



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Wow! The past couple of months have been an inspiring and exciting time for our region. I hope many of you had the chance to participate in the inauguration activities. We all are aware, painfully, of the challenges going on in the region and nationally as the housing market has shut down and the economic downturn has created tough situations for businesses and local governments alike. At the same time, there are great opportunities ahead for our planning community to provide leadership and create momentum behind the issues that matter to us most. There is so much enthusiasm and attention for public and community service, for rebuilding infrastructure and restoring the environment, and for a renewed focus on neighborhoods and urban areas.

With energy and leadership in mind, I want to welcome and congratulate our new chapter board members! Robyn Eason, Alan Hachey, Arlova Jackson, Renee Miller, Bill Washburn, and Shannon Yadsco are all officers, and the at-large board members include Anna Bentley, Laine Cidlowski, and Robert Mandle. Several board members are returning, some in different roles: Malaika Abernathy, Harold Foster, Daniel Goodman and Carol Truppi will continue on the board, and Michael Lancaster is our student representative.

I'd like to especially thank our outgoing board members for their hard work and service to the chapter over the last two years: Katie McQueen, Heather Whitlow, and Karina Ricks.

We appreciate the feedback provided by many of you in our last survey. Here's what we heard: the top two things you were interested in are opportunities for lower-cost continuing education and networking opportunities. Members said that they wanted to hear from the board somewhere between two weeks and a month – we hope to provide at least monthly electronic updates on regional events, CM opportunities, lectures and other topics, in addition to the quarterly newsletter. In particular, we'll also be working to provide continuing education courses on ethics and legal topics – two of the more difficult CM credits to track down. A number of people indicated their willingness to volunteer with chapter events, and we'll look forward to involving you in many upcoming events!

We are tackling several items right away, which are described below in the newsletter in more detail. They include regional work in support of the APA National Initiative on infrastructure, AICP Spring Training, and several free CM web courses.
Regards.

Julia Koster, AICP



NCAC-APA'S INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

Stay informed about **local** events, Certification Maintenance (**CM**) and **employment** opportunities in the region by visiting the Chapter website at <http://www.ncac-apa.org/index.php>

Did you know you can receive **free** sample copies of printed planning publications such as **JAPA, PEL, The Commissioner, or Zoning Practice?**

Find out more at www.planning.org/publications/

Our chapter is taking an active role in fostering a dialogue about the local planning community's goals and objectives for the implementation of the economic stimulus package and the reauthorization of the transportation bill.

The chapter is exploring opportunities to work with related professional organizations to identify commonly held goals and priorities for transportation and infrastructure planning. We hope to pursue collaborative efforts such as forming joint organizational working groups and co-sponsoring public events. These events should accomplish several goals:

- Facilitate an important and timely discussion on infrastructure policy.
- Provide a venue for gathering comments and feedback for our respective national organizations.
- Inform transportation and infrastructure related policies and positions at the regional level.

Other professional organizations that could be part of this initiative include the local chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

The goal of this effort is to continue, at the regional level, discussions that were initiated as part of APA's Infrastructure Investment Task Force. The Task Force held a field hearing in Washington, DC in December 2008. Questions we are examining as part of this effort include:

- How can we focus on infrastructure to promote smart growth, new transportation options, energy efficiency, green buildings and jobs, and healthier lifestyles?
- How can infrastructure investment promote long-term positive transformation?
- How can we ensure that our investments in infrastructure are focused and strategic?

We would welcome your participation in this effort. If you are interested in getting involved in current activities or if there are things you would like to see the chapter pursue, please email us at volunteer@ncac-apa.org.

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A REGIONAL NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR 2050

BY John Mataya, Regional Planner
with the Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Climate change, Web 2.0, federal government dispersal, the Green Industrial Revolution. These were just some of the future scenarios participants were addressing on November 20, 2008 at the regional scenario workshop launched by the Greater Washington 2050 (GW 2050) Coalition. GW 2050 is an initiative led by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and a coalition of public, business, civic, and environmental stakeholders. The workshop was organized to raise awareness of key risks and opportunities for the region and identify strategies for the region to remain competitive in the future.

The workshop began with an expert panel moderated by Kojo Nnamdi, host of the Kojo Nnamdi Show. The goal of the panel was to foster creative thinking about how trends in energy, the environment, the economy, technology, and demographics at the global, national, and regional level might evolve and influence the region. The expert panel included Alice Rivlin a Brookings Institute Economist and former Budget Director for President Bill Clinton; William Halal, a Professor of Science, Technology and Innovation at George Washington University; and Anna Motschenbacher, a Solutions Fellow at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

Following the expert panel discussion, participants, including representatives from state and local governments, university students, individuals from the business and civic sectors, and representatives from federal agencies, were presented with four scenarios depicting conditions in the Metropolitan Washington region during the year 2040. Bob Olson, from the Center for Alternative Futures developed the scenarios. The scenarios, presented in story form, were titled: High Tech Green, describing a green industrial revolution; Federal Dispersal, recounting a slow pull-out of back office federal jobs from the region; Hot and Gridlocked, depicting the effects of climate change and moderate oil prices; and Cooperation in Hard Times, articulating a strained economy, increased global competition of regions, and inspired leadership making tough decisions.

Participants were divided into groups to discuss conditions in each scenario. Groups later generated strategic responses for the region to adapt and improve circumstances between the year 2040, depicted in the scenarios, and the year 2050. Although the groups were discussing different scenarios, several themes emerged, some of which included emphasizing "green" economic development, sustainable development patterns, mobility, and leveraging the region's knowledge base. Paul DesJardin, Project Manger for the GW 2050 initiative, said that the



Honorable Barbara Favola, Kim Weeks, Brian Cullen, and Don Edwards create headlines for the future.



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scenario workshop was a success and “the process allowed for stimulating new thinking about the risks and opportunities that would emerge for the region under different future conditions.”

MWCOG is summarizing workshop results in a report that will be presented to the GW 2050 Coalition on January 30, 2009. Planned follow-up activities include a mini-workshop led by National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) for a group of federal representatives using the same scenarios created for GW 2050. “Effectively blending the federal government’s role with the efforts of regional authorities is critical to enabling the area to work together to successfully address key challenges of the future,” said Dave Robertson, executive director of MWCOG.

The scenario workshop was financed by the MWCOG, NCPC, and the D.C. Office of Planning. For more information on the Greater Washington 2050 initiative, the scenario workshop, or to read the scenarios visit www.greaterwashington2050.org.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Articles, announcements, letters, and advertising from readers are welcome. Material should be submitted via email, in an MS Word or rich text format. The submittal must include a name and telephone number. Materials submitted may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Submit the newsletter material to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes to APA, Member Services Coordinator, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60603; fax (312) 431-9985; or visit www.planning.org
Send email addresses or corrections to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

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