Venture out during the National APA Conference for a Mobile Workshop or two

BY JENNIFER JORDAN, AICP AND HILARY DVORAK

Mobile Workshops are an important part of the National Planning Conference as they provide conference attendees an opportunity to get out of the convention center to see real-life planning initiatives occurring in the community. With over 100 Mobile Workshops to choose from, there is something for everyone!

At this year’s National Conference we are featuring Mobile Workshops that are taking place in Minneapolis and Saint Paul:

2009 APA conference attendees get a bonus in that they get to experience two great cities instead of one: Minneapolis and Saint Paul! Take a break and see some of the host city’s best natural features on an alternative form of transportation, tour buildings that have been designed by celebrities or explore one of the nation’s newest major league baseball stadiums. Or cross the Mississippi River to Saint Paul and discuss planning issues along the future LRT route that will connect Saint Paul to Minneapolis, tour sustainable buildings or meet with the state agency that plans the State’s capitol complex.

Alternative Forms of Transportation

Minnesota is known for its 10,000 lakes and its great outdoors. To give conference attendees a glimpse of Minneapolis’ great recreation hotspots almost two dozen mobile workshops have been planned that will get you out of the convention center and into a pair of running shoes or onto a bicycle.

The running and biking mobile workshops will provide sights of the mighty Mississippi River, showcase the Chain of Lakes or cycle you along the Midtown Greenway. For those who like to try alternative forms of transportation there are two mobile workshops that explore the history of Minneapolis’ historic riverfront on a Segway or you can take a tour of downtown Minneapolis on a PedalPub – a passenger-powered trolley that was developed in the Netherlands.

Challenges and Influences of Celebrity Architects (Mobile Tour #13)

What do Michael Graves, Cesar Pelli, Jean Nouvel and the Swiss firm of Herzog & de Meuron have in common? They have all recently designed signature civic and cultural buildings in the City of Minneapolis. This mobile workshop will take you on an intimate tour of five spectacular buildings: the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Children’s Theater, the Walker Art Center, the Central Library and the Guthrie Theater. The emphasis of this mobile workshop is the incredible architecture of each building and the challenges of building in an urban area.

MOBILE TOURS FEATURE CONTINUES ON PAGE 2
Mobile workshops to capture flavor of Twin Cities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Baseball in Downtown Minneapolis (#51)

Take me out to the ball game, take me out with the crowd! This tour is a double header! On this mobile workshop you will not only tour the existing Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, the existing home to professional baseball and football, but you will also tour Target Field, the highly anticipated ballpark for the Minnesota Twins which is set to open in time for the 2010 season! During this mobile workshop you will learn about the challenges of building a 40,000 seat ballpark on an infill site in Downtown Minneapolis and how the design of the ballpark related to an integrated multi-modal transportation network and the adjacent warehouse district.

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project (#36)

Saint Paul is busy planning the development of a second Light Rail Transit (LRT) line that would connect Downtown Saint Paul to the Minnesota State Capitol, the University of Minnesota, and Downtown Minneapolis and offers tremendous community-building and development potential along the University Avenue corridor. Construction of the line will begin in 2010 so participants in this mobile workshop will get a hands-on opportunity to travel along the proposed alignment and discuss planning issues right on the cusp of the construction start. The tour will highlight how Saint Paul has created a corridor planning and development strategy that proactively plans for seamless, high-quality development along the corridor that is denser, greener, and more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly. In addition, participants will discuss how Saint Paul has worked with the multiple, diverse neighborhoods that line University Avenue who are concerned about gentrification along this culturally rich corridor. This mobile workshop would be a terrific complement to compare and contrast the planning and development issues for the Central Corridor LRT line which runs down a traditional commercial street versus the existing Hiawatha LRT which runs alongside a signalized highway.

Sustainable St. Paul: Four-Project Sampler (#40)

Reducing one’s environmental footprint is an important part of construction today. This tour will take you on a tour of four environmentally responsible buildings in Saint Paul: Minnesota’s first LEED gold-certified police station, the Flannery Construction’s headquarters building, the new 100,000 square-foot Wilder Center and The Winnipeg, a mixed-use residential and commercial development.

St. Paul: Capital City and Capitol Area (#111)

See how the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board – the state agency charged with all planning, design control and zoning - works with city planners to enhance the area around the capitol complex for residents, workers and visitors. On this tour you will explore how an independently governed special district can create unique opportunities for neighborhood improvement.

Mobile Workshops are being offered Saturday through Wednesday.

If you have any questions, see the APA conference website, or contact local committee co-chairs Jennifer Jordan (jennifer.jordan@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or Hilary Dvorak (hilary.dvorak@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).
What’s there to do as a student at the National Conference?

BY ELSIE DURBIN, AICP AND MIKE ELHARD

So, you are a student and you are wondering why you should attend the APA National Conference in Minneapolis from April 25-29. Not only does the conference offer sessions and workshops for professionals, but it also has opportunities just for students!

Of the hundreds of sessions and mobile workshops offered during the conference, there are sessions specifically targeted to students. For example, one session, the Career Planning Roundtable, offers students the chance to talk with professionals from all sectors about careers in planning. Another session, Working in the Firm, offers students to meet professionals currently working in the private sector and learn about the projects they are involved in.

Throughout the conference there are opportunities for students to network with other students and professionals and even apply for jobs. A student reception will be held one evening at GameWorks complete with food and games. New this year to the conference is a student messaging board allowing students to connect with other students via an online message board. Throughout the conference those looking for a job will have the opportunity to apply and possibly interview for jobs.

In order to help keep the conference affordable, student registration fees are reduced, and if you volunteer to work at the conference you will be reimbursed part of your registration fee.

All of this information and more can be found on the National Conference page of the APA website at www.planning.org/nationalconference.

Thanks to the National Conference Local Host Sponsors

The Local Host Committee for the APA National Planning Conference would like to thank the local host sponsors listed below for their financial and in-kind service sponsorships. Our sponsors participation and contribution to the 2009 National Planning Conference will greatly influence the quality of planning, land use, sustainability, transportation and community redevelopment in Minnesota.

The sponsorships will be used for a local host reception, the development of a Planner’s Guide to the Twin Cities, merchandising of Minnesota products, and other local special events for all conference attendees.

Four levels of sponsorship have been established:

- **Diamond** – sponsorship of $5,000
- **Platinum** – sponsorship of $3,000
- **Gold** – sponsorship of $2,000
- **Silver** – sponsorship of $1,000
- **Bronze** – sponsorship of $500

Companies wanting to sponsor the local host committee can still do so by contacting the co-chairs of the local host sponsorship committee – Lisa Freese at 952-496-8363 (lfreese@co.scott.mn.us) or Dan Meyers at 612-373-6446 (dan_meyers@urscorp.com).

Companies and the sponsorship levels that have given to this date include:

**Diamond**
- Target
- URS Corporation

**Gold**
- SEH Inc.
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

**Bronze**
- CR Planning
- Cuningham Group Architecture

**Platinum**
- AECOM

**Silver**
- CH2M Hill
The facts about lobbying
BY JEAN COLEMAN, ESQ., CR PLANNING, INC., MNAPA CHAPTER BOARD LIAISON TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Non-profit organizations, like MnAPA, can lobby. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) anticipated that issues relating to the charitable purposes of IRS recognized non-profits would arise in legislatures. The IRS also anticipated that, if allowed, non-profits might choose to expend significant resources lobbying. In a 1976 ruling, the IRS made it clear that non-profits are allowed to lobby, within limits. The IRS did not choose to bar non-profits from lobbying.

Recent Minnesota legislative sessions have introduced legislation on a variety of issues directly related to planning; eminent domain, shoreland regulation, interim uses, and the use of moratoria. The MnAPA Legislative Committee wonders if, in the future, legislation may be introduced on an issue of such importance to the planning profession that we may consider lobbying. To be prepared as an organization, we should know the facts about lobbying limits.

What is lobbying? The IRS defines lobbying as “attempting to influence legislation.” This includes direct lobbying, i.e. contacting legislators about a position on a specific introduced piece of legislation; and grassroots lobbying, i.e. taking a position on legislation and encouraging organizational members to contact legislators. Lobbying does not include contacting legislators, or encouraging members to contact legislators, about good planning issues if the issue is not directly related to specific legislation. Providing technical advice to a governmental body in response to a written request is not lobbying, even if the advice takes a position on a specific piece of legislation. Educating MnAPA members on the status of legislation without taking a position is not lobbying. Working on campaigns or endorsing candidates is prohibited.

What are limits on lobbying? As a general measure, non-profits can expend an amount equivalent to 5% of their annual expenditures on lobbying. The IRS allows up to 20% of annual expenditures to be spent if an organization makes a specific filing. Five-percent of the current MnAPA budget would be $4,000. Direct costs and staff time count toward this limit. Volunteer time does not count toward the limit. Costs expended on lobbying must be reported to the IRS each year.

MnAPA has not lobbied in the past. A Legislative Education Coordinator was recently hired to track pending legislation and educate members on legislation of interest to planners. In addition, the Legislative Committee is in the process of developing draft platform positions on policy issues. These draft positions will be shared with the membership at the September 17th Chapter Conference. Education on pending legislation and developing platform positions is not lobbying.

Whether or not the MnAPA ever chooses to lobby on a specific piece of legislation is an open question. National APA assumes Chapters may lobby and provides advocacy resources and support for legislative committees. If you have views to share with the Legislative Committee on this issue or you would like to join the Committee as we develop platform positions, please visit the MnAPA website and contact the Committee co-chairs.
Laws made in St. Paul can have a profound effect on the practice of planning, quality of life and the environment throughout Minnesota. Planners need to understand the issues, know how the law-making process works, and to be able to engage in that process when needed. Attend the brown bag lunch with colleagues—learn about the historic capitol area architecture and where to find your legislators’ offices. Watch a legislative hearing and see firsthand how a bill is shaped into law before passage. Hear from key legislators and other organizations actively engaged in the legislative process about some of the current planning, land-use and zoning-related issues before the 2009 Legislature. Learn about how we as a state planning organization can have a meaningful impact on how the laws are shaped which affect our profession. The program will wrap up with a social gathering including complimentary hors d’oeuvres.

Preliminary Schedule

11:30 Brown Bag and Tour of the Capitol Area
Meet at the Veterans Affairs Service Building, 20 West 12th Street, 5th Floor
(Free parking is available at the Sears Lot, or the League of Minnesota Cities offices)

12:45 Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
State Capitol, Hearing Room 107

2:00 Legislative Committee Program and Meeting
State Capitol Room 229, 2nd Floor, East Wing

4:00 Social Gathering Hors d’oeuvres
Kelly Inn 161 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul, two blocks southwest of the State Capitol

Maps of the capitol complex may be found at:
http://www.admin.state.mn.us/pmd/4-1_building_locations_maps.htm and

Application is being made for CM Credit. For more information about this program please contact Andrew Mack at 218-759-3582 or Paul Mandell at 651-757-1507.
Upcoming events for planners in March 2009

THURS., MARCH 5, MnAPA Brown Bag Lunch: 12-1:30 p.m.  Event: “Make a Map!”  Presenter: Metro Council GIS Department.  Location: Metro Council Headquarters.

FRI., MARCH 6, 2009. MnAPA Legislative Committee Meeting.  Time: 2-4 p.m.

FRI., MARCH 6, 2009.  Green the Ghetto: A Breakfast Forum on Sustainable Urban Development.  Join the Minnesota International Center for a breakfast forum with urban sustainable development leader, Majora Carter, who pioneered green economic practices in the South Bronx, NY.  Windows on Minnesota, 50th Floor, IDS Tower, 80 S. 8th St., Minneapolis.  Registration begins at 7:30 am and the program is from 8-9:15 a.m.  $20 for MIC members and $30 for non-members.  Register online at www.micglobe.org or call 612-625-4421.

MON., MARCH 9, 2009. Design for Sustainable Systems.  This presentation will feature Jim Patchett, founder and president of the Conservation Design Forum, Inc. and the Board of Conservation Research Institute.  Patchett’s presentation provides an overview of the historical patterns of hydrology and the hydrological relationships between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.  The discussion will be related to the historical role of water in the Twin Cities from early settlement to today.  The event begins at 6 p.m. in 100 Rapson Hall on the University of Minnesota’s East Bank in Minneapolis.  For more info, visit: http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cdescomm/cdes_memo/2009/01/spring_2009_college_of_design.html

TUES., MARCH 10, 2009. “Great Conversations” with Seymour Hersh, Larry Jacobs, and Walter Mondale.  Sponsored by the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.  Larry Jacobs and Walter Mondale will discuss America’s constitutional crisis with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall as part of the University’s “Great Conversations” series.  Series tickets at $80 ($65 for U of M faculty, staff, students, and UMAA and MPR members) and single tickets at $28.50 ($23.50) are on sale now.  To order tickets call (612) 624-2345.  For more information about the series, visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations/index

WED., MARCH 11, 2009. Twin Cities Household Ecosystem Study.  This topic is presented in association with this month’s Twin Cities Research Group Brown Bag Speaker Series.  The event is free and open to the public.  The Twin Cities Household Ecosystem Project (TCHEP) examines the linkages between household biogeochemical fluxes (notably CO₂ emissions among others) and socio-economic factors.  The presentation will feature Larry Baker, Senior Fellow in the Water Resources Center, and Kristen Nelson, Association Professor, from the University of Minnesota.  The event is scheduled for 12-1 pm in St. Paul at 555 Wabasha St. N., 4th Floor Boardroom.

FRI., MARCH 13, 2009. CURA Housing Forum: Framing up a New Era of Housing: Learning from What We Know?  12:00 – 1:30pm.  Hanson Hall: Room 1-106, 1925 4th Street South, Univ. of Minnesota, West Bank.  Presenting Speakers: Eric Muschler, McKnight Foundation; Carrie Rocha, HousingLink; Elissa Schloesser, HousingLink.  The McKnight Foundation has contracted with HousingLink, a non-profit affordable housing organization, to track key housing data within the McKnight housing evaluation framework.  Join us as we discuss the McKnight Foundation’s new housing evaluation framework and its approach for measuring progress while expanding opportunities to learn from the work of the affordable housing field.  RSVP required by 3/11 to (612) 625-2086 or curahf@umn.edu.  CURA Housing Forums are free and open to the public.

FRI., MARCH 20, 2009. MnAPA Board Meeting.  Location: Great River Energy 12300 Elm Creek Blvd, N. Maple Grove, MN 55369 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

WED., MARCH 25, 2009. PLANNERS’ DAY AT THE CAPITOL, sponsored by APA-Minnesota.  Laws made in St. Paul can have a profound effect on the practice of planning, quality of life and the environment throughout Minnesota.  Planners need to understand the issues, know how the law-making process works, and to be able to engage in that process when needed.  Attend the brown bag lunch with colleagues—learn about the historic capitol area architecture and where to find your legislators’ offices.  Watch a legislative hearing and see firsthand how a bill is shaped into law before passage.  Hear from key legislators and other organizations actively engaged in the legislative process about some of the current planning, land-use and zoning-related issues before the 2009 Legislature.  Learn about how we as a state planning organization can have a meaningful impact on how the laws are shaped which affect our profession.  The program will wrap up with a social gathering including complimentary hors d’oeuvres.  For full day’s schedule, please see page 5 of this newsletter.  Maps of the capitol complex may be found at: http://www.admin.state.mn.us/pmd/4-1_building_locations_maps.htm and

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE
The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is a national research, education and advocacy organization committed to the successful implementation of New Urbanism principles at three scales: 1) region, metropolis, city and town; 2) neighborhood, district and corridor; and 3) block, street and building. CNU is the leading national organization promoting walkable, neighborhood-based development as an alternative to sprawl. It takes a proactive, multi-disciplinary approach to building communities, informed by members who are committed to humanizing our built environment.

CNU believes in the restoration of existing urban centers and towns, reconfiguration of sprawling suburbs into communities of real neighborhoods and diverse districts, and preservation of our built environment.

CNU hosts an annual conference to educate its membership about the latest innovations in the planning, design and development of pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented, mixed-use neighborhoods. This year's conference will be held in Denver, Colorado from June 10-13. More information is available at www.CNU17.org.

A scholarship fund to pay the registration fee for one appointed or elected official has been created in the name of Richard McLaughlin, a tireless New Urbanism practitioner and pioneer who died in 2006. More information about the scholarship and how to apply for it is available at www.CNU.org/17/scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by April 22, 2009.

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Scholarship available for appointed/elected officials to attend the annual Congress for the New Urbanism, June 10-13, 2009 in Denver

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Current job openings for planners

Transportation Planner/Engineer - SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Job Description: Planner/civil engineer wanted to assist with the development of a variety of transportation and planning projects including transportation plans, corridor studies, traffic studies, and policy development. Salary Range: $45,000 to $48,000 annual.

Responsibilities include:
- Data collection and analysis
- Crash/safety analysis
- Traffic operations
- Roadway, trail and transit system planning
- Report and memo writing
- Public presentations

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in transportation planning and or transportation/civil engineering. Masters degree a plus.
- 0-5 years transportation-related experience
- Familiarity with geography, land use and transportation issues
- Strong analytical skills
- Proven technical writing ability
- Excellent interpersonal and public communication skills
- Proficiency in a number of computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets and database software

SRF Consulting Group, Inc. is a fast growing, locally owned, and well-established transportation planning, engineering, and design firm. In addition to varied and exciting work in a positive atmosphere, we offer competitive salary and benefits, 401(k) & profit sharing. www.srfconsulting.com

Application Instructions: Please submit your cover letter, resume, and salary expectations by February 23, 2009 to SRF Consulting Group, Inc., One Carlson Pkwy. N., #150, Plymouth, MN 55447; or e-mail to jobs@srfconsulting.com. EEOE.

Cultural Resources Project Manager - The 106 Group, Ltd.

The 106 Group, a cultural resources management & planning firm, is seeking a cultural resources project manager in our St. Paul or Superior/Duluth office. We offer a professional and friendly working environment with a wide range of interesting and challenging projects. See www.106group.com for more information on our firm.

Minimum requirements include an M.A. or M.S. degree in architectural history, archaeology, historic preservation, planning, environmental sciences, or closely related field, and at least 4 years of work experience in Section 106 and/or NEPA planning processes. Skills and experience required include:
- Strong project management, organizational, and people skills
- A thorough knowledge of cultural resources management and/or NEPA laws and processes
- Successful track record coordinating with agencies and clients
- Detail-oriented with excellent writing skills
- Experience managing field personnel
- Good working knowledge of current information technologies
- The ability to work individually and as a team
- The ability to adapt quickly and work well under pressure
- Experience in scoping and defining projects is desirable

Some travel may be involved in this position. The 106 Group offers an excellent salary and benefits package. Salary range: $47,000 – $67,000 depending on experience and skills. To apply, please complete the application located at www.106group.com/employment.htm. Email your application, resume and a letter highlighting your skills to jobs@106group.com. The 106 Group is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Application Instructions: To apply, please complete the application located at www.106group.com/employment.htm. Email your application, resume and a letter highlighting your skills to jobs@106group.com.
WCI infrastructure study seeks green solutions

BY WAYNE HURLEY, AICP

Our Hidden Infrastructure

When we discuss infrastructure, roads and bridges seem to get the most attention. While the things we see every day are very important, there are real problems with ignoring the infrastructure that is beneath our feet.

Water Hazards: Inside Information on Infrastructure

Turn on a faucet and the water comes out. Flush a toilet and the water goes away. And when it rains? Well, that’s why we have storm drains. Many of us take these things for granted. More and more communities are finding their water, wastewater and storm water systems are old, tired and struggling to keep up with demand. In 2003, West Central Initiative (WCI) published a study that showed the immediate need to replace aging city infrastructure—most of it 60-plus-year-old WPA projects. A whopping $800 million is needed in the next 15 years for infrastructure in the nine counties of west central Minnesota alone.

Maybe you’ve heard all this before.

Many communities are working on their water systems right now, some are trying to figure out what to do, and others have already done the repair and replacement—with mixed results. The truth is there’s no cookie-cutter solution to community’s needs. Some towns have city water and sewer, some don’t. Some have one system, but not the other.

WCI was seeking a way to provide information about alternatives for infrastructure replacement and repair that are environmentally AND economically friendly for communities. In late 2007, WCI contracted with Yellow Wood Associates to work with three cities with varying infrastructure challenges and needs: Battle Lake, Brandon and Ottertail.

Yellow Wood used its Green Community Technologies® approach to help the communities evaluate the impact of applying alternative technologies to municipal infrastructure and related services. The firm then created an outline of what any community can do using readily available resources and information.

WCI CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE
**Study finds merit in tried-and-true green approaches**

WCI CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**Six steps to assessing infrastructure**

In a nutshell, Yellow Wood’s Green Community Technologies® approach includes these steps:

1. Understand community goals
2. Assess history and current conditions
3. Identify issues and opportunities
4. Consider conventional and alternative approaches
5. Recognize available resources
6. Partner for implementation

**Your grandparents had the right idea**

The cities were surprised to find that some of Yellow Wood’s suggestions were rather old-fashioned, like collecting rain water for non-drinking uses. The city of Brandon may implement some of these ideas—like rain barrels for every household—as time and funding permit, said city council member Shelley Plessner.

In Ottertail, having aquifers and five lakes within the city limits means more water stewardship not less, according to Lee Sherman, Ottertail city coordinator. Sherman stated that after working with Yellow Wood, they plan to make septic systems a number one priority. City administration also sought advice on water conservation pointers the city could implement and share with residents.

Wanda Berg-Vorgert, city clerk-treasurer for Battle Lake, agrees. “We’re surrounded by lakes so it’s very important that we look at green technologies,” she said. “We have an obligation to protect our lakes, especially when it comes to development.”

For those who express concern about the price tag for implementing alternative treatments like creating wetlands to filter storm water run-off, “think of the costs of [environmental] clean up,” Berg-Vorgert said.

Representatives from all three of the cities felt it was helpful to have outside analysis of their infrastructure.

“We have a tendency not to see the forest because of the trees,” Sherman explained. “It was helpful for someone from outside of the area to put things in a new light.”

“It was good to be able to sit down and brainstorm with knowledgeable people. It gave us a new perspective,” Plessner said.

“The information that [Battle Lake] learned will always be in the back of our minds whenever we do a new project,” Berg-Vorgert said. “It will be a great resource for us to return to from now on.”

**Would you like to learn more about assessing your city’s infrastructure?**

WCI has posted Yellow Wood’s outline of the process on their Web site at [www.wcif.org](http://www.wcif.org). You can also contact Greg Wagner, WCI economic development planner, at 800 735-2239, or [greg@wcif.org](mailto:greg@wcif.org).
## mnapa leadership directory

### executive committee

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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### district directors

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<tr>
<td>Central District</td>
<td>Anita Rasmussen, AICP</td>
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<td>Jennifer Zierke, AICP, LEED AP</td>
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<td>Northeast District</td>
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<td>Southeast District</td>
<td>Bruce Peterson, AICP</td>
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### committee chairs

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<th>Committee</th>
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