



2021
PLANNING IN
THE MIDDST OF
A PANDEMIC



GEORGIA PLANNING ASSOCIATION

2021 GPA SPRING CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Virtual: Planning in the Midst of a Pandemic



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2021 GPA Spring Conference! It seems almost cliché by now to say that the past year has been like no other. In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, equity, social justice, and economic inequality issues have grown in prominence. While these issues have always been important, they are now receiving much greater focus nationally as well as in the planning profession. Recently, a mass shooting in Metro Atlanta impacted the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, the trial began in Minneapolis of the former police

officer accused of killing George Floyd, and a police officer in suburban Minneapolis shot Daunte Wright during a traffic stop. (I'm writing this about a week before the conference and don't know what other tragic events could take place before the conference.) As planners, we must continue to learn more about the impacts of events like these on the communities we serve, and strive to better incorporate equity, social justice, and economic inequality issues into the work we do.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been going relatively well in recent weeks, which should help our profession and our lives get back to a new normal. I'm looking forward to our keynote speakers, Mike and Mike, who will provide a deep dive on what we know, and don't know, about COVID's impacts. Be ready to ask questions!

Please join me in saying THANK YOU to VP of Programs Andrea Foard, Events Coordinator Beth Anne Trombetta, and the volunteers who worked behind the scenes to help make this conference a success. Special thanks to our Annual and Conference sponsors, without whose support we would not be able to provide the many services we deliver to our members.

I'm excited to announce that we are planning for the 2021 GPA Fall Conference to be an in-person conference! Who would have expected that to feel like a victory for normalcy a few years ago? Of course, we don't know how the COVID situation may change going forward, and we will continue to monitor the public health situation in the coming months. The conference format can always change if needed, as safety is our highest priority. But COVID-19 vaccines have been available to all Georgia residents since March, and this provides GPA members with more than 6 months to get vaccinated prior to the conference.

The fall conference is a joint event with the Tennessee Chapter of APA and will take place in Chattanooga, TN on October 6-8th. Session submittals will open soon, so keep an eye out for that.

Lastly, we're always looking for new leaders, so I'd like to encourage our members to join a committee or to run for the GPA Board in our upcoming 2021 election. Please contact President Elect Whitney Shephard if you'd like to run. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns about our Chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me or any board member. Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,
Daniel Studdard, AICP
President

VP OF PROGRAMS WELCOME



In 2020, we hoped to gather for the Spring Conference in the City of Sandy Springs then connect with our fellow Tennessee Chapter planners in Chattanooga for the Fall Conference. The COVID-19 pandemic brought change in many ways that shifted our personal and professional lives and caused us to course correct and pivot to a new normal – including the way in which we plan. However, we were fortunate to share our planning work and connect virtually in the fall. While the pandemic has precluded us from meeting in person for the

Spring Conference, we will once again convene in an online environment with like-minded professionals across the state.

We are excited to offer sessions that cover comprehensive transportation planning, climate disaster and emergency evacuation planning, pandemic impacts on transit, and ethics.

We also have a session highlighting local government pandemic response, two dynamic speakers giving our keynote address on the knowns and unknowns of COVID-19 impacts, and a networking hour closing the day for you to unwind with your fellow professionals. Enjoy the 2021 GPA Spring Virtual Conference, Planning in the Midst of a Pandemic, as we explore how we moved forward in the last year and how we will adjust for the future!

Best Wishes,
Andrea Foard, AICP
VP of Programs



REMINDERS

Technical Difficulties

Links for the sessions were emailed on Thursday, April 22nd. If you have trouble joining the meetings, please email Beth Anne at events@georgiaplanning.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

October 6-8, 2021
2021 Fall Joint Conference with Tennessee Chapter
Chattanooga, TN



- Comprehensive Planning
- Development Regulations
- Sign Ordinances
- Impact Fees
- Statistical Analyses
- Growth Forecasts

Recent Projects:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Impact Fee Programs: | Milton |
| Glynn County | Sandy Springs |
| Long County | Spalding Co |
| McDonough | Dawson Co |
| Cherokee Cnty | Fayetteville |
| Zoning Ords / UDCs: | Duluth |
| Pooler | Newnan |
| Forecasts & Analyses: | Columbia Co |
| Etowah W&S | Hall Co |
| Statesboro | Barrow Co |

Contact Bill Ross at 404-626-7690 or bill@planross.com
211 Colonial Homes Drive, Suite 2307, Atlanta GA 30309

COMMITTEES & DESCRIPTIONS

Professional Development Committee

Chair: Cristina Pastore, AICP

The duties of the Committee are to support members of AICP in their professional development obligations, to assist the Chapter in identifying nominees for FAICP; to prepare regular training on the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, to prepare non-AICP members with AICP Exam preparation, to promote the value of AICP membership and to foster appropriate forms of continuing education and professional development throughout the Chapter.

Chapter Services Committee

Chair: Kristen Wescott, AICP

The Chapter Services Committee supports the development of GPA communication tools including gathering articles and information of interest to the Chapter membership. The Committee seeks exciting activities to promote and maintain Chapter membership amongst professional planners, planning commissioners, and others actively involved in the field of planning in Georgia and promote interest in the field of planning and Chapter membership among college students and potential new members to grow the GPA roster.

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Chair: Jim Summerbell, AICP

The Committee will develop and carry out a policy and advocacy program that represents the views of the membership, and that is approved by the Board of Directors. The Committee will work with the Vice President for Programs and the Programs Committee in an effort to hold at least one legislative forum annually as may be appropriate, to which all members are invited, for the purpose of developing Chapter priorities on legislative issues and recommend position statements as necessary for Board approval. The Committee will support the GPA's communication tools with information on policy issues, proposed legislation, and results of the legislative process in Congress and the Georgia General Assembly.

Programs Committee

Chair: Andrea Foard, AICP

The Programs Committee, either directly or through sub-committees, shall be responsible for creating and executing all membership meetings and conference as to date, time, place and program content and presenters, means and refreshments, etc. The Committee will encourage and execute special Chapter events such as local ‘Planners Luncheons,’ receptions, and other educational events. The Programs Committee along with the Board of Directors will coordinate Chapter awards, including the solicitation and review of nominations and the distribution of awards.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

Chair: Marilyn Hall, AICP

The Committee supports the implementation of the APA Diversity and Inclusion Vision, Mission, and Strategy. The Diversity Committee shall actively address barriers to and support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented peoples in the profession by developing partnerships with educational institutions such as HBCUs, technical colleges, k-12 schools, and other groups. In order to build the capacity of planners to practice inclusive, culturally competent, and equitable planning practices, the Committee will work with the Programs Committee to incorporate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training into GPA events and conferences. The Diversity Committee shall actively recruit underrepresented peoples to participate in GPA elected leadership, and will also provide information and educational opportunities on EDI to GPA Board members.

Emerging Planners Group

Chair: Rebecca Keefer

The Emerging Planners Group provides a forum for networking, learning new skills, and above all, having fun. Our meetings are a combination of social events and technical discussions. The Georgia EPG’s mission is to help emerging planners establish social and professional relationships both with their peers and with experienced planning professionals. Through career building programs, social events, and mentoring opportunities, the Georgia EPG will promote the planning profession. The EPG is open to all planning professionals and to students.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

What We Know (or Don't Know) About the Impact of COVID-19.

The presentation will reflect on the economy, jobs, housing, tax impacts, evictions, general COVID information, racial disparities related to COVID and more.



Michael D. Alexander, AICP “Mike”

Mike Alexander is the Director of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Center for Livable Communities which includes the Community Development, Mobility Services, Natural Resources, Research & Analytics, and Transportation Accessibility & Mobility Groups of the ARC. Mike has over 25 years of Public policy experience focused on regional and local community planning. As the Director, he leads this

multidisciplinary, professional staff in the fields of transportation planning, environmental planning, community development, economic and demographic forecasting.

He is a graduate of the ARC Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership DeKalb, and Leadership Atlanta. Originally from South Carolina, Mike attended Auburn University where he received a dual

masters degree in Public Administration and Community Planning. He served as a Marine Infantryman in Desert Storm. Mike, his wife Michelle, and their two daughters, live in Decatur.



Mike Carnathan

Mike Carnathan is the Manager of the Research & Analytics Division at the Atlanta Regional Commission and is one of the founders of Neighborhood Nexus, which is a community intelligence system for the Atlanta region, providing data, tools and expertise as a catalyst to create opportunity for all of the region's citizens. The goal is to foster a data-driven decision-making culture in the Atlanta

region and beyond. Mike oversees the compilation of thousands of variables and indicators that tell the data story about the Atlanta region. And story-telling is key. One of Mike's chief challenges is to help community groups tell their story better through a data-driven approach.

Mike has worked with numerous community groups, including the Annie E Casey Foundation, Families First, United Way, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, along with a host of statewide and local education agencies and other community groups to help them better understand the neighborhoods in which they work. In addition to being a data geek, Mike has a varied background that includes public relations and journalism. This experiences comes in handy as one of the critical uses of data is to tell the right story about our community to help community leaders make better decisions.

A native of Georgia, Mike holds degrees in History and Journalism, along with a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Georgia.



NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Social/Happy Hour Networking Hour

Everyone is invited to grab your favorite beverage and join us for the Social/Happy Hour! The link is the same as the conference link.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, April 23

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Better Plans, Better Communities: Three Things to Take Your Comprehensive Plan to the Next Level

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Break

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Balancing Multiple Priorities in the Southern Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Mini Session / Student Presentation: Evacuation with Efficiency: An Inland and Coastal Flood Based Emergency Evacuation Planning Scorecard Proposal

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Climate Disaster in the Headlights. Is Georgia Ready?

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM Break

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Pandemic Impacts on Transit in the Atlanta Region

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM Break

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Keynote Address: What We Know (or Don't Know) About the Impact of COVID-19

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM Break

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM Pandemic Policy Playbook

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM Break

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM Ethics in Planning – 2021

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Virtual Social / Happy Hour



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

Better Plans, Better Communities: Three Things to Take Your Comprehensive Plan to the Next Level (CM .75)

Every five years, we update our Comprehensive Plans. They meet the State requirements, but are they good plans? Hear from ARC, DCA, and the private sector on the three key things that make a big impact on the quality of your plan--and ultimately, the direction of your community's growth.



Speakers: Allison Stewart-Harris, AICP, VHB; Andrew Smith, Atlanta Regional Commission

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM

Balancing Multiple Priorities in the Southern Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CM .75)

This interactive session presents how the Southern Fulton Comprehensive Transportation Plan balanced priorities among eight jurisdictions through a multi-step project evaluation framework, conducted innovative corridor analysis, incorporated new and emerging technologies, and addressed COVID-19.



Speakers: Keli Kemp, AICP, Modern Mobility Partners; David Haynes, Atlanta Regional Commission; Julia Billings, AICP, Modern Mobility Partners; Reginald James, Atlanta Regional Commission

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

Mini Session / Student Presentation: Evacuation with Efficiency: An Inland and Coastal Flood Based Emergency Evacuation Planning Scorecard Proposal

This presentation will discuss the consequences and implications placed on communities of all sizes that face chronic flooding, regardless of type or source, and the necessity to quantify preparedness, mitigation and recovery strategies via a novel, communicable and functional planning scorecard.



Speaker: Ian Newman, Georgia Institute of Technology, Master of City and Regional Planning

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Climate Disaster in the Headlights. Is Georgia Ready? (CM .75)

Practitioners and educators share promising innovations in building construction, climate vulnerability analysis, urban heat adaptation, and sustainable community design to prepare to meet the SDGs during the Decade of Action.



Speakers: Bruce Stiftel, FAICP, Georgia Institute of Technology Professor Emeritus; Shelby Buso, City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office of One Atlanta; Shan Arora, Georgia Institute of Technology; Jairo Garcia, Urban Climate Nexus; Dan Reuter, FAICP, Reuter Strategy, Inc.; Evan Mallen, Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Pandemic Impacts on Transit in the Atlanta Region (CM .75)

This session will tell the story of the initial impacts of the pandemic on the Atlanta region's nine largest transit operators, including ridership declines, types of safety measures and adaptations implemented, and transit as lifeline, as reported in the ATL's Annual Report and Audit.



*Speakers: Aileen Daney, The ATL;
Anna Cullen, The ATL*

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Keynote Address: What We Know (or Don't Know) About the Impact of COVID-19 (CM 1.0)

The presentation will reflect on the economy, jobs, housing, tax impacts, evictions, general COVID information, racial disparities related to COVID and more.



Speakers: Michael D. Alexander, AICP, Atlanta Regional Commission; Michael Carnathan, Atlanta Regional Commission

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Pandemic Policy Playbook (CM .75)

Impacts of the current pandemic, economic crisis, and social movements are still unfolding. How have we met the evolving challenges with public policy and programs? How are we going to promote recovery, resilience, and equity in the future? We'll explore cases studies and statewide trends.



Speakers: Whitney Shephard, PE, Transport Studio; John McHenry, AICP, City of Tucker, GA; Angela Threadgill, AICP, City of Decatur, GA

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Ethics in Planning – 2021 (CM 1.5)

This session will provide an overview of new trends in ethics in planning applicable to recent developments in the field. Topics will include specific ethics-related concerns, the AICP Code of Ethics, and what to do when you become aware of a potential ethics violation.



Speakers: Ariel Godwin, AICP, Department of the Air Force; Wade Carroll, AICP, Metro Analytics

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PREMIER



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The Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association is comprised of over 1,000 professional, student, and citizen planners. Our members include public and private sector professionals, students, and both elected and nominated officials who strive to enhance Georgia's communities and quality of life.

Visit us at www.georgiaplanning.org

