Spatial Areas of Practice

AICP EXAM REVIEW

February 20, 2009
Georgia Tech Student Center
Gary A. Cornell, FAICP
Acknowledgement

Thanks to Mary M. Shaw, AICP
Planning at the National Level

Federalism in action
- Carrots and sticks
- Grants, Programs and Policies
  - Housing programs
  - Transportation programs
  - Environmental Protection programs and policies
  - U.S. Census
  - Immigration policy
- The Federal Landlord
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Parks
- National Defense
  - Military bases - BRAC
Planning at the State Level

State agencies parallel federal structure

State requirements may (or may not!) be more restrictive than Federal requirements

- Housing/Community Affairs
- Transportation
- Environmental protection
- Economic development
Multi-State or Bi-State Regions

Focus on common issues that are not limited to political boundaries

- Watershed Planning
- Tourism/Economic Development
- Commuting patterns

Examples:
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Appalachian Regional Commission
Planning in Sub-state Regions

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other Special Service Districts
- Sub-state regions may have special jurisdiction, funding and regulations:
  - Outer Banks, NC
  - Meadowlands, NJ
  - Reedy Creek Improvement District
County services may parallel/compete with municipal services - may or may not be coordinated with services of municipalities

- Land use/Zoning
- Transportation
- Watershed/Water Quality
- Water and Sewer
- Growth management
Planning issues in Urban Areas

What concerns are common to most urban areas?

- Traffic Congestion
- Economic development
- Public safety
- Neighborhoods / Infill
- Affordable housing
- Annexation
Downtown Planning

Land of Special Districts

- Downtown Development Authority
- Parking authority
- Business Improvement District
- Main Street organizations
- Chamber of Commerce
Planning in Small Towns

Consider small towns that are growing vs. those that are losing population/jobs

- Water/sewer supply and increasing connections to public systems
- Decline of farm economy
- Big boxes
- Protecting small town character
Planning in Suburban Areas

What problems beset suburban areas?

- Urban sprawl
- Edge cities
- Adequate infrastructure
- Schools
- Demographic change
- Community character
Planning for Corridors

Common concerns of corridor planning:

- Traffic safety/ operations/ capacity
- Multi-modal facilities
- Connectivity
- Signs/ design aesthetics
- Residential frontage
- Economic development
- Incompatible development
Neighborhood Planning

Neighborhoods may be defined by history, geography, culture, and demographics.

Common concerns:

- Schools, parks, greenspace
- Community services
- Traffic
- Neighborhood character
- Incompatible development
Historic District Planning

Where Politics, Heritage and Culture collide:

- Designation of Districts vs. Structures
- Preservation / Reuse
- Neighborhoods, fiscal/economic development
- Local regulations
- HP Commissions
- Design Standards
- Certificate of Appropriateness
Waterfronts and Coastal Zones

Key Issues include:
- Traffic (seasonal)
- Tourism/ hospitality
- Housing affordability
- Beach re-nourishment
- Ports / Shipping
- Military installations
- Environmental quality
- Off-shore facilities
- Disaster planning
Tips for Studying

- Categories are not mutually exclusive
- Concerns are shared
- Many planning decisions involve consideration of multiple spatial areas
- Need for better intergovernmental cooperation is a common theme
- The larger the area, the more complex
- Small areas may not have dedicated staffing or budgets
Sample Question #1

Neighborhood, rather than Regional, planning may be more likely to address:

- Wetland and floodplain protection
- Airport accessibility
- Availability of grocery stores
- Provision of overnight parking for 18-wheelers
Sample Question #2

Hurricane protection planning and the building of levees generally occurs at which level?

- National
- Regional
- Corridor
- Downtown
Sample Question #3

The benefits of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) project including power generation and flood control extend to which type of area?

- National
- Multi-state
- County
- Urban
Sample Question #4

In a cold climate, planning to create covered and heated walkways that are above the streets and connect retail shops, restaurants, hospitals, and hotels, is an example of which type of planning?

- Evacuation planning
- Downtown planning
- Small town planning
- Waterfront planning
Spatial Areas of Practice

QUESTIONS?