who responded said they were employed by or as private consultants.

The good news is most who responded said they would recommend TPD to new, potential members. This means, while TPD needs to augment its current services, members feel they do receive benefits, including (in order) the newsletter, professional certification (AICP), networking forums (e.g., Annual National APA Conference), and more specific conference workshops/sessions pertinent to specific topics.

Of those who noted the newsletter, about 80% regularly review it and find the articles worthwhile. (Note that a new column highlighting existing members and their professions will begin in 2007.) Of those who noted the networking forums, almost 10% attend the National Conference and the TRB Annual Meeting every year. About 20% attend the



National Conference every few years (A major criticism has been the fee to attend), and about 10% attend the TRB Meeting.

Unfortunately, over 50% never attend the TRB Annual meeting; however, only 30% do not attend the National Conference. Pertinent to local networking opportunities, 75% do attend their regional/state conferences.

### **New Programs**

TPD started two new programs in 2005/6. These included Mentoring and Membership, the key driver for this survey. Of the respondents, about 55% noted they would be interested in mentoring a student or new planning professional. This program will gear up in 2007.

### **AICP**

60% of respondents report they are a member of American Institute of Certified Planners. Most (60%) support certification specific to transportation, yet less than half support certification within the TPD, or different types of transportation certification.

Finally, it is noteworthy that just under 80% support continued education to maintain their certification, passed at the 2007 National Conference by the APA Executive Board.