



American Planning Association  
**Georgia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

# SPATIAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

## AICP EXAM REVIEW

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Georgia Tech Student Center

# 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

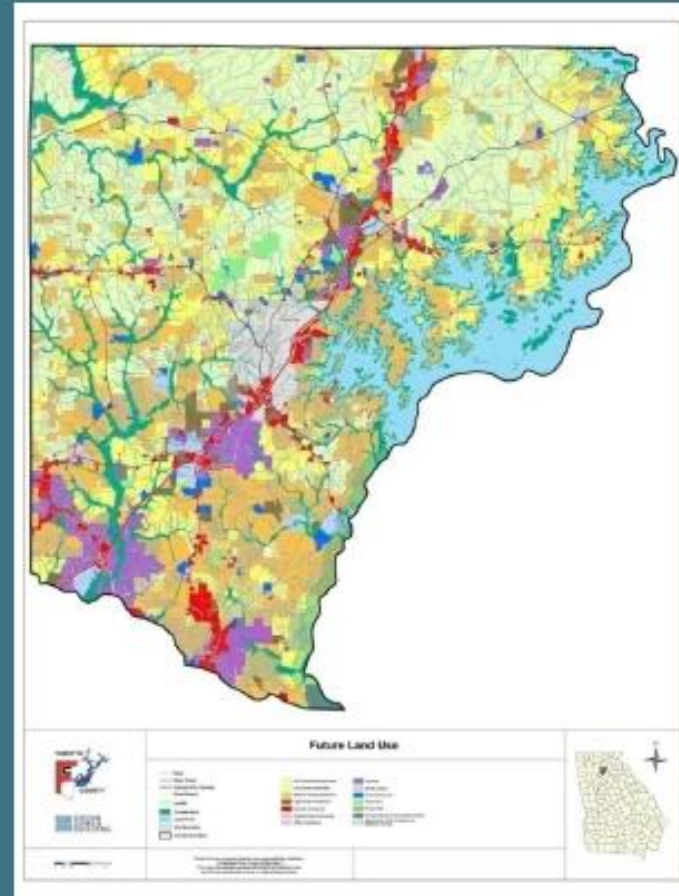
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other Special Service Districts
- Sub-state regions may have special jurisdiction, funding and regulations:
  - Outer Banks, NC
  - Meadowlands, NJ
  - Reedy Creek Improvement District



# Planning at the County Level

**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?