

PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY TODAY

APA

American Planning Association
Technology Division

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Technology Division of the American Planning Association

Conference 2009: Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

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Ken Snyder, Chair of IT Division

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Ken Snyder

This will be Ken Snyder's last newsletter as Chair of the Division. The newly elected leadership will take office as of APA National in Minneapolis.

Information on the new leadership is on page 9.

The Division thanks Ken for his two and a half years of excellent service!

Please visit the Division's new website at apatechnologydivision.org!

Cover images courtesy of flickr users (clockwise from top left): freewheelinbiker, skye 820, Collin Anderson, FaceMePLS, FaceMePLS, Mulad. All flickr images are Creative Commons attribute only images.

This is my last letter from the Chair. It has been a great two and a half years working with APA, Division Leadership, and Division members. Thanks to everyone that has contributed to the Division. I look forward to a fresh slate of ideas coming from our new elected leadership (see page 7) and our team of leadership volunteers. I also want to give special thanks to Jocelyn Hittle, our newsletter editor, who has done a yeoman's job with the newsletter and who will be passing on responsibilities to Rob Goodspeed and Steve Chiaramonte for future newsletters

One of our biggest accomplishments, more recently, has been the creation and hosting of a series

Technology Division webinars. So far we have hosted four webinar workshops including 3 on Sustainable Urbanism featuring nationally renowned author and practitioner, Doug Farr; and a session on Map mashups featuring Jennifer Cowley and Harsh Prakash. The Division will continue to offer webinars in three tracks: Technology for Planners 101, GIS for Planners 101, and Future Technologies. Watch our website for future sessions. As a result of our webinars, we have increased our membership by 84 members, a 20% increase!

This year we also appointed a new Website Chair, Steve Kokotas from MIG, who, with his colleagues, has created our new website www.apatechnologydivision.org. This will be the go-to place for our webinar offerings, and all Division resources, including the online newsletter.

At the National APA Conference in Minneapolis we have several things going on that should be of interest to members. First, the Division has sponsored several sessions (see page 3). We also have a booth at the conference where the theme will be innovative technologies for collaborative planning. We will also have demon-



Circle Twelve's Diamond Touch multi-user touch table that registers individual's input will be featured at the Division booth in Minneapolis—come by for a demo!

strations of new keypad polling techniques, as well as two touch table technologies that allow people to draw directly on a map and conduct GIS impact analysis on scenarios. Sponsors include, Circle Twelve, ESRI, NAVTEQ, and PlaceMatters. Come visit us to get hands-on demonstrations and to chat with our volunteers.

Thanks again for everything. I look forward to joining the ranks of past chairs and keeping in touch with many of you.

DIVISION EVENTS AT APA NATIONAL

By-Rights Sessions

An Interactive GIS Tool

Sunday, 2:30-3:45 pm

Speakers: Indraneel Kumar, Richard Farnsworth, Christine Nolan

The 10 Best Free Web Applications

Wednesday, 8:00-9:15 am

Speaker: Christopher Steins

Business Meeting and Reception

We will be holding the annual business meeting and reception as part of the Joint Division Reception on Monday from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Booth

The Division will be highlighting two touch-table technologies this year. Please stop by our booth and have a look at:

- A multi-touch table that allows multiple users to input information via a touch sensitive table and recognizes each user as unique. This table is being provided by Circle Twelve, Inc.
- A low-cost do-it-yourself touch table provided by PlaceMatters that makes use of Wii technology, a projector, and a regular glass table.

The booth will also have information about the Division and is a great place to meet other members and leadership.

Other Sessions of Interest

OnTheMap

Sunday, 1:00-2:00 pm

Software Every Planner Needs

Sunday, 10:30-11:30 am
Technology Showcase

Visioning with Accessible Tools

Sunday, 1:00-2:15 pm

Measuring Emissions Impacts in Chula Vista

Sunday, 2:30-3:45 pm

Automating Land and Zoning Management

Monday, 11:00-12:15 am

A Better View and Clearer Vision

Monday, 1:30-2:45 pm

Using Motion- and Touch Sensitive Applications

Monday, 3:00-4:15 pm

Portland's 3D Land Use Inventory

Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 am

3D Visualization for Participatory Planning

Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 pm



Division 2009 Awards for Outstanding Use of Technology in Planning

The Division will present its 2009 Awards for Technology in Planning at the Technology Division portion of the Joint APA Divisions Reception on Monday from 6:00-7:30 PM. Please join us to congratulate the winners on their outstanding use of technology in planning, connect with fellow members, and enjoy the reception fare!

We look forward to seeing you!

Find information about next year's awards on our new website, apatechnologydivision.org.

MINNESOTA PLANNERS' USE OF TECHNOLOGY

By Carissa Shively-Slotterback
Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

About the Humphrey Institute

The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute ranks among the top professional schools of public affairs at public universities in the country. The Institute is widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping public policy at the local, state, national, and international levels, and for providing leadership and management expertise to public and nonprofit organizations.

More Information:
www.hhh.umn.edu

* *Environment and Planning A* 39(7) has an article on use of technology by planners that may be of additional interest: "A SWOT Analysis of Planning Support Systems" by Guido Vont, Stan Geertman, and Paul Shot. 2007.

Numerous technologies are now emerging with the intent of making participatory planning processes more efficient, informative, and inclusive. These technologies include, on the high tech end, web-based mapping systems, real time scenario evaluation tools, virtual reality, and computer generated flythroughs. More accessible technology applications such as project websites, computer edited images, and keypad voting are also becoming more widely used. While previous research suggests that many planners are using at least basic technologies,* there are still a number of constraints that may be limiting broader deployment.

A recent study conducted at the University of Minnesota related to planners' perspectives on the use of technology

provides insights into some of the reasons why the use of technology may not be growing as quickly as some might expect. The study gathered feedback from planners about opportunities to integrate technology into typical participation processes through a series of five focus groups. In addition, a survey of over 100 Minnesota planners was conducted to gather additional insights related to the feasibility of integrating a range of different technologies into participation processes.

One of the key constraints that emerged from the study was access to the technology itself. A number of planners raised concerns about access to technology in their organization, includ-

ing both the hardware and software needed. Relative to GIS-based technologies, concerns were also raised related to the availability of data. While many of these technologies allow for the creation of sophisticated maps, 3-D models, and build out scenarios, they are unable to function without underlying data depicting land use, transportation, and natural features. For the respondents in Minnesota, these concerns

were lower in the Twin Cities metro area as compared to those working in smaller communities and rural areas in the state. A similar issue emerged related to Internet access.

There were concerns raised about the speed of access available to practitioners working in more rural areas and broader concerns about access to online technologies

such as project websites and discussion forums intended for public use.

Another constraint is related to resources available to purchase and use technologies in participatory processes. Concerns were raised related to staff capacity to use technology, particularly in small communities or organizations with limited resources. Costs for the technology and training to use it were also cited as roadblocks limiting broader use.

Finally, an additional set of constraints surround the issue of value added by using technology in participatory processes. Planners noted that technologies may not be able to deliver better out-



An example of a high-tech visualization used by planners, one of many technical tools increasingly employed in the field
(Carson City animation, courtesy of Winston Assoc.)

comes than more traditional participation methods, nor would they attract greater numbers or more diverse participants. There were also concerns that participants may distrust the technology or data being used, allowing the technology to “steal the show” or distract from the issues and interaction that might otherwise take place.

Based on this very brief summary of concerns that planners have and some of the constraints associated with using technology in participatory processes, it is possible to identify some potential solutions to concerns about access to technology, availability of resources, and creating value through technology use.

Providing access to technology.

The costs of specialized hardware and software can be important limiting factors for communities desiring to use technology. Providing shared access through universities or regional planning agencies might be an option to spread costs among a number of organizations. Concerns about access to data emphasize the importance of centralized and publically available data sets such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Data Deli and the publicly-funded Minnesota Land Cover Classification System, which has been completed for approximately 1/3 of counties in the state.

Making resources available. Focusing on universities or regional planning agencies as technology providers also helps ensure the availability of knowledgeable users that may be able to as-

sist planners working in communities with fewer staff and financial resources to fund training. Establishing technology outreach programs, such as University Extension, may be one option for offering technical assistance for those organizations lacking capacity internally.

Enhancing the value added. A key opportunity here is to emphasize that technological enhancements in partici-



Obstacles to use of technology in planning can be overcome, especially via regional planning agencies

ipatory processes are only part of the picture. In many cases, they function best as add-ons to existing participation efforts. Using technology to provide enhanced spatial or real-time information can contribute to the education function of public meetings. Online discussion forums can

help gather feedback from those unable to attend meetings or who may be uncomfortable speaking in public. Project websites may help organize information about a planning process for those already involved and those who may be interested in engaging.

Much of the research on using technology in participatory processes has focused on the technologies themselves, exploring how effective they are in certain contexts. As more communities begin to use these technologies, it is just as important to gather insights about how planners make decisions about using technology and how they implement them in the real world.

About the Author:

Carissa Schively Slotterback, Assistant Professor, teaches courses in environmental and land use planning, participation, and impact analysis. Her research is focused on participation in environmental and land use decision-making, environmental impact analysis, and planning processes and implementation.

Her current projects include a study of environmental impact analysis processes in state departments of transportation, funded by the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS). Schively is also studying public involvement in planning and design processes for transportation projects, as part of a larger University-wide research team focused on identifying the effects of well-designed transportation projects.



PARTICIPATION SPOTLIGHT: U-PLAN COMMUNITY PLANNING STUDIO

For more information:

- www.u-plan.org
- metro council.org

U-PLAN is Funded by:

- The Otto Bremer Foundation
- The McKnight Foundation
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- The Travelers Foundation
- The Ford Foundation

U-PLAN is a partner in the Frogtown/Rondo Partnership, a local collaboration participating in the Human Development Overlay District (HD-OD), a project of the Environmental Simulation Center funded by the Ford Foundation. The grant supports and tracks individuals in this transitioning community to benefit from the impact of the LRT through the innovative use of information technology.

U-PLAN is a community planning studio located on University Avenue in St. Paul. U-PLAN “provides high quality technical services to support the grassroots planning efforts” that are occurring because of an new light rail line. Over one billion dollars are expected to be invested in this new transportation infrastructure, and the surrounding area expects significant redevelopment as a result.

U-PLAN is a studio that provides free assistance for those that will be affected, including small business owners and community organizations. U-PLAN provides mapping and visualization assistance, including impact analysis and Sketch-Up™ visualizations of various options.

In partnership with the American Institute of Architects, U-PLAN held a series of block by block workshops to address the challenges and opportunities of the proposed light rail. The summaries of the workshops are at the U-PLAN storefront and will be included in station area planning.

Their website provides basemaps, 3D visualizations of what specific station areas and might look like, and an opportunity for users to create Mash-

ups, with relevant information, using Google My-Maps™.

In a world-flattening move, U-PLAN is also making use of the Web 2.0 concept of “crowd-

sourcing.” the U-RESEARCH segment of the website allows citizens to ask questions of residents of other cities that have put in light rail. Questions

are distributed via websites, online information exchanges, and educational institutions. They include things like “How was station placement determined?” Answers have come in from San Diego, Portland, Sacramento, Denver, and other parts of Minneapolis.



U-PLAN helped visualize a green median on Marshall Avenue, as a result green medians gained community support and portions have been built



3D Visualization of light rail along University Avenue in St. Paul, from Emerald to Prior, one of several visualizations available on the U-PLAN website

The U-PLAN studio is providing a transitioning community with valuable technology and having significant impact on the ground.

WEB TOOL SPOTLIGHT: COMMUTER CHALLENGE

Minneapolis-St. Paul's regional transit authority, Metro Transit, has come up with an innovative way to encourage citizens to leave their cars at home for their commutes.

The 2009 Commuter Challenge website provides information on all forms of transportation in the Metro region. The site also allows you to sign up for a "challenge" either just with yourself, or a challenge between friends, office floors, businesses, or families. The site allows each challenger to keep track of the different ways that they commute, with a running point tally. The loser of the challenge has to do whatever task or embarrassing act was decided upon.



Videos of the losers of challenges are already up on the site. Each video declares at the beginning:

- Start with a Pledge
- Create a Challenge
- Make it Hilarious

So far the videos include a man fake falling in public, and another singing "Ragtime Gal" in public.

The site is positive example of how the new age of video online is impacting behavior. The prospect of internet humiliation is strong incentive. The site also makes the challenge easy by helping commuters keep track of the alternative ways they commute. The Challenge is introducing people to all the ways that they can commute, and is making the education process fun and creative.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

April to October

Real CORP 2009: Cities 3.0, Smart, Sustainable, Integrative

April 22-25, 2009
Sitges, Spain
www.corp.at

American Planning Association National Conference

April 25-29, 2009
Minneapolis, Minnesota
myapa.planning.org/nationalconference/index.htm

American Institute of Architects 2009 National Convention and Design Exposition

April 30-May 2, 2009
San Francisco, California
www.aia.org/ev_conv_aia_09

Where 2.0

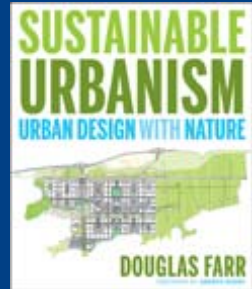
May 19-21, 2009
San Jose, California
en.oreilly.com/where2009

ESRI User Conference

July 13-17, 2009
San Diego, California
www.esri.com/events/uc

Land Trust Alliance Rally

October 11-14, 2009
Portland, Oregon
www.lta.org/training/rally.htm



Sustainable Urbanism Training Seminar, June 10th, 2009

Sustainable Urbanism will once again be offered as a partner session at the 17th annual Congress for the New Urbanism Conference in Denver! Participants in the half-day seminar will utilize Doug Farr's highly acclaimed book, *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design With Nature*, to learn the techniques and metrics to implement Sustainable Urbanism as a preferred pattern of sustainable growth and land-use over the next generation. Participants will be able to demonstrate an integrated understanding of and approach to smart growth, LEED for Neighborhood Development, sustainable urbanism and the human and natural systems that support the sustainable units of human settlement.

Visit www.farrside.com/events to Register! AICP CM Credits are pending.

The fee for attendees is \$185, including a copy of *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature*. Registration deadline: June 8, 2009.

Questions? Contact sustainableurbanism@farrside.com



INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR CARDIN: MARYLAND'S SENATOR SPEAKS ON TRANSPORTATION

By Harsh Prakash, Secretary/Treasurer, Technology Division

For More Information:

- Senator Cardin:
➤ <http://cardin.senate.gov>
- US Dept. of Transportation:
➤ www.dot.gov
- US National Transportation Safety Board:
➤ <http://www.nts.gov>

To read the full interview:
planningandtechnologytoday.org

During this year's Planner's Day on Capitol Hill, I got an opportunity to interview Senator Cardin on changing federal policies that affect planning. This is an excerpt from our interview. The full interview can be found at the Division's website.

Harsh: What are some of your main expectations from the next federal surface transportation bill?

Senator: We face three fundamental challenges with the new transportation bill:

1. With bridges failing, congested roadways, and transit systems strained to the limit, we need to make a major new investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure. According to the US DOT, the average annual cost to maintain both highways and bridges at their current level for the next 20 years could reach \$78.8 billion, while it would take approximately \$131.7 billion per year to improve the condition of both highways and bridges. Those figures don't include the billions more needed for our transit systems and their needed expansions. We must act to make a major new investment in a system that is under extreme stress.
2. Our transportation policy needs to be reoriented to the nation's needs in the new century. We need to better integrate our various modes of transportation for handling the nation's commercial goods. That includes freight rail, harbors, and highway trucking routes, including their interconnection to air freight facilities. Our current system for moving people to and from their work, schools, and recreation also will need to be fundamentally rethought. That will mean a much greater focus on mass transit, alternative modes of transportation, smart growth, reduction in the number of vehicle miles traveled as a policy goal, and so much more. We need a transportation policy that supports our goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil and reduces the generation of greenhouse gases. The new surface transportation law will not accomplish all of these changes overnight, but the new bill should put us on a fundamentally different path than we have taken in the past.

"We need...a much greater focus on mass transit....smart growth...reduction in the number of VMT"

3. We will need to explore new ways to fund our national transportation programs. Our current reliance on a static "gas tax" is already coming up short: \$8 billion in the current fiscal year. If we are successful in moving more commuters out of their cars and into buses and subways, we will see those gas tax revenues decline, not increase. If we are successful in encouraging people to live where they work and to telecommute, gas tax receipts will fall even further.

Harsh: Given the bridge tragedy in Minneapolis last year and the subsequent findings of the National Transportation Safety Board, do you support in principle the National Plan for Infrastructure Investment, and also as a way to stimulate our economy in a time of financial uncertainty?

Senator: The collapse of the I-35 Bridge was a tragedy for Minnesota and for the nation. The bridge failure resulted in 13 deaths. The accident has already spurred the nation into action.

There are approximately 600,000 bridges on highways throughout the United States. About 51 percent of bridges are state owned, 47 percent are locally owned, and less than two percent are owned by the Federal government or private entities. National surveys indicate that nearly one-quarter of all these bridges are structurally deficient.

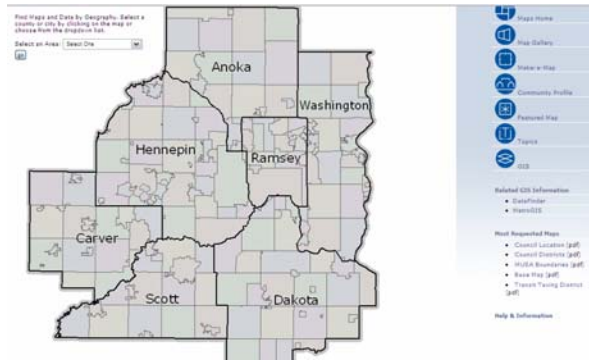
In addition to the funds provided directly for the repair of the I-35 Bridge, the Congress provided \$1 billion in special funding to address our structurally deficient bridges. Of the 2,584 bridges along the Maryland State highway system, 411 (16 percent) are classified as functionally obsolete.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, the Nation, and others are calling for major infrastructure investments. I support a sustained effort to rebuild our national infrastructure. Doing so will provide an immediate stimulus to our economy and give us the network we need to restore the health of our commercial sector.

COLLABORATIVE SUCCESS: THE TWIN CITIES METRO COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO GIS

The Twin Cities are recognized in the planning community as having some of the best regional planning resources and authority in the U.S. Part of the success of the regional authority here, the Metropolitan Council, rests on its extensive GIS database and application of spatial data for planning.

MetroGIS, the program of the Metropolitan Council that collects and distributes GIS, has over 221 datasets that cover all seven counties in the region. Their DataFinder web portal allows users to search the database for available data by topics such as Business and Economic Data or Biology and Ecology.



The Metropolitan Council provides maps and extensive GIS data, while working closely with many partners in the region

Another reason for the Twin Cities' success at regional thinking is the frequent and extensive collaboration between multiple entities and jurisdictions to analyze and address regional problems using GIS data.

University Collaboration

For example, the Twin Cities have the University of Minnesota, and in particular the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), as a frequent partner and resource. CURA is leading the way in terms of applying new technologies to planning, and is a resource for data, tools, and expertise in applying them.

The links between the University, the City, and the Metropolitan Council are strong and effective. For example, CURA, the City of Minneapolis, and neighborhood organizations are working together to use and maintain the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. The MNIS receives

nightly updates of parcel level data from the city assessor, planning, and inspection department databases. Neighborhood organizations sit on the steering committee of the system and, in exchange, receive project assistance and GIS expertise. Over half of the City's neighborhoods have participated. The system is now being updated to help track and prevent foreclosures.

The University and the Twin Cities have used their extensive GIS databases to help resolve town-gown conflict. GIS data has helped to determine where student housing is affecting neighborhoods. The University can then implement strategies to help stabilize

these neighborhoods like encouraging faculty and staff to live close to the University. Through exploring the effects of the University on the surrounding neighborhoods, the City and the University recommended that a University Community Partnership District be created, and the Governor allocated funds to do so in 2007.

Collaboration on Foreclosures

Regional GIS data has also helped to track and prevent foreclosures in the Twin Cities area. Representatives from each city, and nonprofit housing, development, and funding organizations created the Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council. This group collected housing and foreclosure data for the seven county region. From this data, patterns of foreclosure were discovered, and strategies were developed to prevent foreclosure in higher risk neighborhoods. This effort is now statewide.

High-Tech High-Touch Training Workshop at CNU in Denver!

How can visualization, computer mapping, and collaborative networking tools increase the effectiveness of charrettes for transforming communities? Learn how to add instant feedback and analysis to your charrettes. In this session you will gain a practical knowledge of how innovative high-tech planning tools can be applied to a multiple-day charrette. Bill Lennertz from NCI and Jocelyn Hittle from PlaceMatters will provide a hands-on training (3.75 AICP Credits) with tech tools intertwined with traditional charrette techniques including: keypad polling, scenario planning/impact analysis tools, online collaborative authoring/feedback tools, and innovative visualization and mapping tools.

June 10, 8:30-12:30

Visit: charetteinstitute.org to register

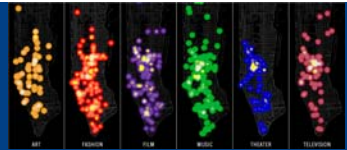
More Information on MN GIS:

Metropolitan Council:
➤ Metrocouncil.org

MetroGIS
➤ metroGIS.org

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs
➤ cura.umn.edu

Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council
➤ ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure



Hyperlocal map of NY hotspots from "The Geography of Buzz"

For more information:

"The Geography of Buzz" Study Authors:

- Elizabeth Currid, Assistant Professor, School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California in L.A.
- Sarah Williams, Director, Spatial Information Design Lab at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Article:

- [Nytimes.com](#)

Getty Images:

- [Gettyimages.com](#)

Twitter

- [Twitter.com](#)

Stephen B. Johnson's Site:

- [outside.in](#)

USING THE HYPERLOCAL

By Jocelyn Hittle, *PlaceMatters*

The New York Times recently reported on a study that mapped "buzz-worthy" events in New York and Los Angeles. By mapping the locations of images of parties and other events from Getty Images, a supplier of stock images, the researchers were able to determine which neighborhoods in each city were actually the "hot spots."

In New York, it turned out to be Lincoln and Rockefeller Centers, whereas in L.A., the trendy events were in Beverly Hills, Hollywood and the Sunset Strip. While this may not be surprising, this study highlights a trend in urban studies, an increasingly "hyperlocal" scale of research and understanding of how people live, and how cities work.

Twitter, the popular "micro-blogging" service that allows users to send and read posts of up to 140 characters, is also a way to monitor what neighborhoods are social and cultural hotspots. For example, there are Twitter groups dedicated to specific neighborhoods, with questions about good places to eat and comments about live music.

Outside.in, the hyperlocal community website, run by Stephen Berlin Johnson is another good resource. The site allows users to post geographically tagged news, opinions, and conversations. Currently, almost 12,000 specific neighborhoods and towns are using the site.

Monitoring activity on sites like these could give planners, or those just looking for a hip spot for dinner, insight into the what makes their cities and neighborhoods work.

NEW DIVISION WEBSITE AND WEBINARS!

New Website

In addition to new leadership (see facing page), the Division is unveiling a new website at APA National. The website will have additional features, including polls, an events calendar, and easy feedback mechanisms. The site will still be your portal to information on Division events, awards, by-rights sessions, elections, and will link to the electronic newsletter.

The Division welcomes any ideas you might have for ways to further tailor the site to members' needs and desires. Please visit the site soon and let us know what you think!



Division Webinars

The Division has held four webinars in the last year. Three were part of a series on Sustainable Urbanism with Doug Farr (see page 7 for an additional training opportunity), and the most recent led by our new Chair and Vice Chair, Jennifer Evans-Cowley and Harsh Prakash, on the use of mashups in planning.

We plan on continuing to offer webinars, **for AICP CM credit**. Information about these webinars will also be on the new website. Please let us know if you have suggestions.

NEW DIVISION LEADERSHIP TAKING OFFICE DURING APA NATIONAL!

The Division is pleased to announce its new leadership!

Former Vice Chair **Jennifer Evans-Cowley**, will be taking the post of Chair. Dr. Evans-Cowley is an Associate Professor and Section Head of City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University. She conducts research on the use of e-government by local governments and the role of technology in enhancing planning efforts.

As Chair of the Technology Division, she hopes to continue many of the efforts currently underway and to promote new opportunities to provide services to members. In particular, she hopes to expand the continuing education programs offered.

Harsh Prakash, former Secretary/Treasurer will be taking the post of Vice-Chair. Mr. Prakash is a Technology Planner based in the Washington, DC area where he works on and blogs about GIS, technology and planning solutions for the public sector.

He looks forward to continuing to serve and explore the many ways in which GIS can improve "smart planning," and how the Division can highlight and serve as a test-bed for innovative GIS ideas and best practices.

Dr. Amiy Varma, former Education Chair, will be taking over as Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Varma has over eighteen years of experience in transportation research, education, and practice. He is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at North Dakota State University. He is a regis-

tered professional engineer, a certified planner, and a professional transportation operations engineer.

Dr. Varma has served as the Education Chair for the last two years and looks forward to continuing to serve in his new capacity.

Steve Kokotas has been appointed as the new website chair. Kokotas and his colleagues at MIG have been hard at work designing a new website for the Division.



Welcome Leadership!

Karen Rutberg has volunteered to be Education Chair. She is from Concord, NH and has extensive GIS support and implementation experience.

Open Division Positions:

Division Coordinator

The coordinator handles logistics for Division leadership including setting up monthly conference calls and providing support.

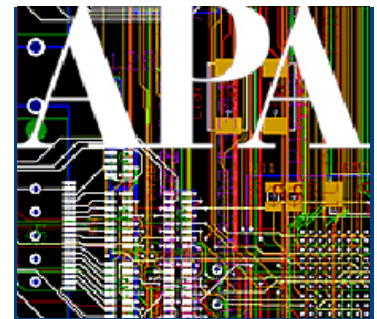
Policy Chair

Defines and advocates for technology policies both within and outside of APA that support planners and the Division. Advises APA on technology related policy issues.

Conference Chair

Coordinates Division activities for APA National including the booth and reception.

If you are interested in a position, please contact Jennifer Evans-Cowley.



New Editors of Planning & Technology Today

The Division is pleased to announce that Rob Goodspeed and Steve Chiaramonte are the new editors of Planning & Technology Today.

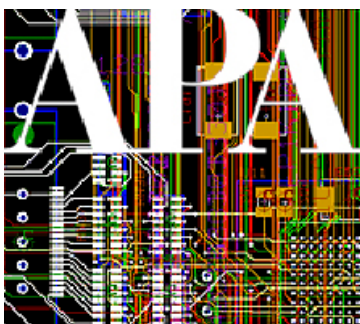
Submit Your Article for the Summer 2009 Issue!

Have a great project you want to share with fellow members? We always welcome submissions for our feature length articles. For these articles, we are looking for case studies that demonstrate how planners and/or communities have used technology in planning. What are the innovative tools and techniques applied; what worked well and what did not?

In particular we are soliciting articles and sidebars that focus on:

- Case studies directly from communities
- Lessons learned (both positive and negative) regarding the use technology in public participation

Please submit your abstract ideas to: Rob Goodspeed at rob.goodspeed@gmail.com.



The Technology Division is charting the new technologies for the American Planning Association. Planners everywhere need to understand the use and planning implications of new systems: computer simulation, GIS, telecommunications, and computer-based information resources.
www.planning.org/tech

Planning & Technology Today is the Division's newsletter, bringing you current information that is useful for making decisions on how to use the new technologies.

If you are presently a member of APA, it costs only \$25 to join the Division; students \$10; non-members \$40.

To Join: Send your name, address, and payment to:
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
LOCK BOX 97774
CHICAGO IL 60678

You may also join at
www.planning.org/joinapa

DIVISION LEADERSHIP

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