

# PLANNING MATTERS



American Planning Association  
Colorado Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association

July 2023



## Transportation

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# PLANNING FOR UNCERTAINTY



## Colorado Planning Conference 2023 | Colorado Springs, CO

This year's Colorado Planning Conference is sure to be one for the books! Join fellow planners for premier learning and networking in Colorado Springs from September 27 to 29, 2023. Sessions feature a multitude of topics with the opportunity to earn AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits. Check out local attractions through walking tours, and networking at a variety of social networking events.

Take advantage of discounted rates at the venue, The Cheyenne Mountain Resort, and experience the Colorado Rockies in all their glory.

The conference will kick off at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, the 27th. Join the APA Colorado Awards Ceremony on Thursday morning, followed by the keynote speaker, Peter Calthorpe.

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact the Chapter Executive Director, Abbey Aguirre, at [Info@APAColorado.org](mailto:Info@APAColorado.org)

Register now to take advantage of early bird rates! Prices increase July 10, 2023.

*with Keynote Peter Calthorpe*



# Sustainability Committee Co-Chair

Make a difference through volunteering with APA Colorado! The Sustainability Committee is searching for a co-chair. Attend meetings, arrange events, and network all while making a difference.

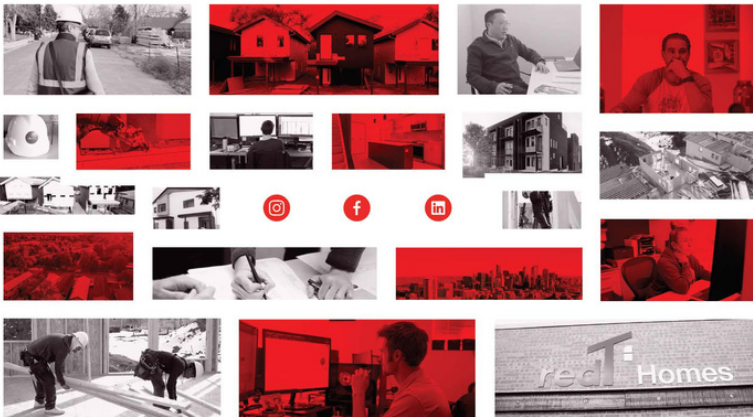
Interested? Email current co-chair, Dana Hoffman, at [Sustainability@APAColorado.org](mailto:Sustainability@APAColorado.org)

*The APA Colorado Sustainability Committee promotes the integration of sustainability principles into planning policy and practice through relevant education and outreach.*

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## Submit Your Event for CM

AICP members must earn a total of 32 CM credits (1 CM contact hour = 1 CM credit) within their two-year reporting period. Have your APA Colorado presentation, workshop, seminar, or other educational event considered for CM credits!

[www.colorado.planning.org/aicp-certification/certification-maintenance](http://www.colorado.planning.org/aicp-certification/certification-maintenance)

or email [Info@APAColorado.org](mailto:Info@APAColorado.org)



# ON THE WINGS OF MOBILITY

Denver International Airport (DEN) is conducting a transportation and mobility study (the Study) with support from Atkins North America (subconsultants: Triunity, LS Gallegos, OV Consulting) and Ricondo (subconsultants: UrbanTrans, Corona Insights). The Study goal is to understand existing and future traffic demand and land-use patterns along the Peña Boulevard corridor from I-70 to Gun Club Road. The projected passenger growth at DEN, on-going developments along the corridor, and increased freight are adding significant travel demand to the corridor. The Study will result in a master plan (Peña Master Plan) that will provide a comprehensive blueprint for multi-modal infrastructure improvements for the Peña Boulevard corridor and a Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan for DEN with strategies aimed to incentivize sustainable transportation to the airport.

Peña Boulevard is an 11.1-mile-long freeway that provides the only roadway access to Denver International Airport (DEN) while also offering connectivity to numerous off-airport developments and communities in northeast Denver including Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and Gateway. Peña Boulevard was originally constructed over 30 years ago, since then average daily traffic volumes



have grown by 80%, crash rates have continued to rise, and periods of poor roadway performance have multiplied. In 2022, DEN served 69.3 million passengers and within the next 8-10 years, DEN is expected to serve 100 million annual passengers. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities remain unconnected, with barriers to access transit, and limited multi-modal transportation options within the Peña Boulevard corridor and surrounding

communities. To manage growth, maintain the reliability of the supply-chain and continue to boost the local and regional economy, the Study will determine improvements to Peña Boulevard that address infrastructure deficiencies.

The Peña Master Plan aims to improve mobility for everyone accessing the airport: vehicles, freight, transit, and first mile - last mile bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit and ensure Peña Boulevard continues to facilitate the growth of DEN while reasonably accommodating surrounding non-airport developments. To understand the transportation needs and challenges of those accessing the airport, DEN conducted surveys of over 5,000 passengers, 2,700 employees, and 50 tenants. The results of the surveys are being used to develop and implement a TDM Plan with strategies and policies to improve mobility and access for DEN passengers and employees. The TDM Plan will include goals for mode-shift, aimed to increase the modal share to transit (both buses and A-line commuter rail) and alternative modes of travel and identify strategies to reduce single-occupancy vehicles and vehicle miles traveled.



DEN was the third busiest airport in the world in 2022 and is the largest economic generator in the state of Colorado. Once the Study is completed and the Peña Master Plan is finalized, an environmental review followed by detailed design would commence dependent on funding, in spring of 2024.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STUDY, VISIT:  
[WWW.FLYDENVER.COM/PENA\\_PLAN](http://WWW.FLYDENVER.COM/PENA_PLAN)**

Adam O'Brien PE, Senior Engineer  
Atkins North America; Consultant Deputy  
Project Manager for the Study



PROGRESSIVE URBAN  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES



**P.U.M.A.**

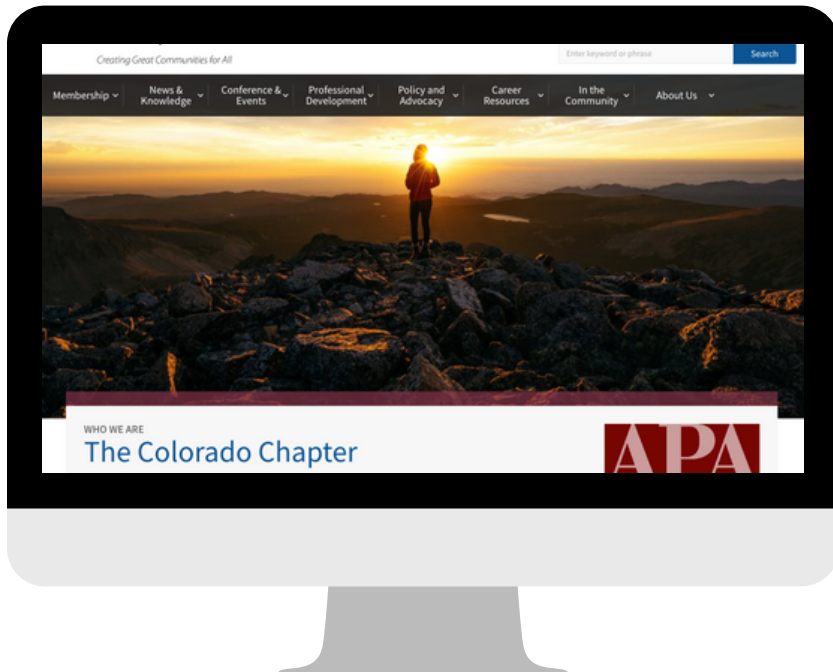


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# Join

## A Committee Now!

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CONNECT-APA-COLORADO/COMMITTEE](http://WWW.COLORADO.PLANNING.ORG/CONNECT-APA-COLORADO/COMMITTEE)

APA Colorado also has a number of committees that allow members to get involved in more specific aspects of planning in Colorado. Available committees are listed below and a full description of each committee can be found on our website.

### Committees:

- American Planning Association for Students (APAS)
- Awards Committee
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (EDI)
- Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP)
- Great Places Committee
- Healthy Communities Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Outreach & Communications Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Youth in Planning

# HER



# IT'S ELECTRIC! CHARGED INCENTIVES + RESOURCES FOR EV INFRASTRUCTURE

With promises of improved air quality, reduction in roadway noise, and improved driving performance, electric vehicles (EVs) seem like an easy choice for most Colorado vehicle owners. However, “range anxiety,” the fear of not being able to charge while driving long distances or at high altitudes, is often pointed to as a limiting factor. Despite improvements to EV range (on average these have risen from <100 miles to more than 350 miles per full charge), EV charging availability, compatibility, visibility, and geographic location are key to unlocking EVs for more Colorado roadway users.

To-date many EV charging stations have been installed on private property. With older grant funding, free-to-use chargers have been deployed in the public parking lots of libraries, town halls, and museums across the state. The current demand for increased quantity, charging speed, and reliability is being further supported by utility, state, and federal incentives. If you are a municipality, non-profit, housing authority, or private landowner, one or more of the following may support deploying needed infrastructure, increasing utilization, and making EVs an easy choice for Coloradans and those visiting our beautiful state. While some of these programs are currently closed, they will reopen later this year and in 2024, so you have plenty of time to assemble an award-winning application:

- [Utility Rebates + Incentives](#)- Electric utilities offer incentives in the form of rebates, grants, and other cost defrayment mechanisms. The investor-owned utilities like Xcel Energy and Black Hills were required to develop transportation electrification plans, which led to the creation and strengthening of many incentive programs. Check out what’s available in your utility territory today!
- [Charge Ahead Colorado](#) – You just missed the latest deadline (June 16, 2023) for Charge Ahead Colorado funding – keep an eye on the website and reach out to your ReCharge Coach (see below) for more details on the next round likely this Fall.
- [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program](#) – This program is currently closed as they evaluate applications received by their June 13, 2023 deadline, however this program will likely become available again in late 2023 or early 2024.

Other EV-related Resources in Colorado:

- [ReCharge Colorado](#) - A free, region-based coaching program to support local governments, workplaces, consumers, and multi-unit housing developments to identify financial savings, grant opportunities, and other benefits related to deploying EVs and charging infrastructure.
- [Drive Clean Colorado](#) - A non-profit member organization that delivers a variety of programs to support equitable clean transportation and efficient mobility choices with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases for cleaner, healthier air for Colorado.
- [Drive Electric Colorado](#) - Great resource for all things electric transport in Colorado including events, incentives, and education.
- [EVs in Colorado Dashboard](#) - Updated monthly, and able to be filtered by zip code, car type, and many other filters – a great way to see how many EVs are registered in your area.

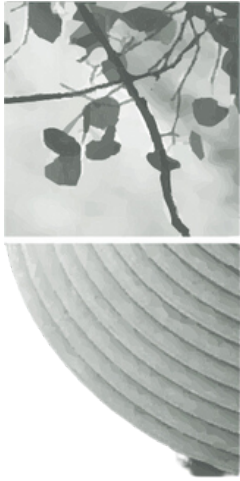
Sarah R. Davis, AICP, Founder + CEI  
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# Board Members

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Maureen Paz De Araujo, FAICP CTP CEP  
President@APAColorado.org

## Past President

Joni Marsh, AICP  
PastPresident@APAColorado.org

## Vice President of External Affairs

Julia Puester, AICP  
VPEXternalAffairs@APAColorado.org

## Vice President of Communication

Alex Bergeron  
VPCommunications@APAColorado.org

## Treasurer

Josh Olhava, AICP PCCP  
Treasurer@APAColorado.org

## Professional Development Officer

Erin Fosdick, AICP  
PDO@APAColorado.org

## Central Mountain Representative

Mark Truckey, AICP  
CentralMountain@APAColorado.org

## North Central Representative

Lesli K. Ellis, AICP CEP  
NorthCentral@APAColorado.org

## Metro Dever Representative 1

Amanda Kannard, AICP  
DenverMetro@APAColorado.org

## Metro Denver Representative 2

Britt Palmberg, AICP  
DenverMetro@APAColorado.org

## South Central Representative

Katelynn Wintz, AICP  
SouthCentral@APAColorado.org

## Northwest Representative

Nicole Galehouse  
Northwest@APAColorado.org

## Southwest Representative

James Dickhoff  
Southwest@APAColorado.org

## Legislative Affairs Representative

Shaída Libhart, AICP  
Legislative@APAColorado.org

## Public Official Representative

James Shockey, AICP  
PublicOfficial@APAColorado.org

## EPP Representative

Johnny Malpica, AICP  
EPPCommittee@APAColorado.org

## Planning Faculty Representative

Carrie Makarewicz  
FacultyRep@APAColorado.org

## Student Representative

Ethan Greene  
StudentRep@APAColorado.org

# Committees

## APAS Committee

Levi Griffith  
APAS@APAColorado.org

## Awards Committee

Daniel Murray, AICP  
Julia Puester, AICP  
Awards@APAColorado.org

## Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Jennifer Woods, AICP  
EDI@APAColorado.org

## Emerging Planning Professionals

Johnny Malpica, AICP  
Zach Noyes  
EPPCommittee@APAColorado.org

## Great Places

Renae Stavros, AICP  
GreatPlaces@APAColorado.org

## Healthy Communities

Kris Valdez, AICP MURP  
Roshana Floyd, MPA, AICP CFM  
Healthy@APAColorado.org

## Legislative Committee

Shaída Libhart, AICP  
Scott Bressler, AICP  
Legislative@APAColorado.org

## Membership Committee

Susan Wood, FAICP  
Membership@APAColorado.org

## Outreach & Communications

Alex Bergeron  
Julia Puester, AICP  
OCC@APAColorado.org

## Professional Development

Erin Fosdick, AICP  
PDO@APAColorado.org

## Sustainability Committee

Dana Hoffman  
Sustainability@APAColorado.org

## Youth In Planning

Morgan Hester, AICP CNU-A  
YIP@APAColorado.org

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