This month’s cover was submitted anonymously. It shows St. Paul’s Rice Park, which the American Planning Association recently recognized in its “Great Places In America” series. The park was cited among several other public parks around the country as the APA celebrates excellence in planning.

The APA noted that Rice Park “is a counterpoint to its busy surroundings. Its period lamps, statuary, benches, center fountain, and adjacent national landmark buildings lend a European feeling to the space.” The park, it said, “serves as much as a pathway and shortcut as it does a lunch stop, festival grounds, and outdoor sanctuary.”

The cover photo was shot in December, when Rice Park was decorated for the holidays.

Do you have a photo you think would work well on our cover? Send it to us! We’re looking for scenic, planning-related photos from around the state of Minnesota. Photos must high resolution and vertical, or able to be cropped vertically.

If you have a photo you think would fit, email co-editor Jonathan Maze at apamnewsletter@gmail.com. Please include a title of the photo, if applicable, and a description of what’s in the shot. And also include your name so we can give you proper credit.

Published by: The Minnesota chapter of the American Planning Association (APA MN) publishes this newsletter on a bimonthly basis.

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: apamnewsletter@gmail.com.

Otto and Peggy Schmid are the Chapter administrators.

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From the Desk of the President

Before the New Year, we assemble a laundry list of resolutions, hoping we stay true to each one. Unfortunately, throughout the year we will fall short on a few and embrace others. My resolutions do not detract from the usual list, which includes eating better, working out, reading more and of course, not losing faith in the Minnesota Twins; surprisingly, the first three are easier than the last. However, there is one resolution I continue to make a priority. On the top of my list each year is volunteering. I promise you this is not a shameless plug to seek more APA MN volunteers. Instead, it is an opportunity for planners to think about how they will engage their citizens to be more active in 2012.

One approach to this New Year’s resolution is using social media sites. Using social media as a form of public participation and citizen engagement has become a popular method for cities and agencies. More importantly, it has opened the door for a number of possibilities in reaching out to the public. For example, Facebook can capture a broader range of demographics with over 800 million users and may overcome language barriers, with the ability to translate pages into 70 different languages. The ability to capture larger audiences in different languages certainly provides a stronger cost benefit when considering other outreach methods (e.g., snail mail).

Communities in Minnesota have used Facebook to keep residents and stakeholders informed on a variety of topics ranging from tornado relief efforts to comprehensive plan updates and public hearings. Local examples during the week of January 2nd, 2012, included snow emergency routes posted in Minneapolis, planning commission applications available from the City of Sartell, and the City of Elk River Economic Development Department’s resources on sustainable practices. APA Minnesota has also started its own Facebook page to keep members connected.

Social media sites are not going to replace open houses or public hearings. Instead, social media sites should be viewed as a tool to enhance our ability to reach out to the community and engage citizens. In 2012, I hope you keep your resolutions and consider adding one more, engaging citizens to become more active in their communities. If you are still not sold on the use of social media sites, keep in mind that 1 out of 8 people in the world have a Facebook account.

Happy New Year,

Lance H. Bernard
APA MN President
Check Us Out On The Web

What do you do when a funeral home requests alkaline hydrolysis processing? How should a community deal with food trucks? Does anybody have examples of sign ordinances? And what, if anything, can be done about all of those Singles.com signs?

These are some of the questions people are asking on the forum on the APA MN website, mnapa.com. The forum is a place where APA MN members can get together online to share ideas, ask questions and help their fellow planners. Members who are registered on the site can post questions and make comments.

It’s just one of the numerous features on our website. We hired a new web designer and redesigned the site in 2010 to focus more on the things members want to see and read about. The site has a robust page where you can find out about job openings and requests for proposals. We highlight major issues. We post information on the board and about its regular meetings, in addition to information from the state’s different districts. It’s also the place to get information about upcoming events, especially our annual conference. And, of course, our newsletter is always posted there.

We also shine a bright spotlight on a community every month. Is your community doing something particularly interesting that nobody knows about? Or are you simply a hidden gem? Contact us if you’re interested in getting your community out there. The spotlight could be the place for you.

Nevertheless, the APA MN website is a work in progress. We’re always looking for ways to make it better and include more information. The chapter is eager for the site to become a place where members gather and seek information online. If you have any suggestions or comments or requests, place contact us. All ideas are welcome.

See you online!

Trisha Rosenfeld
APA MN Vice President

“The APA MN website is a work in progress. We’re always looking for ways to make it better and include more information. The chapter is eager for the site to become a place where members gather and seek information online. If you have any suggestions or comments or requests, place contact us. All ideas are welcome.”

Upcoming Events

APA Minnesota has several events coming in the coming months. First off will be a series of Brown Bag Events in January, February and March. Here they are:

January 18: The Interchange.
This will be held at the offices of WSB.

February 8: APA Law. This will be held in Prior Lake

February 16: Firewise. This will be held in Fridley.

March: East Metro Freight and Union Depot Tour. This will be held at Union Depot.

Updates will be posted on the website when available. For more information, contact Matt Parent with Anoka County at Matthew.Parent@co.anoka.mn.us

Meanwhile, Mark Grimes is planning two outings to see Minnesota Twins games.

The first is planned for Thursday, May 10.

The second is planned for Thursday, Sept. 13.

As usual, we will meet at the Loop Bar ahead of the game for Happy Hour. The cost for tickets will be a reasonable $15 per ticket. Notices will be sent a couple of months in advance of both games.

Stay tuned for more information on the Twins games!
2012 Legislative Update

2011 brought a new ‘spirit of reform’ to the Minnesota State Capitol! This year promises some of the same action. Your legislative committee will carefully monitor this activity. E-mail blasts and posts on the Chapter website will keep you informed. Bill introductions are not planned by the committee this year; but law reform efforts with Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators (MACPZA) are expected to continue.

Planning Enabling Law Reform Initiative
Work with MACPZA on this long-term collaborative effort continues. A brochure entitled, “Planning for a New Era,” and cover letters to educate and inform the Minnesota Legislature on needs for planning enabling reform, were mailed to all legislators in January 2011.

It heightened awareness of both organizations and the vital role of professional planning in Minnesota. By fall of 2011, meetings were underway with representatives of AMC, LMC, and MAT to review differences between the county and municipal planning enabling laws. Ways to bring the two statutes into better alignment are needed. Productive discussions are planned to continue.

APA MN was successful in obtaining a $2,000 APA Chapter matching grant for this project. The grant includes assistance from Jason Jordon, APA’s Director of Policy and Government Affairs in Washington DC. We look forward to positive planning outcomes in 2012.

2011 Planners Day On Capitol Hill
Andrew Mack attended the 2011 Fall Chapter Leadership Meeting and Policy Briefing Conference in Washington DC. The Chapter Board sent him as proxy for the President. Planning may not always be political in practice; but as professionals we must always be aware of how politics affect our practice.

A clear message came from Chapter Presidents around the country regarding the 2011 sweeping changes in our U.S. Congress. The APA response is to better articulate our professional planning message as a mainstay in a changing world. Stay tuned.

APA’s Executive Director Paul Farmer also presented the “Legislator of the Year Award” to Senator Robert Menendez (New Jersey). He was honored for his vision and leadership on issues critical to planners. His efforts to ensure that our nation’s transportation, housing, and environmental agencies work together in creating better communities were recognized.

Finally in DC, Andrew met with the staff of every Minnesota Legislator to talk about the importance of planning in our state. APA’s principal legislative priorities were also presented. A very worthwhile and rewarding experience!

2012 Planners Day At The Capitol
You are again invited and encouraged to attend the APA MN Capitol Program this spring. After four years in a row, APA MN is becoming a known entity in St. Paul. We will continue to talk about the importance of good planning with our Minnesota Legislators. Laws which enhance the work of professional planners are a chapter priority. Look for an upcoming notice with more details soon.

Thomas Jensen, Legislative Education Coordinator
Andrew Mack, Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Once part of a railway system that spanned thousands of miles between Minnesota and the Pacific Northwest, the Minnesota Zephyr dinner train followed a scenic 5.9 mile segment of that route between downtown Stillwater and Duluth Junction in the City of Grant, beginning in 1985. Twenty-one years later, negotiations for the sale of the railroad corridor were started by its owner. In 2007, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the Brown’s Creek State Trail as part of the Willard Munger Trail System in east central Minnesota. On December 31, 2008, the owner closed the business and three years later, a purchase agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was signed. The final transaction is likely to take place in early 2012, and planning for the trail’s design and development is already well underway.

The purchase of the former rail corridor represents a unique opportunity for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington County, a key partner in the corridor’s acquisition. Securing the entire corridor of a legislatively authorized state trail from a single landowner at one time is rare.

Once complete, trail users will have the opportunity to travel to and from St. Paul, Stillwater, and through west and central Washington County via the Gateway and Brown’s Creek state trails. The Brown’s Creek trail corridor will travel through high quality natural communities, along a designated trout stream, past significant historic sites, and along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Since the trail will be constructed on a former railroad grade, it will be generally level and accessible to users of all abilities.

The Brown’s Creek State Trail will be a multiple-use, four-season trail. Like the Gateway State Trail, the trail is intended for pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle use only. The trail will accommodate a range of uses found on most state trails, including bicycling, walking and running, dog walking, and in-line skating. Other uses may include horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and environmental education/interpretation. The trail and its supporting facilities will be universally accessible to the greatest extent possible, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Brown’s Creek State Trail planning process is realizing the potential for trail connections. In addition to connecting to the Gateway State Trail, the Brown’s Creek State Trail will connect to a number of existing and proposed local and regional trails. Among other possibilities, Stillwater’s historic Lift Bridge would become a pedestrian-only crossing as part of a new loop trail, if a new St. Croix River crossing is completed. This loop trail would link to Lowell Park and the Brown’s Creek State Trail to the north, and trails that have been proposed or planned in Wisconsin. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has an animation of the proposed loop trail: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualization/LoopTrail_web.html

Another exciting, yet challenging part of the planning process is Brown’s Creek itself. The state trail will run immediately adjacent to the designated trout stream for more than a mile of its course along the eastern segment of the trail. While this will afford the trail user with many opportunities to enjoy the creek’s scenic qualities, it will also likely draw trail users off of the trail and into areas adjoining the creek, much of which is on private property. Protecting the trout stream and surrounding habitat, respecting private property rights, and creating a high quality user experience will be a delicate balance, particularly in the Brown’s Creek gorge area.

The ecological value of the Brown’s Creek State Trail corridor will be enhanced wherever possible through resource management activities. The vegetation within the trail right-of-way will be managed to provide a healthy diversity of native woodland, wetland, and prairie communities for wildlife habitat and for the enjoyment of trail users and adjoining landowners. Native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs that are consistent with the natural plant communities of the area will be planted and managed. Some native plant community management may include cooperative efforts with
adjacent land owners. Areas disturbed during construction will be seeded with native plants.

Managing stormwater is also important in the trail corridor, especially in the Brown’s Creek gorge area referenced above. Passive, overland routing of runoff (i.e. natural infiltration) will be used wherever possible and will be supported by the use of other best management practices (BMPs) that address common development circumstances.

Several Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) and easements exist along the trail corridor between St. Croix Trail North/Highway 95 and Neal Avenue North. These easements help to protect the designated trout stream, and restrict use in and around the creek to fishing. Additionally, private property abuts the trail corridor for a majority of its length. Therefore, trail users will be strongly encouraged to stay on the trail to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources, and to respect private property rights along the trail.

Every effort to preserve cultural resources will be made and will be incorporated into an interpretive plan for the trail corridor. Trail users will have opportunities to experience the history of the region through existing historical and proposed interpretive sites.

As the master planning process draws to a close in early 2012, anticipation for the final transaction between the owner and the DNR is ramping up, as is planning related to the design and engineering of the trail. While the opportunity to make a significant connection between the Gateway State Trail and Stillwater and beyond is very exciting, great care will need to be taken during the development of the trail to ensure that the adjacent trout stream is protected. This and other challenges – like the design of a grade-separated crossing at Manning Avenue, about two miles from Duluth Junction and the Gateway State Trail – will keep local residents, trail enthusiasts, and planners alike interested and involved for many months to come.

for further information, see http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/trails/browns_creek.html
2012 Conference Update

We hope that you all had a happy and enjoyable holiday season. Even though the 2012 Conference is still quite a ways off, as Co-Chairs we can assure you that the planning process for the event is well underway. January 6th marks the kick-off meeting for the Conference Committee.

First, we want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have already volunteered their time and expertise to serve on one of the conference sub-committees. The speed at which Chapter members stepped up to volunteer shows how strong the Chapter is.

Second, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to get involved and help out with this year’s conference. A new subcommittee is being implemented this year. We are calling it the Technology Committee, with the intent to integrate social media and new technological applications into the conference that will allow for, among other benefits, quicker feedback and access to resources.

So, if any of you have wanted to see the conference implement more technological approaches, now is your chance to join the new committee and have some input. Just contact one of the Conference Co-chairs. If your current schedule doesn’t allow you to get involved at this point, there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities at the conference, so please keep that in mind.

If you haven’t heard, we are bringing the conference back to Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria this year. The conference has been held there on more than a few occasions, so you know it’s a great place to meet. How can you go wrong in the heart of Lakes Country? Here is the link to their website so you can see this magnificent facility for yourself: http://www.arrowwoodresort.com/

In these times of tight staffing and slim budgets we are working to provide you with a valuable conference experience. As the conference committee continues to work on developing the conference, we will keep you informed through newsletter and email updates on what is happening with this year’s conference.

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Stephanie Scott-Sims and Greg Wagner, AICP, 2012 Conference Co-Chairs

Pizza and Parks

APA MN held its annual Holiday Party at Broadway Pizza near the Mississippi River in Minneapolis in December.

About 50 planners from around the state attended the event. They heard the smooth musical sounds of singer and pianist Bjorn Briel as they munched on pizza and drank beer.

Before the party, attendees heard a presentation from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, discussing the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative (MR|DI).

MR|DI is a design-based strategy to leverage parks as the engine for sustainable recreational, cultural, and economic development along the riverfront, reclaim the Mississippi as the source of our regional identity, and establish the Twin Cities region as a leading river community for the 21st century.

A great time was had by all!
New APA MN Board Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected directors for the APA Minnesota Board. These new directors will formally take office at the first Board meeting of the year on January 20. The directors for the two year term are as follows:

- Northwest: Wayne Hurley, AICP
- Northeast: James Gittemeier, AICP
- Southwest: Bruce Peterson, AICP
- Southeast: Greg Kruschke, AICP
- Central: Crystal Paumen, AICP
- Metro: Brian Gadow, AICP
- Metro: Andrew Gitzlaff, AICP
- Metro: Suzanne Rhees, AICP
- Citizen Planner: Eric Laska
- Student Rep: Aubrey Austin

The directors represent particular areas of the state or certain segments of the membership. If any members would like to get in touch with them, their contact information is at the end of this newsletter. We thank these directors who have stepped forward to volunteer their services to the Board and the organization, as they work with the officers to plan events and policies for the benefit of the entire Minnesota APA chapter.

We also would like to thank the retiring Directors who have served for the last two years -- Gina Mitchell, Chris Moates, Charles Froseth, and Lyssa Leitner. We appreciate the many hours of service and advice these directors have given to the chapter.

No Vacancy

While much of the housing market remains in the doldrums, one segment is picking up: rental apartments.

As reported by Bloomberg, the 2011 national vacancy rate for apartments fell to 5.2%, according to Reis Inc., a New York-based property research firm. This is the lowest level in a decade. The average monthly rent, meanwhile, grew 2.3%.

The situation in Minnesota is even more intense—an October 2011 Star Tribune story cited a Marquette Advisors report on the Twin Cities, putting the local rate at 2.4%.

Demand for rental housing is high because people aren’t buying homes. The continued sluggish housing market is fueling the need for rentals, and yet at least thus far, the market hasn’t met the demand nationally. That said, construction on multifamily units has rebounded from a 50-year low reached in 2009.
What Does A PDO Do?

In 2010, when we volunteered to take over the roles and duties of the Professional Development Officer (PDO), we had the same question many of you have: what exactly is the PDO? Now, having just completed our first year as PDOs, we can provide a few more answers.

The PDOs are volunteers who are responsible for promoting professional development and continuing education. Our chapter is somewhat unique in that we have two PDOs who share the job, and who serve as ex-officio members of the Chapter Board of Directors. Our main duties include assisting those interested in AICP membership, including providing resources for exam candidates. We also oversee professional development workshops/seminars, including the annual conference and the submission of all requests for CM credits. And, we assist members in accessing training opportunities and logging their credits on the APA website.

AICP is the American Planning Association’s professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. Nearly 300 of APA Minnesota’s members, 40% of the total, have obtained the AICP credential. The AICP distinction is both an honor, and a responsibility to be leaders in our profession. Part of that responsibility means continuing education.

The Certification Maintenance (CM) program, the AICP version of continuing education, links certified planners to training opportunities that keep them up to date on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices. It also strengthens the value of certification, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to excellence to elected officials, community leaders, and employers.

The CM requirement took effect January 1, 2008, following approval at an April 13, 2007, meeting of the AICP Commission. According to the APA website, “The vote affirmed a central principle of AICP membership: the importance of remaining current in the practice of planning and demonstrating professional credibility through continuing education.” AICP members must earn a total of 32 CM credits within their two-year reporting period. A minimum of 1.5 credits must be on the topic of ethics, and another 1.5 credits must be on the topic of current planning law. AICP members may carry over a maximum of 16 credits from one reporting period into the subsequent reporting period; however, ethics and planning law credits cannot be carried over to the next two-year reporting period.

As PDOs, we are well aware one of the greatest challenges we face is making sure our AICP members have the opportunity to earn CM credits. Since the inception of the CM program, APA Minnesota has worked hard to develop a variety of opportunities to earn credits. The monthly Brown Bags are now submitted for CM credits whenever possible. APA Minnesota purchased 7 CD-ROMs in the last two years to show throughout the state. These showings are coordinated by the District Directors, at locations volunteered by other members.

In 2011, APA Minnesota applied for 115.5 certification maintenance (CM) credits. This included 14 free events for 26.5 credits, as well as the September 2011 conference with 85 CM credits. APA Minnesota also partnered with Government Training Services (GTS) for the 4 CM credit Advanced Planning and Zoning for Professional Planners Workshop. Not included in this number are the more than 30 times that the District Directors

Continued on Page 11
showed a CD-ROM from the APA Minnesota Library.

Advances in technology have created the opportunity and expectation for more online training. APA Minnesota has been exploring these opportunities, but the challenge has been cost, time and expertise. In 2012, APA Minnesota will join over 30 other chapters, divisions and universities in the Planning Monthly Webcasts (see utah-apa.org/webcasts). This program offers APA members the opportunity to earn up to 48 credits at their computer. As part of this program APA Minnesota will be offering one or more webinars. We will also have access to the webcast technology.

Over the last year, it has been a pleasure working with the APA Minnesota Board, and getting to know many of our chapter members. We are hoping to provide more education opportunities in 2012. As a volunteer organization, we need your help! If you have ideas on how to provide additional training opportunities, a topic suggestion or location, please contact either the PDO or your District Director.

Jane Kansier, AICP and Rita Trapp, AICP

Upcoming Events

AICP Exam
The next AICP exam testing window is May 7-21, 2012. Registration window is open until January 24, 2012. For more information, go to http://www.planning.org/certification/2012/may/index.htm.

AICP Exam Scholarship
The American Planning Association awarded the Minnesota Chapter one scholarship to offer assistance to those individuals who may defer taking or are unable to take the AICP exam because of the high cost. If chosen, scholarship recipients pay reduced fees to AICP as follows:

- First-time AICP applicants: $135 (combined $70 application and $65 exam fee)
- Previously approved AICP applicants: $65 (exam fee only)

The scholarship will be for calendar year 2012 and may be used for the May or November testing date.

Anyone interested in applying for this assistance must submit a resume with references and a 1-2 page essay explaining their passion and commitment for the field of planning, why certification is important, and an explanation of financial hardship.

The chapter will accept applications for this assistance until January 15, 2012. Applications should be submitted by e-mail to ikansier@cityofpriorlake.com. The scholarship recipients will be chosen by the Professional Development Officers and the Chapter President. All selections are final.

The following criteria will be used to help select scholarship recipients:

- The applicant selected will be otherwise unlikely to take the exam without the reduced fee.
- The applicants employer will not subsidize the exam fee.
- Members of ethnic or racial minorities shall be given preference.

On Internet Use

Note to all of you economic development folks: If you don’t consider the Internet as a major part of your economic development strategy by now, you probably should.

According to the Pew Research, people looking for information about local restaurants or other businesses say they rely on the Internet, especially search engines, far more than any other source.

Fifty-one percent looking for information on restaurants, bars and clubs say they use the Internet. By comparison, 31 percent said they rely on newspapers, 5 percent said they access those papers over the Internet. Twenty-three percent said they rely on word of mouth, while just 8 percent said they rely on TV.

When looking up local businesses, 47 percent of survey respondents said they rely on the Internet, 30 percent on newspapers, 22 percent on word of mouth, 8 percent on TV, 5 percent radio.

The survey was conducted a year ago, and fueled a broader report called “How people learn about their local community.” For the study, 1,087 adults were interviewed on landline phones and cell phones.
Student Tour of Union Depot

On December 9th, a group of 25 planning students from the Humphrey School and Minnesota State University in Mankato met at the Union Depot in St. Paul for a presentation and tour of the transportation project that is underway, including the restoration of the historic waiting room. Steve Morris of Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority kindly gave his time as the group’s tour guide. A networking happy hour for students hosted by APA-MN at Barrio in Historic Lowertown followed the tour. Another student outreach event will be organized this spring.

Gays and Housing

Do gays and lesbians affect housing prices? Yes.

According to a study by economists David Christafore, from Konkuk University, and Susane Leguizamon from Tulane University, there’s little doubt that a proliferation of gay households can drive up housing values in a neighborhood. But what kind of impact depends on the political beliefs of the people in that neighborhood.

In short, when gays and lesbians move into a liberal, urban neighborhood, property values increase. When they move into a conservative neighborhood, values decrease, according to the study, which is being published in the March edition of The Journal of Urban Economics, and was initially reported by The Atlantic.

The economists studied 20,000 home sales in one urban area, Columbus, Ohio. They classified neighborhoods as liberal or conservative based on voting outcomes of the “Defense of Marriage Act.”

The study concludes that gay and lesbian couples do experience prejudice in conservative neighborhoods, even as they may contribute to neighborhood revitalization elsewhere.
APA Minnesota Brown Bag Lunch Event
Featuring:

The Interchange
connecting people and places

Presented by:
Chuck Ballentine
Hennepin County Transportation Interchange Project Office

When:
Wednesday, January 18th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Where:
WSB & Associates, 701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, MN 55416
http://www.wosbeng.com

About the event:
The Interchange is a multimodal transportation hub that will unite transit and development and create new civic space in downtown Minneapolis, connecting multiple transportation modes; supporting the local, regional, and state economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and increasing mobility for a wide range of users, including disadvantaged populations both in the immediate project area and around the region. The total project cost is estimated at $67.7 million.

The Interchange is one of two regional multimodal hubs in MnDOT’s recently adopted State Rail Plan and the Metropolitan Council’s 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. It sits at the intersection of Hiawatha LRT (opened in 2004), Central Corridor LRT (opening in 2014), Northstar commuter rail (opened in 2009), and Southwest LRT (anticipated opening in 2018), among other key transportation features. The site also is directly adjacent to Target Field, the home of the Minnesota Twins and numerous other events. As a result, the Interchange is a critical high-value project for the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and the Upper Midwest.

Key components of the Interchange project include a new LRT platform; LRT storage and staging tracks; safe, improved pedestrian circulation; a public plaza for year-round use, handling event and LRT passenger loading; future TOD opportunity areas; and parking spaces.

This event has been submitted for CM credit.

About the presenter:
Chuck Ballentine serves as the Senior Administrative Manager for the Hennepin County Transportation Interchange Project Office. The Transportation Interchange Project Office handles preparing for the people arriving by various transportation modes now and in the future near the Ballpark. Previously Chuck served as: the Deputy Coordinator for the Hennepin County Ballpark Project Office, 2006 to 2009; Hennepin County Housing, Community Works & Transit Director, October, 2003 to September, 2008; Minneapolis Planning Director from 1998 to 2003; and various positions at the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities from 1975 to 1998.

Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch to the event. Please RSVP to Matthew Parent at matthew.parent@co.anoka.mn.us by Monday, January 16th.
Taking the Fear Out of Logging CM Credits

Dreading the logging of your CM credits? You are not alone. While it has gotten easier since the CM program was started, it can be difficult, especially when you don’t use the APA website very frequently. APA has tried to make it easier with website enhancements even just a few months ago. We wanted to share some tricks that may make it a little bit easier.

We encourage you to take advantage of the search features on the main page of the CM logging area. The calendar and green box to the right work together to narrow the number of events or distance education opportunities you need to search through.

1) Rather than using "All" select either "Events" or Distance." There are more search features when you use those tabs rather than the "All" tab.

2) One of our favorite features is that you are now able to select "Minnesota" on the "Events" tab to narrow to events that just happen here. This will include events from APA Minnesota, SLUC, Center of Transportation Studies, etc. Imagine how many fewer events you have to search through if you don’t have to see everything across the country.

3) Select a date on the calendar and it will only show you events or distance education that happen after that date. This is especially helpful if many of your events were the fall of this year.

4) For CD trainings/viewings sponsored by APA Minnesota choose the "Distance" tab. Then put in just a bit of the CD title. Be sure when selecting that you pick an "Available For" timeframe that matches the date you took the event. For example, if you watched a CD back in April of 2011, then it needs to say "Spring 2011." The CD-ROMs are not listed under APA Minnesota because we did not produce them, they are actually APA CD-ROMs.

5) Don't forget you can log up to 8 hours of self-reported credits. These need to be an in-person training or webinars that happen on a specific date that you have to log in for. It cannot include web based learning that can happen at any time.

Finally, consider printing out the list of the credits you logged just in case something goes wrong with the electronic database. It hasn't happened often but we have heard of a few instances across the country.

If you have questions or problems, please contact either Jane or myself.

Rita Trapp, rita@hkgi.com
Jane Kansier, jkansier@cityofpriorlake.com

FBC 201 Course

The Form-based Codes Institute’s FBC 201 Course is coming to Saint Paul.

The Department of Planning and Economic Development at the City of Saint Paul is planning to host the Form-based Codes Institute’s (FBCI) "FBC 201: Preparing a Form-based Code; Design Considerations" course in the fall of 2012.

We are excited to have FBCI offer this course in the Midwest. As we are beginning to plan for this workshop we would like to get an idea of who might be interested in attending. We would greatly appreciate if you could complete the following survey by January 27 to help in this planning.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLD93QF

If you have further questions please contact: Ryan Kelley at:
ryan.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Job Opportunities

Job Title: Assistant to City Administrator
Hiring Agency: City of Dickinson
Web Link: www.dickinsongov.com
Deadline: January 13, 2012
Salary Range: $51,292.33

Job Description:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES (4D) (May not include all of the duties performed.) Performs planning studies, comprehensive plans, land development ordinances (zoning, subdivision, etc.), development review and department programs. Provides interpretation and application of rules and regulations pertaining to ordinances and programs that are the responsibility of the Department. Prepares and delivers public presentations and written reports on routine and special department assignments and County activities. Perform field inspections, investigations, and technical review of land use and development requests.

Serves as a liaison to other City/County departments, governmental agencies and boards to coordinate efforts, share resources and discuss relevant issues. Maintains relationships with community organizations, contractors, developers and citizens to exchange information and serve as a resource regarding department programs, policies and procedures.

Responds to citizen concerns and issues. Determines appropriate resolutions to accomplish goals and maintain positive community relations for the City/County.

Represents the Department and other entities as assigned at City and/or County Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission(s) and other meetings to present plans, staff recommendations and accomplishments and to discuss and advise on the development and implementation of plans and programs. Prepares reports pertaining to development activities, direction, accomplishments and compliance with rules/regulations.

Develops plans, sites, maps, policies and strategies for the implementation of development programs such as renaissance zone, coordinates the development of plans including prioritizing, scheduling and coordinating efforts or citizen groups, other agencies, consultants, developers, etc., and designs and compiles finished product.

Develops, recommends and monitors budgets by reviewing past expenditures, analyzing future needs and making determinations regarding the necessary resources to accomplish goals and meet community needs. Monitors the progress of development projects and approves expenditures to insure compliance with budgetary guidelines.

For more information on these and other job opportunities, go to http://www.mnapa.com/jobs.php

Performs other duties of a similar nature or level, assists others. Works to promote teamwork within the department and within the City in general. Shares information with peers. Resolves conflict through the use of tact and diplomacy. Accepts responsibility and works well when given responsibility. Accepts and is eager to learn new duties. Offers suggestions to improve the activities of the department and the operation of the City in general. Continually strives to improve the proficiency of their job performance and provide a safe work environment. Is a self-starter. Exhibits a positive image and outlook when interacting with coworkers and/or the public. Serves as a positive role model for others.

Application Instructions:

NEW POSITION for the City of Dickinson who is currently accepting applications for a Planner. The successful candidate will be responsible for ordinances and policies relating to the maintenance and enhancement of the physical and social development affects of the City and Stark County. The position requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Planning and three or more years of previous professional municipal planning experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. For full position details visit www.dickinsongov.com. Salary range for this position starts at $51,292.33 and includes a full benefit package with retirement, medical insurance, life insurance, flexible benefits, vacation/sick leave and paid holidays. A pre-employment drug screen is required.

To apply submit a city application and detailed resume by close of business on Friday, January 13, 2012 to:

City of Dickinson
Attn: Rita Binstock
99 2nd Street East
Dickinson, ND 58601
or rita.binstock@dickinsongov.com

Veteran’s claiming preference must furnish a copy of Form DD-214. Contact Rita Binstock at 701-456-7720 for more information. www.dickinsongov.com

Job Title: Senior Transportation Planner
Hiring Agency: St. Cloud Area Planning Org.
Web Link: www.stcloudapo.org
Deadline: January 31, 2012
Salary Range: $53,513 to $67,359

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Job Opportunities

Job Description:
The St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the St. Cloud, Minnesota Urbanized Area. APO is seeking a self-motivated individual to provide leadership with a variety of MPO transportation planning related activities. Specific job responsibilities include:

- Lead development of the APO’s long range multi-modal transportation plan
- Lead development of the APO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Lead development of project specific corridor/NEPA studies and transportation studies
- Act as an APO liaison with State and federal agencies and local units of government
- Prepare and present technical planning material to elected officials and professional staff
- Act as primary staff support for the APO’s Technical Advisory Committee
- Assist with development of the APO’s web site and other public involvement efforts
- Assist with development of the APO’s Geographic Information System (GIS)
- In coordination with other staff, undertake a broad range of other transportation planning activities

Application Instructions:
The APO provides a positive work environment with excellent benefits. Send cover letter and resume to: St. Cloud Area Planning Organization, 1040 County Road 4, Saint Cloud, MN 56303.

Job Title: Multi-Modal Planner/GIS Specialist
Hiring Agency: St. Cloud Area Planning Org.
Web Link: www.stcloudapo.org
Deadline: January 31, 2012
Salary Range: $46,941 to $55,791

Job Description:
The St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the St. Cloud, Minnesota Urbanized Area. APO is seeking a self-motivated individual to provide leadership with a variety of MPO transportation planning related activities. Job responsibilities include:

- Lead development of the APO’s long range multi-modal transportation plan
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- Assist with development of the APO’s web site and other public involvement efforts
- Assist with development of the APO’s Geographic Information System (GIS)
- In coordination with other staff, undertake a broad range of other transportation planning activities

Minimum requirements include a Bachelor’s degree in transportation planning or closely related field, and at least seven years of experience in transportation planning/urban planning. The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Masters degree in urban/transportation planning
- Minimum of ten years MPO transportation planning experience
- Certification in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- Proven experience with development of long range transportation plans, TIPs and corridor studies
- Strong analytical skills
- Proven technical writing ability
- Excellent interpersonal and public communication skills
- Proficiency in a number of computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, database software, ESRI desktop GIS software and web site development

Application Instructions:
The APO provides a positive work environment with excellent benefits. Send cover letter and resume to: St. Cloud Area Planning Organization, 1040 County Road 4, Saint Cloud, MN 56303.
Leadership Directory

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