

## First-Ever NY Metro Chapter Student Conference: An Event to Remember

By Nikki Georges-Clapp, NYU Student Representative, Chapter Executive Committee

There are a number of reasons why the NY Metro Chapter Student Conference, *Planning Ahead: Opportunities for Professional Growth*, which took place on September 19 at NYU’s Kimmel Center, was a unique event. For starters, it was the first Chapter conference of its kind—conceived, organized and planned entirely by students. Further, it was a rare instance of inter-school partnership between the NYU Wagner and Columbia University urban planning programs.

“The overarching goal of the conference is to bring students and planning professionals together in order to develop relationships among the planning community in the Metro region,” explained Nikki-Georges Clapp, a 2009 MUP candidate from NYU Wagner and the school’s student representative to the Chapter, as well as a co-organizer of the day’s events. Catherine Kim, the student representative for Columbia and co-organizer for the conference, added, “we wanted to assemble students from the different planning schools to reinforce the notion that New York has a unique strength, not only because it’s a great laboratory for students, but also because some of the best planning schools in the country are located here.” Indeed, in addition to Wagner and Columbia, the conference was attended by students from the Pratt Institute, Hunter College, Rutgers, the New School and undergraduates from Barnard College, Yale and NYU. *Continued on next page*

## October President’s Report

By Donald Burns, AICP, President of the APA NY Metro Chapter

In January 1991, I had just started to work at the Office of Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer’s Planning and Development department. It was an exciting time to be working in the Bronx, with Melrose Commons about to be initiated and the Borough President’s Office developing the Bronx Center Plan. However, by the spring/summer of 1991 NYC was entering a recession, and there were rumors of layoffs. Being the last hired, I was naturally concerned for my job. I had been unemployed, working temporary jobs, for the previous year. A funny thing happened to me, I was offered a fellowship to Hunter College’s Master of Urban Planning program, but the only catch was that I had to be a full-time student. Having just started a new job, I did not want to quit.

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### *Student Conference Continued*

The program consisted of a career fair, student presentations, a keynote panel and four breakout sessions. This was followed by a Networking Happy Hour at the Center for Architecture. The career fair was attended by representatives from 10 organizations, including the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, the NYC Department of City Planning and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The room where the career fair was held remained full for the entire hour. A number of students noted that it was a great opportunity to learn about internships and collect more information about the work done at a variety of city agencies and private organizations, such as AKRF and HR&A Advisors.

Donald Burns, President of the NY Metro Chapter, opened the conference by giving students a task for the Networking Happy Hour. They had to meet at least five people they did not know prior to the conference, preferably students from the other planning programs. Donald also related how important it is for students to build relationships with people across the planning community. Following this opening, the student representatives thanked the NY Metro Chapter Executive Committee, particularly Michael Marrella (who was also a panelist for the Physical Planning breakout session) and Chapter Administrator Mary Findlen, for all their help and support. They noted that planning and implementing the conference took over six months. "This conference was like a part-time job over the summer, on top of my full-time internship," Nikki mentioned at one point. "But it was a great experience, and it's wonderful to see so many students here taking advantage of this exceptional professional development opportunity."

The keynote panel was comprised of planning professionals from the public, private and nonprofit sectors and was moderated by NYU Wagner Professor Mitchell Moss. The speakers included Daniel Hernandez of Jonathan Rose Companies and two Wagner alumni, Martha Hirst, Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and Joe Chan, President of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. The panelists discussed their professional experiences and how they have used their degree in their professional lives.

The four breakout sessions covered neighborhood planning, physical planning, international planning and community and capital planning. The breakout

sessions allowed students to choose a niche area in the urban planning field that they wished to learn more about. A number of panelists from the breakout sessions joined students from the area's planning schools at the networking happy hour for further discussion and networking.

### *October President's Report Continued*

Our economy was still trying to recover from the stock market crash of 1987. Since there was a threat of layoffs and all NYC agency budgets were being reduced, I was able to negotiate a deal to allow me to attend Hunter full-time while also working full-time



and either using vacation time or unpaid leave for daytime classes. As a result, I was able to finish planning school in two years and used my work and planning school contacts to help me both ways when I needed it since Hunter had many working students at that time. One of my

classmates was Mitchell Silver, a past Metro Chapter President and current APA Director-at-Large Focused, who after graduation convinced me to get involved with the American Planning Association's Metro Chapter. The rest is history; I have been involved with Metro Chapter since 1996 as a member of various committees including transportation and zoning, transportation committee chair, New York Section Director and now President.

I learned a few things from that experience: 1) opportunities can arise in a recession; however, you must be open to them, 2) build your network of contacts, and 3) continue planning through economic downturns and be ready for the upturn. We will still need to build structures and plan rationally even in an economic downturn. I cannot predict how the current

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economic problems will affect planning agencies and firms, but I do know that we will get through it since we have done so in the past. I hope these things are helpful as we are about to elect a new president who will inherit a challenging economy.

The American Planning Association has started a Young Planners Division in an effort to attract, retain, and prepare young planners for future leadership opportunities in planning firms and agencies. The Young Planners Division activities are coordinated in Metro Chapter by an energetic young planner named Reyna Alorro. One of the first things that Ms. Alorro organized was a Social Mixer on October 23, 2008 for students, young planners and established planning professionals to network. Look for future announcements of mixers and try to attend one. Ms. Alorro has also agreed to take on Metro Chapter's School Relations Committee, a position that blends well with her Young Planners Division responsibilities.

The Long Island Section has been very busy under the leadership of David Berg and co-sponsored the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Suffolk County Planning Federation Conference. The Hudson Valley West Section, headed by Alan Sorensen, co-sponsored the Rethinking Growth Workshop on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The New York Section Director and Transportation Committee co-chair David Fields will be a panelist on the Transit Oriented Development - A Blueprint for Success on November 14<sup>th</sup>, an event that is co-sponsored by the Rudin Center and APA Metro Chapter among other groups. Please check our website for future Chapter events.

Lastly, I hope to see you all at Metro Chapter's Annual Holiday Party scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2008 at the Top of the Times. Please reserve the date on your calendars.


## Sustainable Projects Underway Throughout Northeast

By Laura Manville, Policy Coordinator, AIA New York Chapter

Over 200 people attended the "Greening the Iron Ribbon" conference on September 16, sponsored by the AIA NY Chapter and NYU Wagner's Rudin Center, with support from the APA NY Metro Chapter. Three panels of speakers from cities as diverse as Newark, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, New York and Providence spoke on transportation infrastructure, transit-oriented development and sustainable urban practices. Eugenie Birch, FAICP, Professor of Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania and Co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, delivered the keynote address.



What was particularly valuable for attendees was the opportunity to hear about related efforts all over the Northeast Corridor from fellow design professionals and planners. Given the caliber of the projects presented, as well as the definitive plans for the future described for both the small and large cities, the conference created a sense of optimism that a sustainable future is taking form in practice and not just in theory.



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## Planners' Tour Takes In-Depth Look at Roosevelt Island

By Carol Van Guilder, AICP

Forty planners, students and friends gathered on Roosevelt Island September 20 to observe a snapshot in time of the island's ongoing evolution and consider how quality of life issues for current and future residents and workers can be addressed. The tour was sponsored by the APA NY Metro Chapter Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, co-chaired by Gary Brown and Carol Van Guilder, AICP.

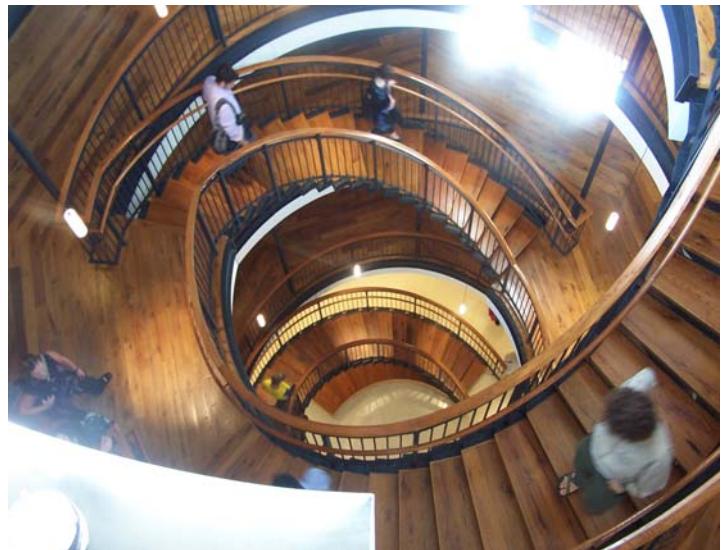
The island, which is part of the Borough of Manhattan, had less than 10,000 residents in 2000. Today it is estimated to have 12,000 with several thousand more expected to live in the new residential buildings now in development in the Southtown neighborhood. On this long, narrow island, many people are concerned about access issues: access to transportation, retail stores, health care and affordable housing.

On a warm sunny day, the first stop was the Visitor Kiosk which is an adaptive reuse of a former trolley station. Here, Judith Berdy, an island resident and president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society ([rihs.us](http://rihs.us)) gave an introduction. Next, the group rode the local transportation, the "Red Bus," and passed through the center of the Island where the residential buildings built in the 1970s (Eastwood, Westview, Island House and Rivercross) and Manhattan Park (added in 1989), are located. Together these buildings provide over 3,000 units of housing.

Next stop was the Octagon ([octagonnyc.com](http://octagonnyc.com)), a recently opened 500-unit rental project that blends the renovation of the landmarked Octagon Tower (formerly part of the NYC Lunatic Asylum) with two newly constructed 14-story apartment buildings. The Octagon, developed by Becker & Becker Associates, has received a Silver LEED rating. Property manager Barbara Clark described some of the building's special features such as energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, use of local and recycled materials and solar panels. We climbed the spiral stairs inside the preserved tower to observe the building amenities as well as historic photos and artifacts from the Island's history. We also spent several minutes in the outdoor courtyard which faces a heated pool, a waterfront park and the East River.



*Planners visiting The Octagon*



*The famous spiral staircase of The Octagon*

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*Roosevelt Island Tour Continued*

The bus then took us back to the Southtown/Riverwalk neighborhood which represents the second phase of planned development in the community. The new complex, being developed by the Related Companies and the Hudson Companies, will eventually consist of nine buildings (riverwalknyc.com). We visited one of the completed buildings stopping in the central landscaped public open space, in a model apartment and on the rooftop deck to catch a glimpse of the skyline across the East River. Marvin Diaz of Related Management was our host.

Here we settled down for a discussion of some of the planning issues facing the Island. Architect Patrick Rodgers of Costas Kondylis & Partners presented building plans and discussed the zoning envelope choices made. (Roosevelt Island is exempt from regular zoning rules.) Dr. Floyd Lapp, FAICP discussed the workshop he will be directing at Columbia University this winter. He and his students have been asked by the governing body, called the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (rioc.com), to study the transportation constraints and opportunities that the increase in population is bringing. The Island is currently served by a tram, the F line subway and a bus connecting to Queens but these are facing crowding issues. Dr. Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at Hunter College, also spoke about a student studio that she is coordinating. She and Evie Przybyla of State Senator Serrano's office talked about the multifaceted approach they take to urban planning on the Island. We look forward to presentations of the students' accomplishments at the end of the term. The final presentation was from Judith Heintz of WRT Design, a landscape architect who is designing the Southpoint Park for the southern end of the Island. This park, which will be done in phases beginning next year, will feature a Wild Garden/Green Rooms design and will incorporate the landmarked ruins of James Renwick's 19th century small pox hospital.



*APA NY Metro Chapter members boarding the 25 cent Roosevelt Island Red Shuttle Bus*



*Exploring the open space behind the Riverwalk complex*



*Co-Chairs: Carol Van Guilder, Gary Brown*



## Planners Take Part in “Visioning 23<sup>rd</sup> Street”

By Kevin A. Kain, PP, AICP

Initiatives to facilitate intermodal transportation and to plan pedestrian, vehicular and mass transit right-of-ways to promote balanced urban streetscapes were explored at the PlanNYC Visioning 23<sup>rd</sup> Street workshop on September 20. Several APA NY Metro chapter members participated in the session organized by the New York chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and APA. The goal was to use the 23rd Street crosstown corridor to illustrate prototypical urban design and planning concepts to demonstrate the AIA New York Chapter policy paper in support of PlaNYC 2030 transportation issues.

Rob Eisenstat, AIA, and Jim Wright, AIA, co-chaired the workshop and have devoted a significant amount of time organizing the event and seeking funding. The NY Metro Chapter is involved in this effort through its Transportation Committee, headed by David Fields, AICP, and Janet Jenkins, AICP. Additionally, Jane Cooke, Executive Director of the New York Chapter of the ASLA, has been an active participant in the process.

The policy paper, known as the ‘white paper’, was adopted by the AIA NY chapter in March 2008. The document summarizes the AIA Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s observations and recommendations relating to PlaNYC’s transportation goals. Generally, the document is in favor of the 16 transportation initiatives offered in PlaNYC. However, the paper offers comments to improve and enhance these and offers four additional initiatives. Perhaps most important for the participants of the workshop were the proposed initiatives to facilitate intermodal transportation and to plan pedestrian, vehicular and mass transit right-of-ways to promote balanced urban streetscapes.

About 35 planners, architects and landscape architects heard presentations from several representatives of various agencies including the NYC Departments of City Planning (DCP) and Parks and Recreation, the MTA and community board leaders. Following this, the attendees separated into five groups, each assigned to a specific portion of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

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*Janet Jenkins addresses the audience*



*Jane Cooke and Lance Brown prepare a conceptual design for 23rd Street*



*A group working on a design for 23rd Street*

The groups addressed a wide array of transportation and urban design issues in just a few hours. Small issues like crosswalks, curb cuts and street furniture were discussed. However, the groups also addressed broader, long-term items like incorporating design issues with the future Second Avenue subway line, adding Bus Rapid Transit lanes and even dropping the West Side Highway below grade to improve access to the Hudson River for other modes of transportation, but most importantly, for pedestrians. This notion of planning first for pedestrians was stressed by Alexander Washburn, Chief Urban Designer of the DCP, during his presentation and was repeated throughout the day as the groups discussed their concepts and designs.



*One of the designs for 23rd Street near the Flatiron Building*

From this workshop, the group intends to prepare a report detailing urban design and planning concepts to be considered for future development in the City, in conjunction with the implementation of PlaNYC.

The Workshop was funded in advance by the Center for Architecture Foundation, providing the group with the use of Tafel Hall for the workshop, along with input from their A/V personnel, breakfast, lunch, reception, custodial care and supplies. More recently, Chelsea Piers has agreed to help fund the program and the upcoming display and collation of ideas into a book. Anyone interested in further sponsoring this dynamic workshop should contact Sophie Deprez at the Center for Architecture at [sdeprez@aiany.org](mailto:sdeprez@aiany.org) or 212.358.6118.

## **Commentary: NYC Needs Better Curbside Management**

By Gary Roth, Columbia University, UP04

While the merits of New York City's off-street parking policy mandating a minimum number of spaces for most of the city are debatable, its on-street policy is in need of a thorough overhaul. The underpricing of on-street parking spaces creates congestion, unnecessary driving, makes it hard for motorists to find spaces, encourages long-term on-street parking and undercharges for a valuable public commodity.

With the City's Department of Transportation now under the leadership of Janette Sadik-Khan, parking regulations are improving but are still in need of a complete overhaul. It should be noted that while the City must request permission from the state to change transportation policy for moving vehicles, the City is granted home rule on parking policy. This means that the City administration can implement parking policy changes without the approval from state legislators from Rochester, Westchester or even Lower Manhattan.

To begin, it should be self-evident that the curbside has value. But even in Manhattan, this curbside space is generally provided free to vehicles (alternate-side parking) or at a minimal price (metered parking at \$3/hour or less). This compares to rates for off-street parking in excess of \$30/hour in some parts of town. This extreme pricing differential encourages circling the block to look for a curbside space. This brings to mind the phrase, "I'm sorry I'm late, but I drove around for an hour looking for parking." The drivers are encouraged by curbside regulations to trade time (cruising) for money (free or inexpensive parking). This leads to unnecessary congestion and pollution.

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This also leads to a second problem—parking violations—as drivers are encouraged to skirt the system to avoid paying for off-street parking. As of 1999, the City collected \$75 million in parking fees, but \$279 million in parking fines, or a 4-to-1 ratio of punishment to payment. A further side-effect of the lack of curbside management is the parking permit problem. Government workers are provided parking permits, but due to congestion of the curbside, they have difficulty in locating a space. There is a sense of entitlement among many government workers to free parking outside their office, even on the sidewalk.

Raising the price of curbside parking would have a multitude of benefits. It would reduce traffic and double parking, raise revenue and provide a more welcoming environment to drivers, as they can more easily find a space and avoid a violation. It would monetize the time-wasted cruising.

Higher curbside parking would encourage drivers to make better use of this scarce resource. Car owners now use the curbside for long-term storage. Moving these cars off-street would permit drivers to find a curbside spot easier, freeing up space for delivery vehicles and short-term parkers. Higher curbside rates would also raise revenue, which could be dedicated to improving public transportation and allow the city to "buy" government workers parking permits or purchase off-street parking, when necessary.

Curbside management is complementary to congestion pricing and could provide many of the benefits while NYC waits for action in Albany. At the current time, alternate-side parking is almost untouchable and there is no discussion of raising fees. The main focus is led by people who already own cars to make it easier to find a curbside space. Advocates are pushing to remove government parking permits and to provide locals with resident parking permits.

The City must re-evaluate its on-street parking policy. By raising revenue from curbside spaces, the entire transportation network can be improved. Hundreds of millions of dollars can be raised by removing the City's parking subsidy. Increased parking fees will lead to a greener city. I encourage the leadership of New York City to explore this option.

The Long Island Section of the APA NY Metro Chapter offers educational and social events for planners in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The year-round calendar includes workshops, panels, guest speakers and joint meetings with other professional groups. Educational opportunities for AICP members are offered regularly. Section activities and events are organized by a Steering Committee which meets the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to all. Send your email address to [LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org](mailto:LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org) to receive event notifications.

The LI Section is a sponsor of Vision Long Island's "Smart Growth Summit" on Thursday, November 13, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summit workshops will address transportation, clean energy and green buildings, sewers and infrastructure, codes and regulations, commercial corridor redevelopment, community planning and public process, regional planning, housing and gentrification, downtown revitalization, and projects of regional significance. For workshop and registration information, see [visionlongisland.org/summit.html](http://visionlongisland.org/summit.html)

The LI Section will hold a Winter Social on Friday, December 12 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Administration Office of the [Suffolk County Water Authority](http://www.suffolkcountywaterauthority.com), 4060 Sunrise Highway in Oakdale. The Section's regular Steering Committee meeting will precede the social at 4 p.m.

The Section just announced that Arthur Kunz Memorial scholarships will be awarded to up to three entry-level planners (as defined by APA) to attend the National Planning Conference in 2009. The scholarship will pay for conference registration, APA membership for one year and some additional expenses. In the spirit of Mr. Kunz, a Suffolk County planner and mobile workshop enthusiast, the scholarship will also fund attendance at one mobile workshop. If you are an entry-level planner from Long Island or working on Long Island and wish to apply for a scholarship to attend the 2009 conference, send your resume and why you are interested in an email to [LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org](mailto:LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org)

For details and general information about the LI Section, please contact [LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org](mailto:LongIslandSection@nyplanning.org) or visit [nyplanning.org/longisland.html](http://nyplanning.org/longisland.html).



## Walter Stafford Remembered



The APA NY Metro Chapter sadly noted the passing on September 13 of noted colleague and academician Walter Stafford, Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University. A program called "Remembering Walter Stafford: A Celebration of Service, Scholarship and Activism" was held October 12 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem.

The following are excerpts from an article by Karen Loew in the September 22 edition of *City Limits Weekly*:

A rigorous social science researcher, an impassioned striver for justice, a generous mentor and friend, a gentle, intellectual and modest man—that was the Walter Stafford universally recalled by friends and colleagues... From his post in a cluttered office at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, Stafford, a professor of urban planning and public policy, sat at the nexus of many overlapping circles of city life, from academia to organizing to government to activism and back again. His death at 68 after an eight-year struggle with cancer... sent a ripple of sadness through those communities, and across several generations. "For me, Walter Stafford was the ideal for what a university professor should be, deeply intellectual and widely read, yet kind to his students and above all investing his scholarship and life in the cause of moving us all to a more equal and just society," said Don Johnson, professor emeritus in NYU's Department of Humanities and Social Science.

An African-American born in Atlanta... Stafford's lifelong work centered around the intersection of race and public policy. He was a member of the Student

Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s, an assistant to U.S. Sen. Richard Schweiker, a Republican from Pennsylvania, in the 70s, and worked at the National Urban League and the Community Service Society in the 80s.

He published more than 100 papers on issues including urban race relations, racial labor market segmentation, Black and Puerto Rican poverty, and welfare. He also founded the Women of Color Policy Network in 2000 and served as its faculty director until this summer. "Walter was a visionary, activist and scholar who understood the importance of giving voice, of providing an outlet to those critical issues that had no avenue for expression," said Marta Moreno Vega, president of the Caribbean Cultural Center of the African Diaspora Institute. "We found a kindred spirit in Walter, and he was willing to get involved with our Roundtable as he understood both from a professional and personal view the need for those issues to be carried on."

One of Stafford's major professional pursuits in recent years was the development of a measure of poverty for New York City based on standards developed by the United Nations Development Programme. The human development index, as the measure is called, rates countries on a scale according to health, knowledge and standard of living attainments. The human development index for New York City will classify neighborhoods as high, medium or low development areas. The goal of the project is to take a more holistic approach to poverty. "People need a broader concept of poverty," Stafford said in an interview with *City Limits* last fall. "Income is not the only variable." People living in low development areas in New York City, such as Harlem or the South Bronx, not only generally have lower incomes, but their health, education and standard of living are lower, too. This "multi-dimensional poverty" is ignored by the federal poverty measure, Stafford said.



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## Central Park Designated “Great Public Space”

Thirty places across the United States were designated great places by APA on October 10, including NYC’s Central Park in a new category this year of “Great Public Space.” Last year, the first for this program, 125<sup>th</sup> Street was named a “Great Street” and Park Slope was selected as a “Great Neighborhood.” No other NY Metro area space made any of the three lists this year, which includes sites in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

As described on the APA website, this “flagship program celebrates places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. Places...represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live. They are enjoyable, safe, and desirable. They are places where people want to be—not only to visit, but to live and work every day. America’s truly great streets, neighborhoods and public spaces are defined by many criteria, including architectural features, accessibility, functionality, and community involvement.”

In recognizing Central Park, the website states:

“For New Yorkers and tourists alike, Central Park embodies tranquility amidst chaos. Conceived during the mid-19th century as a recreational space for residents who were overworked and living in cramped quarters, Central Park is just as revered today as a peaceful retreat from the day-to-day stresses of urban life—a place where millions of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world come to experience the scenic beauty of one of America’s greatest works of art. An exemplary public space that successfully maintains a large naturalistic landscape in the midst of one of the densest cities in the country, Central Park is arguably the most emulated park in the country. As Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe notes, “This year marks the 150th anniversary of Olmsted and Vaux’s Greensward plan, which set the standard for park design throughout the United States.”

With the exception of the native woodland in the northwest corner and impressive rock outcrops, the 843-acre park was man-made—shaped from a rather unremarkable site. Through a complex system of grading and underground drainage engineering, swamps were transformed into naturalistic lakes. Soil was carted in from New Jersey and sculpted into meadows while plants were introduced to create lush woodland and “wild gardens.” The original design was intentionally bucolic to replicate the countryside, but it contained a few formal elements—the Mall, intended to draw visitors to the heart of the park, and Bethesda Terrace at the terminus of the Mall, conceived of as a “palace for the people.”

As Douglas Blonsky, president of the Central Park Conservancy, recalls: “Not all that long ago, Central Park had declined nearly to the point of no return. It was rescued through the efforts of a citizen-government partnership forged 28 years ago to breathe life back into this most cherished of New York landmarks making it, once again, the most beautiful, best-managed urban park in the country.”



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## Tappan Zee Bridge Study Returns to Spotlight with Major Recommendations

By Ed Buroughs, AICP, MetroPlanner Editor

After months without public contact, the three-agency team studying the future of the Tappan Zee Bridge and the I-287 corridor across Westchester and Rockland counties made a dramatic reappearance on September 26 to announce the preliminary conclusions that the Tappan Zee Bridge must be replaced and not repaired and that planning efforts should focus on the development of a 30-mile corridor bus rapid transit system. Another key recommendation was that the new bridge be designed to carry commuter rail lines as well as pedestrian and bicycle lanes.

The well-attended and widely covered press conference was convened by the NYS Department of Transportation, Metro-North Railroad and the NYS Thruway Authority. The announcement, once expected last May, followed several briefings and work sessions with Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano and Rockland County Executive Scott Vanderhoef and their planning staff. The County Executives' 17-member civic leader task force, which has been keeping oversight of the study process, was also involved in a briefing.

The objective of the pre-announcement work was to make sure that the basis for the key recommendations was both understood by all and was being conveyed in a clear manner. The process proved successful as both county executives and the members of the task force attended the press announcement and all urged "full speed ahead." A wide range of public information sessions have been scheduled. However, the real environmental work is just beginning.

The recommendations will now be carried forward as the preferred actions in a draft environmental impact statement targeted for completion in late 2009. During this period, much work will be required to identify, discuss and evaluate details of the new transit system.

The Westchester County Planning Board and the Westchester County Department of Planning have offered their services to the eight municipalities that I-287 crosses through Westchester to facilitate the sharing of information, discussions and independent



*TZB press announcement, September 26 at the Project Team Office in Tarrytown. Left to right: Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef, NYS Thruway Executive Director Michael Fleischer, Metro-North Railroad President Howard Permut, Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano and NYS Commissioner of Transportation Astrid Glynn.*

research that are necessary to ensure that the outcome of this process will blend with and support the vision of the towns, villages and cities along the corridor and the goals of the county's work on **Westchester 2025**. A meeting is to be set up in November for all chief elected officials, planning board chairs, staff planners and other municipal officials of the eight communities to engage in a roundtable discussion and begin to outline what can and should be done to make sure all parties are kept up to date, engaged in the study process and able to contribute effectively to the design of the transit system.



# Old and New Legislation Reviewed by State Land Use Advisory Committee

By Ed Buroughs, AICP, MetroPlanner Editor

For many years, the NY Metro Chapter and the NY Upstate Chapter have had seats at the table in Albany through representation on the State Advisory Committee on Land Use Statutes. This role has had a low profile for New York City planners as the committee, operating under the auspices of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, has no role in any legislation that would have direct impact on planning in New York City or on the city government. However, over the years very significant legislation has been developed through this committee that has altered planning and land use practice throughout the rest of the state. The committee has representation from key state departments including State, Environmental Conservation, Greenway, Empire State Development and Real Property Services plus government associations, county planners, builders associations, the Government Law Center at Albany Law School and the Land Use Law Center at Pace University School of Law.

As with any legislative process, there are up years and down years. Following two very slow years in Albany, the committee is gearing up for introduction of legislation in the next legislative session opening in January 2009. At a three-hour meeting on September 24, the committee reviewed and revised 10 previously submitted or potential new bills. The subjects and proposed status are as follows:

1. Facilitates joint voluntary municipal annexation—to be submitted.
2. Authorizes use of mediation in planning—to be revised and reconsidered.

3. Increase the threshold for cost of construction requiring licensed professional—to be revised and reconsidered.
4. Warranty that subdivided land complies with regulations—to be dropped.
5. Authorizes work in the home—to be dropped.
6. Extend notification to buyers near agricultural district—to be submitted.
7. Provide for development agreements—to be revised and reconsidered.
8. Establish affordable housing requirements—to be further discussed.
9. Add climate change as component of comprehensive plans—to be further discussed.
10. Add wind power and renewable energy sources in enabling statutes—to be further discussed.

The committee will next meet on November 19 in Albany. If any Chapter member would like further information on the above items or would like to suggest topics that may require legislation, please contact Ed Buroughs, the Chapter's representative on the committee, at [eeb6@westchestergov.com](mailto:eeb6@westchestergov.com).



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## Congratulations to the Chapter's New AICP Members

APA has announced that 16 NY Metro Chapter planners have passed the AICP exam that was given in May 2008. We are pleased to welcome the professional achievement of:

*Sapna Advani  
David Barnes  
Teresa Bergey  
Noah Bernstein  
Ann Cutignola  
Allison Davis  
Lorianne Defalco  
Elizabeth Demetriou  
Jeremy Doxsee  
Ashley Emerson  
Glenn Gidaly  
Ritu Mohanty  
Lauren Mosler  
Michael Olin  
Susanna Schaller  
Julia Schneider*

## Suffolk Training Draws Over 170 Planners and Officials

By David L. Berg, AICP, LEED AP  
Long Island Section Director

The Suffolk County Planning Federation held its ninth annual training conference to a record number of participants on October 23. Over 170 professional planners and local planning and zoning officials attended the event. They had the opportunity to choose from nine separate training sessions. Course offerings included: ethics, SEQR, planning for energy conservation, the Visioning process and the new Long Island Workforce Housing Act—the inclusionary housing requirements for 2009.

The plenary session included presentations from David L. Calone, Chairman, Suffolk County Planning Commission; Peter J. Elkowitz, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Long Island Housing Partnership and Affiliates and Thomas A. Isles, AICP, Director, Suffolk County Department of Planning. The Long Island Section of the NY Metro Chapter assisted in the development of the program.

## Huge Turnout at the Fall Mixer

By Reyna Alorro, Chair, APA NY Metro School Relations Committee; APA National Young Planners Group Task Force, Region I representative

Over 100 planners from metro New York met at the Chapter's Fall Mixer on October 23. The event, held in the back room of Vig 27, was standing room only with a larger than expected turnout. The mixer was organized by NY Metro APA Chapter's new Young Planners Group whose aim is get professional planners up to age 35 involved in the chapter. The mixer, however, was inclusive, allowing students, young planners and "seasoned" planners to get to know each other. J. Enrique Rodriguez from New York City's Housing Authority said, "I had a nice time and met interesting and intelligent young people."

Attendees came from a variety of organizations within the public, private and non-profit sectors. Some came to Manhattan from Newark, Eastchester, Ossining and Monmouth County. Many participants were grateful that APA organized such an event for professional networking. According to Michael Davis, from NYC's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, "The impressive turnout at the APA mixer shows the importance of having more networking opportunities for young professionals, in addition to the other events that APA organizes. Beyond reconnecting with planners from NYU, I met planners from large agencies such as the Port Authority and from small towns in Westchester County."

For those that missed the Fall Mixer, the Young Planners Group will be organizing mixers on a regular basis. The next mixer will be held in early 2009—be on the look out for an email announcement. To learn more about the Young Planners Group or to suggest a venue for the next mixer, please contact Reyna Alorro, [alorro@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:alorro@hpd.nyc.gov).



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## APA Forms Young Planners Task Force

By Megan Cummings, AICP  
Chair, Young Planners Group

In between the students and the upper-management professionals, there's a cross-section of APA members who are relatively new to full-time planning work. They are the leaders of tomorrow. In summer 2007, APA President Bob Hunter commissioned a geographically diverse task force of 15 planners in their 20s and early 30s to serve as the Young Planners Group (YPG). The YPG is an advisory group to the APA board with an eye and an ear toward issues of importance to young planners.

Part of our charge is to identify ways to get young planners more involved in the profession both in leadership roles and among our local chapters and sections. There are many ways young planners can become more involved in their profession—organizing lunch 'n learns, helping at chapter events, contributing to the website and MetroPlanner and serving on a committee. The YPG also sees a greater role for networking within our generation to discuss issues important to us such as career development, moving into management positions and balancing careers and families.

After several conference calls, the YPG submitted a report to APA's board of directors that identifies needs, strategies and other things vital to the future of APA and the next generation of leaders. We hosted a session at the 2008 national conference in Las Vegas to present the findings of the report. The discussion following the presentation was lively, insightful and inspiring.

At this point, we want to hear from you. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the planning profession, if you want to be more involved, or if you want to be a part of a support group for young professionals like you, let us know. Some of our goals for the upcoming year include organizing a mentoring program, forming local and regional groups of young planners and finding ways to be more active in national APA programming and policy decisions.

Reyna Alorro and Lauren Good are on the YPG and are within Region I, APA. Feel free to contact me ([plannermegan@hotmail.com](mailto:plannermegan@hotmail.com)), Reyna ([alorro@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:alorro@hpd.nyc.gov)), Lauren

([good@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:good@townofwindsorct.com)) or Chapter President Donald Burns, and let us know if you are interested in becoming more involved. We can't wait to hear from you.

## What Are the "Essential Books of Planning?"

APA has announced it will identify the 100 essential books of planning—including overlooked or historic gems—and suggestions are welcome. You can help celebrate the centennial of planning in America by helping to create this lasting legacy project for libraries. What books influenced your career or sparked your interest in planning? Share your recommendations for books that create the foundation for planning. APA will announce the final list in stages starting in January 2009. The final list will be promoted through libraries around the country.

Recommendations Criteria: Technical planning books, journalistic books, policy-oriented books, fiction and books of essays. Books that informed you and shaped you as a planner. Books that inspired you. Books that are essential to learning about the field of planning. Books that offered new opportunities, presented new ideas, challenged existing practice or provided insight into issues and problems. Overlooked gems or books from previous decades (1909 and on) that readers would enjoy and learn from today.

Submission Instructions: Submit suggestions via e-mail to [library@planning.org](mailto:library@planning.org). Include the following information in your e-mail: title of the book, author, date of publication, three-sentence description of why this is an essential book and your name and full contact information (address, phone, and e-mail).

The deadline for submissions is October 30.





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## Upcoming Events

### Dutch Days Will Feature Return of Planner's Walking Tour



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www.5dutchdaysnyc.org

“5 Dutch Days, 5 Boroughs,” an appreciation of New York City’s Dutch-American heritage, returns November 12 through 16. And once again Rick Landman, Esq., AICP, will lead a walking tour of New Amsterdam as the key component of the APA NY Metro Chapter’s participation. The tour will highlight

Dutch buildings, street patterns, zoning, tax and the religious impact of New Amsterdam. The tour will begin at Bowling Green on Thursday, November 13, and run from 12 p.m. to 1:30 pm. The event is free but reservations are required by contacting [tours@infotruer.com](mailto:tours@infotruer.com) or <http://www.infotruer.com> for more information. Copies of a brochure with the complete program is available through the Chapter website.

**Save the Date!**  
**APA NY Metro Chapter**  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**Monday, December 15, 2008**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**

**Top of the Times Building**  
**255 West 43rd Street, Manhattan**

Friday, November 14, 2008  
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

**MAKING *the* CONNECTION:**  
**TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT—A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS**

*This symposium will explore opportunities, challenges and policy questions related to transit-oriented development. Speakers will provide regional, national and international examples about what works, what does not work--and why--when trying to implement such projects.*

**Approved for 4.0 CM credits**

Further information available at:  
<http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter>

**APA NY Metro Chapter  
Transportation Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 6:00 PM**

**Speaker: Michael Piscitelli, AICP, Director of New Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department, City of New Haven**

**Mr. Piscitelli will present his groundbreaking work on the Future Transportation Framework for New Haven, highlighting his efforts to integrate "Street Smarts" and a sustainable transportation into the city's economic development program. The meeting is open to everyone. Please rsvp to [office@nyplanning.org](mailto:office@nyplanning.org). FREE EVENT.**

**Location: APA Metro Chapter Conference Room, 11 Park Place, 7th floor, Manhattan (between Broadway and Church St., across from City Hall Park)**

**5th Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Planning Roundtable**

***Multi-State, Multi-Regional Solutions:  
Transportation Land Use and  
the Environment***

**Friday, November 7, 2008  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Delaware Valley  
Regional Planning Commission  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Sponsored by APA Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division & APA Chapters --DE, MD, PA, VA, WVA & National Capital Region**

**Event will be submitted for CM credits.**

**NO REGISTRATION FEE**

[http://intergovernmental.homestead.com/APAIGAMidAtlanticRegPlanningRoundtable\\_11-07-08.pdf](http://intergovernmental.homestead.com/APAIGAMidAtlanticRegPlanningRoundtable_11-07-08.pdf)

**RSVP by November 3 to Janet Meconi at  
215.238.2871 or [jmeconi@dvrpc.org](mailto:jmeconi@dvrpc.org)**

**American Planning Association  
New Jersey Chapter  
&  
The Edward J. Bloustein  
School of Planning and Public Policy  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

**2008 Annual Planning Conference**

**Thursday & Friday, November 6th & 7th, 2008  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ**

**For more information, visit [www.njapa.org](http://www.njapa.org).**

*APANJ will apply for CM credits for the walking tours, planning law, planning ethics and all workshop sessions.*

**Maryland-Delaware APA 2008  
Regional Planning Conference**

***Growing Greener – Planning Healthy  
Communities for a Healthy Planet***

**November 19-21, 2008  
Loews Hotel  
Annapolis, MD**

**Most sessions approved for CM credits;  
includes planning law and ethics sessions**

**For detail visit: <http://www.delawareapa.org>**







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## Write an Article for MetroPlanner!

Have you created an innovative zoning approach? Are you involved in a groundbreaking or controversial development proposal? Do you know a planner who would be great to interview? Let us know.

MetroPlanner welcomes submissions of articles, reports, photos and illustrations on current planning issues, topics and developments throughout the NY Metro Chapter region which includes New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster. Feel free to first run an idea by us.

E-mail news, articles and suggestions to [editor@nyplanning.org](mailto:editor@nyplanning.org). You must include METROPLANNER in the subject line.

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