

NORTHWEST TEXAS SECTION

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION | TEXAS CHAPTER



Welcome to the Northwest Texas Section! It is the largest section geographically, covering 88 counties! Member cities currently include Abilene, Amarillo, Ballinger, Big Spring, Clyde, Levelland, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo and Vernon. For more information, visit

<https://texas.planning.org/connect-apa-texas/sections-and-regions/northwest/>

Section Officers:

Director: AJ Fawver, AICP, CNU-A, CPM, VERDUNITY

Director Elect: Eric Myers

Secretary: Hillary Bueker, City of San Angelo

Treasurer: Elizabeth Shaughnessy, City of Midland

Communications Coordinator: Glenda Arroyo-Cruz, City of Midland

Professional Development Officer: Cristina Odenborg Burns, AICP, CPM, PCED, City of Midland

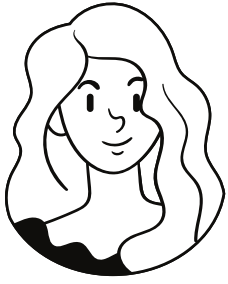
Past Director: Jon James, AICP



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we find ourselves approaching the holidays, and as COVID continues to complicate our working and personal lives, it's important that we make time to check in with each other and provide encouragement while staying in touch. If you miss the in-person activities as much as I do, please know that we'll be working to re-incorporate those as soon as is feasible. In the meantime, your leadership team is still committed to providing additional resources and educational opportunities to keep you and your work going. We've talked about our subcommittees that are putting together recommendations to help guide our recruitment efforts, as well as simplifying our members' lives a bit by providing a curated treasure trove of information, and you'll be hearing more about this in the next couple of months. We are just days away from the 2020 Cross-Collaborative Chapter Virtual Conference - our first-ever attempt at delivering tons of great sessions through your computer and across six different states. Next year we are going to push even harder to try and have our section well-represented with sessions that show off what we have going on in the Northwest Section! Also, be on the lookout for updates I'll share at the conclusion of our APATX Board of Directors meeting which will be held at the end of this week. Keep up all the great work, & we'd love to hear your ideas on virtual engagement as we approach the end of the year!

FEATURED MEMBER



Valerie Sherman, City of Midland, Senior Planner

Valerie Sherman has just recently joined the Midland Team. Originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico, Valerie has quite the experience with the planning profession. Her journey began in 2016 with the City of Pueblo, Colorado. She has also worked the the Metropolitan Planning Association (MPO) focusing on transportation planning with the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Valerie is an airplane enthusiast and would like to gain her license once day. She hopes that she can implement her experience with the City of Midland and learn new things along the way!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

AT THE APATX EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 29TH, THE BOARD TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- RESCHEDULED THE PLANNED 2020 STATE CONFERENCE IN EL PASO TO 2022;
- DECLARED THE 2020 CONFERENCE WILL BE DIGITAL;
- AUTHORIZED PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER APA CHAPTERS TO PROVIDE A JOINT DIGITAL CONFERENCE.

AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE ORIGINAL DATES OF OCTOBER 7-9 WILL LIKELY STAND. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT AJ (AJ@VERDUNITY.COM).

[APA TEXAS 2020](#)

OCTOBER 7-9, EL PASO, TEXAS.

THE ANNUAL APATX20 IS TEXAS' LARGEST PLANNING CONFERENCE WITH OVER 900 ATTENDEES EACH YEAR.



POLICY & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 23-24 | ONLINE

BRING CAPITOL HILL TO YOU. GAIN INSIGHTS DIRECT FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. DRIVE CHANGE WITH ADVOCACY MEETINGS FROM YOUR SCREEN. TWO DAYS OF EXPERTISE TO CUT THROUGH UNCERTAINTY. NETWORKING TO LISTEN AND TO BE HEARD.

NORTHWEST SECTION UPCOMING EVENTS!

GETTING CREATIVE: ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 | ONLINE WEBINAR
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION LINK AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS COMING SOON!

AICP PRACTICE

1. The location of cellular phone towers is determined by which of the following?
 - a. The Federal Communications Commission
 - b. State utilities commission
 - c. Local government jurisdiction
 - d. Metropolitan planning organizations

1. Which of the following land-use models describes the pattern of axial growth along lines of least resistance?
 - a. Multiple nuclei model
 - b. Concentric zone model
 - c. Sector model
 - d. Negative exponential population density model

1. The most appropriate method to eliminate an existing adult use is:
 - a. A taking
 - b. A moratorium
 - c. An amortization
 - d. A non-conforming use

ANSWERS FEATURED IN NEXT NEWSLETTER. STAY TUNED!

ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

1. A Small nonprofit is considering restructuring its organization to enhance internal communications. What type of organizational structure would be most appropriate?
 - a. Hierarchical
 - b. **Flat**
 - c. Matrix
 - d. Flexible
2. Cap Parks are:
 - a. Parks with specific functional capacity
 - b. Portable Parks
 - c. Parks that incorporate solar energy use
 - d. **Parks build over segments of freeways**
3. The Connectivity Index is generally calculated as:
 - a. Street miles / Square Mile
 - b. # Streets/ Square Mile
 - c. Collectors / Arterials
 - d. **Links / Nodes**

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS!

SESSIONS FROM NORTHWEST SECTION PLANNERS:

BRAINSTORMING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT -DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

OCTOBER 8, 2020 3:00 - 3:45 PM

SPEAKERS: ANGELA SELF, AICP; AJ

FAWVER, AICP, CNU-A, CPM; FRED LOPEZ, AICP, CTP, CNU-A; SHAI ROOS, AICP

THIS WILL BE AN INTERACTIVE SESSION IN WHICH A DIVERSE PANEL WILL DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES CONDUCTING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS TEXAS AND THE INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ENGAGE MINORITY AND INACTIVE POPULATIONS IN PLANNING PROJECTS. THE SPEAKERS AND THE AUDIENCE WILL BRAINSTORM PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT IDEAS THAT HAVE WORKED OR COULD WORK WHEN ENGAGING MINORITY POPULATIONS IN PLANNING PROJECTS. A LIST OF BEST PRACTICES - THE "DO'S AND DON'TS" WILL BE DEVELOPED DURING THE SESSION TO PUBLISH AS A SESSION DELIVERABLE TO THE CONFERENCE ATTENDEES.

TAKING ACTION TO MINIMIZE UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

OCTOBER 7, 2020 1:00 - 2:30 PM (ETHICS CM)

SPEAKERS: AJ FAWVER, AICP, CNU-A,

CPM; SHAI ROOS, AICP

COMPLETE STREETS IN RURAL AREAS -UNLIKELY BEDFELLOWS?

OCTOBER 6, 2020 3:00 - 3:45 PM

SPEAKERS: CHRISTOPHER WEBER, PE; MARTIN GUTTENPLAN, AICP, PMP; RAM MADDALI, PE, PMP; REBECCA REYES; ROBERT GUTHARDT, AICP

EXTENSIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TRANSFORMED WHAT APPEARED AS A 142-MILE RURAL SAFETY STUDY IN WEST TEXAS INTO MUCH MORE. RESPONDING TO OVERWHELMING PUBLIC AND AGENCY INPUT EXPRESSING A NEED FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES, COMPLETE STREETS ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED FOR TXDOT EL PASO DISTRICTS US 67 CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN. UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITIES OF ALPINE, MARFA, AND PRESIDIO ALONG US-67 HAVE VARYING DESIRES FOR BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES, TXDOT CATALOGED A RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FROM STRIPED BUFFERED BICYCLE LANES IN PRESIDIO TO A PHYSICALLY SEPARATED TWO-WAY CYCLE TRACK IN MARFA. THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES: URBAN, RURAL, AND NETWORK SOLUTIONS. THIS SESSION DETAILS UNIQUE RURAL COMPLETE STREETS PROCESS AND PRODUCTS.

REIMAGINING TEXAS HIGHWAYS

OCTOBER 8, 2020 1:00 - 1:45 PM

SPEAKERS: ALEX HOFFMAN, AICP, CNU-A;

ANNIKA YANKEE; MELISSA BARRY, AICP; ZAKCQ LOCKREM, AICP

BEFORE THEY WERE BUILT URBAN HIGHWAYS HAD BEEN PRESENTED AS THE SAVIOR OF CITIES, PROVIDING DOWNTOWN ACCESS TO CUSTOMERS AND WORKERS, NOW LIVING FURTHER FROM THE CITY CENTER IN NEW POST-WAR SUBURBS. THROUGHOUT TEXAS, AND THE UNITED STATES, URBAN HIGHWAYS WERE BUILT THROUGH THE TIGHT URBAN FABRIC OF HISTORIC CITY CENTERS. DECADES LATER, AS THE IMPACTS OF THESE HIGHWAYS HAVE BECOME MORE APPARENT, CITIES AROUND TEXAS ARE REIMAGINING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. THIS PANEL WILL EXAMINE THE STEPS THAT THREE TEXAS CITIES, AUSTIN, CORPUS CHRISTI, AND EL PASO ARE TAKING TO REIMAGINE THEIR URBAN HIGHWAYS.

LONE STAR PLANNING ADVOCACY

OCTOBER 8, 2020 4:00 - 4:45 PM

SPEAKERS: CHRIS SANCHEZ; CRAIG

FARMER, FAICP; KAREN WALZ, FAICP; LEE BATTLE, AICP

THE 2019 SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE MADE CLEAR THAT THERE IS AN EVER-WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THE BENEFITS OF PLANNING AS PERCEIVED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PLANNERS, ON THE ONE HAND, AND STATE OFFICIALS AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS, ON THE OTHER. CLEARLY, BUSINESS AS USUAL IS NOT WORKING. DURING 2020, APA TEXAS HAS TAKEN NEW STEPS TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING TO THE STATE'S LONG-TERM WELL-BEING AND BUSINESS VITALITY. AT THIS SESSION, LEADERS OF THIS INITIATIVE WILL SHARE THE ANALYSIS AND ACTION UNDERWAY NOW AND THE EFFORTS ANTICIPATED DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING: TEXAS

OCTOBER 8, 2020 6:00 - 9:00 PM

NETWORKING ON TUESDAY WILL BE FOCUSED AROUND THE TEXAS CHAPTER. THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF TEXAS TO JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS! WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE ROOMS WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE TEXAS CHAPTER, THERE WILL BE ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR THE OTHER CHAPTERS AS WELL.

AICP EXAM PREP WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 5, 2020 1:00 - 5:00 PM

SPEAKER: RICHARD LUEDKE, AICP

THIS SESSION IS AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN TAKING THE AICP CERTIFICATION EXAM. LEARN HELPFUL STUDY TIPS AND TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES FOR THE EXAM, REVIEW MAJOR TOPIC AREAS COVERED, AND IDENTIFY IMPORTANT STUDY AIDS AND RESOURCES.

FOR THE COMPLETE LINEUP OF SESSIONS, VISIT [HTTPS://PHEEDLOOP.COM/APAC3/SITE/SCHEDULE/](https://pheedloop.com/apac3/site/schedule/).

FEATURED PROJECTS

NEWS AND UPDATES OF CITIES WITHIN OUR SECTION

CITY OF LEVELLAND

SIDEWALK PROJECT



City of Levelland has had some exciting growth and renovations to their city. Recently, a sidewalk renovation has been in progress within their downtown. Main Street has been focusing on revitalizing and improving their downtown to make it safer and enjoyable to their citizens. Within the past 20 years, they have been able to focus on several renovations such as street signage, pedestrian signage, downtown bench project, and sidewalk infrastructure. Check out the link to learn more about the City of Levelland and their future vision of the city.

[Link here for more information!](#)

CITY OF LUBBOCK

CODES NEIGHBORHOOD DEPLOYMENT IN ARNETT BENSON NEIGHBORHOOD

On Wednesday, September 16, 2020, the City of Lubbock conducted a Neighborhood Deployment in the Arnett Benson neighborhood. This exercise consisted setting up an office within Arnett Benson and provided information regarding code information and City of Lubbock services. Additionally, roll of containers were available at this location for citizens to dispose of bulky items.

[read more here!](#)



CITY OF ABILENE

MINTER PARK REOPENS AFTER COMMUNITY LED RECONSTRUCTION

The City of Abilene Community Services department is happy to announce Downtown Abilene's historic Vera Hall Minter Memorial Park is now open for the public to enjoy once again after the completion of a major reconstruction effort, made possible by several community members and organizations.

[read more here!](#)



WHAT'S TRENDING?

HOT TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

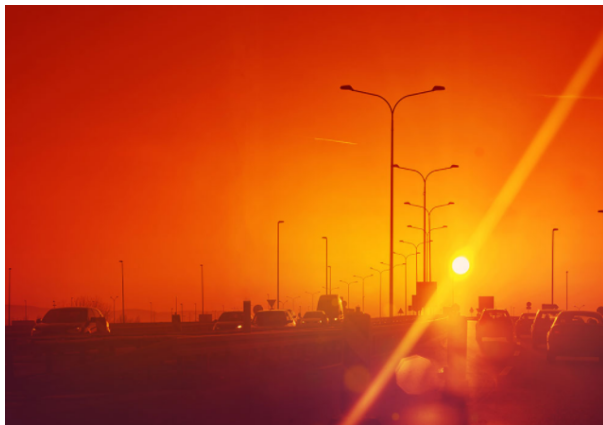
CHANGING PLANNING PRACTICES TO HONOR GEORGE FLOYD

A BLOG FROM THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION



Yes, you read the headline correctly. As planners, there are issues we may not think we can help with. In this article, Richard Wilson, FAICP, offers three suggestions in how planners could address such issues from the views of a transportation planner.

[Read the full article here!](#)



THE HEAT IS ON

AN ARTICLE FROM THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PLANNING MAGAZINE

With climate change pushing temperatures ever higher, cities must develop plans for extreme heat - especially in places with vulnerable populations. Learn about six ways planners can help federal, state, local, regional and tribal governments prepare for extreme heat.

[Read the full article here!](#)



BEING AN IDEALIST IN DIFFICULT TIMES

A BLOG FROM THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

It's not uncommon for planners to face new challenges that require alternative planning solutions. This article focuses on unforeseen issues and how to be effective in these moments.

[Read the full blog here!](#)

VOICES OF EQUITY IN PLANNING



Planners offer a unique perspective on the junction of governmental policy, private interest, and serving the public interest in communities.

[Watch the video here!](#)

COMMISSIONERS CORNER

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

What's the Market Telling Us?

McMahon's focus: changing trends in economic development, and how they are affecting the shape of our communities. In other words, what's the market telling us planners and planning commissioners?

[Read more here!](#)

What are you guys doing to fix it?

As planners and planning commissioners we need to think ahead, anticipate consequences, and identify our blind spots so we aren't sideswiped by a future we didn't see coming.

[Read more here!](#)

How to avoid conflict of interest

Let's say you have just been appointed to your local planning commission. You are now a public official who must abide by certain ethical standards—and, most important, avoid conflicts of interest. But what exactly is a conflict of interest?

[Read more here!](#)



STAY CONNECTED

[TEXAS CHAPTER - AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION](#)

[TEXAS CHAPTER - AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK](#)

[NORTHWEST TEXAS SECTION](#)

[NORTHWEST SECTION FACEBOOK](#)

RESOURCES

WEBINAR | The Peace Cross case: US Supreme Court and local guidance

Friday, September 4, 2020

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CDT

[This webinar will explain how county staff was able to document the history of the Peace Cross and prepare for legal proceedings at the Federal District, Appellate and US Supreme Court. Viewers will also learn important lessons if their municipalities experience similar challenges.](#)

WEBINAR | AARP Liveable Communities: Transportation Workshop

September 15-16, 2020

[This national workshop will explore transportation options that improve health; support vibrant neighborhoods; and connect people to economic, social and civic opportunities in their communities.](#)

WEBINAR | Tactical Urbanism: Project Delivery for a Post Pandemic World

Prior Webcast | Available now

[Tactical Urbanism provides an opportunity for cities and advocates to advance existing or develop new projects in a time of constrained resources and social uncertainty. In this webinar, participants will dig into the details of what Tactical Urbanism is, how the methodology was developed, and how it may help communities responds to current and future crises](#)

[*PDF VERSION CAN BE FOUND HERE*](#)