



Planning the inclusive city THE WASHINGTON, DC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

By Barry Miller, AICP

April 2007

Inside this issue:

- Director's Note 2
- Onward and upward 3
- Northern News goes electronic 3
- Urban design and preservation at 2007 APA Conference 4
- Bank of America announces \$20 billion environmental initiative 4
- Where in the world? 6
- Letters 6
- Eminent domain again an issue for states 7
- 2007 NSCCAPA Awards Dinner Gala 7
- Transportation study wins outstanding award 8
- What others are saying about climate change 9
- Follow the ring tone 9
- Newsmakers 10
- Jobs 10
- Calling Cards 10
- Calendar 12

In December 2002, I moved from Oakland to Washington, D.C. to manage the update of the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Plan. It was the professional challenge of a lifetime and the perfect antidote for the mid-career doldrums.

The District's Comprehensive Plan had not been updated for 20 years. It was regarded as arcane and tedious and was little used. Its 700 pages of dense text—without a single map or graphic—resembled a telephone directory. It was chock full of good intentions, but blemished by more than 3,000 policies covering such topics as dog poop on sidewalks, the addition of one story (“16 feet in height”) to the Hay Adams Hotel, and shutting down a particular non-conforming auto shop on Capitol Hill. The Plan had languished for a generation, even as Washington itself was being transformed.

After 17 years as a planner in California, working in the District of Columbia was eye-opening. I gained new appreciation for CEQA, the California General Plan Guidelines, and all those rules we love to hate. Despite its button-down reputation, DC was the Wild West by comparison: No planning commission, no EIRs, no seven mandated Plan elements—this was both liberating and discomfoting. Fortunately, Mayor Anthony Williams and then-planning director Andy Altman had assembled some of the best talent in the country in the District's Office of Planning, which had grown from a beleaguered crew of 10 in 1998 to a robust staff of 65 by 2003.



New condominiums rise in the historic Penn Quarter, bringing Washington, DC closer to its goal of adding 120,000 new residents by 2025.

In lieu of state mandates, DC planners contend with the watchful eye of the federal government, including an entirely separate planning department for the “federal” city. There are also 39 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (composed of 270 elected commissioners), a Preservation Review Board, and dozens of planning advocacy groups. District government, meanwhile, includes such Soviet-style departments as the “Office of Documents” which for over two decades had insisted on a graphics-free Comprehensive Plan to save on printing costs.

(continued on page 5)

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

by Juan Borrelli, AICP

The Northern Section Board is working on several important projects to better serve you. One is the transition to electronic distribution of the *Northern News* which will be implemented in August (see page 3). Along with this, we are making changes to the Northern Section website to improve its interface and usability. Several content changes have already been made. The Board believes these changes will expedite delivery of the *Northern News* to our membership, will allow for the production of a full-color newsletter that is without page limit (yet is more environmentally-friendly by significantly reducing paper consumption), will significantly reduce associated printing and mailing costs, and will improve advertising opportunities for our newsletter advertisers.

Don't delay in sending in your registration forms for the 2007 Northern Section Awards Ceremony, "Excellence in Planning," which will be held on Friday, May 18, at the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel in San Francisco. Space is limited. You will not want to miss attending this year's premier celebration of award-winning planning projects and work by your colleagues throughout the Northern Section. For more information, please see page 3 of this newsletter, visit 'Awards Programs' on the Northern Section website at www.norcalapa.org, or contact Awards Program Directors, Eileen Whitty, AICP, at ewhitty@ebmud.com or Andrea Ouse, AICP, at andrea.ouse@lsa-assoc.com.

The Northern Section is still seeking a Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Officer. This planner must live or work in San Mateo County and be a current member of APA or CCAPA. In this appointed position, you will be charged with advising the Board regarding the needs of the Peninsula region members; organizing periodic meetings, workshops, social functions, and some professional development events or programs for members within the Peninsula RAC region; and contributing relevant articles to the *Northern News*. Please contact me at juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov, or Andrea Ouse, AICP, at andrea.ouse@lsa-assoc.com if you are interested in this great opportunity to get involved with APA.

Last but not least, you should regularly check the 'Northern Section Calendar' on the last or back page of each Northern News, or the 'Calendar' section of the website at www.norcalapa.org. These calendars offer quick "at-a-glance" listings of all of the meetings, workshops, professional development opportunities, celebrations, and social/networking events that are offered over the coming months throughout the entire Northern Section. I hope to see you at our next event! ■

The deadline for submitting materials for inclusion in the *Northern News* is the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

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Northern News is published 10 times each year by the Northern Section, California Chapter, American Planning Association. It is a medium for the exchange of ideas and information among planners from Monterey County to Del Norte County, including the San Francisco Bay Area and San Benito County.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

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Onward and upward

Chandler Lee, AICP, is taking a sabbatical from his planning practice in San Francisco. He has moved to London, where he is prowling neighborhoods and pubs, exploring parks and museums, and photographing sights. He expects to report to his colleagues in the US with an occasional "Where in the world" photo. You can reach him at ChandlerLe@aol.com.

As of January, **Linda C. Dalton, PhD, AICP**, is Vice President for Planning and Enrollment Management, California State University, East Bay, (with locations in Hayward, Concord and Oakland) where she will work on Cal State East Bay's institutional strategic plan and enrollment development.

Linda has degrees from Radcliffe College/Harvard University (A.B. in Fine Arts—Art and Architectural History *magna cum laude*, 1967); and the University of Washington (Master of Urban Planning, 1974, and Ph.D. in Urban Planning, 1978).

Linda had a 23-year affiliation with Cal Poly State University, SLO, most recently as Professor of City and Regional Planning and Executive Vice Provost and Chief Planning Officer. She coordinated preparation of Cal Poly's Campus Master Plan (2001), which received awards from both the Central Coast Section of APA and the Southern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Linda also chaired the Cal Poly Housing Corporation which completed the first phase of faculty and staff housing on campus this past December.

Currently, Linda is chair of national APA's Education Committee and is a member of the California Planning Roundtable. She served on the California Planning Foundation Board (1994-2001) and the National Planning Accreditation Board (1992-97). She was the 2000 recipient of CCAPA's Distinguished Leadership/Professional Planner Award. Linda is co-editor with Charles Hoch and

Northern News goes electronic

Beginning with the August issue, *Northern News* will be delivered solely via the internet and not by US mail—except to those who specifically sign up and pay for paper delivery. The decision to go electronic was made by APA's Northern Section Board on March 1. The Board has been considering the move to a primarily electronic newsletter for the past year as planners have become increasingly reliant on the web for all kinds of information and as more APA chapters and sections switch to electronic newsletters. Currently, *Northern News* is posted on the chapter's web site (www.norcalapa.org) in addition to being mailed to more than 1900 recipients.

The cost savings are significant—an estimated \$17,000 per year for printing and mailing. There will still be costs associated with designing the newsletter in PDF format. Editing costs are absorbed by APA member volunteers.

The Board gave considerable thought to how members would feel about losing the experience of being able to physically hold their newsletters, read in comfort, and easily share them with others. The potential effect on advertisers was also considered. Of course, the newsletter

can still be printed from the internet. However, to satisfy a demand from those who will still want or may need to get their newsletters in the mail, the Board decided to continue printing and mailing copies for a small subscription fee that will offset the costs. Members who want mail copies will have to notify the Editor by email or mail and pay for an annual subscription in advance. The May/June issue will notify readers when the fee will begin, the cost of an annual subscription, and where to mail checks.

Northern Section will continue its current practice of notifying all members by e-mail as soon as a new issue is posted on the Section's web site. To ensure that you receive timely notice, please make sure your correct e-mail address is on file at <http://www.planning.org/myapa/>. If you are a California Chapter-only member, check your record at <http://www.calapa.org/en/cms/?252>.

In addition to printing the change-over notice in the newsletter, the Section will mail reminder postcards to all members and all those on the current mailing lists prior to the August changeover, and again in October. ■

Frank So of the 2000 green book, *The Practice of Local Government Planning*, and she has published articles and received awards from the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

Whitney McNair, AICP, and **Geoff I. Bradley** have teamed up to create Metropolitan Planning Group, Inc., also known as M-Group. Whitney is the former planning manager for the City of Mountain View. She has an environmental studies degree from UC Santa Barbara and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from San José State University. Geoff is the former senior planner for the City of Campbell. Geoff has a bachelor's degree in city and regional planning degree and a master's degree in architecture from California

Polytechnic Institute, San Luis Obispo. Their new firm, created in July 2006, offers urban design, policy planning, transit oriented development, development review and entitlement services, and serves public and private clients. They are located in Sunnyvale.

Iris Starr, AICP, has joined Pasadena-based Parsons as project manager for the Road & Highway Division. Based in the planning department of Parsons' San Francisco office, Iris will manage quality, schedule, and budget for transportation improvement and environmental planning projects underway for several agencies. She will also be responsible for new business development in Northern California and elsewhere in the state and the northwest. ■

Urban design and preservation at 2007 APA Conference

By Diana J. Painter, PhD, AICP, Painter Preservation & Planning, Petaluma

APA's Urban Design & Preservation Division is taking advantage of the 2007 conference setting in Philadelphia, one of the country's most livable and historic cities, to offer a number of special programs.

A training workshop on site planning in downtown Philadelphia will be taught by Bob Yakas, AIA, AICP, with a hands-on exercise. Bob teaches at Portland State University and is a senior designer with Myhre Group Architects in Portland. The session will be offered Saturday, April 14.

Also on April 14, "The Philadelphia Block," a walking tour of downtown Philadelphia, will be led by author and urban designer Todd Bressi, principal with Brown & Keener Bressi, Philadelphia. Todd has extensive experience in urban design and public art planning and teaches at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Morris, AICP, of AKRF, a New York City environmental and

planning firm, will moderate a panel on "Green Design in Historic Preservation," on Monday, April 16. Panelists will discuss the challenges of making historic architecture "green."

A second panel, "Where Urban Design and Historic Preservation Intersect," will be moderated by **Diana Painter, PhD, AICP**, on Tuesday, April 17. The session will focus on three cities grappling with the balance between historic preservation and revitalization. Participants will be Martin Black, city manager of Venice, Florida, who will speak on his city's plans to reinstate the 1926 John Nolen plan for Venice; Amy Miller Dowell, development manager for the Portland (Oregon) Development Commission, who will talk about the Ankeny-Burnside Development Framework, currently in the adoption stages; and John Gallery, executive director of Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, who will speak to Philadelphia's current efforts to

preserve the city's historic heritage in the face of redevelopment pressures.

You are invited

The Division extends an open invitation to a reception on Monday, April 16, 5:45 to 9:00 p.m. Special guests include Jonathan Barnett, professor of practice in city and regional planning at the University of Pennsylvania and director of Penn's urban design program; David Dixon, principal at Boston's Good Clancy and leader of their planning and urban design division; Barbara Faga, urban designer and chair of the board of EDAAW, Inc. in Atlanta; and Mark Hinshaw, principal at Seattle's LMN Architects and leader in their urban design division. These and other invited guests will speak on the state of the art in urban design and historic preservation. Mr. Hinshaw will also be available to discuss his current book, "True Urbanism." ■

Bank of America announces \$20 billion environmental initiative

Formed by the 1928 merger of the Bank of Italy (founded in San Francisco in 1904) and Bank of America, Los Angeles (founded in 1928), the giant Bank of America Corporation announced through its website on March 6 that it would direct

\$20 billion over the next 10 years "to support the growth of environmentally sustainable business activity to address global climate change," through its lending and investing practices. (http://newsroom.bankofamerica.com/index.php?s=press_releases&item=7697)

Bank of America plans to provide critical financing "to encourage the development of environmentally sustainable products and technology; accelerate the deployment of existing technology; and increase energy efficiency ... through innovative home and office construction, new manufacturing technology, changes in transportation, and new ways to supply our energy." Those ways include financing projects with LEED certification and promoting smart growth.

The bank also plans to "launch the capability to trade carbon emissions credits

in order to enable clients to achieve carbon emission neutrality through existing and emerging market mechanisms."

In its own operations, the bank will commit \$1.4 billion to achieve LEED certification in all new construction of office facilities and banking centers.

Chief marketing officer and chair of the company's environmental council, Anne Finucane, said "As one of the world's leading financial institutions, we can and will work directly with individual and business customers to address the pressing issue of global climate change."

Bank of America has more than 5,700 retail banking offices in the United States, serving more than 55 million consumers and small businesses. It is the country's No. 1 Small Business Administration (SBA) lender to minority-owned small businesses. ■

STARTING WITH THE AUGUST ISSUE, Northern News WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLY.

Notice of the initial posting of each issue of the newsletter on the Section's website will be e-mailed to all members and subscribers. To ensure that you continue to receive *Northern News*, please make sure your email address is current. To update your profile, go to <https://www.planning.org/myapa/>

Planning the inclusive city *(continued from page 1)*

A vision for growing an inclusive city

The first year of the Plan Update was spent “visioning.” I was skeptical at first. Did we really need to spend a year to realize residents wanted good schools, safe streets, and clean air? I was convinced of the merits of this approach, however, when the Mayor held a “Citizens Summit” to debate the city’s future and 3,000 residents showed up. Citizens from all corners of the city talked about their lives, frustrations, and dreams. In a city with a legacy of government mistrust, there was a lot of making up to do.

The visioning process revealed some disturbing facts. The city was becoming more divided and less diverse. Poverty was becoming more concentrated. Despite falling crime rates, the middle class was leaving in droves. And in a city with more college graduates per capita than almost any other large city in America, one-third of the adult population was functionally illiterate.

There were no easy solutions or quick fixes. What’s more, our task was to prepare a Plan that was fundamentally about land use. We could not fix the schools, end youth homicide, or even promise timely trash pickup. What we could do was guide growth and investment in ways that started to bridge the divide. There was no denying that the city was booming—luxury condos were sprouting like weeds. With 55,000 new housing units projected over the next 15 years, the potential for an inclusive city was real, but so was the risk of failure.

The outcome of the visioning process was an 80-page coffee-table style book which told the story of Washington’s past, present, and hopeful future. It addressed three fundamental challenges: creating successful neighborhoods, increasing access to education and jobs, and connecting the city.

A Vision for Growing an Inclusive City was endorsed by the City Council in June 2004. A few critics testified that it was “social engineering,” but it was

WASHINGTON, D.C. FAST FACTS

Land Area (square miles)	61
Percent of land area exempt from taxes	53%
Population	
1950	802,000
2006	582,000
2025 (projected)	698,000
Housing	
2000 Median Single Family Home Price	\$178,250
2005 Median Single Family Home Price	\$489,000
Percent Increase, 2000-2005	174%
Housing Units Added, 1990-1999 (10 yr total)	2,510
Housing Units Added in 2005 (one-yr total)	2,800
Economy	
Total Jobs (2005)	742,000
Percent of jobs held by non-DC residents	71%
Percent of jobs in federal government	28%
Citywide unemployment rate	6.0%
Citywide poverty rate	20.2%
20-year projection of CBD office space demand	50,000,000 SF

Source: DC Office of Planning, 2006

embraced by the Council without much controversy.

Laying the foundation for a 21st Century Plan

Work on the Comprehensive Plan Update began in Summer 2004. With a budget of almost \$3 million, we retained 11 different consulting firms to assist on various aspects of the project (including media, outreach, and facilitation).

A 28-member Citizens Task Force was appointed to steer the project. Their monthly meetings were passionate, stressful, and often frustrating—but in the end, the Task Force was one of the most important contributors to the project’s success. They were our litmus test for everything from the Plan’s table of contents to the colors on the Land Use Map.

Our public involvement plan was aggressive and ambitious. In addition to the Task Force, we held four “rounds” of creatively formatted workshops (25 in total) in school cafeterias and auditoriums across the city. In between the workshops, we attended ANC and civic association meetings nearly every night of the week. We were yelled at

and threatened, booed and jeered, but ultimately praised, thanked, and respected for listening.

Technical work on the Plan progressed on multiple tracks. One track featured a massive “audit” of the 1984 Plan, with a systematic screening of each of its 3,500 policies. Another track featured an Interagency Working Group representing 22 different agencies, convened to vet Plan policies. Another track featured baseline data collection and analysis, including the City’s first ever GIS-based existing land use map and land capacity analysis. There were studies of transportation, infrastructure, and the environment, and an exhaustive analysis of the District’s economy.

Yet another track corrected long-standing cartography errors and showed emerging policy concepts on the Future Land Use Map. Through field work and meetings with neighborhood groups, more than 820 amendments to the Map—affecting thousands of acres—were ultimately approved. A 54"x 42" Policy Map also was developed—classifying the city’s neighborhoods and largest sites as *conservation areas*, *revitalization areas*, and *change areas*. *(continued on page 6)*

Planning the inclusive city *(continued from page 5)*

Drafting the Plan

The bulk of the Plan was drafted between December 2005 and May 2006. Roughly every two weeks, a new element was posted to the project website and circulated to the Task Force for comment. We started with “easy” topics like Arts and Culture, and built up to more controversial elements like Land Use and Transportation. The pace was exhausting. By May, the Plan’s 14 chapters were finished. Copies of the 400-page Working Draft were mailed to nearly 500 interested parties.

Without a breath, we moved on to Volume Two of the Plan—10 “Area Elements” corresponding to geographic sub-areas of the city. We initially had hoped to do away with sub-area plans, but fierce resistance from the community made us rethink our approach. The Area Elements replaced a cumbersome system of “Ward Plans” that represented nearly two-thirds of the old Plan’s content. The Area Elements included narrative profiles highlighting the issues in each area, followed by place-specific policies for large sites and transitioning neighborhoods.

Not surprisingly, the more detailed Area Elements generated most of the controversy. By prescribing policies for specific corridors, transit stations, university campuses, etc., the stakes were raised and the Plan’s potential impacts became much greater. Written comments began pouring in. In June, a “Mayor’s Public hearing” was held to receive testimony on the Working Draft Plan. More than 100 people testified at the 10-hour hearing.

Adoption

A Public Review Draft was transmitted to the City Council on July 14, 2006. Written and e-mailed comments continued to pour in, about two-thirds in support and one-third in opposition.

The opposition focused on two issues. First, the Plan was adopted in the waning days of a lame duck administration—the Mayor and five of the 13 Council members were leaving office. Critics argued the process was rushed, and that outgoing officials could not be held accountable for bad decisions. Second, residents in the more affluent parts of the city characterized the Plan as unfriendly to families. They felt that its

infill and transit-oriented development policies would result in inappropriately high densities, untenable traffic, rampant expansion of institutions, and the loss of historic row houses. One of the most respected organizations in the city even referred to it as the “neighborhood-destroying Comprehensive Plan” in their testimony.

At the same time, an eclectic coalition of environmental and smart growth groups, affordable housing advocates, Gen X’ers, artists, and land use lawyers (!) were lobbying for swift adoption. The “Campaign to Adopt the Comp Plan in 2007” was launched, complete with bright red lapel buttons and stationery.

After 1,500 pages of comments and several months of hearings, the Council voted on the Plan in December 2006—at their last legislative session of the year. It was adopted 12-0.

The final word

It would take another article to describe the highlights of the Plan—that’s a story for another day. If you’d like to peruse the document, the text-only version is at <http://www.planning.dc.gov>. The fully formatted version is being published this Spring and will be on the city’s website in June 2007.

Barry Miller is a planning consultant in Oakland.
Mr. Miller was editor of *Northern News*, 1988–1993.
You can e-mail him at planbig@aol.com. ■

LETTERS

Editor:

I’d welcome a follow-up on what’s being done, or proposed, to cope with global climate change in California. I like this description of what we will do: prevent (or mitigate), adapt, and suffer. Thus far, most of the discussion has been about reducing CO₂ emissions. But we also need to think about how we will adapt to the climate change already occurring.

Most aspects of life in California would be affected by a significant rise in temperature, or a rise in sea levels. What will we most choose to protect? How will our water policies change? What is the future of the Delta? And how much time do we have to get ready? There’s plenty to think about.

Joseph Bodovitz
Mill Valley

Mr. Bodovitz was the first executive director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the first executive director of the California Coastal Commission, and later executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Where in the world? *By Paul Crawford, FAICP, San Luis Obispo*



Answer on page 8.

Eminent domain again an issue for states

STATES WITHOUT ACTION IN '06 REVISIT ISSUE IN '07

Reprinted in its entirety from *APA Advocate*, February 28, 2007 <http://www.planning.org/apadvocate/2007/february28.htm>

There can be little doubt that eminent domain was one of the most dominant political and policy issues of 2006. Last year one or more eminent domain bills were introduced in every state that held a legislative session. Twenty-seven states enacted or passed some type of change to eminent domain use. Twelve states had ballot measures dealing with eminent domain.

Despite the broad debate on the issue, not every state adopted new legislation. Sixteen states either saw proposed bills defeated or had no legisla-

tive session. Many of them are taking up the issue in 2007. Eminent domain legislation has already been proposed in at least nine states: Connecticut, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Wyoming. Measures have cleared at least one chamber of the legislature in Wyoming and Mississippi. The Virginia legislature approved a measure that now goes to the governor for his signature.

As was the case last year, legislators in most states are seeking compromise language in eminent domain bills. In some

cases, legislators are attempting to reconcile different bills with sharply different standards on critical issues such as blight designation.

Some states are also expected to pursue takings legislation. Last year, four states faced takings ballots measures. Three of those four measures were defeated by voters, but supporters appear poised to file new initiatives. Takings legislation has been introduced in South Carolina. Initial efforts are underway in California and Montana to get initiatives on ballots in 2008. ■

2007 NSCCAPA Awards Dinner Gala

What: Sip...Eat...Cheer...Celebrate the winning projects... at the Annual NSCCAPA Awards Banquet

When: Friday, May 18, 2007, 6 to 9 PM

Where: Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel
609 Sutter Street, Crystal Ballroom, San Francisco, 94102

- No-host bar
- Entrée: Chicken stuffed with spinach and sun dried tomato, roast pepper cream sauce, orzo pesto, julienne vegetables or, vegetarian entrée
- Salad: Tossed baby greens with blue cheese, cherry tomatoes, vinaigrette dressing
- Dessert: Chocolate terrine

Who: Everyone is welcome!

Please mail your reservations by Monday, May 14, 2007

Cost: \$40 per person. Please pay in advance by mailing a \$40 check payable to "NSCCAPA" Attention: Eileen Whitty, EBMUD, 375 - 11th Street, MS 808, Oakland, CA 94607

PLEASE NOTE: If you choose to pay with cash or check at the door, your prior reservation is required. Reserve with Eileen Whitty by e-mail at ewhitty@ebmud.com, no later than **Monday, May 14**.

Please reserve _____ places @ \$40 each for the NSCCAPA Awards banquet. My check is enclosed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____, CA

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____ @ _____

Number of vegetarian entrées requested _____ Total enclosed, \$ _____ .00

Transportation study wins outstanding award

WALKABILITY STUDY SHEDS LIGHT AROUND PORTLAND AND SAN FRANCISCO LIGHT RAIL STOPS

University of Oregon Office of Public and Media Relations. Reprinted by permission.

EUGENE, Ore.—(Feb. 28, 2007)

Got a train to catch? The walk to the nearest stop has been put under scientific scrutiny, looking at distances involved and the environment along the way.

The findings, which include the discovery that people often walk farther than they had thought despite their desire to minimize time and distance, are detailed in an award-winning paper by researchers at the University of Oregon and **San José State University**. A goal of the research—conducted in Portland, Oregon and the San Francisco Bay area—was to build on the idea that walking is healthy; it gets people out of cars and into public transportation, which helps the environment.

Marc Schlossberg,

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~schlossb/>, a professor in the University of Oregon department of planning, public policy and management <http://pppm.uoregon.edu/>, and graduate student Vanessa Bekkouche, along with San José State team members **Asha Weinstein**, a professor, and student **Katja Irvin**, were honored for their research, which they titled “How far, by which route, and why? A spatial analysis of pedestrian preference.”

Their effort earned the 2007 Outstanding Paper Award from the Transportation Research Board during its annual conference January 21-25 in Washington DC. The award was presented by the Committee on Pedestrians, which selected two papers out of 52 entries. The paper investigated pedestrian access to light rail transit sites in the two West Coast urban areas.

In part, the study suggests the importance of proximate destinations and an absence of major walking barriers, rather than beautifully designed pedestrian environments, Schlossberg said.

“Perhaps the key to increasing the number of walking trips is not to design pedestrian environments full of amenities such as benches, tree cover, awnings and wide sidewalks,” he said. “While there is no doubt those assets can enhance the pedestrian experience, the real key is to have somewhere to walk to and to have an environment that isn’t horrible.”

A lot of communities around the country are looking at walkability issues. There are a growing number of state and federal initiatives on Safe Routes to School, as well as concerns over a national obesity epidemic and a wide range of policy initiatives designed to convince travelers to switch from automobiles to more environmentally sustainable bicycle and walking trips. Policymakers recognize walking as a key mode of travel, Schlossberg said, and they believe that increasing the number of walk trips is a key goal.

“Despite the seeming simplicity of the goal, we know very little about how far people actually walk or about how street design affects people’s willingness or capacity to access their desired destinations by walking,” he added.

The researchers looked at activity near five rail transit stations in both areas and sought to uncover how far pedestrians walk to light rail stations and what environmental factors influence their routes.

The paper concluded with five major findings:

- Pedestrians walk farther to access light rail stations than commonly assumed, with a mean distance of about a half-mile rather than the prevailing notion of a quarter to a third of a mile.
- Pedestrians say that their primary concern in choosing a route is minimizing time and distance.
- Secondary factors influencing route choice are safety and, to a lesser extent, attractiveness of the route, sidewalk quality, and the absence of long waits at traffic lights.
- Pedestrians vary considerably in how accurately they estimate the distance of their walks.
- Asking respondents to trace their walking route on a local map is an effective research technique.

The study was sponsored by the Mineta Transportation Institute, a San José State University Transportation Center.

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Answer to “Where in the world”: Siena, Italy, from Via dei Montanini

What others are saying about climate change ...

"My views have changed, and the rest of the environmental movement needs to update its views, too, because nuclear energy may just be an energy source that can help save our planet from another potential disaster: the serious negative impacts of climate change."

Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, writing for "Perspective" in the *San José Mercury News*, February 25, 2007.

"The coal power plant projects are enjoying, in effect, a market subsidy. They look more attractive than they are because [carbon dioxide] emissions are ignored by the marketplace. But if legislation controls those emissions, overnight that changes the economics..."

David Hawkins, director of the climate center at the Natural Resources Defense Council, as quoted in an article by John Donnelly, *Boston Globe*, February 26, 2007.

"The administration's climate policy will result in emissions growing 11 percent in 2012 from 2002. In the previous decade, emissions grew at a rate of 11.6 percent, according to the EPA."

Andrew C. Revken, writing in the *International Herald Tribune*, March 3, 2007, about the draft U.S. Climate Action Report, which was due no later than January 1, 2006.

Nearly 100 companies, including leaders of several worldwide corporations that are members of the Global Roundtable on Climate Change, have called "for prompt, decisive action on climate change created by the emission of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide." The business leaders hope to have a permanent plan in place by 2012.

San José Mercury News, *Associated Press*, and *Bloomberg News*, February 21, 2007.

In its "first consensus statement" on climate change, the board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science called "global climate change caused by human activities ... a growing threat to society ... The longer we wait to tackle the change, the harder and more expensive the task will be."

Randolph E. Schmid of the *Associated Press*, in the *San José Mercury News*, February 19, 2007.

A report, "Still Toxic After All These Years," released February 17 at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in San Francisco, found that "poor and minority residents in the Bay Area breathe and live with far more than their share of industrial and traffic pollution, and have higher lifetime cancer risks and greater rates of asthma and other breathing ailments."

Douglas Fischer, *Oakland Tribune*, February 18, 2007.
UCSC professor Manuel Pastor co-authored the report.

Follow the ring tone

Are planners slow to pick up on the possibility of using cell phone data to map the home-to-work commute and where people concentrate in the daytime?

"Almost everyone in the developed world now carries a mobile phone, why not use the data from mobile-phone networks ... to keep track of where subscribers are?" That's the question posed by the weekly *The Economist* in "Go with the flow," March 8, 2007. "Data from mobile-phone networks can create maps that show how people are moving around."

Since at least September 2005, newspapers have been reporting on a research project that maps cell phone traffic to yield real-time results of the flow of people in cities. "Using data like the density of cell phone calls, origin and destination of calls, and position of users tracked at regular intervals, researchers created computer generated images that can be overlaid [on] street maps to show the [density] of cell phone use in the city." (*India Daily*, http://senseable.mit.edu/news/on_us/IndiaDaily15September2005.htm)

The research is conducted at MIT's SENSEable City Laboratory headed by Carlo Ratti. Technical details about the project are available at the laboratory's website, <http://senseable.mit.edu>. Real-time images of how people are moving around in Graz, Austria, are available at <http://senseable.mit.edu/grazrealtime/>.

Can the research be used by planners for origin-destination studies that count people, not cars? According to *The Economist*, "Rome will probably be the first city with commercially available people-movement maps. When MIT presented its project last year, ... Telecom Italia gave the scheme its backing. So did Rome's mayor... The city's transport authority ... says the new system will allow scrapping an expensive annual O-D survey of 2,000 people."

And, says *The Economist*, "It is not hard to think of other uses for the technology ... [like] ... appraising commercial property by determining how many pedestrians pass a given storefront."

Newsmakers

Two classes with 35 urban planning master's degree students at San José State University have been working with the local community to draft designs for the area around the proposed BART station at Alum Rock. Emy Mendoza, NSCCAPA's student representative at San José State, is quoted: "We hope these images will feed your imagination. The town square is a high priority for the community."

San José Mercury News, Sunday, March 18, 2007.

"S.J. neighborhood enters BART debate with gusto," by James Hohmann.

http://www.mercurynews.com/search/ci_5465030

or, for further information and a copy of the article, contact emymendoza@earthlink.net.

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Senior Associates with broad-based scientific and/or planning knowledge and experience, and who are well versed in environmental/technical issues. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in a science or planning-related discipline and a minimum of four years in the consulting industry. A working knowledge of CEQA and NEPA compliance preferred.

Air quality and/or noise specialists with experience in airport planning and air quality/noise assessment. This associate-level position requires a bachelor's degree in physical or environmental sciences, excellent technical skills, effective problem-solving ability, excellent writing skills, and the ability to work both independently and with a team.

Associates with two to five years experience in the preparation of CEQA and NEPA documentation, environmental planning and a background in any of the following disciplines: geology, hydrology, water quality, air quality, noise, biology and/or land use. Candidates should have at minimum a bachelor's degree in the environmental sciences.

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NORTHERN SECTION CALENDAR

APRIL

- 12** **Dennis Klein, "GIS and planning."** Perspectives in Planning, Urban Planning Coalition Spring Speaker Series, San José State University, 6 to 7 PM, San José State/King Library, Room 255. Contact Brandi de Garmaux, upcresponse@yahoo.com.
- 14-18** **APA National Conference, Philadelphia,** <http://www.planning.org/2007conference/>
- 25** **San Francisco RAC Social,** Thirsty Bear, 661 Howard Street, San Francisco. RSVP by April 23: Kenya Wheeler, fwheele@bart.gov
- 26** **East Bay RAC and AEP: How green is our planning?** A panel and dialogue on emerging strategies. 6 to 9 PM, North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 4 blocks E. of North Berkeley BART. SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP BY APRIL 20: Ed DeBellevue, ed.debell@gmail.com
- 28** **2007 CCAPA Conference Steering Committee,** 10 AM – Noon, San José City Hall - Development Services Lobby (1st Floor of City Hall Tower), 200 East Santa Clara Street, San José. Contact Juan Borrelli, juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov or Hing Wong, hingw@abag.ca.gov

MAY

- 3** **NSSCAPA Board meeting,** 6:30 – 8:30 PM, BART Administrative Offices, 300 Lakeside Drive, 16th Floor, Oakland, near the 19th Street/Oakland BART Station. Contact Kenya Wheeler, fwheele@bart.gov
- 4** **CPF Bay Area sustainability tour**—trekking the streets of San Francisco. www.californiaplanningfoundation.org
- 11** **Al Savay, "Regionalism vs. localism."** Perspectives in Planning, Urban Planning Coalition Spring Speaker Series, San José State University, 6 to 7 PM, San José State/King Library, Room 255. Contact Brandi de Garmaux, upcresponse@yahoo.com.
- 18** **NSSCAPA Planning Awards Banquet,** 6 to 9 PM, Marines' Memorial Club, Crystal Ballroom, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco. Contact Eileen Whitty, ewhitty@ebmud.com
- 19** **2007 CCAPA Conference Steering Committee CANCELLED.**
No meeting in May. See June calendar below.
- 25** **Peter Calthorpe, "Designing with a focus on environmental sustainability and human scale."** College of Marin, Olney Hall, 7 PM. Contact andres@andresedwards.com
- 25** **2007 BAMMA "GIS In Planning" Forum,** cosponsored by NSSCAPA. 8:30 PM, MTC, 101 8th St, Oakland. Free to APA members. Contact Dennis Klein, dklein@boundariesolutions.com

JUNE

- 30** **2007 CCAPA Conference Steering Committee,** 10 AM – Noon, San José City Hall - Development Services Lobby (1st Floor of City Hall Tower), 200 East Santa Clara Street, San José. Contact Juan Borrelli, juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov or Hing Wong, hingw@abag.ca.gov

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