Divisions Council Achievement Award Nomination (max 2 pages in length)

Submitted by: Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division
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Award Category – Contribution to the Planning Profession
Project Name: PAS Report, *Emerging Trends in Regional Planning*
https://www.planning.org/publications/report/9118764/

Project Description:

As part of its work plan for 2015, the APA Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division Executive Board committed to preparing a Planning Advisory Service (PAS) report highlighting best practices in regional planning in the U.S. Nearly two years later, *Emerging Trends in Regional Planning* provides insights into the evolution and transformation of regional planning across the U.S. Written and edited by Division leaders and members, this report draws from the experience and expertise of planners who work in regional planning and presents the current state of regional planning, with a focus on emerging trends and best practices.

The following six emerging trends are highlighted in this report:

1. Regional planning for sustainability
2. Integrated regional planning across related issues
3. Inclusive engagement and expanded partnerships in regional planning
4. New approaches for implementation
5. Changing demographics and changing regions
6. New tools and techniques for regional planning

This report offers a distinct contribution to understanding regional planning in the United States because it is written primarily for planning professionals and practitioners, as well as for decision makers and interested citizens. Examples of notable regional planning efforts from regions across the country are highlighted throughout the report, and five more detailed profiles of regions and their noteworthy planning practices and accomplishments are featured.

How does project meet the award criteria:

1) **Outstanding skill-based or knowledge-based professional content**

An unprecedented number of professionals representing public and private sector planning agencies, academia, and non-profit sectors from around the U.S. contributed to *Emerging Trends in Regional Planning*. Contributors and reviewers also ensured
diverse geographic and topical coverage in the report. The project was led by Robert Leiter, FAICP, and Rocky Piro, Ph.D. who together have more than 40 years of regional planning experience in major metropolitan areas. The project benefited from periodic review by APA staff as well as external peer review by paid professional staff during development of the report.

2) **Measurable visibility to the profession**

*Emerging Trends* will be the first PAS report published by APA in 2017 that will be available to all members free of charge. This change in APA policy will ensure that the report is widely available to APA members and will increase the visibility of regional planning to the planning profession. The Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division is also developing an outreach strategy for the report announcing the report’s availability and related sessions at the 2017 National conference and Regional Livable Communities forum in May. Measurable outcomes include increased Division membership and participation in Division webinars that spotlight best practices outlined in the report.

3) **Cross-divisional or Chapter efforts are encouraged**

Over twenty professionals with a diverse array of expertise and backgrounds in regional planning contributed to the development of *Emerging Trends in Regional Planning*. These contributors and reviewers offered different perspectives on regional planning best practices throughout the U.S. Theoretical perspectives from academia were combined with the viewpoints from practitioners familiar with the challenges of day-to-day planning and implementation, ensuring that a broad mix of interests and perspectives were addressed.

**Is transferable to other divisions**

As noted in the report, regional planning can be defined as collaborating to plan for common issues within a common geographical area. In most cases, the geographical area is defined ecologically, politically, or economically, or some combination of these. The definition of a region therefore tends to vary depending on the problems being considered. For these reasons, many of the tools and techniques described in the report are transferable to the work of planners working at the municipal level as well as other Divisions interested in specific topics within the report. As regional planning continues to reflect a shift toward a more integrated, or systems approach, the best practices outlined in the report have broad application for planners to develop a more integrated planning framework.

*Copy of the project is required to be submitted with the nomination form – note that it is in final editing stage with APA*