Anyone who has tried to keep up with the news about the national economy and issues of growth in Georgia during the past two years is probably still nursing a headache. The news has been coming fast and most of it fairly negative. On August 26th, 2009, Rajeev Dhawan, Director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business provided the most recent assessment of metro Atlanta and Georgia’s economy and where we are headed in the short term. The press release is available online at: http://robinson.gsu.edu/news/09/ecf0809.html

The full GSU report is very enlightening in many ways but a few points hit the issues home:

- Georgia has experienced 16 bank failures or 25% of total national closings.
- Between 2001 and 2006, metro Atlanta was building 68,000 housing units annually when its annual job growth was only 20,000.
- Expect metro Atlanta building permits around 6,000 total for 2010 and 2011.
- More job losses expected for 2010 and tax revenues will remain very challenged.

So what can local governments and planners expect in the short term? We should brace for more difficult times ahead. A stock market rebound will not necessarily mean our troubles are over in Georgia.

Bruce Gunter, President of Progressive Redevelopment, recently wrote a letter to the Atlanta Business Chronicle providing his views of the “new normal”. His opinions and comments follow.

(continued p. 6)
Hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to jump into GPA activities!

Numerous GPA members attended last month’s student welcome reception at Georgia Tech, co-sponsored by GPA. GPA’s ties to the state’s only accredited planning program continue to grow, assisted in no small measure by our new Young Planners Group, which welcomes planners of all ages and tenures to strengthen ties between experienced professionals and new and student planners. The YPG had its first meeting in August; please see www.georgiaplanning.org for info about the group, its goals, and future activities.

Of course the must-attend event of the autumn is our annual conference, which will be held in Athens September 30 - October 2. Conference sessions will be organized in four tracks: Quality Growth and Comprehensive Planning, Environment and Sustainability, Transportation, and Professional Development, plus AICP Prep and the Planning Officials Training Sessions. The sessions will cover a wide variety of topics, including:

- Trucks Are Our Friends
- Reducing The Carbon Footprint Through Land Use And Transportation Planning
- Taking Your Zoning Ordinance To The Next Level
- The Ordinary Iconic Ranch House
- Building Green Infrastructure
- Incentivizing Development
- Form-Based Codes on the Ground
- Growing Older And Growing Smarter
- The City In The Forest: Atlanta’s National-Award Winning Proposal For 2108
- A Tale Of Two Counties: Henry and Columbia
- And many more

And as if that weren’t enough, we have four mobile workshops as well as sessions for planning officials, AICP prep, ethics, and law, and an assortment of fun-filled activities, including the second annual auction to benefit the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation. Please go to www.georgiaplanning.org for registration information.

President Jeff Watkins and your new board of directors will take office at the annual chapter business meeting at the conference. Please join me in welcoming them and thanking our departing board members. Elsewhere in this issue you will find your ballot for the board of directors election; please vote.

October is National Planning Month and I encourage you to use some of the tools at www.planning.org/ncpm/ to recognize the event in your location. GPA will mark the month by awarding our first-ever Great Places in Georgia designation. (You’ll have to come to the awards luncheon at the conference to learn which Georgia community has been designated. We hope that this will be the first of many awards to recognize great cities, towns, counties, and neighborhoods in Georgia.

I have greatly enjoyed serving as your President for the past two years and encourage all GPA members to become involved. The organization depends entirely on the good will, time and energies of all of you. We have a great future at GPA and I look forward to working with everyone to continue enhancing the quality and visibility of planning in Georgia.
FALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS ANNOUNCED

Join your fellow planners, elected officials, and others at the annual GPA Fall Conference in Athens, Georgia. This year’s conference is sure to be an educational and fun event with numerous opportunities to learn from and interact with your colleagues.

Highlights of the conference include an opening plenary session, over 40 breakout sessions in 4 tracks, 5 mobile workshops, opening reception with auction to benefit the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation, awards lunch and the annual GPA Membership Meeting.

Two special tracks will be offered that include the Planning Officials track and the AICP Prep track. The AICP Prep was very successful and offers a limited number of spaces that provide several sessions that review the materials for the AICP exam.

The breakout sessions in each track are listed on the following pages. Additional information is available on GPA’s website at: http://www.georgiaplanning.org/fall-conference.

HAVE FUN — DO GOOD!

We are going to have our second annual auction for the Planning Foundation during the Fall conference. If you have something fun or valuable or interesting to donate, please contact Marsha Anderson Bomar at either marsha@streetsmarts. us or 770-813-0882 to arrange for pickup. If you want to donate cash, we will do the shopping for you…

A few suggestions include: sports memorabilia, autographed books or other items, artwork, restaurant gift certificates, spa certificates, bottles of wine, electronics

No item is too small — we will make interesting combinations to create captivating auction items.

We need your help now — and we need you to come prepared to BID, BID, BID…
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

No Adverse Impact - the “Do No Harm” Principle
NAI’s strength is that it encourages local decision making to ensure that future development impacts will be identified and mitigated – it is a truly comprehensive strategy for reducing flood losses.

The Greening of the City
The panel will explain how planning and land development strategies, new building construction technologies and innovations, and City workers are conserving energy, saving resources and reducing travel time and costs in Atlanta.

Development of a Conservation Overlay Ordinance: Newton County Blueprints Project
A stakeholder-driven process through which a conservation overlay ordinance was developed as a foundation for a sustainability-based Countywide economic environment.

Adopting a “Triple Bottom Line” Approach to Environmental Sustainability
This session will focus upon the use of a “triple bottom line” approach which recognizes opportunities to enhance environmental and social concerns in the delivery of city services without compromising economic viability.

Planning for Regionally Important Resources
This session explores the Regionally Important Resources process, including how to identify and determine significance of these resources and how to develop maps that are useful in identifying a statewide network.

TDR Workshop
A workshop designed to examine the entire TDR process: sending and receiving areas, the process for accepting and holding TDRs, working with the many different partners involved in a TDR program, and assessing the TDR program.

The Planners Guide to LEED
This session will present an overview of green building and site design principles along with an introduction to the LEED rating system, regardless of whether your jurisdiction is considering a LEED ordinance.

Green Communities
The Green Communities Program is a voluntary certification program for jurisdictions in the 10-county Atlanta region to encourage local governments to become more sustainable.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING & QUALITY GROWTH

Telecommunications Law and Practice Update
More than 1 in 5 Georgia households now rely entirely on wireless technology for communication needs. Join legal, industry, and local experts to discuss the evolving nature of the law and effective regulation of wireless communication facilities.

Regional Planning: Coastal Style
Coastal Georgia is the first region with a regional plan completed under DCA’s new Rules for Regional Planning. The process lead to the new rules, and the outcomes were guided by quality growth principles.

Practical, On-Going Public Involvement: An Idea Sharing Session
This session will focus on practical, low-cost methods of keeping citizens informed and involved and the challenges and benefits of this type of involvement. Idea sharing will be encouraged!

Integrating Economic Growth with Livability: Creating a Balance in Our Communities
This presentation will illustrate approaches and strategies to facilitate economic prosperity while retaining its character, protecting its environmentally sensitive lands and fostering community health.

Methods for Estimating Population and Housing of Counties and Cities
Covers methods for estimating population and housing change using administrative records, with an emphasis on the methods used by the Census Bureau. The role local governments can play in improving Census Bureau estimates is also stressed.

Peachtree City: 50 years of lessons learned
Find out how the Peachtree City is working proactively to update its comprehensive plan while faced with outdated and vacant retail centers, aging residential areas and what some fear is an erosion of the village concept.

Community Visioning: A Case Study, Barnesville Georgia
The Community Visioning Process maximizes public participation through a creative, problem solving method. This process is designed to produce strategies and an implementation plan that fosters change resulting in genuine benefits to the community.
TRANSPORTATION

“Pre-wiring” Suburbia: Transportation & Urban Design Solutions for Emerging Suburban Areas
This session will describe case studies and practices from three exurban counties that are proactively dealing with future greenfield suburban growth by linking their land use and transportation plans to support a common vision.

Airport Update and Roadway Development Plan
Airport passenger and vehicular demand growth has outgrown its infrastructure. The session will provide an overview of the $6+ billion development program that will reconfigure the current system to provide greater efficiency and safety.

Access Management - A Case Study and Panel Discussion
Access Management is an effective way to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion without adding additional travel lanes. This session will present a successful Access Management Plan.

High-Speed Rail: Reality or Myth and What It Could Mean for the SE?
The US is buzzing over the possibility of high-speed trains whisking us between major cities. How real is this vision and what does it mean for Georgia & the Southeast with respect to transportation, land use & planning?

The Roads Less Traveled: Transportation Planning in South Georgia
This session will explore the role of comprehensive transportation planning along with its associated relationships to economic development and quality growth and development in less developed areas of Georgia.

Transportation Planning in a Collegial Environment
The presentation will focus on campus planning at the University of Georgia that can transcend the UGA campus to provide insight to planners working in association with other collegiate environments.

Transportation Funding - Programs, Plans, and Tools
This session will cover current funding sources, ARC’s Plan 2040, and the AltaViz alternative visualization tool for managed lanes evaluation which will be used by GDOT in the Atlanta region.

Enhancing Public Involvement Using Innovative Interactive Mapping Software
The presentation demonstrates a new interactive mapping software technology developed for public involvement workshops. Originally used as a tool in assessing potential transit and trails alignments along the BeltLine corridor, the presentation will provide participants with a fascinating public involvement resource they could use for their future planning endeavors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Planners Progress: Lessons Learned the First Five Years - Sponsored by the Young Planners Group (YPG)
The first five years of Planner’s career are full of lessons learned. This session focuses on several key lessons in hopes of helping young planners learn from fellow planner’s ‘real world’ experiences.

When things don’t go as planned
This session will offer some sound professional advice on how to best adapt and deal with unforeseen events with the help of some humorous examples of planning bloopers and mistakes.

What Do Planners Need to Know About Urban Design
The design quality of towns and cities is increasingly important. The question is this: What do planners need to know about urban design to help build better places?

Using New Census Tools to Understand Your Community
The U.S. Census Bureau offers several tools that help planners gain a better understanding of their communities, such as the American Community Survey, and Local Employment Dynamics and its customized mapping features.

African American Women Planning Directors in Metro Atlanta
APA is committed to improving diversity among persons in the planning profession. It appears that in metropolitan Atlanta, there is a higher concentration of African American planners, especially women.

AICP Ethics Training
This session will provide an overview of the standards of ethical behavior contained in the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and a panel will lead a discussion of several scenarios that represent case studies.

Regulating Signs in the Digital Age
Digital signage has burst on the scene along our highways, streets and storefronts. This session will examine the evolving technology behind digital billboards and other digital signs, and regulatory approaches to control such signs.

Student Presentations
Graduate planning students from Savannah State and Georgia Tech will present projects, including the influence of neighborhood characteristics on Savannah High School’s dropout rate, sustainable transportation planning, the impact of environmental degradation and economic development opportunities in Brunswick, and employability of residents in a Savannah neighborhood.
What is virtually certain is that demographics, more stringent lending criteria, and changing family composition will spell fewer single-family homes. The home ownership rate peaked four years ago at 69 percent and will almost certainly settle out lower. As subprime loans are gone as a source of mortgage financing, lower-income households most assuredly will find buying a home more difficult.Offsetting these trends to some degree, housing prices may remain at lower levels, with a return to relative affordability a silver lining of the carnage.

Demographics are a primary driver of housing markets. As has been widely reported, the traditional American household — two parents with children — now constitutes less than half of all households, and that percentage is falling. On the other hand, the aging of the “echo-boomers” should revitalize the housing market as they begin to form households. Driving up rental demand are the aging baby boomers as their housing preferences change with their incomes.

Perhaps the biggest housing challenge facing Atlanta is how to create housing for the workforce, which now accounts for over 65 percent of all households in the core metropolitan region. Workforce households are spending an astonishing 61 percent of their disposable income on housing and commuting. Putting workforce housing where the jobs and transit are located should be a priority of any land-use policy.”

The full letter from Bruce Gunter is available at:
OFFICIAL BALLOT 2009-2011 GPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Use this form to vote; photocopies will not be accepted!)

Ballots must be submitted by U.S. Mail postmarked on or before September 25, 2009.

Mail ballots to: Attn: Jeff Watkins, Cherokee County, 1130 Bluffs Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114

Vice President for Programs
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Adam Hazell, AICP
☐ Vicki Taylor Lee, AICP

Vice President for Chapter Services
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Laura Keyes, AICP (incumbent)
☐ Jared Lombard, AICP

Secretary
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Tracy S. Dunnavant, AICP (incumbent)

Treasurer
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Eric Bosman, AICP (incumbent)

AICP Director
(vote for two: circle or check)

☐ David Kirk, AICP (incumbent)
☐ Tim Preece, AICP (incumbent)

Non-AICP Director
(vote for three: circle or check)

☐ Kathleen Field (incumbent)
☐ Rodney Heard
☐ Cheri Mathews (incumbent)
☐ Harry McGinnis
☐ Diana Wheeler (incumbent)

Planning Official
(vote for two: circle or check)

☐ Fred Boykin, City of Decatur (incumbent)
☐ Scott Morgan, City of Bethlehem
☐ Jeff Rader, Dekalb County

Director, District 1
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Richard Osborne, AICP

Director, District 2
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Lynn Tully

Director, District 3
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Bruce Macgregor, AICP
☐ Jim Summerbell, AICP

Director, District 4
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Frederick Gardner, AICP (incumbent)

Director, District 5
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Kristina Harpst, AICP (incumbent)

Director, District 6
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Paul DeCamp (incumbent)

Director, District 7
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Patti Cullen (incumbent)

Director, District 8
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Paul Forgey, AICP (incumbent)

Director, District 9
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Marc Hawkins

Director, District 10
(vote for one: circle or check)

☐ Geoff Goins
Join me in congratulating 13 members of the Georgia Chapter who passed the AICP Exam in May, 2009 and joined 436 other new AICP's nationwide:

- Scott Brown, AICP
- Christopher Carrigan, AICP
- Matthew Dickison, AICP
- Sidney Douse, AICP
- Paige Hatley, AICP
- Thomas Hutchinson, AICP
- Jenny Lee, AICP
- Eric Lusher, AICP
- Rajeev Shaw, AICP
- Alison Smith, AICP
- Keri Stevens, AICP
- Rajiv Wanasundera, AICP
- Jonathan Webster, AICP

The new AICP Exam Review Manuals are here! The Chapter Presidents’ Council of APA has updated the study guide to cover all the latest content of the AICP Exam. To purchase a CD-ROM with your copy, contact Gary Cornell and send him your mailing address and a check for $15 made out to the “Georgia Planning Association”.

The next AICP Exam will take place during the period November 9-23, 2009. There will be 3 Exam Preparation Sessions during the GPA Fall Conference in Athens.

The GPA Board is wishes to give its support to five members of the Georgia Chapter of APA who have been nominated to the Class of 2010 of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners:

- Ken Bleakly, AICP
- Steve Cover, AICP
- Glenn Coyne, AICP
- Cheryl King, AICP
- David Kirk, AICP

Each of these nominees will be preparing their nomination packages for consideration by a national selection committee. The successful candidates will be honored in a special ceremony during the 2010 APA National Conference in New Orleans.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS
The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: addresschange@planning.org, go to Member Login at www.planning.org, or write to: American Planning Association, 97774 Eagle Way, Chicago, IL 60678-9770

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
If you are interested in joining GPA or the American Planning Association, contact the national headquarters at the address above or call (312) 431-9100 or visit their website at www.planning.org.

CONTACTS
Direct financial inquiries and address payments to the Treasurer. Direct questions about chapter records to the Secretary. Direct matters for the Board of Directors to the President. See mailing and email addresses inside.

SUBMISSION
The Georgia Planning Association welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photos of planning events or state happenings, calendar listings, job notices, planners on the move, etc. We are always interested in publishing items you think may be of interest to others throughout the state. Graphics are especially welcome. Articles may be edited for space. Articles printed in any issue of The Georgia Planner are not the expressed opinion of the Chapter.

DEADLINE
The deadline for the next issue is November 30, 2009.

Send items for the newsletter to: William F. Ross, ROSS+associates, 2161 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 806, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Bill@planross.com

thank you to our sponsors!

BECOME A SPONSOR
The GPA is gearing up for its 2009 sponsorship campaign and wants to give renewing and new sponsors a chance to see our exciting new sponsorship products and levels. Please feel free to contact Laura Keyes, GPA Chapter Services, via email at chapter.services@georigaplanning.org if your company is interested in becoming a GPA 2009 annual sponsor.