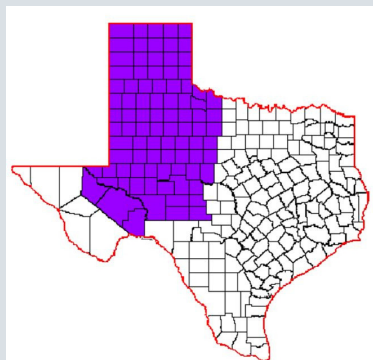


NORTHWEST SECTION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
TEXAS CHAPTER | NORTHWEST SECTION
SPRING 2019



The Northwest Section includes 88 Texas counties. Member cities currently include Abilene, Amarillo, Ballinger, Big Spring, Clyde, Levelland, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, and Vernon. For more information, visit www.txplanning.org/northwest/.

Section Officers:

Director: AJ Fawver, AICP, CNU-A, CPM, City of Lubbock

Assistant Director: Jon James, AICP, City of San Angelo

Secretary: Kristen Sager, City of Lubbock

Treasurer: Zack Rainbow, City of Abilene

Newsletter Editor/Website: Jeff Fisher, AICP, City of San Angelo

Professional Development Officer: Cameron Walker, AICP, Permian Basin MPO



Message from the Director

I am pleased to let you know that your section leadership is continuing to build on the momentum from 2018 by taking on our most aggressive schedule of events yet. We kicked off the year with the first-ever AICP event for the Northwest Section, and had 11 members participate in the session, all of whom are on the road to obtaining their certifications. I am confident that we will accomplish the goal of having the highest number of certified planners in this section than ever before.

March will be the first of many educational events, and by popular demand, we are also making plans to have social/networking opportunities coincide with those events. We are also eager to experiment for the first time with webinars as an alternative way to provide distance learning on topics our section members can benefit from the most.

Elections will be coming up in a few short months, and we are looking for committed

volunteers to run for the offices of Secretary & Treasurer. Enthusiasm, ideas, & energy are all that is required! For more information, and to throw your hat in the ring, contact Roxanne Johnston (Big Spring) and Cameron Walker (Permian Basin MPO), our nominations committee.

It will be a great year, and we are excited to see you at our upcoming events. We have focused on bringing you CM credits, highlighting a diverse group of cities in our section area, and making events as low cost and worth the drive as possible. We hope to see participation at an all-time high as a result of these efforts.

-AJ

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 17, 2019 - Making the Most of Historical and Heritage Assets: How a Preservation-based Design Ethic Can Promote Economic and Community Vitality ([live webinar](#))

Mar 20, 2019 - Municipal Options for Meeting MS4 Compliance without Breaking the Budget([live webinar](#))

Mar 22, 2019 - The Next Evolution of Public Hearings ([live webinar](#))

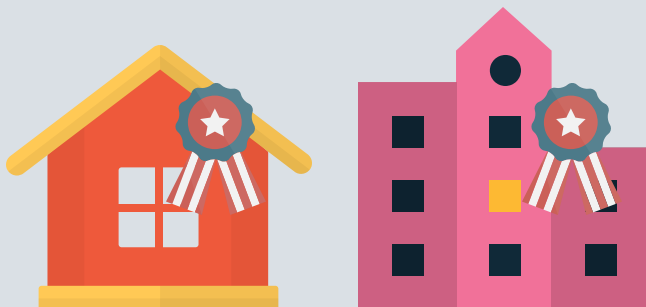
Mar 28 & 29, 2019 - Section Dinner, Board & Commission Management: What You Need to Know, & Section Business Meeting - Sweetwater, TX ([in-person event](#))

Featured Projects

This month, the following cities have volunteered to share a featured project. We hope these examples provide your city with some helpful information on implementing its own initiatives.

City of Abilene

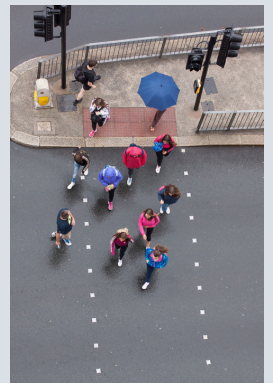
The City of Abilene's Planning Department brought forward an amendment to its Land Development Code to refine its criteria for designating a historic landmark.



The changes will provide a more uniform criteria when deciding historic landmarks in the City, removing ambiguities. The Planning Division notes there are approximately 25,000 buildings in the City that meet the minimum 50 year requirement for historic designation. The item was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission on February 5, 2019, and will be presented to City Council on March 14, 2019.

City of Midland

Midland City Council authorized the execution of an advanced funding agreement for Downtown pedestrian & bicycle enhancements. This is a joint program between TXDOT and the City of Midland with TXDOT covering 80% through the TASA program. Improvements include new bicycle lanes, curb extensions, crosswalks and medians, and ADA-compliant ramps, signage, and striping. Construction is expected this June and will take approximately one year to complete.



City of San Angelo

On March 5, 2019, San Angelo City Council approved a new section of the Zoning Ordinance regulating mobile food units in the City. During the process, food truck forums were held to gather input from the public, as well as extensive research. The new provisions allow mobile food trucks:

- in all commercial, manufacturing, and industrial zoning districts;
- On residential zoned properties with non-residential uses and multi-family properties with certain restrictions
- in a public right-of-way up to a maximum of 12 hours per day or as limited by current parking restrictions.
- If not located on their commissary property limited to one location for a maximum of three consecutive days.
- A site plan may be required for mobile food units locating on their commissary property which can trigger design district standards and zoning ordinance regulations.



Commissioners Corner

Whether your city is large or small, if you have a Planning & Zoning Commission, you know the importance of commissioners. Keep in mind that they can also benefit from joining our section, as well as APATX.

The events below are often thought of as being for planners specifically; however, both the short course and the national conference offer opportunities for commissioners to learn, network, and gain knowledge to bring home!

APA Texas Chapter 2019 State Planning Conference and Short Course for Appointed and Elected Officials, Waco, TX

This year's State planning conference in Waco provides an excellent training opportunity for Commissioners through its 47th Annual Short Course. The course includes 8-10 sessions including roles and responsibilities, zoning and subdivisions, and topics of current interest. Registrants can also attend the main APA conference at the same time. Registration begins July 1, 2019. For more information: <https://www.apatx19.com/elected-appointed-officials>
<https://www.apatx19.com/details>

2019 National Planning Conference

The 2019 APA National Planning Conference will be held in San Francisco April 13-16, 2019. The conference will include four days of learning about new trends and challenges in planning as well as networking and exploring opportunities. Please explore their website at: <https://planning.org/conference/> and check back for more information.

What's Happening

In each issue, we will feature some news stories of interest from within our section. Here's a look at recent events:

In property tax fight, clout of local officials hangs in balance

P&Z approves apartments, single-family housing

Midland-Odessa economies continue setting records

Mayor announces 'Built for Zero' success to end veteran homelessness in Abilene

Not-so-free Birds: Council passes scooter/bike sharing ordinance

Projected Permian production growth raises water management challenges

Plainview cashing in on gift of Centennial Bank building

Property Tax Reform: Why some are concerned

Brownwood council may OK purchase of excavator for demolition of substandard structures

By the book: Plans for transforming 96-year-old school into a central library are solidifying

Vernon city leaders approve boost for downtown

Abilene trying to attract higher-paying jobs

AICP Training

The AICP training, hosted by the City of Lubbock in February, was a great success! Richard Luedke, Professional Development Officer for the Texas Chapter, gave our attendees lots of great advice. We will be working to do this again next year! To the right is a photo from our session.

Featured Member

Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Senior Planner, City of Midland



A native of San Francisco, Elizabeth has been working with the City of Midland for the past ten months. During this time, she has become a voting member of the Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization, in which she is very involved. She obtained her Master of Geography from California State University East Bay with a focus on Transportation Planning and Urban Design and has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Woodbury University. She also has a Graduate Certificate of Community Design and Development and a Certificate of Geographic Information Systems Analyst. Her prior experience includes a diversity of architecture and urban design projects at various scales. Her goal as a planner is to design smart cities and transit-oriented communities and to inspire public spaces.



Hot Topics

We welcome you to our new feature section "Hot Topics", where we will be introducing a new trending or controversial Planning topic. In this edition, we highlight sharable electric mopeds (scooters) as outlined in the March 2019 APA Planning magazine article "Fad or Future".

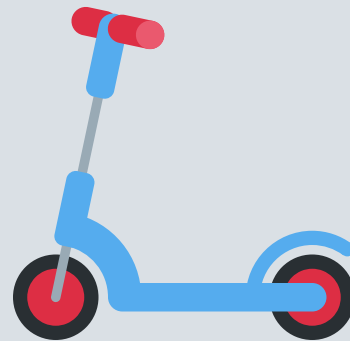
Electric Scooters: "Fad or Future"

The article summarizes the San Francisco case study of electric scooters and compares with other cities in the U.S. The City had banned electric scooters in June 2018 in response to a proliferation of dockless scooters by multiple players. However, it allowed two companies to operate up to 1,250 scooters as part of a pilot program. The three criteria used for the pilot program was "safety, equity, and accessibility" which included "community engagement, access for people with disabilities, and public safety." The company highlighted in the article, "Scoot" that received permission to operate via the trial run, worked towards the objectives outlined by the City. This included hiring ambassadors to provide helmets and advise on safety; mandatory training videos; swappable batteries to avoid the need for off-street recharging; and directing members to stay out of parks and off of sidewalks. Scoot also promised to provide at least 20% of its scooters to underserved neighborhoods, and a 50% discount to low-income users.



Other Case Studies

In Portland, Oregon, following a complete ban on electric scooters, the City of 600,000 allowed 2,000 scooters to operate for four months. It found that these trips replaced personal car trips 19% of the time, and 15% of shared car trips (car pool). 62% of residents viewed electric scooters favorably, 74% by people of color, and 66% by people earning less than \$30,000 per year. In another study of 11 major cities, found that at least 70% of those earning less than \$50,000 reported a positive perception of electric scooters, and that number was still 64% for those earning above \$200,000 per year.



Moving Forward: Pros vs Cons

The article summarizes the main positions of both supporters and opponents of this form of transportation. Opponents believe only a small number will use these scooters. Proponents such as Scoot however, argue that a private car takes up to 10 times more space than a scooter, and 6 times more space as an electric motor bike, with 410,000 registered automobiles and 300,000 parking spaces in San Francisco.

Further discussion or comments? Please write us or start the conversation:

Northwest Section:

<https://www.txplanning.org/contact/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/txplanning/>

Resources

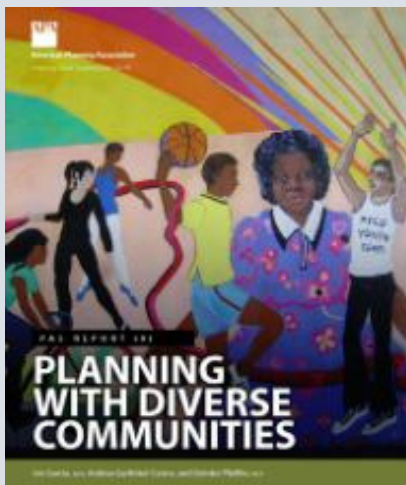
APA's Planning Magazine

The American Planning Association's (APA) monthly "Planning" magazine provides an excellent overview of current planning topics. APA Members receive "Planning" free including online and print versions.
<https://planning.org/planning/>



Public Advisory Service (PAS) Reports

The American Planning Association's (APA) also publishes quarterly PAS reports providing practitioners with valuable insights on current issues. <https://planning.org/pas/reports/>



Further Discussion

Connect to your fellow planning colleagues on social media to continue the conversation!

Texas Chapter - American Planning Association:
<https://www.txplanning.org>

Northwest Section:
<https://www.txplanning.org/northwest>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/txplanning/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/txplanning>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj0JRgeaxx8my1fbfomBpKA>

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/txplanning/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com>

