

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:

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Past Director: Jon James, AICP



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer is here, and we continue to find ourselves in a bit of a holding pattern. We've seen some excellent adaptations come out of this time, including some innovative approaches to engagement and ways to interact on a more personal level that we likely wish we'd been doing all along. It's been a time that has challenged us to think creatively; that said, it's also been a time of fear and frustration. As we see people around us affected by the pandemic and by current events (and frankly, people of color being disproportionately affected) it is a time for us to think of how we can collectively advocate more strongly in our work. To ask ourselves questions like, "do these policies truly get to the heart of

the problem?", "who are we inadvertently excluding?", and "what impact does this have on people in our community from all backgrounds?". At times, I know I have found myself advocating for regulations and frameworks, when I should have been advocating first for people who often don't have their voices heard or may be wary of our "engagement" efforts. Some of the thought-provoking pieces that have been shared in planning circles provide the motivation and suggestions on staying ever-mindful of who we are working on behalf of. Now is a time to have these difficult discussions, and I'm proud to say our section membership contains a diversity in background and viewpoint that offers resources and mentorship to make those discussions fruitful. With the technology available to our group, we can have those discussions right now - across the miles - and that's an advantage that our leaders in the past didn't always have the luxury of. Let's put it to use! Thank you for all you do for our communities. Be well. Stay safe.

-AJ

FEATURED MEMBER



Glenda Arroyo-Cruz, City of Midland, Planner

Glenda has been with the City of Midland for approximately two years. She is a Texas Tech Graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture. Her interest in being a planner came from her fascination with Urban Planning and Design. Working in West Texas can be challenging, but she aspires to work towards learning the best solutions and practices for unique environments, such as Midland. Although her background is not focused in planning, she believes having a different perspective is a good asset to her team.

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.

NORTHWEST SECTION UPCOMING EVENTS!

WEBINAR | BENEFITS OF A COMPLETE COUNT: HOW COMMUNITIES STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE 2020 CENSUS

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2020
10:30-12:00 PM

WEBINAR | HOW TO COMMUNICATE REGULATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2020
TIME AND SPEAKERS - TBD

AICP PRACTICE

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

ANSWERS FEATURED IN NEXT NEWSLETTER. STAY TUNED!

ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

1. New Urbanism principles include all the following, except:
 - a. **Neighborhood unit cul-de-sacs**
 - b. Compact, walkable neighborhoods
 - c. Preservation and renewal of historic buildings
 - d. A range of parks, from tot-lots to ball fields
2. Power Towns are likely to include:
 - a. Big Box retail and discount store
- b. Anchor department stores with a lifestyle center**
 - c. Less square footage than a Power Center, but with more specialty retail
 - d. Extensive office and hotel square footage.
3. The three C's of a good staff report are:
 - a. Consistency, Compatibility, Comprehensive.
 - b. Compliance, Consistency, Compatibility**
 - c. Compliance, Consistency, Comprehensive
 - d. Comprehensive, Consistency, Compatibility

FEATURED PROJECTS

NEWS AND UPDATES OF CITIES WITHIN OUR SECTION

CITY OF LUBBOCK

NEW MEMORIAL IN DOWNTOWN LUBBOCK



Downtown Lubbock is excited to be adding a Tornado Memorial dedicated to the devastating impact of the two tornadoes that took place in 1970. The tornadoes impacted the entire city of Lubbock, killing 26 people, severely injuring 255, and leaving 1,500 with minor injuries. The building team has hopes of finishing the memorial by May 11, 2021, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the tornado. This memorial will pay tribute to the people who helped restore Lubbock and to the people that lost their lives.

[Read More here!](#)

CITY OF MIDLAND

ROUNDABOUTS

The City of Midland has several projects in the works but has recently unveiled their latest project. The city's first roundabout that consists of a new four-lane divided roadway. Its purpose is to serve as an "important backage road" just southwest of Midland.

It is expected that this new access will help some of the congestion the city has been experiencing with traffic. Along with hopes of helping the busy streets, it hopes that it will promote a new area for development.

[Read More here!](#)



CITY OF BIG SPRING

ELECTION ON MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The City of Big Spring is considering an election to create a Municipal Development District (MDD).

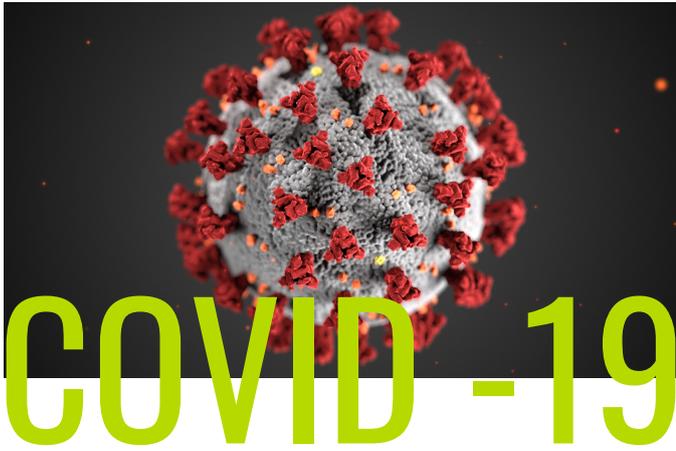
The creation of the MDD would allow for development to occur in Big Spring's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, (ETJ). The MDD would be funded by a half cent sales tax increase on taxable sales occurring in the ETJ area. This amounts to a slightly higher sales tax rate in the ETJ of 6.75%, as compared to the current 6.25%. Some benefits of approving said district could help with development and growth of the city but would focus on establishing water infrastructure projects for residents and any areas planned for future annexation.

[Read More here!](#)



WHAT'S TRENDING?

HOT TOPICS OF DISCUSSION



Just in case you haven't heard, COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, is the biggest trending topic happening right now and will probably be trending for quite some time. There is no doubt that sitting at home these past couple of months has gotten us to think how planners, should plan for pandemics situations.

While learning how to adapt to a new normal, the nation has been challenged with figuring out creative and reasonable ways to keep the economy functional. It has also sparked new topics of discussion between all professions, including planning.

TEMPORARY WAIVER FOR ALCOHOL

With the shutdown of dine-in services for restaurants, this left many establishments wondering if they would be able to continue to function without one of the primary sources of income in certain businesses. Texas made a temporary decision to allow restaurants with mixed beverage permits to offer alcoholic beverages with customers' food orders. Of course, there are regulations to abide by, but the measure was deemed essential to financial survival. Do you think this waiver was an appropriate decision?



[Read the full conditions here!](#)

PRIMED DELIVERIES

AN ARTICLE FROM THE APRIL 2020 PLANNING MAGAZINE



If you didn't already have an online shopping addiction, you probably do after being at home all day in quarantine. With the closure of businesses and a limited capacity allowed at essential stores, many of us have resorted to online shopping. Not only does it offer contactless delivery, it just seems easier to do than to wait in line for hours just to buy a couple of items.

This article focuses on the increase of online shopping and how e-commerce trends and technologies could make big changes for land-use and infrastructure planning.

[Read the full article 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.

You can help fight "Apathy"

Over the years in the Planning Commissioners Journal -- and now on PlannersWeb.com -- we've regularly reminded planners to try to put themselves in the public's shoes. Don't assume people know how the planning process works. Avoid jargon. Provide clear explanations of items on the meeting agenda.

[Read more here!](#)

Planner and Commissioner - The Relationship between Staff and Commissioners.

Are there any suggestions you have for strengthening the working relationship between staff planners and planning commissioners?

[Read more here!](#)

ETHICS Codes: Not just for Planners

"You can learn a lot about how a profession views the world by studying its code of ethics."

Learn about the different types of professions that have their own ethics they follow and practice. Some could have the same standards while others could abide by complete different manners.

[Read more here!](#)

TML'S "Guide to Becoming a City Official"

If you're a new or soon-to-be commissioner, here's a great resource that integrates leadership tips, ethics requirements, Local Government Code, the Open Meetings Act, and the Public Information Act in a highly readable, easy to peruse paper to get you up to speed quickly.

[Read more here!](#)



STAY CONNECTED

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[NORTHWEST TEXAS SECTION](#)

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RESOURCES

WEBINAR | Parks are an Essential Business

**Thursday, June 11, 2020
12:00-1:00PM**

[This webinar will focus on the challenges of cities and park systems and how they can maintain safe social distances during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

WEBINAR | The 2020 Census

Free Webinar, available through August, 31, 2020

[This webinar will talk about the census conducted every 10 years and go over all things important and relevant and how it can benefit, local governments, real estates developers and city planners.](#)

LIVE ONLINE | NPC20 @ Home

[If you missed NPC20 @ Home, we've got great news! You can still get access to all the session recordings in APA Learn. The collection includes more than 25 CM credits -- including 1.5 Law credits and 1.5 Ethics credits!](#)

ONLINE EVENT | CNU 28. A Virtual Gathering

June 10-13

[This online event will have many of the elements you would expect from our annual Congress: thought provoking sessions, live Q and A opportunities with speakers, social gatherings, art room sessions, plenaries, and pre-Congress events.](#)