

# PLANNING MINNESOTA



American Planning Association  
**Minnesota Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association

October-December 2019





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Volume 38, Number 4

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# CHAPTER UPDATES

## President's Desk



From the President

### Thanks for Connecting!

Thanks to all who attended our annual Minnesota Planning Conference. This year, we took a focused effort to celebrate our Greater Minnesota and Rural Planners. Once every ten years, we try to step outside of our regular rotation of regional centers and get back to our roots. The APA Minnesota Board hopes you took away some great messages and inspiration. From 'Minnesota Magic' at the State Fair to the importance of Diversity in Natural Resource Planning and Recreation. Special thanks to our Keynote Speakers Jerry Hammer and Sarah Strommen.

Also, a special thanks to all of you that stepped up and donated to the Gunnar C. Isberg Scholarship Fund. This year we were able to raise an additional \$1,500 towards this scholarship fund, expanding our reach to our student community. Each year, we are able to help one to two students through this scholarship fund. With our recent efforts, we will be able to double our impact to our Student Planners. The effort doesn't stop here. You can donate to the scholarship fund throughout the year.

After the conference, the APA Minnesota Board shifts its focus to planning for the next year. In 2019, we focused on advancing several key goals of our Strategic Plan:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Women in Planning
- Policy Advocacy

We made great strides in these areas in 2019. Look for our new Annual Report coming out in the first quarter of 2020. As we look towards our focus in 2020, we challenge the board to make strides in Student Outreach, Community Planners and again reshaping our policy advocacy efforts. We will also continue to build on the great foundation laid by our Equity and Diversity Committee and Women in Planning Committee.

We look forward to Inspiring You in 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Ashby".



## APA MN 2019 Conference

### Review and Highlights

Over 380 planners joined us at Breezy Point Resort September 25-27, 2019 for our 2019 state planning conference "Planning Connects Minnesota."

One of our state's great strengths is its economic diversity, and this conference was a celebration of the importance of planning in ensuring the continued strength of our cities, our small towns, our agricultural areas, and our natural resources and resort economy.

Our keynote presenters exemplified the interconnectedness of our State's many systems. Jerry Hammer, General Manager of the "Great Minnesota Get Together" (aka the State Fair) discussed the future of this beloved institution and Sarah Strommen, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources spoke about the important role nature and outdoor activity play in developing healthy communities and vibrant economies in both urban or rural areas.

Our breakout sessions featured diverse topics designed to help planners discover new and innovative strategies for enhancing their communities. We were fortunate to welcome APA's Region IV Representative Wendy Moeller, FAICP as a speaker this year. Wendy presented two very popular sessions. The first was an overview of APA's Planning Home Initiative and the second was a session on sign regulations. Presentations are available online at [https://www.planningmn.org/conference\\_2019](https://www.planningmn.org/conference_2019). We hope you consider submitting a session for the 2020 conference taking place in Duluth, September 16-18, 2020.

Our mobile tours celebrated both the outdoors and the resort economy. Tours included a historical walking Tour of Breezy Point Resort, an evening aboard the Breezy Belle paddleboat, a "project field walk" to discuss innovative strategies for safely incorporating non-motorized elements into projects and a shoreland boat tour during which experts discussed the status of the

Shoreland Management Act that was implemented in 1969.

Another exciting highlight of this year's conference was a Thursday night BINGO game designed to raise funds for the Gunnar C. Isberg Scholarship Fund. It was an entertaining evening and we raised over \$1500 in support of our future planners. Special thanks to Chloe McGuire Brigl for being our "caller"!

We would also like to congratulate the 2019 award winners which are featured in this issue of Planning Minnesota. Special congratulations to Bill Weber for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award and Corrin Hoegen Wendell for winning the Planner of the year award.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Planning Conference. We will be meeting September 16-18, 2020 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. If you would like to get involved in the planning of that event, please contact Alec Henderson at [ahenderson@cityofdaytonmn.com](mailto:ahenderson@cityofdaytonmn.com).

Finally, thank you to all who attended this year's conference. Meeting in greater Minnesota helps keep us connected with our planning peers from around the state and serves to unify and strengthen our profession.

Thank you,

Michael Healy and Marie Pflipsen

2019 Conference Co-Chairs

2019 APA MN Conference session presentations are now available on the chapter website:

[https://www.planningmn.org/conference\\_2019](https://www.planningmn.org/conference_2019)



## APA MN 2019 Conference

Special thanks to all our conference volunteers and sponsors!

### Volunteers

Conference Program Committee

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Hally Turner, Co-Chair

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AARP Minnesota

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RDG

Zan Associates

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Urban & Regional Studies Institute (URSI),

Minnesota State University, Mankato







## APA MN 2019 Conference

### Conference Photos







## APA MN 2019 Conference

### Conference Photos





## Excellence in Community Engagement Award: Red Wing 2040 Community Plan

**Recipients: City of Red Wing, Live Healthy Red Wing, and HKGi**

According to the nomination, staff engaged the community in a new way, so community members were not just advising but rather deciding what issues were important and what strategies were necessary to make positive change. The new plan formed using a Health in All Policies approach to engage all residents, including the underrepresented. The result is a community plan that includes non-traditional topics and considers how policies affect all residents.

Judges noted the very thorough nature of the planning effort and appreciated the integration of feedback loops for a transparent process. And I quote, "Wow... What a thoughtful, deliberate and inclusive process. I'm impressed by so many aspects of the process – the public participation period was not boxed into an often too-aggressive timetable, outreach methods and venues were varied and widely available, and the team was able to engage an admirable percentage of the population. It is clear that the final plan reflected the thoughts and desires of many."

For this Excellence in Community Engagement, we congratulate the City of Red Wing and the HKGI for the "Red Wing 2040 Community Plan!"





## Planning in Context: Envision Shakopee

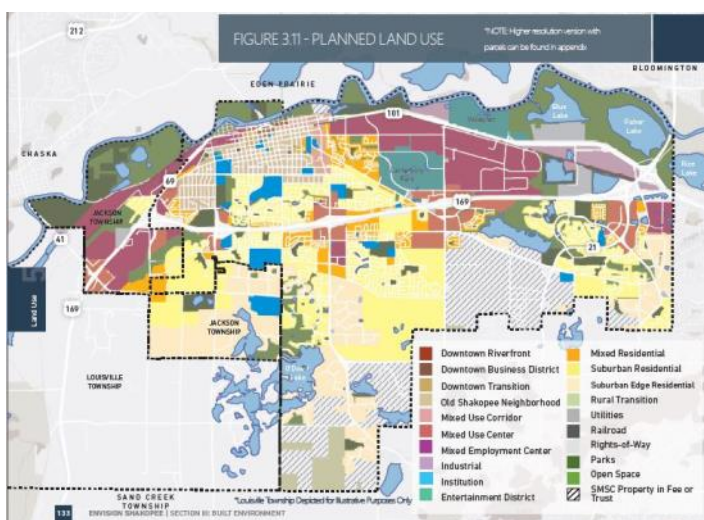
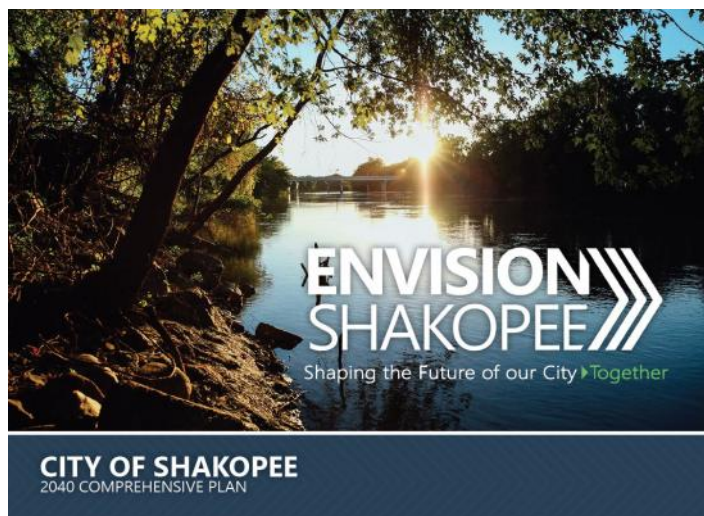
### Recipient: City of Shakopee

The Planning in Context Award is given to a project that tailors its plan with a high level of sensitivity to its surroundings, and embraces the past, the community, and demonstrates careful study. The Envision Shakopee project checks all these boxes.

When the City of Shakopee started to update its comprehensive plan, it found, like many communities, that its previous comprehensive plan was out of date and gathering dust. The City started their process with nine months of community input and visioning, engaging over 3,000 residents and making the project highly accessible and understandable.

Not only was their project highly successful, but it was also highly transparent, and their summary of findings is thorough, detailed, and leaves a path for future planners to look to for guidance to create a meaningful community plan. They created a plan sensitive to the community vision, but also one that was politically palatable and meaningful.

The Envision Shakopee process allowed the comprehensive plan to be based on public input and is a plan supported by the community because of their input. The APA Minnesota Chapter is happy to present the Planning in Context Award to Envision Shakopee for their excellent work.





## Partnerships in Planning: The Artery

### **Recipients: City of Hopkins, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, Hopkins Center for the Arts, and Hopkins Historical Society**

The Artery in Hopkins is a bike, pedestrian and vehicle connection and community space between a planned Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit station and the City's historic downtown.

The project opened in September 2018 after nearly 10 years of planning, as a way to attract visitors to the downtown business district, provide access to the LRT station and fill a missing gap between two regional trails.

However, as the name suggests, the project turned into much more than a simple connection from point A to point B. The Artery features a wide designated cycle track, pedestrian and community spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy, and various art installations from both local and national artists. Sculptures act as road closure devices, artist-created shade structures provide for a unique amplification of sound, and there is a community herb garden. The artery succeeds in both form and function, and numerous partners were involved in the creation of the project.

Congratulations to the City of Hopkins, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, Hopkins Center for the Arts, the Hopkins Historical Society and community members for their excellent work on the Artery Project. Please join me in giving them a big round of applause.





# Innovation in Planning: Vision Zero and Pedestrian Crash Studies

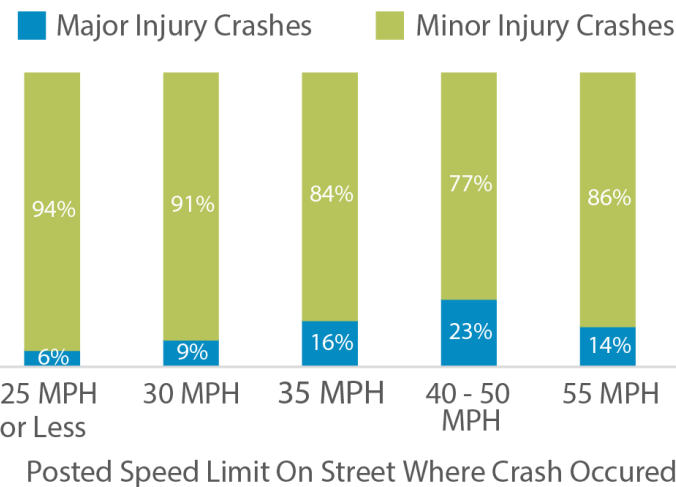
## Recipients: City of Minneapolis and Kimley-Horn

In 2017, the City of Minneapolis passed a Vision Zero resolution with a commitment to eliminate fatalities and severe injuries resulting from crashes on city streets by 2027. Later that year, in partnership with Kimley-Horn, the City completed the Pedestrian Cash Study and later, the Vision Zero Crash Study, which analyzed where and why crashes occur. With a new understanding of where and when road users are the most at-risk, the City is now able to develop the Vision Zero Action Plan to advance the safety of everyone—especially the most vulnerable users of the transportation system.

According to the nomination, the crash analysis process and subsequent Action Plan has the potential to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who live and work in Minneapolis, and the Plan can be used as a guide for cities around the region and country.

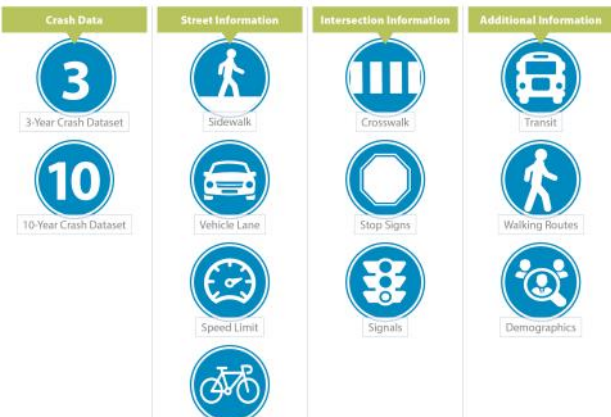
Judges noted the detailed analysis and meaningful insights provided by the studies, including how the crashes have a disproportionate impact on minority and low-income residents. Judges also appreciated how the results of the studies were presented in such a clear, easy to understand manner.

For this high-level of Innovation in Planning, we congratulate the City of Minneapolis and Kimley-Horn for “Vision Zero and Pedestrian Crash Studies.”



### Data for Comparisons and Trends

Figure 4-1 shows the wide variety of street, infrastructure, and other data sources that were part of the pedestrian crash analysis.



## 2019 District Director Award: Fergus Falls Downtown & Riverfront Plan

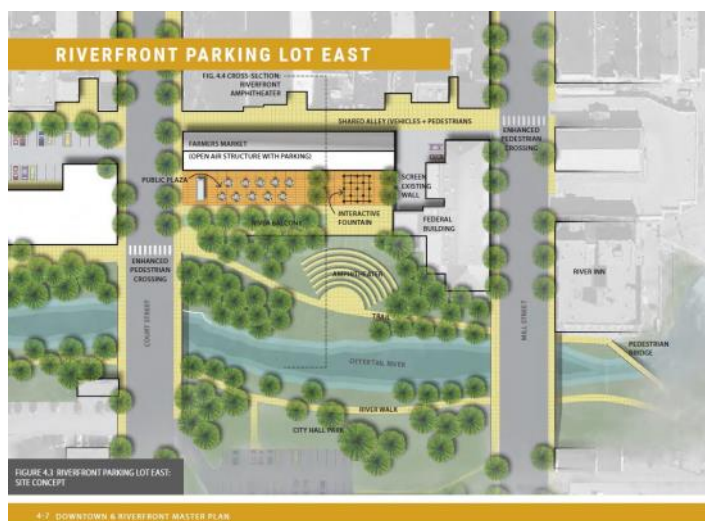
### Recipient: City of Fergus Falls

The 2019 District Director Award is a new award for this year's award cycle. The award was established to recognize and honor the great project, places and people throughout greater Minnesota. Unlike the other awards, nominations were not solicited for this category. Rather the District Director will select a planning effort, location, or organization/jurisdiction or planning professional that they would like to recognize. The award will travel with the location of the annual conference. This year's conference was located in the Northwest District; and therefore, Wayne Hurley, AICP, Northwest District Director, reviewed and selected a recipient, which was forwarded to the APA Board.

The inaugural APA Minnesota District Director Award is awarded to the City of Fergus Falls for the Fergus Falls Downtown and Riverfront Plan. The City worked with HKGI on this effort to develop a community-based vision and master plan for the downtown and undervalued riverfront. This plan provided an opportunity to learn from and build upon many community-based initiatives to create a cohesive, synergistic, and actionable plan.

While the plan itself is very impressive, one of the things the District Director noted they were most impressed with was the City's quick shift to plan implementation. The City quickly moved to the active pursuit of projects along the riverfront as identified within the plan. Specifically, the city received a \$600,000 LCCMR grant to rebuild and expand a portion of the Riverwalk downtown, including a new bike/ped bridge across the Otter Tail River. The City is also in the process of fundraising for a new park along the river that will include an amphitheater, interactive water feature, and a new shelter building for the farmers market, which will move downtown from their current site on the west side of town.

Congratulations to the City of Fergus Falls and its planning partners for the receipt of the 2019 MN APA District Director Award!





## Outstanding Student Project:

### Sidewalks in St. Louis Park: Understanding Resident Perceptions and Behaviors, Effects on Property Values and Accessibility

**Recipients: Austin Hauf, Erin Daly, Leoma Van Dort, Haley Sevensing, and Alena Degrado**

This Outstanding Student Project set itself apart by the innovative methods used to study a question many of us have within our communities, and then took it to another level. This group set out to find the answer to three questions:

- What are residents' travel behaviors and perceptions of sidewalks in St. Louis Park?
- How do sidewalks affect property values of single-family homes in St. Louis Park?
- How will the continued implementation of sidewalks and trails affect access to destinations for older adults, youth and people of color within St. Louis Park?

A mixed-methods approach was used to analyze the answers to these questions. An online community survey provided an opportunity for residents to engage and provide feedback on gaps within their neighborhood and walksheds. A property value analysis worked closely with assessor data to identify the impacts of sidewalks on single-family home property values. Finally, an accessibility analysis utilized GIS to identify accessibility constraints within the City.

Through this multi-layered analysis, the students were able to identify answers to their questions and define recommendations that that City of St. Louis Park can consider implementing.

Congratulations to Austin Hauf, Erin Daly, Leoma Van Dort, Haley Sevensing, and Alena Degrado for your receipt of the 2019 Outstanding Student Project.



## Peg & Otto Schmid Award: Corrin Wendell, AICP

Corrin is passionate about giving back to the planning community and serves as Chair of the Executive Board for the Women & Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA), various involvement in the APA Minnesota Chapter including member of the Women in Planning Committee and an ex-officio member as the Youth Engagement Planning Coordinator. She also serves as an AICP (CPE) Certified Planning Exam Contributor, APA National Planning Conference Session Proposal Reviewer, AICP Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Site Visitor, Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Planning Education and Research, and a mentor to planning students and young professionals from Ohio State University and APA.

Corrin is a Sector Representative and Senior Planner for the Metropolitan Council, which means that the last year has been hectic, tiring, and extremely busy; yet Corrin has excelled in her profession and dedicated numerous hours to advancing the planning profession outside of work. She is a member of APA Minnesota and the Chair of Women in Planning Division of the National APA.

Corrin is so dedicated to advancing the profession of planning and garnering a more diverse and informed workforce that she created her own non-profit: YEP! Youth Engagement Planning. YEP! Youth Engagement Planning held a successful interactive workshop at the 2018 National APA Conference in New Orleans with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Louisiana, introducing over 100 children in the area to urban planning. Corrin is inspiring the youth of today and giving back to commu-

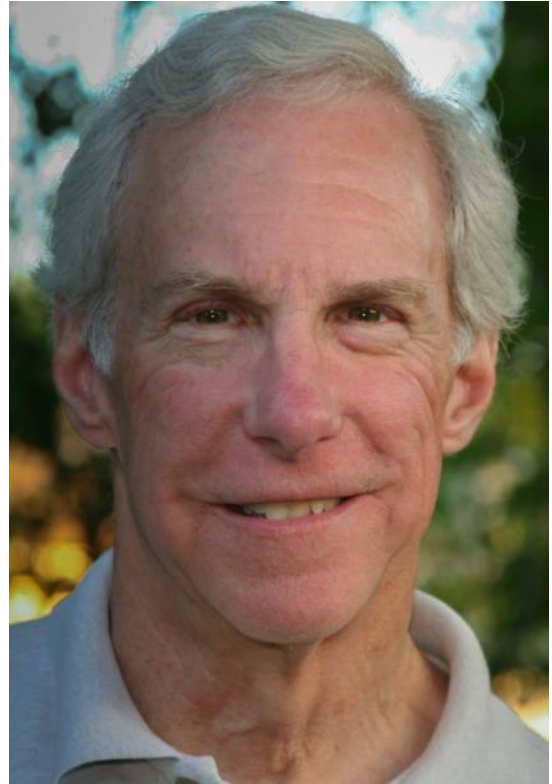




## Lifetime Achievement Award: **Bill Weber, AICP**

Bill Weber's planning career spans 46-years and reflects the criteria established for this award. His broad range of professional expertise includes land use, transportation, zoning, comprehensive plans, commercial and industrial redevelopment, downtowns, riverfronts, parks and bike systems, urban design guidelines, rail transit-oriented development, environmental impact documents and expert witness testimony. This expertise includes over two dozen comprehensive plans in eight states, zoning ordinance amendments and rewrites for 17 cities, and code administration in Vadnais Heights for 19 years.

Bill has been a member of APA and AICP since 1978. He has served on the Board of APA Minnesota and directed a state planning conference. He has mentored students at the Humphrey Institute and through APA MN and is currently reviving the Chapter's Brown Bag Lunch professional development seminars.



## Gunnar C. Isberg Scholarships: **Oforiwaa Pee Agyei-Boakye** **Elliot Mohler**

Gunnar C. Isberg was a mainstay in the Minnesota planning community for most of his career. His career included public and private sector work, active involvement in the community and professional organizations, and authorship of books and articles.

The Gunnar Isberg Student Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing an education at a school or university in the State of Minnesota in planning or planning related field. Review criteria include Excellence in Reputation, Excellence in Academic Achievement, Involvement in the Planning Field and Dedication to the Professional Organization outside of school. The scholarship was established by the Isberg family to recognize Mr. Isberg's devotion to planning. The scholarship is aptly named, as Mr. Isberg was passionate about the field of planning. He used his professional and volunteer positions, and his writings as an advocate for the profession, and to educate the public about planning.

Two students were chosen this year to receive the scholarship: Oforiwaa Pee Agyei-Boakye and Elliot Mohler.



**Oforiwaa Pee Agyei-Boakye**

University of Minnesota  
College of Liberal Arts

Pursuing a PhD in Transportation Geography



**Elliot Mohler**

University of Minnesota  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
Pursuing a Masters Urban and Regional Planning



# APA National Planning Recognition 2019 Great Streets

## Artery Hopkins: Hopkins, Minnesota

The City of Hopkins sought to bring its people together both physically and metaphorically. The answer was the Artery, a "pedestrian seductive" bike and walking connection between the historic downtown and the planned light rail transit station on busy Excelsior Boulevard. The plan would create a street to connect Hopkins residents to transit and support the business community by bringing new customers to Hopkins on the train.

The goal was not just to make the connection friendly to bikes and pedestrians, but also to make a street so inviting that residents and visitors will linger and patronize local businesses. To achieve that goal, the street had to be completely redesigned. The process of designing the new street took many years of planning with numerous partners and input from the entire community. Getting the hardworking and practical community to understand the benefits in spending the money to change "a perfectly good street," elevating walking and biking over automobiles, and using art to engage the community was not an easy sell.

While all of the steps in developing the project resulted in community buy-in, it was the Artery Experiment, a temporary installation of the major components of the Artery, that solidified the community's support. Seeing how the separated bikeway protected riders and how excited people were for that change, as well as the opportunity for more gathering places and art, demonstrated the project's many benefits.

The street has unique design elements such as canopy lighting, wayfinding, edible herb gardens, and a historic timeline etched in granite. Lining the Artery and the connecting streets are a mix of small businesses, housing developments (many of which are affordable), and attractions like the Hopkins Center for the Arts. The number of people who come to Hopkins on bike has significantly increased, and the city has installed new bike parking on every block of the downtown. Businesses are experiencing increased sales and growth as a result of the new activity.



## APA National Planning Recognition

### National Planning Achievement Award for Public Outreach—Silver

#### Parker the Planner, A City Planning Story, Madeline Dahlheimer (Peck), Bolton & Menk

[\*Parker the Planner, A City Planning Story\*](#) is one in a series of children's books developed by design firm Bolton & Menk that introduces the design professions to a young audience. Readers follow the adventures of Parker Perez, a child living in the city with no sidewalks or places to play. As a result, Parker sets out to build his own city. The book translates technical information into a relatable and easily understood format that expands the reader's knowledge and perspective of the built environment. The firm has coordinated book readings and distributed books to schools and clients and at community events.





## APA MN 2019 Elections:

### Board Member Profiles

#### **Southwest District Director: Angie Bersaw, AICP**

Angie is a Senior Transportation Planner for Bolton & Menk. She has over 14 years of experience in project management, stakeholder facilitation, and transportation, community, and environmental planning. Angie's areas of specialty include transportation planning needs and alternatives analyses; corridor studies; municipal, county, and subarea transportation plans; and community engagement. Angie enjoys working through complex and difficult situations and finding common ground between the various stakeholders on which to build upon.

Angie lives in Mankato with her husband and three kids. She enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and watching her kids' activities which include football, baseball, softball and gymnastics.

As the Southwest District Director, Angie is committed to promoting planning in Southwest Minnesota and improving professional and educational opportunities within the district.



#### **Metro District Director: Chloe McGuire Brigl**

Chloe is currently serving as one of the Metro District Directors and the liaison for the Women in Planning Committee for APA Minnesota. Through this role, she has helped create a workplan for the Women in Planning Committee, hosted a brown bag lunch, kickoff event, and networking events. She loves providing planners the opportunity to learn something new and network with one another. She has a strong history with APA Minnesota; she has been part of the organization and the board since she moved to the state in 2015. She was the co-chair for the 2018 Conference in Rochester, and before that served as the APA Minnesota Student Director and Student Representative. She is passionate about professional development and you could find her reviewing resumes and cover letters at the fall APA conference. Chloe graduated from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in 2017 with a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning and prior to that, lived in Iowa (forgive her!) where she worked in community solar and event planning. She is currently a City Planner for the City of Ramsey and a member of the Women in Planning Division.



## APA MN 2019 Elections:

### Board Member Profiles

#### Central District Director: Joe Janish

Joe is excited for the potential to continue to serve colleagues as the Central District Director. He lives in the St. Cloud, MN area and is the Community Development Director for the City of Andover. He works with residents, businesses, city staff members, and both elected and appointed officials in matters related to economic development and planning and zoning. He earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree majoring in Local and Urban Affairs from St. Cloud State University, a Master of Public Administration degree (MPA) from Hamline University and a Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) from Hamline University.

His planning experience includes both City and County perspectives. Prior to the City of Andover, he worked for Benton County, MN and the City of Jordan. He was Conference Co-Chair for the 2016 MN APA Conference held in St. Cloud, MN and served on the Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Board. He was President of the Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Board in 2004.



#### Metro District Director: Michael Palermo, AICP

Michael currently works for the City of Bloomington and in the past worked for the City of Duluth and SRF Consulting. He has experience with housing, transportation planning, site plan reviews, ordinance drafting, small area/station area planning, and most recently the City's comprehensive plan. I have worked for communities in the Metro and greater Minnesota. My past experience with APA MN includes: 2017 Conference Co-Chair, 2016 Programing Co-Chair, conference presenter, organized young planners happy hour in Duluth, and organize a quarterly lunch for "southern" Hennepin County (Eden Prairie, Edina, Bloomington, and Richfield). This range of experience will help in ensuring APA MN is meeting the needs of its diverse membership.

As district chair he would advocate and work on expanding and developing programming and resources related to community engagement and education about planning, including youth and engagement, education and networking, and continuing to assist and provide guidance on the great work APA Minnesota already does.





## APA MN 2019 Elections:

### Board Member Profiles

#### **Metro District Director: Erin N. Perdu, AICP**

Erin has been honored to serve as one of the Metro District Directors for the past four years. She has enjoyed working with our Professional Development Officers and other Metro District Directors to develop educational and networking opportunities for planners in the region, including Book Club events in the metro area and the APA MN state conference.

Before moving to Minneapolis in 2014, she was heavily involved with the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. Her contributions included: serving on the Information Resources Committee; developing a curriculum on public engagement for professional and citizen planners; and instructing basic training courses offered by the Chapter to planning officials across the state. She is a passionate believer in planners working as partners with their communities. That means robust community engagement that works for the people we are trying to reach. We also need to provide tools to our citizen planners, who serve on the “front lines” of the profession.



#### **Southeast District Director: Luke Sims**

Luke sees the commitment to sustainable transportation options as critical to both the overall health of Minnesota's communities and to attracting talent to the state. A successful set of rules and guidelines on which to base context-sensitive infrastructure investment and encourage sustainable transportation will be what helps to set Minnesota's communities apart. To that end, he supports the goals under the Sustainable Transportation plank of the APAMN platform. He also supports the Livable Communities and Housing Plank, incorporating public health in planning, and consistent planning practices across the state.

His professional experience includes Assistant City Planner, City of Winona, Interim Economic Development Coordinator & Intern, Winona County, Community Development Intern, City of Mankato, Associate Director, Marketing and Communications, Asian University for Women, and Business Manager, ASUM at The University of Montana. APA experience includes Bikeable Winona member, Engage Winona's Connect. Engage. Thrive. member, and Winona Heritage Preservation Commission member.



## Board Member Profiles (continued)

### Northwest District Director: Rita Albrecht, AICP

Rita is excited to apply for nomination as MN Chapter NW District Director. She would bring enthusiasm and a diverse career background to the position of director. She is running for NW director because she is a strong supporter of MN APA and want to promote our organization in greater Minnesota. She has enjoyed a rewarding career in planning with many diverse positions in city, regional, tribal, and state employment.

Her career includes employment as assistant planner and community development director for the City of Bemidji; as development specialist for Headwaters Regional Development Commission; as planner and economic development specialist for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; and as regional planner for MN Department of Natural Resources. She was appointed NW regional director for DNR in 2016.

### 2019-2020 APA MN Mentor Program

The mentor program offers young professionals the opportunity to engage, interact, and learn from APA Chapter's senior leadership through three planned events and at least four individual meetings. Participants will gain industry knowledge, improve their skill set, and build professional relationships over an eight-month period.

The mentor program includes three scheduled events throughout the year to give participants the opportunity to meet others in the program. Further details including dates and times for the second and third events will be provided after the program kick-off.

Event #1: Program Kick-Off with Speed Networking

Event #2: Mid-Point Check-In Lunch Event with AICP Credit

Event #3: Program Wrap-Up Event

Mentors and mentees are responsible for scheduling individual meetings and should plan to meet at least three times throughout the program.

### Suggestions and Advice for Success

**Commitment** - Attending meetings, arranging calendars to accommodate meetings, coming prepared, and participating with vigor and enthusiasm are essential for the experience to be successful.

**Goal Setting** - Discuss what each person would like to walk away with at the end of the mentorship program. Set goals and plan creative and fun ways to achieve the goals.

**Confidentiality** - Participants must have assurance that matters discussed will remain confidential. It is essential that participants respect confidentiality and create an open, non-judgmental atmosphere for meetings. This will allow for a greater depth of discussion.

**Meetings** - After you've had a chance to get introduced and set goals, create a focus for each subsequent meeting as you see fit. Ideas for meeting agendas include career development, an evaluation of skills, discussing challenges in the workplace, site visits to share their projects, or discussion on topics that participants share an interest in. Many, many other possibilities exist. Be creative, switch it up, and learn from each other!





# Women in Planning Committee Update

The Women in Planning Committee is a new committee of APA Minnesota, and is pleased to have successfully completed numerous items on their first year work plan. APA Minnesota created the Women in Planning Committee last year. The purpose of APA Minnesota's Women in Planning Committee is to advocate for, connect, inspire, and promote women working in the field of planning in the State of Minnesota. The Committee will help themselves and others grow through networking, education, mentorship, leadership and advocacy. The APA Minnesota's Women in Planning Committee is welcoming to all who believe in its mission, including all female-identifying, non-binary persons, and men.

The Women in Planning Committee hosted a session at the Fall 2019 Conference in Breezy Point on how to be an ally, a training meant to inform all attendees. The Women in Planning Committee is also proud to have been the nominator of Planner of Year Corrin Wendell, an amazing advocate, ally, and planner for the Metropolitan Council! She is also a board member for the APA Women in Planning Division, which is part of the National American Planning Association.

Below is a brief summary of the presentation given at the conference by the Women in Planning Committee.

## Women Planners in MN

- 83% of those surveyed indicated they have experienced sexism in the workplace
- 100% of those surveyed indicated that allies make a workplace better
- 75% of those surveyed would quit their dream job due to sexism in the workplace

## Common Forms of Sexism Experienced in MN

- Emotional labor
- Microaggressions
- Lack of trust of women's answers
- Assumption that female planner is intern
- Sexist comments from the public
- Seen as incapable or not smart enough

## How to be an Ally 101

**Sponsor:** Recommend women for difficult tasks, and share their goals with your network.

**Champion:** Advocate for women as panelists, project managers, etc. If you know a woman (or person of color) who is an equal, or better, fit for a project or panel, recommend they take your place.

**Amplify:** When someone has a good idea, echo it and give them credit (say their name).

**Advocate:** Ask how you can be an ally and check back in after difficult situations. Ask who is in the room and invite missing parties.

**Be an Upstander:** Speak up when you experience sexism. If you see harassment taking place, stand nearby, and interrupt the conversation with "What are you two talking about?"

**Be a Confidant:** Listen, ask questions, and believe people's experiences. Don't offer advice unless asked. Hold open office hours as a manager.

## How to be an Ally 101

### Do

Make the coffee  
Help clean up after events  
Redirect emails that are meant to circumvent a female planner/project manager back to the female planner

### Don't

Pat someone on the shoulder  
Say, "She's a smart girl!"  
Ask people out via LinkedIn  
Tell someone to smile  
Make female planners schedule your meetings

# DISTRICT NEWS: FOCUS ON SOUTHWEST

## Renewable Energy and the Winds of Change

By Annette Fiedler

Some twenty years ago, three of the growing pains in wind development were Land Leases, the change from Property Assessment to Production Tax, and damage to roads/infrastructure/tile lines. The majority of the original issues were addressed over time as the wind industry matured. As with any industry, time and change occurs, bringing new issues to the fore such as sizing, lighting, decommissioning, and repowering. At the same time, we are seeing an increase in solar development. Not only the smaller 1-5MW community solar gardens, but also the 50 to 200 MW facilities are working through the permitting process and the controversy of their footprint on prime farmland. Key events and issues include:

**Land leases** began as onetime payments for a long period of time and evolved into long term leases with annual payments. Guidance was developed for land owners and their attorneys on what to look for in land leases.

The **taxing of wind energy conversion systems** in Minnesota has also undergone change. From no tax, to county assessors responsible for valuing the facilities, to the Department of Revenue valuing the facilities to the current taxation based on the size and production of the facilities. Commonly known as the production tax, it is based on the

production of electricity and treated as a personal property tax for the purposes of payment and collection. This change removed the desire for some County officials to tax each turbine location as commercial (ie spot zoning). The base zoning of the land (often Agricultural) was left in place and the energy produced was taxed, and provides local units of government funding to help fund public uses and infrastructure.

**Damages to Public Infrastructure** were addressed in two ways; increased communication, and the creation of the Development Agreement, funded through the Local Road and Research Board. In the early days, there was limited communication between the developer and the local units of government. The SRDC reviews the large projects when they are going through the state permitting process. During this process several things have been identified and improvements made: 911 addressing is handled differently in the counties, and projects were not getting their sites addressed; communication between the developer and the local units of government was limited; and an understanding of what loads are moving on the roads for the construction of a turbine such as cranes, over dimension loads, & regular loads (the impact is much bigger than harvest as stated in many of the permit documents). The infrastructure and communication issues were reduced once the counties, with the state permitting authority's encour-





## Southwest Update (continued)

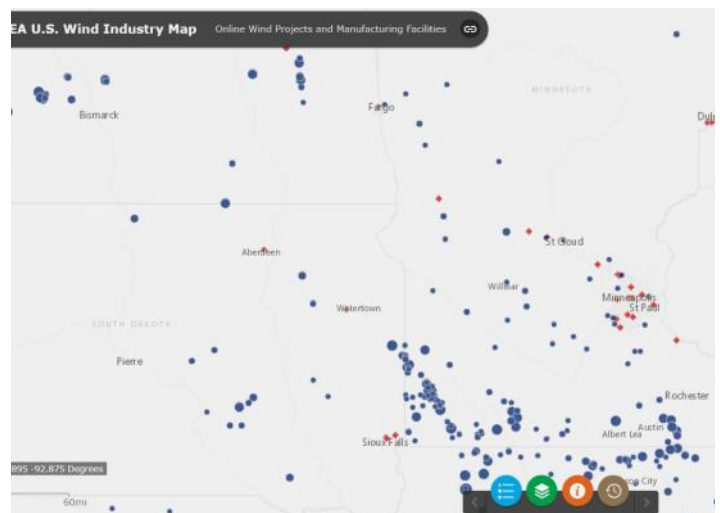
agement, began implementing Development Agreements that covered everything from the cost of infrastructure damage, to crane crossings, to routes the project traffic used, to who are the points of contact to name a few.

**Are there new challenges for wind?** Yes. Recent issues for permitting wind include defining a consistent setback from 3, 4, and 5 wetlands of certain sizes; Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (FAA still to approve, but upcoming technology will reduce the red lights in the sky to those activated only when aircraft are in the area); timing of energy facility projects and scheduled road construction (more communication needed); and the development of new wind, wind farm decommissioning, and the repowering of existing facilities often with larger blades all have land use implications.

**Who permits Energy Facilities?** Counties permit under 5 MW for wind, the Public Utilities Commission 5 MW and over, unless a county chooses to be a delegated county and they can permit under 25MW, with the State permitting larger facilities. Solar permitting is under the standard regulations. The local units of government permit under 50MW, and the State permits 50 and over. Even when the state permits a facility, local land use and zoning does come into play, such as temporary laydown yards and batch plants, and other items fall under the local jurisdiction. Perhaps more difficult for local permitting would be the less than 50 MW solar facilities. With a range of 2.5 to 4 Acres of land needed per MW, the footprint of solar farms can be large.

As **solar** is expanding both in the number of the smaller community solar gardens as well as very large facilities, we see some of the same reactions that early wind experienced, from NIMBY to being upset that the neighbor is getting the benefit and arguing against siting on prime farmland as an excuse not to develop.

*Annette "Netty" Fiedler is the Physical Development Director at the Southwest Regional Development commission in Slayton MN. She works in the areas of Transportation Land Use, and Energy.*



The American Wind Energy Association's online map show a concentration of wind facilities in Southwest Minnesota

# DISTRICT NEWS: FOCUS ON METRO

## Mixed Use Development to Reinvent Traditional “Mall”

By Erin Perdu, AICP

The owners and operators of Rosedale Center, located in the City of Roseville (adjacent to the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul), is not sitting idly by while the retail market declines and traditional malls meet their demise. Rather, mall owners are proposing an expansion and redevelopment of the site in accordance with the City’s new 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The cooperation between the mall’s owners and the City is an example of a project that builds on the goals of the comprehensive plan to advance the aging mall site so that it remains viable and vibrant into the future.

This most recent proposal is just one project in the evolution of the mall. Rosedale Center has been a fixture of the Roseville community since its construction in 1969. Like most malls built around that time, it was anchored by two (and soon after, three) major department stores and surrounded by a vast sea of parking. In 2006, a vacant portion

of the east part of the building was demolished to make way for a new “lifestyle” wing anchored by an AMC theater. Then in 2015, a 140,000 expansion began which included one new department store and the removal of 369 parking spaces in favor of a parking deck. However, in 2018 one of the remaining anchor tenants filed for bankruptcy and closed, creating an opportunity for the current project.

At the time the 2018 bankruptcy was going on, the City of Roseville was completing its 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which designated Rosedale and its surroundings for an intense mix of uses. There was specific interest to keep the shopping center viable and able to respond to market trends. The City recommended that the owners of the site consider concepts such as mixed-use buildings to bring residents to the area to support the retail and restaurants and creating gathering spaces on the site.

Developers and owners began to look at the vacant anchor site and surrounding parking area for opportunities to cre-

## ROSEVILLE 2040

*our future together*

① ELEVATED PARK



② MIXED-USE BUILDINGS



③ SOLAR PANELS/RENEWABLE ENERGY



## ROSEDALE MALL

⑥ BUILDING CROSSING THE ROADWAY



⑤ ROOFTOP PARK/PARKING



④ TREES IN CAR PARKING AREAS



Concepts from the Draft 2040  
Roseville Comprehensive Plan



## Metro Update (continued)

ate new types of spaces. The current project, estimated at approximately \$100 million will include 425 multi-family residential units, a hotel, co-working space, open spaces, and perhaps a grocer, events space and/or medical offices. The project is expected to take 3-4 years to complete after city approvals are granted.

The multi-family housing component of the project is particularly important because Roseville has not seen construction of a major housing project in recent decades and demand for more housing is high. Results from the most recent housing assessment (Maxfield, 2018) indicated that approximately 64% of Roseville households are persons living alone or married couples without children. There are also extremely low vacancy rates in the city, including 1.3% for market rate rental buildings, indicating that there is pent-up demand for rental housing types.

While formal land use applications are still forthcoming, the City has been actively in talks with Rosedale for almost a year. Roseville Community Development Director Janice Gundlach said of the project: "From a planning perspective, Rosedale's long-term plans align well with the Comprehensive Plan and we're pleased they are making investments and adapting to changing trends as it relates to the typical mall." While alignment with the Comprehensive Plan is a crucial first step, the City recognized that the project won't be without challenges. However, as Gundlach points out, "the City is committed to working with Rosedale as this area is vital to Roseville's overall economy and tax base."



*Concepts from the Draft 2040 Roseville Comprehensive Plan*



### Resilient Communities Project

Building Community-University Partnerships for Resilience

[rcp@umn.edu](mailto:rcp@umn.edu)

[@RCPumn](https://twitter.com/RCPumn)

612-625-7501

For more information or to apply, visit [z.umn.edu/applyrcp](https://z.umn.edu/applyrcp)

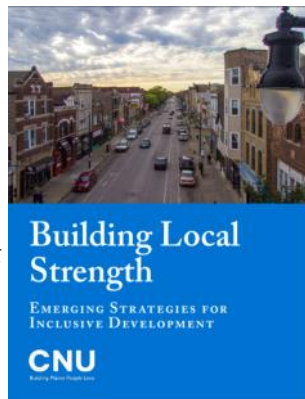
# RESOURCES AND REPORTS

## Inclusive Development

Design strategies alone won't ensure that good urban design, land use, and public spaces will be accessible and equitable.

Communities are figuring out solutions, and they are outlined new Congress for New Urbanism report [Building Local Strength: Emerging Strategies for Inclusive Development](#).

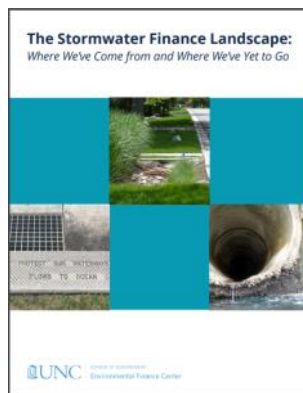
This report is a practical document for local government, practitioners, and community leaders on what creative solutions are working locally and what policies are still needed to ensure more equitable outcomes.



## Financing Stormwater

How will your community finance all the stormwater improvements it needs to support sustainable development patterns?

A [new guide](#) from the Environmental Finance Center of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill explores this questions, and looks into the future at capital needs and related community challenges.



## Safety Demonstration Projects

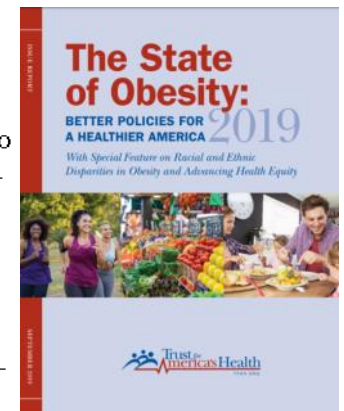
Through the Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy, the National Complete Streets Coalition helped three cities build skills in safer street design, creative placemaking, and community engagement, and then put those skills into practice.

With local demonstration projects, Durham, NC, Huntsville, AL, and Pittsburgh, PA transformed their streets and intersections into slower, safer places for people. Download the summary report from the [SGI website](#).



## State of Obesity

Trust for America's Health released a [new report](#) showing that U.S. obesity rates are at a historic high and we continue to see the same racial, ethnic, gender and geographic disparities. Among other strategies, the report calls for a built environment that encourages physical activity to help address this serious health crisis.





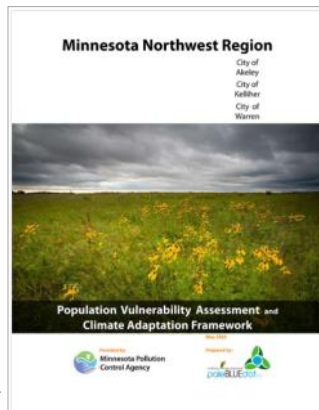
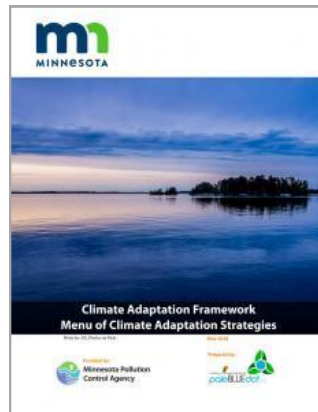
## Resources and Reports (continued)

### Climate Change Resources

#### Reducing Risk for Climate-Vulnerable Populations

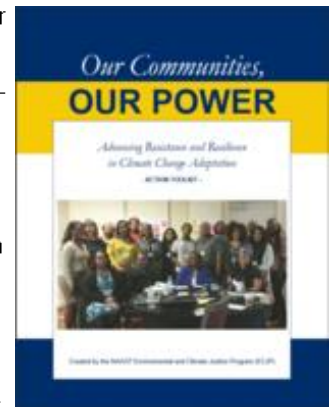
Although the impacts from Minnesota's changing climate are touching all of us, some groups of people are more at risk. These include the very old and very young, people of color, and people with health issues, disabilities, economic vulnerability, outdoor occupations, disproportionate exposure to environmental pollution, and cultural/language barriers. The most vulnerable have multiple sources of risk.

MPCA has produced a [report](#) with a menu of climate adaptation strategies. Every Minnesota community can benefit from enacting relevant parts of the Menu of Climate Adaptation Strategies to reduce the impacts of climate change, improve public health, and expand the local economy. MPCA has also produced a series of Population Vulnerability Assessments and Climate Adaptation Frameworks for interested communities throughout Minnesota. These studies can be found [here](#).



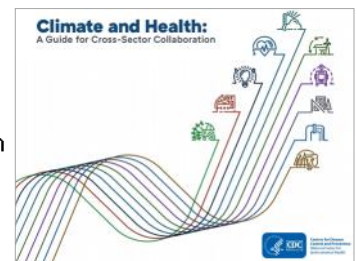
#### Our Communities, Our Power: Advancing Resistance and Resilience in Climate Change Adaptation Action Toolkit

From the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), this comprehensive [Action Toolkit](#) provides a series of modules to help NAACP chapters and other advocates mediate climate adaptation planning processes and ensure that adaptation plans and policies meet local needs, while focusing on frontline communities, environmental and climate justice, and equity. The Toolkit provides guidance to help community groups and advocates develop an Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Committee to inform adaptation planning and policy through 19 different Modules.



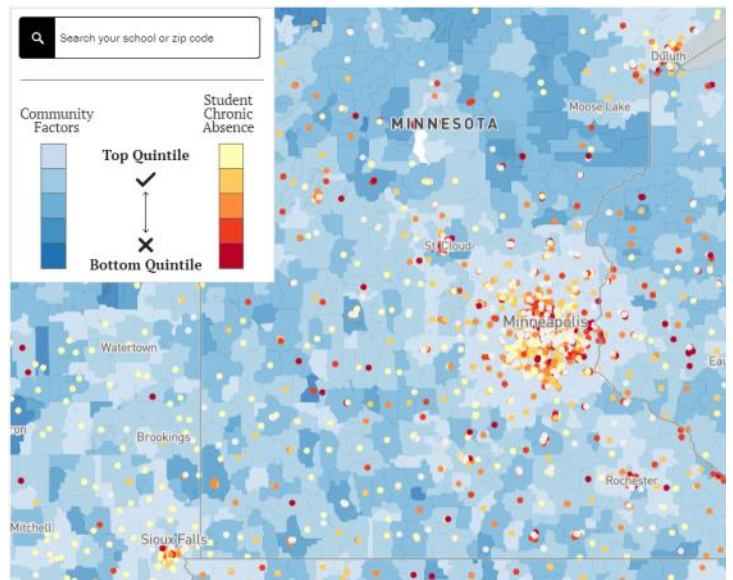
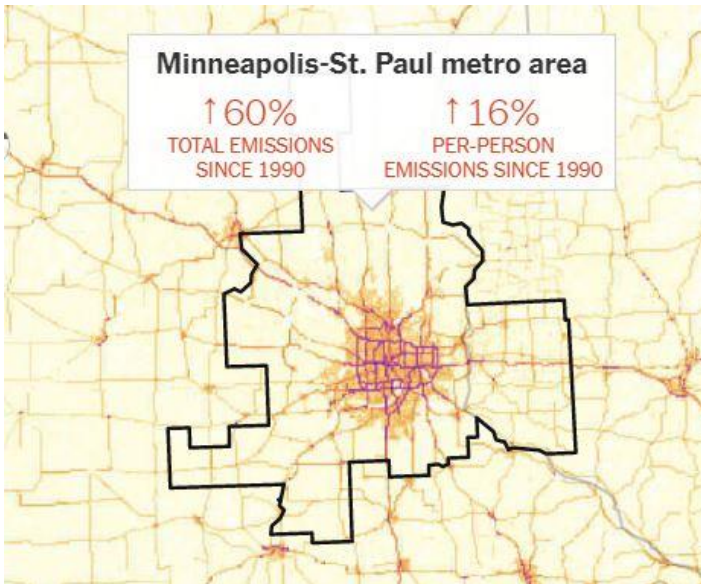
#### Cross-Sector Communication Guide

Effective health & climate adaptation planning needs collaboration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Marketing for Change has released a new [communication guide](#) for conducting effective cross-sector outreach.



## Resources and Reports (continued)

### Interactive Mapping



#### Detailed Map of the Nation's Auto Emissions

The New York Times has published an [interactive map](#), claiming to be the most detailed map of auto emissions in the United States, using data from Boston University's Database of Road Transportation Emissions.

Boston University's emissions database, first published in 2015 and updated in 2019 with an additional five years of data, reveals that much of the increase in driving-related CO<sub>2</sub> has occurred in and around cities.

The article that includes this map also has interactive graphics with nearly 20 years of trendlines for auto emissions data for metro areas nationwide. It also includes a discussion of implications of recent changes in national policy related to emissions.

#### Map of Chronic School Absenteeism

Reducing chronic absence and developing conditions for learning are instrumental to improving outcomes for students and can be improved through policy reform and leadership.

This Hamilton Project at Brookings [interactive map](#) shows rates of chronic absence along with relevant school and community factors for every school in the country. You can search by zip code or school name; click on schools to discover more information.

Accompanying the map is a research paper regarding how schools and communities can use this data to address inequities and improve outcomes.

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**Energy Planning**

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# JOB OPENINGS AND RFPS

Job openings and requests for proposals are available on the APA MN website:

[https://www.planningmn.org/view\\_job\\_postings](https://www.planningmn.org/view_job_postings)

[https://www.planningmn.org/view\\_rfp\\_postings](https://www.planningmn.org/view_rfp_postings)

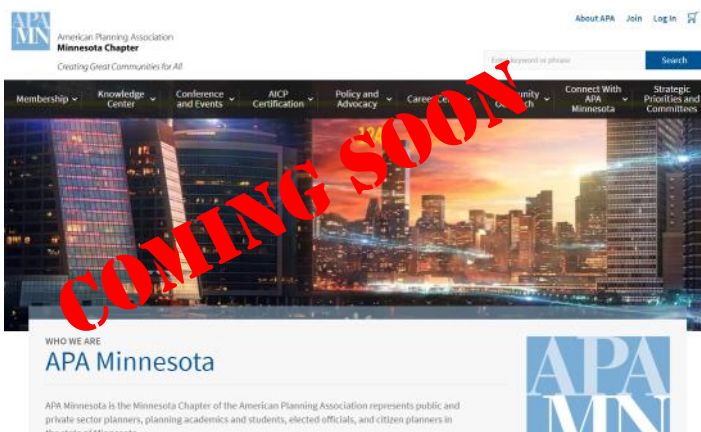
Current Listings:

- Hennepin County: Transportation Planner (11/26/19)
- Cass County, ND: County Planner (12/2/19)
- City of Minneapolis: City Planner (12/8/19)
- Olmsted County: Senior Planner (until filled)
- City of Brooklyn Center: Economic Development Coordinator (until filled)
- MSA Professional Services: Planner (until filled)
- Bollig Inc.: Aviation Planner (until filled)
- Northwest Associated Consultants Inc. (until filled)

Check regularly for updates.

## Coming in 2020: New APA MN Website!

A newly refreshed APA MN website is in the works. Stay tuned for a great new look and format in the coming months.



Share in the enduring environmental, social and economic benefits of Minnesota's historical and cultural heritage.

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