

December 13, 2010

Susan Turner
Leadership Coordinator
American Planning Association
122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

Good day!

I write in support of the application for an AICP Student Planning Award submitted by the student members of the Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP). This team recently mounted the very successful *Moving Forward: Active Transportation Symposium* in November 2010 in Ithaca NY. This weekend series of program activities was very well-received locally, and involved members of both the Cornell University and Ithaca College campuses, as well as regional transportation planners and a broad base of interested local community participants.

The wide variety of events and activities throughout the *Active Transportation Symposium* weekend served to engage cycling novices and seasoned mobility planning professionals alike. Ithaca College partnered with the OCP group to host cycling advocate and humorist Joe Kurmaskie, *aka* "The Metal Cowboy", as a prelude to the majority of the symposium weekend activities taking place in downtown Ithaca and on the Cornell University campus. On Friday, the more formal presentation and discussion forums moved to Cornell, and concluded with a fun "Bike to Beer" event downtown. On Saturday, the symposium concluded with an in-depth planning session around "neighborhood greenways" to better support cyclists and pedestrians.

The OCP group did a great job of assembling a multi-sector partnership to support this learning opportunity, and the team programmed an interesting and diverse exploration of effective planning for supportive bicycle infrastructure. In my opinion, their *Active Transportation Symposium* certainly embodied best practices in "planning and implementing interesting, creative, and successful Planning Student Organization (PSO) programs and activities."

Thank you in advance for your full consideration of the OCP's application for consideration for an AICP Student Project Award.

Respectfully,

Marian M. Brown

Marian M. Brown
Special Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability



Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council

121 East Court Street, Ithaca, New York 14850 • Phone: (607) 274-5570 • Fax: (607) 274 5578 • e-mail: ITCTC@tomkins-co.org
On the web at: www.tomkins-co.org/itctc

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Fernando de Aragón, AICP

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December 9, 2010

American Planning Association
Chicago, IL

RE: Award for Planning Student Organization (PSO)

Dear Sir or Madam:

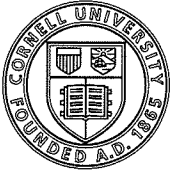
As director of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC) I had the opportunity to work closely with student members of the Organization of Cornell Planners in organizing the *MOVING FORWARD – An Active Transportation Symposium* that took place November 18-20, 2010 in Ithaca, NY. This symposium, with activities in four separate venues, in two different colleges and downtown Ithaca, and including three speakers traveling from out of state, involved a tremendous amount of organization. Throughout the project the students coordinating the event were well prepared and professional. I saw how tasks were delegated and completed on a time, resulting in the smooth implementation of the program.

I am particularly appreciative of the effort made to reach out to the community, not just in a search for sponsors, but also to make sure the symposium included information with 'real world' implementation potential. A concept for a neighborhood greenways network for the City of Ithaca was unveiled during the symposium.

I am thankful for the Organization of Cornell Planners and the energy and resources they dedicated to the Moving Forward symposium. I fully support their application for an APA award for Planning Student Organizations. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Fernando de Aragón, AICP, Staff Director
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council



Cornell University

Graduate Field of City and
Regional Planning

West Sibley Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-6701
t. 607.255.6848
f. 607.255.1971
crp_admissions@cornell.edu
www.crp.cornell.edu

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Dear Susan,

I write to give my strongest recommendation to our student planning organization, the Organization of Cornell Planners, for a best practice award.

OCP envisioned, organized, sponsored, raised funding for two innovative and striking educational and practical planning events this Fall: An Active Transportation Symposium (also an impressive collaboration with local organizations, county officials and legislators, and another college) and a multi-faceted Regional Planning Symposium too.

Both brought first class speakers, deeply knowledgeable about cutting-edge cases. The Regional Planning events focused on the Portland Housing Bureau's efforts, those along New York's Hudson River Corridor and current work in Chicago, for example. The Active Transportation Symposium not only brought Jennifer Dill but Mia Birk whose efforts to bring innovative bicycle planning to U.S. cities will be nothing less than historic (her firm has grown from a staff of four to one hundred, and she speaks powerfully to an idea whose time has come).

The Active Transportation Symposium brought to our campus city and county and state officials now sitting in the same room with local activists, educators from a network of local schools, undergrads, masters and doctoral students along with our faculty as well. The ideas discussed will change not only some of our department's coursework, but some of our city and county's efforts to improve our local transportation planning as well. So this was no mere symposium: it was convening stakeholders, advancing practical agendas, supporting efforts for change by networking in half a dozen ways, giving practical planning a shot in the arm, to say nothing of its obviously excellent educational benefits. But not only that, the discussions of symposium participants continued at a very well attended meeting on a Saturday morning in the County Public Library where attendees discussed and organized support for a set of practical initiatives.

So OCP has done a terrific job, educationally, professionally, politically: truly an example of Best Practice!

Don't hesitate to write for any further information,

All best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Forester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Forester

Professor, Director of Graduate Studies

Department of City and Regional Planning

106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853

On practice stories: <http://courses2.cit.cornell.edu/fit117/>

Recently published by Oxford U. Press: *Dealing with Differences: Dramas of Mediating Public Disputes*