

# PLANNING MINNESOTA



American Planning Association  
Minnesota Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association

July-September 2020





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Volume 39, Number 3

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Submissions: We welcome articles, letters to the editor, photos, calendar items, project profiles, planners on the move items, and other news. Send all submissions via e-mail to: [apamnnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:apamnnewsletter@gmail.com).

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# CHAPTER UPDATES

## President's Desk



### From the President

#### Continuing to Navigate a Difficult 2020

2020 continues to be a challenging year for all of us and I want to remind you that APA Minnesota, along with our parent organization the American Planning Association, provide a support network to help you navigate these challenging times. We have more work to do and will continue to innovate and navigate through the end of the year.

As you have hopefully heard by now, we will not be hosting our annual marquee event, the Minnesota Planning Conference this fall, at least in person. For a number of years, APA Minnesota, APA Iowa and APA Wisconsin have traded a tri-state conference that bolstered our respective State Conferences and widened our audience. This long-standing tradition, the Upper Midwest Planning Conference, has taken on a new form as a joint virtual conference this October. More details on this will be coming soon.

The events of 2020 have brought into better focus disparities in our daily policies. Each Fall, the American Planning Association hosts an annual Fall Policy Conference in Washington, DC. Obviously, this event will now be virtual as well, but we hope that you will use this as an opportunity to try this lesser known annual conference of the American Planning Association. From the APA website – “[t]his is a unique, hands-on space to learn how to advocate for planning, be a part of the conversation around recovery, meet with legislators, and hear from experts on critical planning policy issues.”

A major pivot point for many of our organizations has been to reinvent public meetings and public engagement in a virtual forum. Over the coming months, we will continue to share resources provided by the American Planning Association.

There are so many amazing resources old and new to help you as a leader in community planning. Please check [minnesota.planning.org](https://minnesota.planning.org) or [www.planning.org](https://www.planning.org) for more information.

I want to take a moment to thank a couple groups as we look forward to the last part of 2020. The Executive Committee has stepped up to finish the search for a new Executive Director. Several District Directors have stepped up to guide the new virtual planning conference. Even more Board Directors have helped establish a new Work Plan moving forward.

Finally, a special thanks to our Diversity and Equity Committee and its Co-Chairs. We as a Board of Directors want to lead from the front on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion issues and not stay silent. This Committee has done an amazing body of work to put together resources and action plans to guide us forward. This issue of Planning Minnesota has additional detail on this work.

While there are challenges still ahead, we as planners are uniquely equipped to help navigate our communities to a better place. Please join APA Minnesota in finishing the year strong with our vision to create great communities for all.

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

# APA MN Diversity and Equity Committee

## Chapter Update

*The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward. - Ijeoma Oluo*

When the APA-MN Board of Directors identified the need for a committee focused on racial equity and justice within planning, none of us could have anticipated that only a year and a half later the catalytic event moving forward a second wave of the civil rights movement would occur in Minneapolis. But sadly, to many, this was no surprise.

Minnesota, and Minneapolis in particular, is one of the worst places to be Black. Black families earn 44% of what white families do, and Minneapolis ranks 99 out of 100 largest metropolitan areas for the largest gap between White and Black earners. Black homeowners are only 1/4 of the homeowners in Minneapolis, one of the lowest homeownership ratings in the United States. Additionally, Minneapolis faces some of the worst achievement gaps for Black and Brown students. Unfortunately, many of these disparities ring true in St. Paul, suburban communities, and rural centers. These realities means that many of the communities we serve as planners live everyday at a dramatic disadvantage to their White peers.

We must acknowledge these statistics each day as we work with residents in our communities, but we must also grapple with the fact that planning as a profession has been rooted in white supremacy. The enormous amount of generational wealth that is created through homeownership and the ability to live in neighborhoods with good school districts was something that our profession had a direct role in limiting for people of color for generations. Now is the time that as planners we acknowledge with humility the negative impact our profession has had on communities of color. In order to move forward we must spend time grappling with this history, talking about this history with peers, and owning the mistakes of the past. Planners have also done many great things, and our profession is well poised to champion and advance anti-racism and equitable spaces.

Our committee was established to provide a space for planners, specifically planners of color, to gather, network, and learn. Now, our committee must take on and act upon an increased sense of urgency. We're planning a number of activities and actions to advance conversations, evolve the profession, and collaborate with others. We've outlined nine strategies to do so. We invite you to join us in this journey, bring additional ideas to the table, and be an equity and anti-racism champion within your own professional and personal circles.



**Kimley»Horn**  
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# APA MN Diversity and Equity Committee

## Chapter Update (continued)

1. **Educational events and opportunities** For the remainder of 2020, our committee will host a series of brown bags on topics related racial equity and planning.
2. **Website updates:** We'll use our newly revamped website to serve as a clearinghouse of anti-racist and equity planning resources and information.
3. **Conference:** We're exploring opportunities to integrate equity into the fall conference.
4. **Bylaws update:** We're exploring opportunities to amend the chapter bylaws to give the chairs of both the Diversity & Equity and Women in Planning voting rights on the board. Currently, both committees serve on the board as non-voting members.
5. **Committee meetings and gatherings:** We'd like to provide opportunities for networking and input from committee and general chapter membership.
6. **Newsletter:** We'll provide diversity and equity resources in the chapter newsletter and e-news
7. **Project support and response:** The chapter and committee are beginning to see an uptick in requests and inquiries from community members, partners, and members on APA-MN's stance on projects, policies, and programs. We want to be well-positioned to respond to such inquiries and be a resource when appropriate and when resources allow.

8. **Resolution:** The board recently adopted a resolution declaring racism as a public health and economic crisis. This resolution outlines the historic and systemic role planners have played in creating and sustaining racist systems and structures, outlines the steps our chapter will take to address racism, and encourages others to join in similar efforts.

9. **APA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Exchange:** Thankfully, the Minnesota chapter of APA is not alone in this work. We're asking APA national to host a forum for DEI committees to share, network, and leverage efforts across the country.

As planners, now more than ever, we need to be actively anti-racist in our work, and understand the ways that planning can encourage or dismantle the racist system. For many, this is a journey of learning, while for others, systems of racism and oppression are all too real. What we know is that the planning profession has a duty to address racism in our work and that we are well positioned to join in efforts towards an equitable and just society. It is time to take action.

For more information and resources, visit the APA MN Diversity and Equity Committee web page: <https://minnesota.planning.org/priorities/diversity-and-equity/>



# APA MN Diversity and Equity Committee

## APA MN Resolution

The following resolution was adopted by the APA MN Board in July 2020.

### Resolution Declaring Systemic Racism as a Public Health and Economic Crisis and Committing Resources to Addressing

As the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-MN), we declare racism as a public health and economic crisis:

**Whereas:** the role of planning is to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the community, and as professional planners our Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct clearly outlines planner's overall responsibility to the public, including sections:

a) We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.

b) We shall have special concern for the long-range consequences of present actions.

c) We shall pay special attention to the interrelatedness of decisions.

f) We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs; and

**Whereas:** racism is the use of race to justify the oppression of certain groups of people and the supremacy of other groups; and

**Whereas:** race is a social construct without basis in biology. Racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism is internalized or interpersonal and systemic racism is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks, that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

**Whereas:** public health encompasses everything that makes communities healthy, including housing, economic opportunity, education, physical and mental health, and well-being. The health of our state requires the health of Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color (BIPOC); and

**Whereas:** racism manifests in institutional, systemic ways that deeply harm the health and well-being of BIPOC communities in Minnesota. BIPOC communities, particularly Black and Indigenous populations, in Minnesota experience higher rates of nearly every negative population health measure, including high rates of infant and maternal mortality, cancer, diabetes, pulmonary and heart diseases, and have shorter average lifespans; and

**Whereas:** BIPOC communities in Minnesota have less access to homeownership and other economic opportunities, are less likely to reach grade proficiency in math and reading as children or graduate high school, and are exposed to more pollution than their white neighbors; and

**Whereas:** the harm to the health of BIPOC communities caused by systemic racism is generational, widespread, and devastating; and

**Whereas:** the planning profession has an unacceptable history of direct and indirect actions, policies, and programs that have harmed BIPOC communities, including urban renewal projects which destroyed, dismantled, and displaced BIPOC,



# APA MN Diversity and Equity Committee

## APA MN Resolution (continued)

immigrant, and low-income communities including but sadly not limited to Rondo, Gateway, Swede Hollow, Bohemian Flats, Mt. Airy, West Bank/Riverside, and West Side Flats; and

**Whereas:** the unfortunate reality is that the planning profession continues to enact and support actions, policies, and programs that harm BIPOC communities and limit their ability to reach their full health potential, build wealth, and to feel safe and welcome in community, including but not limited to restrictive zoning practices, inequitable economic development, Not In My Backyard-centered community engagement, and auto-centric transportation planning.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the American Planning Association - Minnesota Chapter:**

1. Declares that systemic racism is a public health and economic crisis affecting both our state and the entire United States.
2. Commits to making our state a place of equity and justice for people of all races and to improving quality of life and outcomes for our BIPOC communities in particular; and
3. Commits to working collaboratively and across sectors to develop ongoing strategies to address, fund, and support solutions that strategically reduce the long-term impact that racism has on the quality of life and health of BIPOC communities.
4. Encourages planners and bodies of government to include an assessment of racial equity impact of policies, programs, real estate development and entitlement projects, and other planning efforts. The use of tools such as Health in All Policies and Equity in All Policies are helpful and encouraged.
5. Commits to creating an equity and justice oriented organization, and as an organization will review its internal operations, communications, governing structure, and strategic plan for opportunities to address and advance racial equity. This includes working with members, the board of directors, staff, and/or other stakeholders to identify specific activities to

increase diversity and to incorporate anti-racism principles within leadership, staffing, and contracting.

6. Will dedicate resources to educating and supporting members of APA-MN in their growth, journey, and evolution on issues of race, justice, and equity.
  7. Will advocate for relevant policies that improve equitable health and economic outcomes in communities of color, and support local, state, and federal initiatives that advance social justice, while also encouraging individual advocacy to dismantle systemic racism.
  8. Commits to building alliances and partnerships with other appropriate organizations that are confronting racism and encourages other organizations, including professional organizations, nonprofits, academia, health, individuals, and private businesses to join in efforts that declare and address racism as a public health and economic crisis.
  9. Will allocate adequate financial and human resources to accomplish the activities listed above.
- Recommends the governor of Minnesota declare racism as a public health and economic crisis, and encourages local and regional bodies of government to do the same, committing resources to addressing the social determinants of health, and fostering the transformation of our state to be welcoming, equitable, healthy, safe, and thriving for all people.

---

Board President

July 17, 2020

# APA MN Treasurer

## By the Numbers

*Jason Zimmerman*

Like all of us, my year and the unfolding events of 2020 have turned out to be nothing I was expecting. Instead of working to expand the Chapter's financial assistance in a number of areas, my fourth and final year as Treasurer will instead be focused on maintaining our financial health in the face of a great deal of uncertainty. Thankfully, the Chapter's careful approach over the past years and a strong balance sheet have left it well poised to ride out the rough economic seas resulting from the global pandemic.

Kathy Aro resigned her position as Executive Director early in 2020, leaving Board members to carry out her duties, including financial oversight, until a replacement can be hired. For now, the Treasurer has resumed management of the books and provides regular updates to the Board at its bi-monthly meetings. The Chapter filed its State and Federal taxes in July and renewed its non-profit status with the Minnesota Attorney General's office. A financial audit – regularly conducted every five years – is due for later in the 2020.

Overall, 2019 was another good financial year for the Chapter. Largely due to a successful Fall Conference in Breezy Point in late September, the Chapter brought in around \$157,000 and spent approximately \$140,000 for the year. Coupled with the \$30,000 already in savings, the additional \$17,000 in net revenue allowed the Chapter to consider increasing its support for both the Equity and Diversity and the Women in Planning Committees. The Board is also looking at ways to support student participation in the Chapter, through increased funding of the Gunnar Isberg Scholarship as well as reduced registration fees for events such as the Fall Conference.

Early in 2020, the Board voted to follow the example of a handful of other state chapters across the country and allow some of its cash reserves to be invested conservatively. Before this action could be taken, however, the COVID crisis gripped the state and the decision was made to delay tying up any portion of the reserves until a better picture emerged of the Chapter's post-pandemic financial situation.

The change in venue of the 2020 Fall Conference from an in-person to a virtual event is likely to have a minimal impact on the budget. Although reduced registration fees will lower expected revenues, savings in the form of an elimination of on-site expenditures will also lower the costs. In the end, the Chapter should be left with a stable balance sheet at the end of the year and be poised to return to more typical operations in 2021.

As always, I welcome any questions or comments you may have. Feel free to contact me via phone (763-593-8099) or email ([jzimmerman@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:jzimmerman@goldenvalleymn.gov)).

## 2020 Conference Planning Update

*Russell Habermann, Alec Henderson, Joe Janish, Chloe McGuire Brigl, Michael Palermo*

The 2020 Minnesota Planning Conference Committee and APA MN Planning Board made the decision to take the 2020 Conference virtual. While reaching out to our neighboring Chapters of Iowa and Wisconsin, we found that they had made similar decisions. Iowa's Chapter was to host the Upper Midwest Conference this year and we have decided to combine our efforts with Wisconsin and Iowa to host the Upper Midwest Conference virtually in place of our own previously scheduled Duluth Conference. The Upper Midwest Conference will be taking place in Mid-October of this year. Due to the reduced cost of a virtual conference compared to an in-person event, the registration fees will reflect this lower cost.

We will continue to update the Chapter as the Upper Midwest Conference planning takes shape. We are looking forward to working with the Iowa and Wisconsin chapters to offer engaging virtual sessions that will provide needed AICP credits for continuing education. Please stay tuned!



# APA MN Legislative and Law Committee

## Session Recap and Special Session Report

**Overview:** The 2020 Minnesota Legislative Session in St. Paul began on February 11 with state legislators discussing their goals and plans for the next four months. Before COVID-19 arrived in Minnesota, legislators had three main goals for this session: highlight campaign issues for the November election, pass a capital investment (bonding) bill, and take advantage of the \$1.5 billion state budget surplus. After the legislature recessed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the House and Senate met a few additional times to pass legislation all four caucuses agreed on, and then adjourned sine die on its constitutional deadline of May 18, without passing any priorities items beyond COVID-19 assistance and relief.

**APA Minnesota Priorities:** Over 1,600 policy bills were tracked this past session in 2020 by the APA-MN Legislative and Law Committee on the priority topics of transportation, comprehensive planning, integrated resource planning, housing, and community health. The specific spreadsheet of these bills, tracked weekly, can be found on the APA-MN website in the Legislative and Law section. Additional APA-MN priorities are discussed below.

**COVID-19:** On Friday, March 6, Minnesota confirmed its first positive coronavirus case. On Monday March 9, the legislature passed its first coronavirus relief package. Soon, with the number of cases rising, the state began to shut down to slow the spread of the virus. Governor Walz issued many emergency Executive Orders including the declaration of Peacetime Emergency and closed businesses, public places, and advised people to stay at home. The legislature established virtual meeting methods to hold committee and floor hearings and votes. State funding was passed to address healthcare costs, small business aid, and homelessness.

**Bonding Bill:** Early in the session, Governor Walz announced his support of a \$2 billion package of projects that he wanted funded, containing more than 350 public works projects. Democrats were expected to create an even larger proposal, perhaps upwards of \$3 billion dollars, while the Republicans suggested a bill around \$1 billion. By May, the predicted \$4 billion loss in state

revenue and resulting budget deficit, coupled with disagreements regarding the Governor's actions and other partisan conflicts, took the wind out of the sails of negotiations. The Legislature failed to pass the bonding bill, although it continues to be under discussion in the various special sessions that are expected this summer. (The bonding bill requires a 3/5<sup>th</sup> majority vote, making bipartisan support necessary.)

**60-Day Rule:** Although there was support from the League of Minnesota Cities and APA-MN, an extension of the 60-day rule for planning and zoning applications was not passed into law as Senate Republicans did not act upon proposed changes to the rule.

**Housing and Preemption of City Land Use Code:** The House and Senate attempted to pass housing assistance, including housing infrastructure bonds and emergency rental assistance, outside of an overall bonding bill. However, negotiations stalled after Senate Republicans attempted to include policy language that stakeholders found problematic.

**Tax Increment Financing:** No tax omnibus bills were passed. The House and Senate had developed two very different tax bills in the last weeks of the session. Neither bill included any of the 20 local sales tax requests or local tax increment financing proposals.

**Special Session:** As long as the Governor re-issues an Executive Order to continue his peacetime emergency powers, he is required by law to call the legislature back into special session so they have the opportunity to overturn that executive order. This also allows them the opportunity to pursue additional policy priorities on their own terms, and adjourn the session on their own terms.

Governor Walz called the Legislature into a special session which began June 10. Eight days of a special session was not enough for House and Senate lawmakers

# APA MN Legislative and Law Committee

## Session Recap (continued)

to reach many agreements. The bonding bill negotiations continued without success.

**The remainder of 2020:** Many of the policies - the bonding bill, police reform, and tax bills - are tied together and the four caucus leaders continue negotiations until an end can be reached - IF it can be reached. At the time of this writing, another special session will be called mid-July, and if the governor extends his powers further - an additional session will be held in August, and so forth. The legislature has the power to adjourn whenever it decides.

All 67 seats in the Senate and 134 seats in the House are up for re-election this fall, which will likely determine majorities in both the bodies. While the Governor isn't on the ballot this fall, he'll be hoping to help Senate Democrats take the majority in the Senate so the party would control both parts of government.

## Second Special Session Report

July 22, 2020

The Minnesota State Legislature was called back into a second special session last week as Governor Walz renewed his peacetime emergency powers for another 30 days. While the GOP- controlled Senate voted to end the powers, the DFL- controlled House did not, so the powers remain. The session concluded after midnight on Monday, July 20 (Tuesday, July 21).

### **Bonding bill not passed - another chance in August:**

A \$1.8 billion package of public construction projects and tax cuts did not receive enough support to pass off the House floor early Tuesday morning.

Members voted along party lines on [SSHF3](#), [as amended](#), which needed a three-fifths majority to pass because it would have used \$1.35 billion in general obligation funds [to pay for capital improvements around the state](#). All 75 House DFL members voted in favor of the bill, but no House Republicans joined them. House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt called the vote a "dog-and-pony show" because he said his caucus had been excluded

from negotiations and DFL leaders knew the bill didn't have enough votes to pass. Daudt said in May that House Republicans would not vote for a bonding bill until Gov. Tim Walz gives up the emergency powers he has been using to issue executive orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Daudt objected to the powers again during the floor debate and several provisions in the bill as well. Daudt said the House may have another opportunity to pass a bonding bill in August when Walz is expected to call another special session if he again extends his peacetime emergency powers.

### **Police reform passed**

A police reform proposal is on its way to Governor Walz for his expected signature, after both the Senate and House passed the package by wide margins. [SSHF1](#) governs how police are trained, what happens when they use deadly force, and more. Lawmakers met in the middle around residency expectations for officers. Cities and counties could offer incentives, perhaps property tax breaks or fix-up loans, to encourage officers to live in the communities they patrol.

### **Resolution approved declaring racism a public health crisis:**

The House Monday declared racism to be a public health crisis in Minnesota. The governor and the Senate are encouraged to adopt similar resolutions. [The resolution](#) would also create a House Select Committee dedicated to examining the House's legislative efforts though an "intersectional race equity lens," considering the ways that racism "intersects with disabilities, immigration, gender, documentation status, and LGBTQ+ communities." The resolution further calls upon the House to support local, regional and federal initiatives to dismantle systemic racism.



# APA MN Executive Director Search

## Request for Letter Proposals

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-MN), is seeking a firm to assist with the search for a professional to serve as the Executive Director for the organization. APA-MN is a Minnesota based non-profit organization of over 900 members who are involved in planning activities with a mission to advocate for equitable and sustainable planning practices across the state by supporting professional planners and engaging with those who live and work in our communities.

The Chapter is seeking a highly organized search firm specializing in professional human resources or recruitment to assist with soliciting and selecting highly qualified individuals to accept the role of Executive Director.

The Executive Director position will be a part-time role that provides administrative assistance, organizing leadership for the Chapter's annual conferences, membership relationship building and external communications.

For more information about the organization please visit: <https://minnesota.planning.org/connect-apa-minnesota/about/>.

### Invitation for Letter Proposals

This announcement invites proposals for services from a search firm or consultant to assist the APA-MN Chapter Executive Committee to solicit, identify and hire an Executive Director with input from the Board of Directors.

Qualified proposals will include:

1. Primary Contact Details
2. A Draft Scope of Services
3. Proposed Timeline (our desired timeline is to complete the search by the end of 2020)
4. Description of Qualifications relevant to this search
5. Not-to-exceed cost

### Scope of Services Requested

The following scope of services is requested:

1. Provide an outline of context specific recommendations for the proposed search profile based on consultation with the whole Board of Directors
2. Scope, plan and conduct a general survey about what is desired for the Executive Director role to the whole Board of Directors
3. Scope, plan and conduct a consultation meeting with the whole Board of Directors to formulate final recommendations for the profile and specifics necessary for the public posting(s) for the Executive Director search
4. Update position description
5. Assist the Executive Committee in determining whether this position should be a contract position or a direct employee.
6. Review available/applicable benefits package for this role and incorporate into materials
7. Advertise for applicants the position opening, direct outreach with potential candidates across print news, social media and other platforms and communicate with applicants about the position
8. Assist the Executive Committee as requested with the assessment of the pool of applicants that send interest in the Executive Director position
9. Conduct a background check on any interviewed candidates and report findings to the Executive Committee with sensitivity toward non-public information
10. Assist the Board of Directors with additional measures to identify an acceptable candidate if an initial/traditional search is not successful
11. Assistance in the hiring process as needed, including during the hiring and negotiations stages

# APA MN Executive Director Search

## Request for Letter Proposals

### Roles

The APA-MN designee and manager for this contract shall be the President or Vice President.

The selected firm or consultant will communicate and work directly with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the duration of the search process and thereafter. The Executive Committee will assist with discussions and coordination with the whole Board of Directors as appropriate. Individual Board and Committee members may provide input on the process.

### Proposal Submission and Instructions

A complete written proposal in an electronic format shall be sent with the subject line "Letter Proposal for APA-MN" via email to:

Ms. Raya Esmaeili, APA-MN Chapter Vice President, at [Raya.Esmaeili@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Raya.Esmaeili@metc.state.mn.us);  
Carbon copy to Mr. Jason Zimmerman, APA-MN Chapter Treasurer, at [treasurer@planningmn.org](mailto:treasurer@planningmn.org).

The proposal must be sent in an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and accessible format such as Microsoft Word (.DOCX), Adobe Portable Document Format (.PDF), or similar.

### Key Dates

Proposals are requested to be submitted by: **Monday, August 31st, 2020** at midnight

The intended targets for key dates are as follows:

- **August 7<sup>th</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>** – Open Advertisement Period
- **September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 12<sup>th</sup>**– Scoring, Evaluation of RFP submittals
- **September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Communication to the selected firm and initial consultation on draft scope and budget
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>**– Announcement of Selected Firm or Consultant

### Legal Compliance

This request for proposals does not commit the APA-MN organization to enter into any contract unless an agreed on contract is written and signed by the President or Vice President.

APA-MN is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate under the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, age, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status. It is expected that any proposals submitted will ensure that this tenet is carried throughout the selection process and special attention paid to ensure legal and progressive cultural sensitivity is employed.

### Contact for Questions

Questions about this request for proposals may be addressed to: Ms. Raya Esmaeili by email at: [Raya.Esmaeili@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Raya.Esmaeili@metc.state.mn.us).

## 2020 APA MN Election Results

APA MN's election is complete, and results have been finalized. For terms Starting January 1, 2021 ending December 32, 2022:

- President: Raya Esmaeili
- Vice President: Jason Zimmerman
- Secretary: Andrew Andrusko
- Treasurer: Erin Perdu

Committee Chairs coincide with the President's terms. The process for appointment/reappointment will be announced later this year. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who participated in the election.



## APA MN Events

### Grimes Open Golf Tournament

On August 6, 2020, APA MN members participated in an inaugural golf event at the Saint Paul Highland National Golf Course.

This event, a two-person golf scramble, was designed as an opportunity to get outside and meet up with other city planners in the age of social distancing.

It was inspired by the fact that many social events (including those typically held by APA MN) have been cancelled or postponed.

The winners of the Inaugural Grimes Open were Nolan Wall (Vadnais Heights) and Tim Benetti (Mendota Heights)

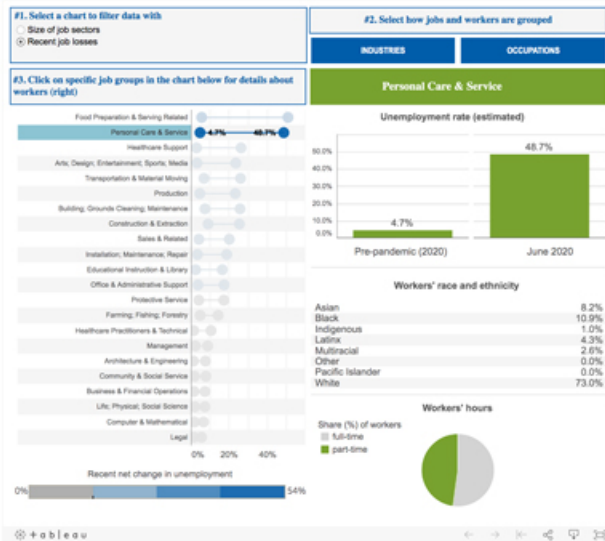
Pictured are: Thomas Paschke (Roseville), Steve Eggert (Lakewest Development Company), Tom Goodrum (Loucks), Andy Gitzlaff (Ramsey County), Tim Benetti (Mendota Heights), Dale Cooney (Hennepin County), Dusty Finke (Medina), Nolan Wall (Vadnais Heights).





# RESOURCES AND REPORTS

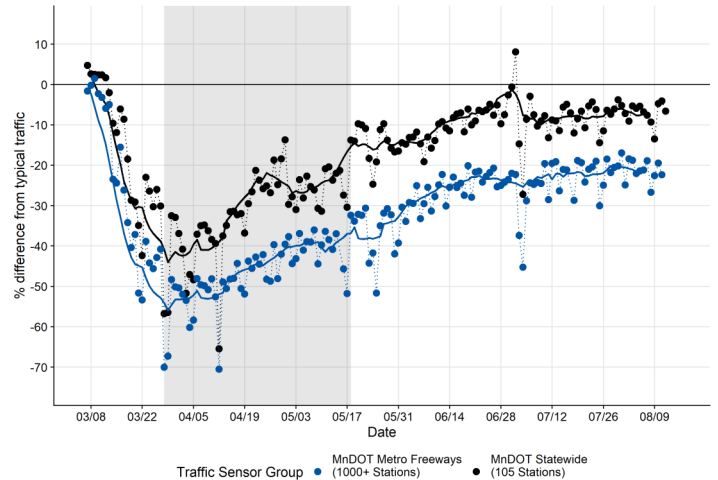
## COVID-19 Resources



### COVID-19 Economic Impacts in Twin Cities

In recent months, business, households, and governments have rapidly curtailed economic activities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data from surveys and unemployment insurance claims paint a picture of economic collapse. See more details [here](#).

To put the economic dynamic in context, and to promote understanding of impacts, the Metropolitan Council is analyzing the likely effects of the employment and income losses. Key measures include unemployment, poverty, and housing cost burden rates, as well as disparities by race and ethnicity in these measures. Staff will continue updating this analysis as new questions and data sources emerge in the coming months.



### COVID-19 Travel Impacts in the Twin Cities

A Metropolitan Council analysis of over 1,000 freeway traffic monitoring stations showed that Minnesotans reduced their travel steadily in the days following the first COVID-19 case in Minnesota, but that traffic levels have slowly rebounded since their lowest point in early April 2020. Click [here](#) for more information.

Additionally, the Metropolitan Council is tapping into a panel of participants from the 2019 household survey to study the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. This [follow-up survey](#) will help explain how COVID-19 has changed and is changing travel behavior by comparing current behaviors to participants' behavior in 2018-2019.



## Resources and Reports (continued)

### Impact of the COVID-19 recession on key economic indicators

55 very large metro areas with populations over 1 million

Metro area	Labor market		Economic activity						Real estate		
	Unemp. rate	13 claims	Job postings	Air passengers	Work trips	Small biz hours	Small biz closings	Active listings	Listing price	Commere... vacancies	Multifam... rent
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI	-8.5%	-6.3%	N/A	-19.3%	-78.4%	-31.7%	+0.6%	-2.7%	-38.1%	+5.1%	+1.4%
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, ...	-9.8%	-6.3%	N/A	-20.4%	-83.3%	-36.3%	-14.7%	-16.7%	-36.1%	+4.9%	+0.3%
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro...	-8.4%	+7.4%	N/A	-17.6%	-74.1%	-34.6%	-25.3%	-18.0%	-21.6%	+5.7%	+0.5%
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	-13.7%	+7.4%	N/A	-24.6%	-82.9%	-34.6%	-42.1%	-31.0%	-28.3%	+6.9%	+0.0%
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-N...	-16.2%	-13.0%	N/A	-17.6%	-90.5%	-36.9%	-41.0%	-32.1%	-15.6%	+6.0%	+0.3%
Oklahoma City, OK	-4.1%	-3.9%	N/A	-14.4%	-72.3%	-30.0%	-11.7%	-16.2%	-51.9%	+11.3%	+0.4%

### Labor market: Duluth, MN-WI

A mid-sized metropolitan area (250,000 to 500,000 residents)

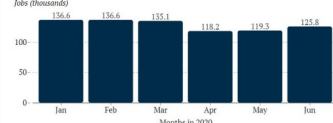
Select a metropolitan area

Duluth, MN-WI

#### Number of jobs

Total full- and part-time nonfarm jobs, seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics' Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment data  
Latest data: June 2020

Jobs (thousands)



Percent change from the prior month

+5.5%

12th of 63 mid-sized metro areas

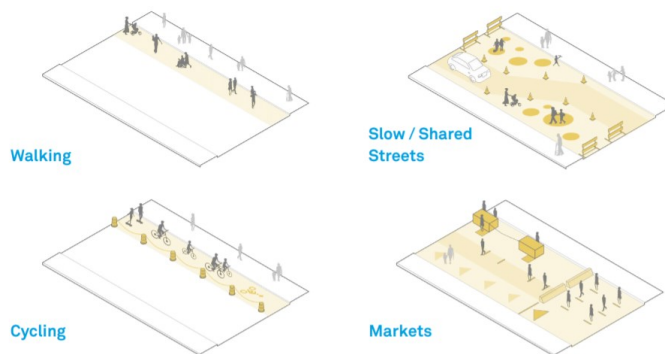
18th of 191 metro areas overall

Percent change from February 2020

-7.9%

42nd of 63 mid-sized metro areas

62nd of 191 metro areas overall



## Metro Recovery Index

The impacts of the COVID-19 recession and the road to recovery differ widely across local economies. The [Metro Recovery Index](#) presents data to provide a picture of the impact of the crisis and the trajectory of recent change, for both large and mid-sized U.S. metropolitan areas. The indicators track impacts in three major categories: the labor market, the real estate market, and other areas of economic activity.

Readers can view the data in two ways: impact from pre-crisis baseline, and trajectory over the most recent month. Additionally, readers can select a metro area size class to view data for very large (at least 1M residents), large (500k to 1M residents), and medium-sized metro areas. (250k to 500k residents).

## NACTO Pandemic Streets Guide

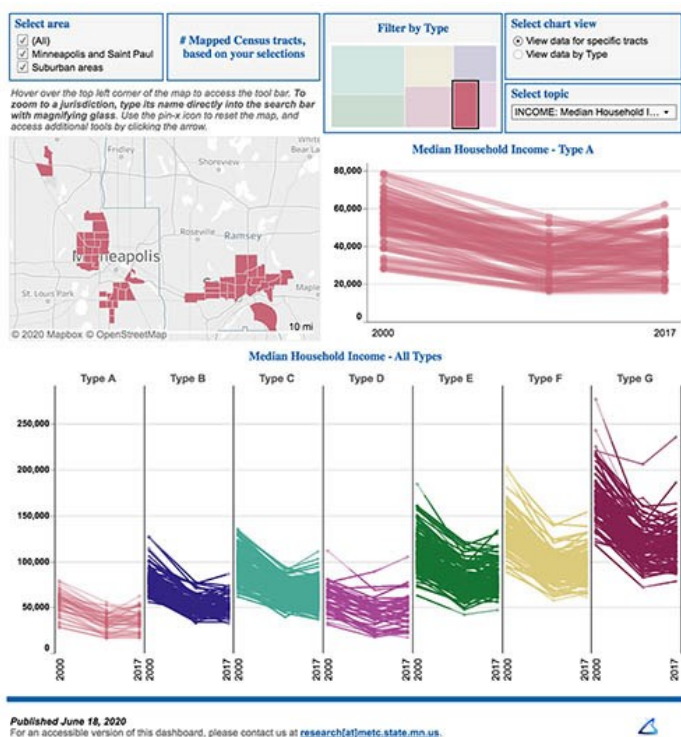
NACTO has released a new guide, [Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery](#), compiling emerging practices from around the world and implementation resources for cities and their partners. Recognizing the rapidly changing nature of this pandemic, this guide will be revised and expanded to include new strategies, address changing conditions, and provide the best possible information on each design practice.

Currently, the resource covers emerging practices including pick-up and delivery zones, pop-up bike lanes, transit lanes and sidewalks, outdoor dining spaces, play streets, and market streets. The guide provides information on planning, public engagement, design, implementation, and ongoing monitoring for each strategy.





## Resources and Reports (continued)



### New Resources for Changing Suburbs

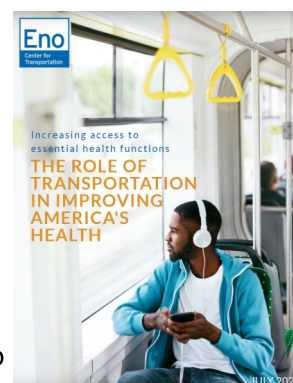
Suburban local governments in the Twin Cities metro have new resources to help them plan and program more effectively for the way their communities are changing. The Met Council has analyzed in detail the kinds of changes that suburban communities experienced between 2000 and 2017 in their demographics, housing markets, and built environment. The analysis has revealed seven different types of change, which Council researchers describe in detail.

To complement the research, staff have developed a library of resources to address the distinct challenges and opportunities each type of change presents. In addition, the Council has launched a new interactive mapping tool that allows planners to look in more detail at the census tracts within their communities and visually identify other communities with census tracts that have been through similar changes.

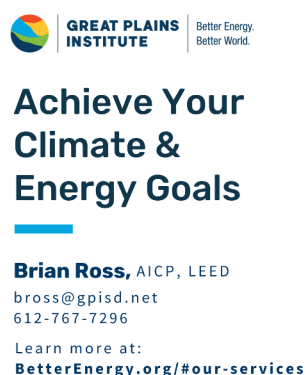
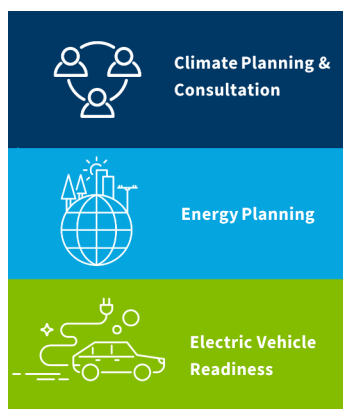
[View the interactive tool and the library of resources](#)

### How Transportation Improves Health

Transportation access is one of the fundamental objectives of the public sector as a means to provide access to jobs, services, recreation, and all other elements of the movement of people and goods. It is also one of the most important ways government can enable residents to live healthy, productive lives.



A new paper "[Increasing Access to Essential Health Functions: The Role of Transportation in Improving America's Health](#)," discusses recommendations on how public sector agencies can work together to improve policy and programming, provide a more equitable environment, and enable better health outcomes and a higher quality of life.



# 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)

## Resilient Communities Project

The University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is still looking for additional research and technical assistance projects with local government agency partners to begin in spring 2021. Currently RCP has two open calls for proposals:

- **Comprehensive Plan Implementation Partnership**—A special call for proposals, issued jointly with the Metropolitan Council, intended for Twin Cities metro area communities seeking to collaborate on one to two (1–2) projects that build community resilience and implement elements of an adopted 2040 comprehensive plan. The Council is providing matching funds to reduce the cost to local communities to participate. Deadline: **September 15, 2020**.
- **Standard RCP Partnership**—Intended for Minnesota cities, counties, tribal public entities, special districts, and regional government agencies interested in collaborating with the U of MN on one to twenty (1–20) projects. Projects should demonstrably advance community resilience to economic, social, environmental, or technological changes, and may include projects related to the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline: **October 1, 2020**.

RCP community partners benefit from applied research and technical assistance on locally identified projects, provided by graduate and professional students from a variety of departments and disciplines. The selection process is competitive, and successful applicants must support the effort through dedicated staff time and a local financial contribution. For more information and to download the full request for proposals, visit <https://z.umn.edu/applyrcp>.

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