

PLANNING MATTERS



American Planning Association
Colorado Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association

Volume 15, Issue 4

THE 2015 APA COLORADO CHAPTER AWARDS ISSUE:

An in-depth look at this year's Chapter Award recipients.

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A Small Town Unites Around a New Skate Park Honor Award: Community Engagement

Anne Best Johnson, AICP
Tetra Tech & Town of Milliken

Where is the best new Skate Park in the State of Colorado? Milliken, Colorado has it. While I am no longer employed with the Town of Milliken, the Skate Park project was one of the more inspiring projects of my 25-year career as a Planner.

Armed with breakfast burritos and steno notebooks, the Parks Director (Josh Roseberry) and I reached out to local school Principals and sought assistance as we are not skateboarders ourselves. We requested a list of students who had skateboarding prowess as well as leadership traits. We requested the ability to meet with the students during class time. We requested commitment from the students, their teachers and families. This commitment grew organically and led to the achievement of remarkable results.



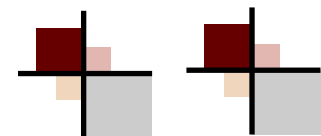
Milliken is a rural community located at the intersections of SH 60 & 257. It has a diverse but limited recreational portfolio lacking amenities for children over the age of 5.



The Town of Milliken along with local Principals formed the Milliken Skate Park Leadership Team to guide the project. Note the proximity of the Park to the Middle School in the background.

The Principals were thrilled as skateboarders are not often selected for community leadership activities. We met with the students, sought their input, and genuinely listened to their desires. We were able to forge a common vision and constantly communicated the vision to the community.

Continued—page 4



2015 President's Award

Chapter Honor Award Videos—Online!

Thanks to the volunteer efforts Lorin Crandall, University of Colorado Denver MURP student, the Colorado Chapter was again able to promote the 2015 Honor Award recipients with the production of short videos highlighting these projects. To view the videos, visit the Chapter Awards webpage at:

<http://www.apacolorado.org/current-winners>

President's Message

Stan Clauson, AICP ASLA

Welcome to the Winter 2015 Edition of *Planning Matters*. In this issue we showcase the 2015 Colorado Chapter Planning Awards. These awards were presented at our State Conference in Steamboat Springs this past October. The conference itself was a great success, with a record number of attendees and education sessions showcasing some of the best work that planners are doing across the state. The awards represent what the review committee found to be some of the best efforts of planners and local governments in translating a community vision into action. Understandably, the selection was difficult because so many fine projects were submitted. Projects range from an innovative program to analyze transportation impacts of new development to an important community resiliency project for Boulder County waterways.



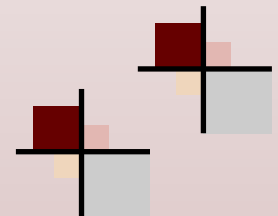
Resiliency and sustainability are major themes that inform many of these projects. However, it is also important that communities can move forward with new development and renewal, providing potential development with a clear vision of what is appropriate. To the extent that potential projects can be evaluated early on for their impacts and benefits, communities have a better chance to achieve development that is of significant value. Planners understand that this is a key role for their profession, but it is a role that needs to be continuously articulated to the general public.

We have a new initiative this year to make sure that the award winners present their awards, and the rationale behind them, to their elected officials. But even beyond that, it might be useful for planners in all jurisdictions to take a moment with elected officials to discuss the meaning of these award projects, and consider what similar efforts might be undertaken in their communities. We all become absorbed in our daily activities, but a little time for visioning make go a long way in advancing our profession and our communities.

Best regards,

Stan Clauson, Colorado Chapter President

The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of APA-Colorado or its Board of Directors.



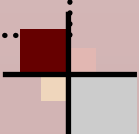
Talk to the President: Do you have a comment or thought you'd like to share after reading the President's message or about the Chapter in General? Email President@APAColorado.org



Who knew biking could be so rewarding. Not only can you burn some calories...but you can make your own breakfast smoothie on your commute to work.

Just one of the fun things 2016 APA Colorado State Conference attendees got to experience this year.

Healthy Places: Designing an Active Arvada



NextGen Trip Reduction: Mitigating Development-Related Trips

Honor Award: General Planning Project

Jessica Garrow, AICP
City of Aspen CU

As planners we’ve all been there. You’re working on a significant land use application and think you have it all buttoned up and ready for a City Council decision when “Bam!” out of the blue comes a new issue. In Aspen, this happened repeatedly over transportation and traffic. Planners would hear: “How can you prove there won’t be more traffic?” “This project is going to cause speeding and increased traffic and degrade my quality of life.” “I don’t trust the applicant and their team of so-called experts.” After years of seeing the same issues related to transportation impacts come up at the eleventh hour, the City of Aspen decided to do something about it.

Using momentum from the Aspen Area Community Plan, staff and City Council made it a priority to create a clear, fair, and consistent system for mitigating the traffic impacts from new development that at the same time would help the community meet its trip reduction goals and greenhouse gas reduction goals. With help from consultants Fehr & Peers, the result was the City of Aspen Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines. A boring title for a transformational process.

So what is this great system? It’s a set of customizable Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and Multi-Modal Level of Service (MMLOS) requirements based on Aspen-specific trip generation numbers. An applicant simply plugs in their proposed use mix and gets the number of new trips generated by the development. They then select TDM and MMLOS measures that make sense for their site to mitigate those trips. No more studies, no more guessing, and no more traffic-related last minute delays in the review process.



Proposed Land Use	Size	Trips Generated					
		AM Peak-Hour			PM Peak-Hour		
		Entering	Exiting	Total	Entering	Exiting	Total
Commercial (sf)	0.0 sf	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Free-Market Housing (Units)	0.0 Units	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Affordable Housing (Units)	12.0 Units	4.32	4.68	9.00	5.87	4.81	10.68
Lodging (Units)	22.0 Units	3.14	2.37	5.50	3.55	3.27	6.82
Essential Public Facility (sf)	0.0 sf	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NEW TRIPS		7.46	7.05	14.50	9.42	8.08	17.50

A simple excel-based tool calculates trip generation, and enables applicants to select TDM and MMLOS mitigation measures. The final sheet shows how many trips are mitigated through the selected measures.

Skate Park continued

The Leadership Team invited GOCO to a May team meeting to learn of grant opportunities, the competitive nature of the grants, and to share their ideas for a new park. GOCO was a funding partner and without their support, the project would not have come to fruition as expeditiously as it did. The Town did their part to be competitive in the grant review cycle. Once submitted, the Skate Park Leadership Team and the Town pursued other funding opportunities, continued to hold fundraisers and tried to keep the enthusiasm high with the local stakeholders. For their initial investment of \$100,000, the Town realized a gain of a \$450,000 Skate Park, opportunities for local businesses to grow and cater to the new amenity in Town. As one local business owner stated, “There is a buzz here. I can’t believe it’s Milliken.”



Through constant communication, Town management, as well as appointed and elected officials, understood how important it was to listen to residents, including the youth about what they wanted in *their* skate park.



Community engagement takes time to nurture and grow. Without pre-conceptions, the Town of Milliken genuinely listened to the students and engaged students who might not have ever been considered for leadership roles. The Milliken Skate Park Leadership Team became community leaders. They felt empowered by the project and have a sense of ownership of the resulting park

Capturing passion behind a community cause, guiding the public planning process in tandem with youth, and creating a sense of ownership led to the success of the Milliken Skate Park project.

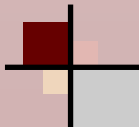
Aspen TIA continued

Before this system, Aspen’s development applicants relied solely on staff members to identify transportation-related requirements and solutions. It resulted in a last minute negotiation with review bodies, and created an adversarial relationship between the applicant and staff and neighbors.

The new system is easy to use and results in real transportation and infrastructure improvements in the form of improved transit stops, improved sidewalks, and the implementation of proven TDM measures such as subsidized bus passes and shuttles. Equally important, it results in a clear and reliable set of transportation-related review criteria for all projects, and means most applicants no longer need to hire a traffic engineer to conduct trip counts or to identify mitigation options because the system does it for them. In Aspen, the next generation of trip reduction is here.

To learn more about the system or process visit

<http://www.aspenpitkin.com/Departments/Community-Development/Planning-and-Zoning/Current-Planning/>



Boulder County's Comprehensive Approach to Watershed Recovery

Honor Award: Community Resiliency

Stacey Proctor
Boulder County



Ecological Assessment- Poor Reach on St. Vrain Creek
Recommendations: Consider opportunities for improved meanders, habitat, vegetation, etc.; need to create more complexity within the channel.

The September 2013 flood in Colorado was an historic event, with a record-breaking 17.1 inches of rainfall over three days. The devastating impacts of the flood were seen throughout the county, from the small mountain communities, to the urban cities and rural areas. The flood drastically altered Boulder County's waterways. Large debris, channel migration, and sediment aggradation and degradation within creek channels decreased the stability of the county's eight watersheds and increased the vulnerability of the adjacent communities to future floods.

Recognizing that any action taken in the creek has impacts both upstream and downstream, it became clear that a comprehensive approach was needed to address the instability of Boulder County's watersheds. Boulder County developed the Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative (CCP), which brought together coalitions of local, state, and federal governments, ditch companies, land

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Boulder County continued

owners and other stakeholders to develop watershed-level master plans to serve as a road map for flood recovery along the creek corridors. In addition to establishing the coalitions, which now focus on implementing the plans, each study included a customized public and stakeholder engagement process to identify community values and promote a common vision for watershed recovery, flood risk reduction, and more resilient watersheds throughout Boulder County.



The outcome of the planning initiative was recovery plans for the Little Thompson River, St. Vrain Creek, Left Hand Creek, Fourmile Creek, Fourmile Canyon Creek, Upper Coal Creek, and lower Boulder Creek. All of the master plans established post-flood conditions and prioritized watershed recovery projects. Using information in the master plans, agencies, communities, coalitions, and citizens have begun seeking funds to implement projects. As communities begin to receive funds and implement projects, the groundwork that was laid during the CCP initiative has led to continued partnerships among stakeholders, including coordination on permitting, collaboration on project design, and development of funding strategies.



Ecological Assessment- Good Reach on St. Vrain Creek
Recommendations: No further management recommended

Recovery of Boulder County’s watersheds will take years to complete. With the information gained and the relationships developed by the CCP initiative, the end result will be stronger, smarter, and more resilient watersheds in Boulder County.

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WE'RE THINKING WHAT YOU'RE THINKING

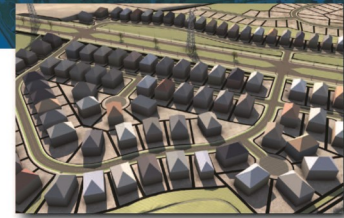
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Transit Station & Transit Zone Evaluations

Honor Award: Student/Recent Graduate Project

Master of Urban and Regional Planning Fall 2014 Studio Students, CU Denver



Studio student participated in a blindfold tour of downtown led by Claudia Folska, RTD District E Director, that included boarding and alighting a light rail car and the 16th Street Free Mall Ride.

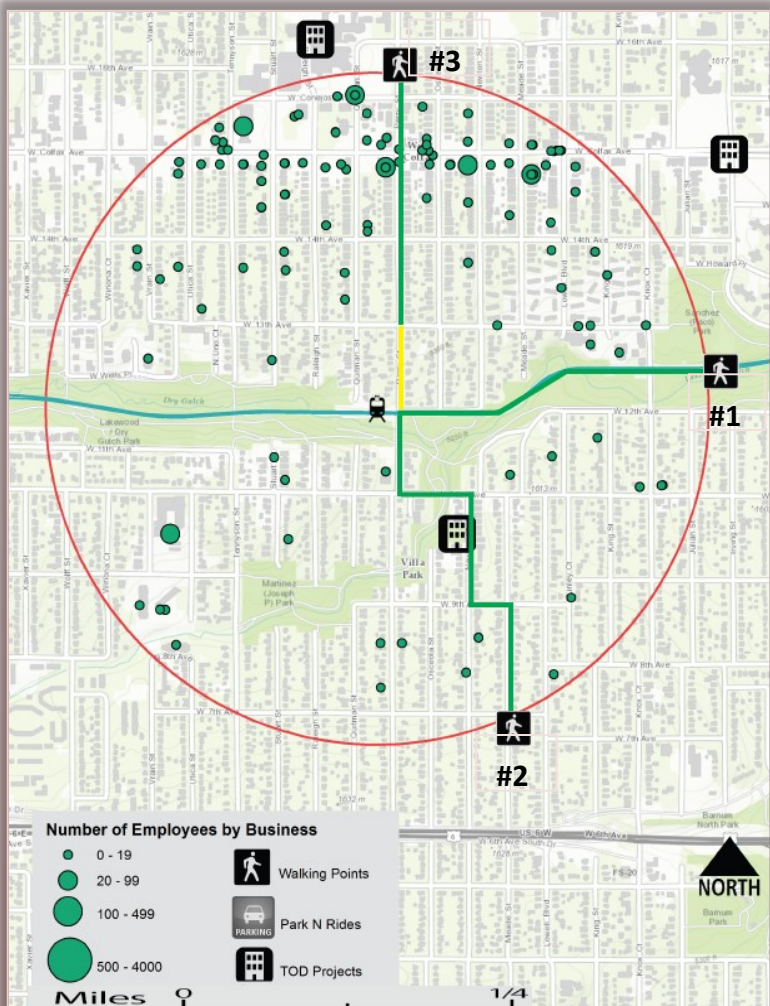
The UC Denver Master of Urban and Regional Planning Fall 2014 Studio conducted assessments on transit-oriented development (TOD) accessibility, development patterns, and business development at 45 stations along the RTD Southeast, Southwest, and West lines. The findings and lessons learned from these assessments were used to inform the objective of a research team from the UC Denver’s College of Architecture and Planning and School of Public Affairs (CAP/SPA Research Team) to plan for affordable housing along the Gold Line corridor scheduled to open in 2016. Working with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and its member jurisdictions, the CAP/SPA Research Team developed a list of recommended sites for affordable housing and mixed-income and mixed-use development around the stations along the future Gold line corridor.

In order to better understand TOD in the U.S., each student conducted case study research and assessments on exemplar TODs, including how each compares to the four DRCOG criteria: affordability, accessibility, jobs and economic development, and site development.

Incorporating the lessons learned from the case studies, the studio employed a variety of research methods to analyze the four criteria around the existing RTD stations. One of these methods was an innovative mobile survey tool to gather primary data related to quality of walk, connectivity, and walk times for three half-mile walking points at each of the stations. Collectively the studio students walked 131 miles! The walking point primary data along with secondary data such as housing density, affordable housing, business, employment, demographics, and zoning

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Maps produced for each station to show number of employees by business and the quality of the walking points.



Student Project continued

were used to score and rank the stations. The scoring method was developed to draw the attention of local and regional decision makers to the successes and challenges of planning, developing, and monitoring TOD around the stations. Additionally, students participated in a blindfold tour of downtown led by Claudia Folska, RTD District E Director, that provided invaluable knowledge and experience that was applied to the accessibility analysis of the station areas.

Finally, five-page transit zone summary reports were developed for each station and used to support recommendations made by the research team to DRCOG. These detailed yet concise station area evaluations provide grounded primary evidence of the need for regional support to fund, plan, and coordinate first and last mile connections, investment in infrastructure, affordable housing, workforce training, and innovative urban designs that promote equity and walkability.

Durango Pre-Existing ADU Voluntary Registration Initiative

Honor Award: General Planning Project



After a lengthy process to write and adopt regulations to govern the new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Durango’s oldest neighborhoods, City staff created an innovative program to incentivize voluntary registration of pre-existing ADUs and duplexes. The project was completed entirely in house with staff creating an online form and an informational video. Project discussions were initiated in Spring 2014, the program launched August 1, 2014 and it is expected to continue for 12-18 months. To date, over 125 units have registered through the voluntary program.

The intent of the Pre-Existing ADU Voluntary Registration Initiative was to provide incentives to property owners who voluntarily notified the City of their unit’s existence while also setting the stage for a more proactive enforcement effort for those who did not voluntarily register. The Durango Community Development Department proposed a phased, incentive-based approach. The first phase was the release of a simple online registration form and a comprehensive mailing to all property owners in designated neighborhoods. Property owners who submitted the online form by a certain date would be eligible for a reduced fee schedule, could be granted variances administratively, and would be eligible to enroll in a multiyear, low-interest payment plan for fees.

For more information visit the City’s ADU web link.
www.durangogov.org/adus

City of Centennial: Citywide Rezoning Public Outreach Process

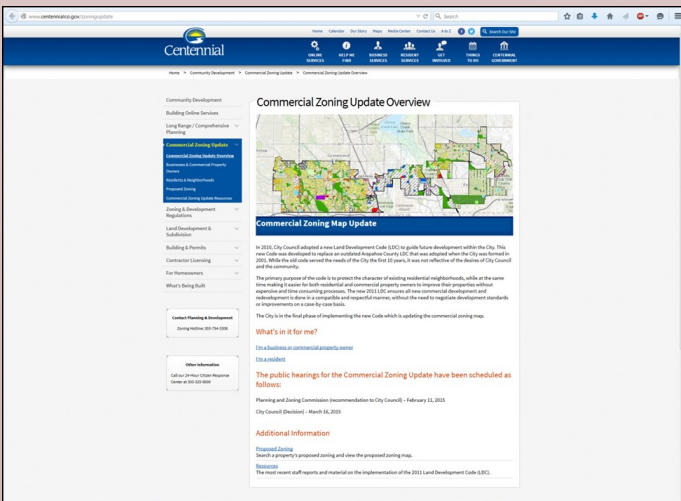
Merit Award: Project with a Small Budget

Derek M. Holcomb, AICP
City of Centennial

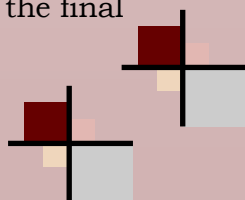
In 2010, the City of Centennial adopted a new Land Development Code (LDC) containing streamlined approval processes and a set of high-quality, predictable development regulations. Although adopted in 2010, the new LDC was not yet effective because all properties were still governed by zoning in the 2001 code, known as the Legacy LDC. To implement the new LDC the City had to rezone properties from the Legacy LDC to a comparable zone district in the new code. Per direction from the City Council, the new LDC was implemented in three phases through a series of citywide rezoning efforts: Phase 1 – Residential properties; Phase 2- Special district and government properties; and Phase 3- Commercial properties.



While the process to legislatively rezone a city is not a new concept, Centennial’s approach was different in that it involved so much community outreach and transparency. A common criticism of government and regulation-making is that it is done behind closed doors, without meaningful public comment or consideration. The exact opposite was said for Centennial’s legislative rezoning; there were more than 60 public meetings and nearly 40,000 pieces of individualized notice (letters/postcards), not including recurring newsletter and newspaper publications. Staff prepared detailed reports to the advisory groups and public bodies, but also provided colorful, easy to understand posters and handouts to the general public. Further, all information made available at public meetings and open houses was also placed on a project webpage on the City’s website. In addition, the City used its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to create an interactive draft zoning map for public consumption during the outreach process, allowing for real-time comments (from the public) and edits by Staff. A running edit tracker was kept to allow public and elected officials to see what changes were made to the map during the public outreach process. The total project cost was approximately \$16,000.00 and consisted of printing and mailing costs over a five year period.



As other cities and counties begin to update their own zoning codes, comprehensive plans, etc. there is a great lesson to be learned in Centennial’s success: there is no such thing as too much public information! The outreach methods and tools used by Centennial Staff can serve as an example to other jurisdictions in the establishment of their own processes and procedures. Above all, try to provide as much information as possible, in as many forms as possible, so that all stakeholders can contribute and have ownership over the final product.



Events Page

Upcoming Free Webcasts

November 18 (1.5 CM)
Best Practices for Production of Guidelines and Plans

December 4 (1.5 CM)
The Ethics of Private Practice Consulting

December 9
APA Career Reality Webinar: Resume & Portfolio Development

December 11 (1.5 CM)
Equity Issues in Transportation Planning

September & October Events at a Glance

September 11, 2015
APA Colorado Board Meeting
2:00—4:00
UC Denver—Denver, Colorado

September 11, 2015
APA Colorado & APAS Happy Hour
4:00—??? Location TBD
Denver, Colorado

September 30—October 2, 2015
APA Colorado State Conference
Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Registration closes September 11, 2015

October 6, 2015
RMLUI: State Control of Federal Lands—Legal or Not?
6-8:30 p.m.
Sturm College of Law, Denver

October 6—9, 2015
DCI Annual Conference: Vibrant Colorado Downtowns
Durango, Colorado

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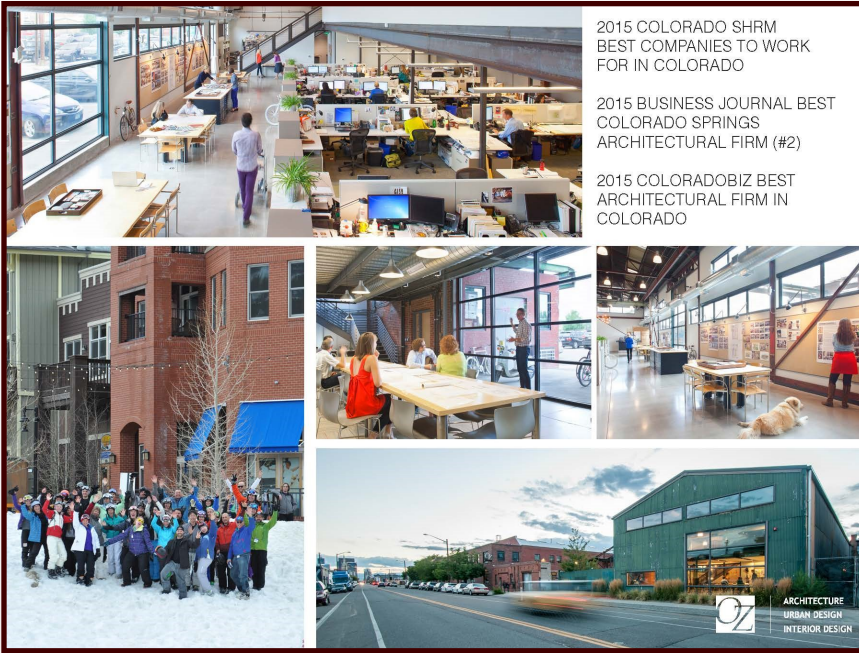


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A New Downtown for Westminster Merit Award: General Planning Project

Sarah Nurmela
City of Westminster

When was the last time a city attempted to build a downtown, not as a “project” but as a place? A place that is designed to grow organically, incrementally over time, that becomes the center of public life in a community that has evolved from a purely suburban growth model? Like so many of its suburban counterparts, the City of Westminster has grown rapidly over the past 100 years with little remnant of the city’s original footprint. Lacking a true urban, social, and cultural center, and anticipating significant growth in population and jobs over the next 20 years, the City of Westminster has strived through this Downtown Specific Plan to create a true downtown that will last and evolve over time, becoming the center of life, activity and economic growth in the city.

The vision for this new downtown comprises a cohesive and sustainable mixed-use district with a well-defined hierarchy of blocks and streets and a distinct community identity. The downtown will be a transit-oriented, walkable, diverse neighborhood composed of rental and home ownership units as well as regionally serving retail, office, and civic spaces in a tight network of trails, parks, and plazas. Designed with substantial community and stakeholder input, the plan is expandable, i.e., it is anticipated, and designed to accommodate future expansion of the Downtown to adjacent areas.



Community members review information stations at a community workshop

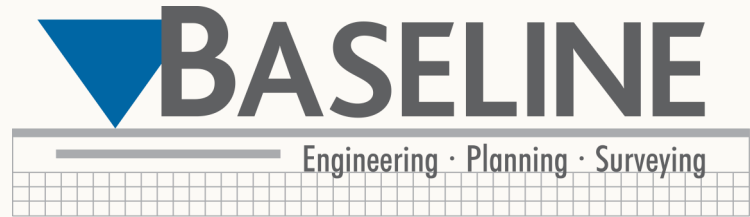


Conceptual Sketch—A site plan sketch developed during the preliminary design charrette lays out the fundamental elements of the Specific Plan vision.

Continued on Page 14

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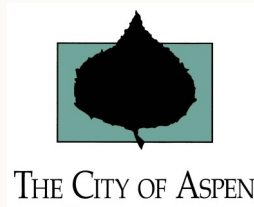
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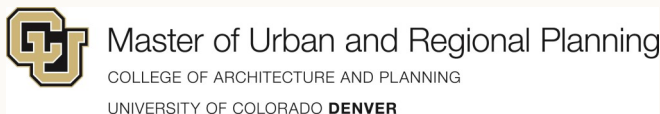
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Downtown Westminster continued

The purpose of the Downtown Specific Plan is to provide the regulatory framework with which to implement the City's vision. As such, the Plan establishes land use, intensity, and design standards that ensures a mix of uses in an urban, pedestrian-oriented environment. Design standards in the Plan are primarily form-based, providing direction for shaping a distinctive public realm through block, building, and frontage standards as well as additional qualitative standards and guidelines. The Plan also lays out a street and block framework that supports multimodal travel throughout the downtown with off-street trails, bicycle lanes, wide sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks, and street design that reduces vehicle speeds. The public realm is also clearly delineated in the plan, with multiple park spaces and plazas, most notably establishing public venues with a central public square and 2.9-acre central park. Finally, the Plan's cohesive approach to regulation of land use, design, circulation, public spaces, and infrastructure facilitates a streamlined development review process meant to incentivize new development, a first phase of which is already underway.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM—2015 APA Colorado State Conference

By John C. Shepard, AICP; Planning Manager, Archuleta County



Cautious Optimism seemed the order of the day at APA Colorado's 2015 State Conference in Steamboat Springs. A Standing-Room-Only crowd lent an air of good cheer to the proceedings, but there also seemed to be an unspoken disquiet lest the wheels start spinning in place once more. The conference program framed this dichotomy, with good sessions on local and state successes as well as hard-nosed notes of caution. Three themes emerged for me: resilience, unintended consequences, and solving problems.

Resilience. Sustainability has been Planning's watchword the last several years, with the idea of resilience emerging as a compliment—in particular the ability of resilient systems to anticipate and recover from a variety of events. The Water Track covered a broad array of such topics, from Justice Hobbs' opening plenary setting the historical context of water rights, to the statewide water plan and source water protection. I would have liked to see sessions on flood mitigation and floodplain management in this track, but I couldn't get to every insightful session as it was.

Unintended Consequences. The classic suburban development pattern is under attack from both the urban and rural sides of the spectrum. In classic Jane Jacobs fashion, we're all busy un-

doing the unintended consequences of suburban sprawl encouraged (required?) by our previous generation’s grand plans and model zoning ordinances. Climate change is the big attraction, but the theme wove through the conference from removing parking minimums to allowing rural wedding venues and “tiny houses”.

Solving Problems. At the end of the day, most of us are successful in our occupations (and avocations) if we’ve helped our chosen communities become better places to live, work and play. Several Law sessions discussed both wins and losses, and the daily work to deliver good customer service, be it sign regulations (watch out for Reed challenges) or advocating for construction defects reform. Useful information we could put to work Monday morning after the conference. We all have work ahead of us. And that’s a good thing.

Cortez Heart and Soul Receives Merit Award

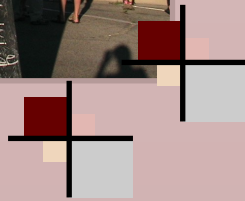
Merit Award: Community Engagement

*Tracie Hughes
City of Cortez*

The Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded Cortez Heart & Soul a Merit Award for Community Engagement in recognition of outstanding professional achievement. The Heart & Soul of Cortez project was a community-driven process that identified the shared values of the residents of Cortez and the surrounding area. The project followed the Orton Family Foundation’s Community Heart & Soul™ model. The initial intent was to identify values to be integrated in to a values-based land-use code and to compel local decision making to support the values. A team of volunteers from the community, called the Community Advisory Team (CAT) worked alongside city staff to conduct the process. The process promoted inclusive community engagement by seeking to reach a broad range of community members, and employed a variety of activities to gather information, such as personal interviews and storytelling sessions, a photo contest, neighborhood block parties, numerous community conversations, and a survey targeted at youth. A web-based platform gathered additional input from community members. Eight value statements and a community action plan were drafted as a result of the hard work of individual community mem-



bers, the CAT team, and staff. Results of the project included a land-use code values alignment analysis completed by University of Colorado students, youth seats with voting rights on advisory boards, a citywide beautification plan, and a land-use code update that is underway. In addition, the outcomes and practices used during the project provided valuable feedback for the Orton Family Foundation’s Community Heart & Soul method, benefiting other communities conducting similar processes.



Bringing Community Engagement to the Street

Merit Award: Community Engagement

Steven Chester
City & County of Denver

“Pop-up” or “guerilla” urbanism have been growing forces in our cities over the last several years. People expect to be engaged in many ways in their daily lives, and they want to see, touch and experience things – not just read or hear about them. The typical workshop forum, week-long charrette or even online surveys are still valuable tools but, simply put, community members want more as they describe the future of their city or neighborhood.

It is this intersection between the substantive and surprising that made Triangle Transformations so original and innovative. The significant analysis, data and consideration of potential transformative improvements – all while people were having fun – made Triangle Transformations a real success. Undertaken early in the planning process, the Triangle Transformations pop-up workshop directly impacted development of the Golden Triangle Neighborhood Plan, and it ushered in strong momentum and public support for the plan even before it was completed. The event took something that can be very abstract for people – planning – and made it tangible and engaging.

Perhaps the greatest aspect of Triangle Transformations is its transferability to practically any process or environment. Community plans, neighborhood plans, streetscapes, parks, plazas, transit-oriented development, site development – all kinds of planning and design endeavors can integrate such a pop-up workshop. The methodology of identifying the space or street; coordinating with public works on the necessary permits and closures; collaborating and communicating with local businesses; securing materials, supplies, food and entertainment; and shaping the pilot demonstrations and activities is all transferable and teachable. The City and County of Denver now has a rich template by which it can employ this hands-on workshop technique throughout the City. In addition, the framework is flexible, allowing for future demonstrations and methods to be illustrated and interacted with right in the street, park or vacant lot, or even in a building targeted for re-use or redevelopment.



Triangle Transformations was tremendously successful in attracting people who don't normally participate. The street setting and exciting atmosphere drew a broad range of attendees, from individuals who had seen a posting and specifically attended the event, to people passing by and stopping on their commute home, to nearby property owners who wouldn't typically be bothered to attend a workshop at a local school or other city

venue. This hands-on input simply could not have been obtained from a traditional workshop, charrette, or online survey.

The community is seeing that good planning – combining technical fundamentals, broader policy application, and truly engaging community feedback – can lead to dramatic near-term change while setting the course for a long-term, stable future. They are excited about the future and envisioning how more blocks and streets can take on the character of that special evening.

Innovative Active Mode Planning in the Pikes Peak Region

Merit Award: Sustainability and Environmental Planning



*Jonny Rotheram
Steer Davies Gleave*

The Pikes Peak Regional Nonmotorized Transportation Plan is one of the sub-plans that make up the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments' (PPACG) 2040 Moving Forward Regional Transportation Plan. In an effort to get the most out of the limited resources available for nonmotorized planning, PPACG proposed a collaborative planning process where local jurisdictions could participate and help develop their own plan at the same time. The intent of this project was to develop a regional plan that was coordinated

and in sync with local plans, while developing datasets and discussions that would guide nonmotorized transportation planning throughout the region. PPACG, El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs, and the City of Woodland Park came together in an unprecedented collaboration for this effort. While the Regional Plan was underway, local plans were developed for the participating member entities utilizing a consistent data sources, and outreach process to ensure maximum compatibility between the plans. Steer Davies Gleave, an active mode transportation consultancy, led the development of the PPACG Regional Nonmotorized Transportation Plan, and developed each individual local plan to suit the needs and requirements of each individual agency.

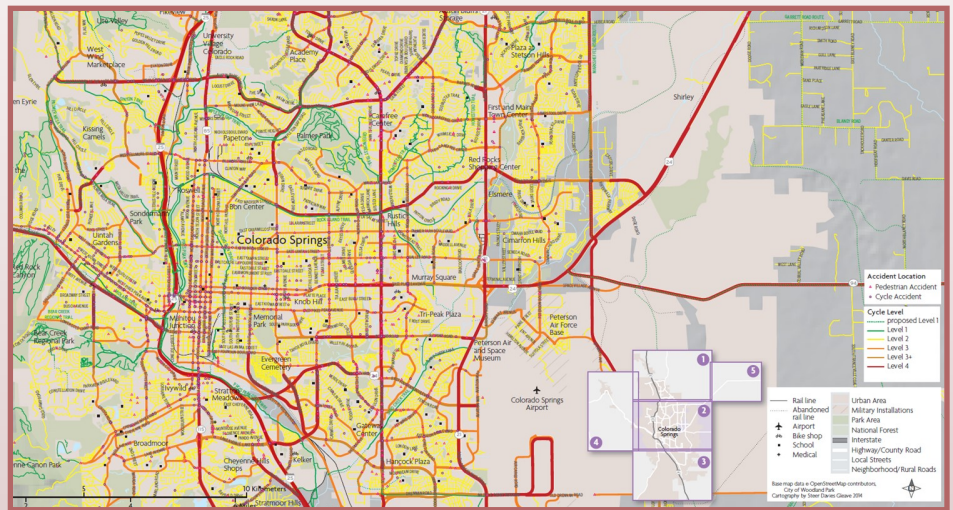
Pikes Peak Plan continued

The Consultant team, in collaboration with the client, developed a number of tools to drive the project to success:

- Collecting and collating base data – Steer Davies Gleave used an online GPS enabled camera on a bicycle to collect first hand data of the cycling and walking network. A ‘stress network’ of the region was also developed to show the major motorized barriers to nonmotorized travel. The stress network map also provided insight into where active mode improvements were needed first.
- Asking those who know best, the locals – Our simple to use, and responsive design outreach application (www.walkbikeconnect.org) allowed residents and visitors to the Pikes Peak region to leave geographic specific comments on the current nonmotorized network. These comments were then fed into the planning process to inform the final nonmotorized system plan by the people that know the network best.

Never forgetting the core principles of outreach and planning – In understanding the importance of keeping traditional planning techniques to feed into the process, regular meetings and workshops with a range of groups were held.

Tying it all up – All of the techniques we have outlined feed into a successful regional nonmotorized transportation system plan. The plan was unanimously approved by the PPACG board of directors in July 2015.



For more information about this project, including the online participation map and all documents and reports, please see: www.walkbikeconnect.org

2016 APA Colorado State Conference



Committee & Board Updates

Emerging Planning Professionals

Are you an entry to mid-level planner looking for ways to stay involved in a community of learning after school? If so, please consider joining Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP), an APA-Colorado organization that was designed to bring together planners in their first 8 years of work after school in order to provide opportunities for professional development, service, and to develop meaningful, innovative contributions to our evolving, diverse profession.

Thanks to the input of our members and the leadership of the chair members, APA-CO's Emerging Planning Professionals has restructured in a way that will enhance the overall experience and success of the organization. Over the course of two "Re-Imagine Workshops", our leadership group has re-structured to allow greater involvement by a larger number of people.

The EPP board has now been streamlined down to include seven permanent appointees in three positions:
Committee Co-Chairs: Anthony Avery and Jonathan Cappelli
Communications Co-Chairs: Brad Boland and Michelle Chung
Event Chairs: Brendan Hurley, Nate Shull, and Lynn Coppedge

In addition to these permanent positions, seven more individuals have volunteered to assist in various other capacities. We believe this restructure will allow the EPP to be more flexible, dynamic, creative, and inclusive for our membership.

Over the next couple of weeks, we'll be taking the ideas gathered at the Re-Imagine Workshops and ideas from all our new board members to create new events and programs. Be on the lookout for some great opportunities to get involved with your peers in the Planning field. We're looking forward to what the next year has in store for us as a group!

Attention recent graduates, you should be on our email list! If you have 8 or fewer years of experience and are not currently enrolled as a full-time student, shoot us an email at EPP@apacolorado.org and we'll get you connected. Also, to stay up-to-date and RSVP for our events, be sure to like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EPPColorado.

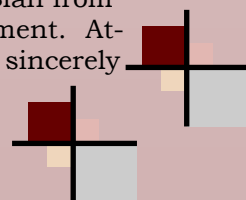
As we finalize the turnover, we'd like to specifically thank the outgoing members of the EPP Board: Sarah Davis, Travis Kazmierzak, Kristina Kachur, Mealie Sloan, Nicole McDermit, Pete Maiman, Chris Dixon, and Kara Silbernage. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication over the past two years to turn the EPP into what it is today and for guiding your successors into the next chapter! We are excited to continue your work to inspire and support emerging planners to become the community leaders of today and tomorrow.

Metro Denver Board Update – November 2015

The Board would like to thank outgoing board Metro Denver Representative Erica Heller, AICP for her work serving on the board. Additionally, we would like to welcome Scott Bressler, AICP as he takes over for Erica. Over the next month we will meet internally to discuss potential metro area events, and how we can continue to serve our area members by providing both learning and networking opportunities throughout the Metro Denver Area.

With that, we want to ask you what types of events you want to see. While most events do qualify for CM credits, they don't always have to be the focus. We plan to team with the students and Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP) to provide opportunities to mingle with seasoned planners, and continue to provide training opportunities that are of interest to you, our members. Please feel free to contact either of us to propose or ask for a certain topic.

Finally, did you miss the event at Dry Dock Brewing Company? Owner Kevin Delange provided an overview of the brewing process, described the growth of Dry Dock, and explained how they have worked with the City of Aurora to become part of the fabric of the community. Stephen Rodriguez, AICP, and Santos Blan from the City of Aurora were also on hand to answer questions about planning and economic development. Attendees received one CM credit and a delicious sample of Dry Dock's beer. APA-CO would like to sincerely thank Dry Dock for hosting us at their beautiful facility!



PlanFinder

planfinder.apacolorado.org

This mobile-responsive, online map is a user-driven database of planning projects across the state. By sharing feedback, case studies and lessons learned, the planning community can connect with peers working on similar projects or with relevant experience and insights.



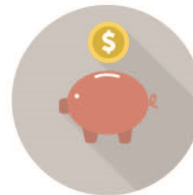
Planners can submit new projects, or comment on and like projects already in the system. These projects can be **tagged** and **filtered** by:



Project Type



Community Size

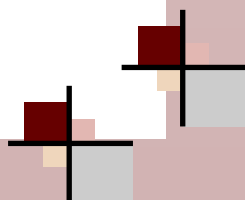


Budget

Support the planning community of practice by sharing your case studies and lessons learned!

Visit Planfinder.APAColorado.org today.

- ⇒ Upload you projects and plans to share with planners around the state and country.
- ⇒ View other communities plans and projects. Some of which are Chapter Award winners.



CONGRATULATIONS
Pearl Street Mall
APA'S 2015 GREAT PLACES IN AMERICA
PUBLIC SPACES
AWARD WINNER

2015 PRESIDENTS AWARD

On Feb.19, 2015, President Obama designated 21,586 acres of pristine canyons, rivers and backcountry forest in Colorado as the Browns Canyon National Monument. To recognize and honor the hard work and dedication to make this designation a reality, Chapter President Stan Clauson presented the President's Award to Keith Baker, Executive Director and Bill Dvorak, President of Friends of Browns Canyon—the two non-planners who spearheaded this project.

Chapter Administrator's Update: *Records*

Shelia Booth, AICP

If you haven't heard already, this year's conference attendance was record breaking. Over 460 planners from Colorado and other states attended the 2015 APA Colorado State Conference in Steamboat Springs. And, according to reports from other Chapters and organizations around the country, we're not alone. Many other conferences have seen record turnout. We hope this is a good sign not only for our organization but for the country as a whole. Conference attendance is a great way to not only learn, but to network with fellow colleagues and to get inspired. Inspiration can lead to great things and in APA Colorado we're "Making Great Communities Happen."

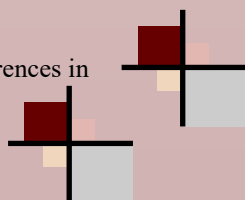
As always, we followed up our conference with a survey. Below are a few highlights from that survey as well as the financial report from the conference. You can read the full survey results—including the individual comments (good, bad and funny) - online at the Chapter's 2015 Conference webpage.

Conference Financial Report:

Registration Income: \$115,977.10	Sponsorship Income: \$28,493.55	Total Income: \$144,470.65
Events & Keynote Expenses: 9,124.09	Standard Expenses: \$5371.85	
Food/Hotel Expenses: \$75,657.75	AV Expenses: \$9,198.00	Total Expenses: \$99,351.69

Survey Results Summary:

- 83% rated the conference Very Good to Excellent with 80% satisfied/highly satisfied with the cost-to-value
- 91% were satisfied or highly satisfied with the breakout session quality and the majority thought the three keynote speakers were good to excellent.
- 87% liked the new conference schedule (Wed-Fri)
- Attendees like the networking opportunities, Thursday keynote, the high number of CM credits available at a low price, location, and sessions best.
- Attendees disliked the crowded receptions, location and long drive, food and repeat speakers
- Suggestions for future conferences include providing booths for communities to showcase their work, more conferences in the mountain towns and less along the Front Range and more employment postings



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