

IOWA PLANNING



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

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SEPTEMBER 2012

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For more information on the 2012 APA Iowa Chapter Conference
<http://www.iowa-apa.org>

2012 APA Iowa Chapter Conference EMERGING PLANNING PARADIGMS

The 2012 APA Iowa Chapter Conference is being held October 31st through November 2nd at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, IA.

This year's conference is expected to draw up to 200 planners, consultants, developers, elected and appointed officials, and students from all over Iowa.

This year's conference theme, *Emerging Planning Paradigms*, will focus on the latest trends in planning practice. Some of the topics at this year's conference include, Regional Planning and Cooperation, Energy Planning, Sustainability, and Politics in Planning. For more information on the conference visit <http://www.iowa-apa.org>.

Thus far the 2012 APA Iowa Chapter Conference Sponsors include:

Platinum Sponsors: City of Ames, Planning and Housing; Iowa Limestone Producers Association, Incorporated; & RDG Planning and Design.

Gold Sponsors: Hoisington Koeqler Group, Incorporated & AARP.

Silver Sponsors: Shive Hattery, Marvin Planning Consultants, & Mind Mixer.

APA Iowa is seeking additional sponsors to provide financial support for this year's conference. Sponsorship of this event is an excellent way to showcase your organization. A variety of sponsorship opportunities have been established by the conference committee. If you are interested in sponsoring this year's APA Iowa Planning Conference, please contact Chris Shires directly at c-shires@msn.com or 515-707-1604. Sponsorship forms are also available at:

<http://www.iowa-apa.org/events/conference-information.html> ■

EMERGING PLANNING PARADIGMS
APA IOWA CHAPTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

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President's Message

Rich Russell, AICP; City of Dubuque

Greetings Iowa Planners!

Save the date! The APA Iowa Chapter's 2012 conference will be held the dates of October 31st through November 2nd.

We will be at Gateway Center in Ames and the committee has a great conference planned.

These are some of the highlights of the conference:

- APA President Mitch Silver, AICP is scheduled to attend the conference.
- Wednesday: A symposium on the "Silver Tsunami"--Planning for an Age-Friendly Community, Law and Ethics CM opportunities, Mock interviews, AICP exam prep and an orientation tour
- Thursday: Robin Rather of Collective Strength will provide the luncheon keynote, our annual awards will be presented, "Building the Iowa Smart Planning Toolbox" charrette, plus 9 great sessions and two mobile workshops and an evening reception.
- Friday: APA Iowa Chapter business meeting, 6 great sessions and a mobile workshop, plus the closing keynote by Karen Jeske, PhD and AICP of Iowa State University with a topic of "Insights to Fuel the Planner's Imagination".

Please take time to thank these committee members for all of their work in putting the conference together: Naomi Hamlett, Tom Treharne, Chris Shires, Seana Perkins, Charlie Dissell, Steve Osguthorpe, Les Beck, David Wilwerding, Jill Wanderscheid, Melissa Tiedemann, Gary Taylor, Doug Johnston and Bob Gibson.

You can view the registration and access the online registration link at our chapter's website: <http://www.iowa-apa.org/whats-new/news/apa-iowa-2012-conference-register-now.html>
Please make plans now to attend!

Thanks also to Tom Brownlowe of the City of Charles City for hosting our July chapter meeting! Please see the following draft schedule of chapter meetings for the next year or so:

- November 16, 2012 - Iowa State University - Ames - Doug Johnston - Topic TBD
- January 18, 2013 - Linn County - Cedar Rapids - Les Beck - Begin 2013 Conference Planning - U of I Cost of Living presentation (tentative)
- March 15, 2013 - Sioux City - Jill Wanderscheid - Topic TBD
- May 17, 2013 - City of Davenport - Davenport - Matt Flynn - Topic TBD
- July 19, 2013 - Region XII COG - Carroll - Karina Ward will help with a CM presentation.
- September 20, 2013 - Linn County - Cedar Rapids - Les Beck - 2013 Conference Planning + Topic TBD
- November 15, 2013 - University of Iowa - Iowa City - Chuck Connerly - University-Community Partnerships for Sustainability: The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities.

Remember that all chapter meetings are open to the membership. Many of these will have learning opportunities (CM credits) associated with them. We are trying to move the meetings around geographically so that members can attend ones in their region. These meetings are also great networking opportunities. The leadership of the chapter anticipates that the November meetings will give us a great chance to meet students and staff from both universities. We hope to see you! *Continued on page 8*



**Register for the APA
Iowa Chapter
Conference today!**

**APA Iowa Chapter
Meetings are open
to the membership!**



The APA Iowa Chapter is on the Web! Visit our page at www.iowa-apa.org



...AND we're now on Facebook, Twitter and Linked In!

For more news and updates, "Like" us and "Follow" us! Search for Iowa APA Chapter on each of these Social Media Sites or click on the tabs to the right.

Iowa Chapter Welcomes New AICP Members

Submitted by Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP

Two Iowa chapter members became members of the American Institute of Certified Planners by taking and passing the May 2012 AICP exam:

Benjamin Landhauser, City of Waukee
Steve Prideaux, HR Green

Congratulations! It takes significant time and dedication to meet the eligibility requirements to sit for the exam, and to study and successfully complete the exam.

For information about becoming AICP certified, or to receive exam study materials from the chapter's lending library please do not hesitate to contact Gary Taylor, APA-Iowa Chapter Professional Development Officer at 515.290.0214 or gtaylor@iastate.edu. ■

APA Iowa Student Poster Contest

Submitted by Jill Wanderscheid, AICP

APA Iowa Chapter is sponsoring a student poster contest! **First prize wins \$750, second prize \$250, and all who enter get a free registration to the APA-Iowa Conference in Ames, Iowa!** Posters may display various photos, text, graphics, and maps to explain a planning project or concept. Last year's winning submission can be viewed on page four of the following pdf: <http://iowa-apa.org/assets/files/November%202011%20Newsletter.pdf>

All posters must be submitted to Jill Wanderscheid via email, in PDF format. APA Iowa will print each poster. Posters can be submitted individually or with one other student. The submission deadline is September 28, 2012. For more information, view the poster requirement materials located at www.iowa-apa.org/assets/files/2012_Poster_Contest.pdf or contact Jill Wanderscheid at jmwander@sioux-city.org. ■

APA Iowa Now Offering Chapter-Only Membership

Submitted by Amber Lynch, AICP

At the last meeting on July 20, 2012, the APA Iowa Board approved offering a new category of membership in the Chapter in an effort to increase participation and enhance outreach to the profession. The Chapter-only membership makes the benefits of the APA Iowa Chapter more accessible to non-traditional members such as allied professionals, commissioners, planners working in agencies that typically do not fund membership, and new professionals who may still be searching for employment but want to stay connected with the field.

Benefits include a reduced rate at the APA Iowa Conference, subscription to the Iowa Planning newsletter, and notice for APA Iowa sponsored events throughout the state, including trainings, workshops, lunch and learns, social events, and job networking.

Chapter-only membership is offered at just \$50 per calendar year. For those who sign up in 2012, the remainder of the calendar year is included with 2013 dues. For more information and an application form, go to www.iowa-apa.org.

Special Conference Rate Available

The 2012 APA Iowa Conference, titled *Emerging Planning Paradigms*, will be held at the Gateway Conference Center in Ames, Iowa, from October 31st-November 2nd. New Chapter-only members who apply and pay their 2012/2013 dues prior to or along with the conference registration are eligible for member rates. All other conference rates apply. See registration packet for more details at www.iowa-apa.org.

Membership Drive through end of 2012

Existing members who refer new members are eligible to win a \$150 gift certificate to Amazon.com. For each referral made through the end of 2012, the member's name will be placed in a drawing for the prize. The more new members you refer, the better your chance of winning! The winner will be chosen in January 2013. ■

Fort Dodge Site Plan Ordinance Amendments

Submitted by Stephanie Sheetz, AICP; City of Fort Dodge

In 2006, the City of Fort Dodge adopted its first Site Plan Review Ordinance. The goal was to increase the quality of new development, redevelopment or changes to a site through a comprehensive look at the improvements. Some of the benefits of a site plan review include ensuring sites are:

- designed with traffic safety in mind,
- sensitive to the impact of the development on neighboring properties and take action to minimize those impacts,
- planned to address potential environmental problems prior to construction, and
- sensitive to the community's visual environment and surrounding neighborhood.

Fort Dodge gleaned information from many other ordinances when developing its the first site plan ordinance. Even so, it is a difficult task to determine the appropriate level of regulation for the community. The ordinance was adopted knowing there would likely be changes in the future, after some experience implementing the ordinance. Six years later, we have made the first comprehensive amendment to our Site Plan Review Ordinance. The focus of the amendments: add flexibility and clarity. The following walks through key changes made to the ordinance. To view the full ordinance, visit the [Fort Dodge Business Affairs & Community Growth](#) website and go to the Related Pages tab to find the [Zoning Ordinance](#).

Is the threshold appropriate? Applicability of site plan remains the same. We worked to simplify the section and utilized definitions to avoid lengthy descriptions. We added flexibility to our ordinance by introducing three levels of review: administrative, minor, and major. A one size fits all approach cannot be used when we have such a variety of projects. We often deal with additions or redevelopment of older parcels in the City. Another significant change is that a "major" development must be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer.

Is a sidewalk required? Sidewalks can be found throughout town, however, gaps often occur and many of our major corridors are missing a sidewalk system entirely. Development prior to the City's subdivision ordinance (1984) or development that occurred outside of a subdivision process (until 2006) had no requirement to install a sidewalk. We typically met resistance to the 2006 Site Plan Review Ordinance's blanket requirement for sidewalks when no sidewalks were found within several blocks of the proposed development. To appropriately address this issue the City would need to adopt a comprehensive sidewalk installation program. We needed to analyze the realistic applicability of site plan. This one ordinance should not be expected to address all community issues. The new site plan ordinance continues to require sidewalks, however it identifies some situations where a sidewalk may not *Continued on page 7*

Levels of Review

Administrative - A minor site plan for any development or redevelopment that meets all of the following:

- Does not require additional parking spaces.
- Does not change on-site traffic patterns.
- Does not impact stormwater runoff.
- Does not impact more than one Site Development Standard (listed in Section F of this ordinance).

This review level will be completed at a staff level. Administrative site plans shall not be subject to the full review process.

Minor - Any site plan not meeting the major site plan level of review. Minor site plan is not required to be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer, however it must be a scalable drawing that clearly and accurately describes all submission requirements. Minor site plan review will be completed at a staff level and shall be subject to the full review process.

Major - Site plans proposing any of the following shall be considered a major site plan. Major site plans shall be electronically prepared by a licensed architect or engineer.

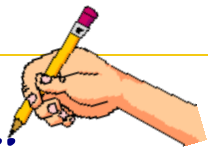
All new development on a previously undeveloped site.

Any improvements on a previously developed site impacting 5,000 square feet or greater.

Any site that has had two minor site plans approved within a three year period proposing any new or redevelopment shall be a major site plan.

Major site plan review will be completed at a staff level and shall be subject to the full review process.





Regents Give Green Light to Two New ISU College of Design Graduate Programs

At its August 3rd meeting in Cedar Falls, the Iowa Board of Regents approved two new graduate degrees to be offered by the Iowa State University College of Design.

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) is a post-professional program of study for students with prior degrees in architecture, landscape architecture or city planning, or the equivalent in professional design experience.

This three-semester, 36-credit program will examine contemporary challenges facing urbanized regions. It will integrate the design process with an understanding of urban environments to help students evaluate human settlements and the complex systems that shape them. Students will gain new knowledge and skills in urban design that support research and design work focused on issues facing the contemporary city.

"This interdisciplinary urban design degree integrates architectural and landscape architectural methods with overall planning strategies to find new approaches for addressing urban conditions on the local and global level," said Marwan Ghandour, associate dean for academic programs in the ISU College of Design.

"Our program will address the interwoven issues of social and economic development, environmental stewardship, community design, preservation and growth to help graduates create more adaptable and ecologically sustainable urban places," he said.

The Master of Design (MDes) in Sustainable Environments is an interdisciplinary program geared toward students with prior degrees in art, architecture, landscape architecture, planning, interior design, industrial design and engineering. The three-semester, 35-credit program will address ways to envision, make and remake landscapes, communities, buildings, objects and images that conserve resources, alleviate ecological prob-

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University of Iowa Sustainable Dubuque Initiative

Projects for 2012-2013—reflecting March 12, 2012 meeting with City of Dubuque, Greater Dubuque Community Foundation, Dubuque County, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, and East Central Intergovernmental Association and June 21, 2012 meeting with Dubuque Community Schools Acting Superintendent Stan Rheingans.

1. Dubuque County Smarter Planning Indicators (Project partner: Cori Burbach (City), Anna O'Shea (County), Dan Fox (ECIA))

Description: In 2010, Dubuque County and several municipalities within the County formed the Dubuque Smart Planning Consortium. The Consortium is developing a regional sustainability plan that includes watershed planning, the State's Smart Planning principles, and the City of Dubuque's sustainability principles. In 2011-2012, the UI students established a series of indicators for the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

This project would review the indicators established for Dubuque in order to establish a set of county-wide or regional sustainability indicators. Once indicators are established, student recommendations of targets for improvement would be sought. It is anticipated that due to the differences between county and City of Dubuque (e.g. agriculture uses), additional indicators may be needed. The Consortium is interested in what data is available at the county-wide level, as well as what data can be mined for smaller towns. A specific focus on land development needs is desired, as the Consortium is not aware of good models for projecting land development needs in relation to population changes and job projections. It is expected that this project will coordinate or build upon efforts by Iowa State to develop simplified development codes for the small communities of Sageville, Bankston, and Durango.

2. Accelerating sustainable transportation planning through the use of "smart" data. (Project Partner - DMATS, ECIA and the JULE.) *Continued on page 9*

"The Master of Urban Design is a post-professional study for students with prior degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, or city planning..."

Article previously published by the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning at: www.urban.uiowa.edu



ASK THE PLANNER



Question: *What are planners doing to bring public input into the modern era?* (Jeff Davidson, City of Iowa City)

Answer: As planners, one of our greatest challenges is obtaining public input. It often takes a controversial issue to spur significant discussion and, even then, the input frequently comes only from those who may be directly impacted. What makes garnering public input even more of a challenge are the modern conveniences that we enjoy today.

To combat this challenge, we have actively sought new methods of engaging the public in The Tomorrow Plan. Obviously, the internet has brought about some wonderful opportunities to spread the word. We utilize a dynamic website (www.thetomorrowplan.com) that is updated at least once per week in order to allow for constant engagement and feedback mechanisms. The website includes The Tomorrow Plan Exchange (TPX), a community forum for discussing topics related to the plan. Every Wednesday, a guest author introduces a train of thought related to sustainability, regionalism, or Greater Des Moines. From there, it is up to citizens to further discuss the topic, to share their ideas, and to imagine a more sustainable tomorrow for Greater Des Moines.



We have hosted a series of speaker events and a special PechaKucha event focused on The Tomorrow Plan, and the videos from those events have been made available online. We also partnered with the African American Leadership Forum to host Talk Tomorrow, a series of panel discussions that were broadcast on the radio and also were streamed live online.

Our team utilizes MindMixer technology, too. MindMixer is an online community meeting that allows us to gather input and ideas from citizens at their convenience. This technology allows users to create personalized platforms (check ours out at <http://ideas.thetomorrowplan.com>), to understand user demographics, and to get a better grasp on the pulse of the people. You begin by defining the important topics for your community or, in our case, region. Then, you have several options for collecting input: Open submissions, which let participants share their big ideas; Prioritizing, which allows the best ideas to float their way to the top; and, Voting, which helps the team pick the best ideas. MindMixer also has a leaderboard that rewards more participation.

Social media has been a key part of The Tomorrow

Plan. Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/thetomorrowplan>) has around 400 “likes.” Over half of those individuals are under 35. While not surprising given this platform, it is important in that this demographic often is significantly underrepresented in planning processes. In the last three months alone, the content of our Facebook page was seen nearly 130,000 times! We also maintain a Twitter account (follow us at @TheTomorrowPlan) that has approximately 375 followers. Both of these platforms allow us to react more quickly to citizens and to let them know specifically when we are seeking input, whether through meetings or other platforms.

We have run advertisements on the exteriors of our regional buses throughout the planning process as well. These ads have featured thought provoking questions (e.g., “Can our roads handle another 110,000 commuters?” and “Should Iowa continue to import 80 percent of its food?”) along with QR codes. QR codes (quick response codes) are similar to barcodes yet can hold thousands of alphanumeric characters of information. Our code is scanned or read with a smart phone and then linked to our website. Alternatively, QR codes can activate numerous phone functions, including email, text messaging, and instant messaging.

Perhaps the biggest innovation in obtaining public input for The Tomorrow Plan, though, has been the creation of Design My DSM (<http://interactive.thetomorrowplan.com/>). Design My DSM was developed as an interactive, online tool for envisioning the future of Greater Des Moines. The goal was to give people the opportunity to learn about planning issues, opportunities, and tradeoffs, and provide a fun, responsive way to explore priorities and spending. This feedback has been useful for comparison with different scenarios and with the range of information gathered in the broader planning study. In a process that “made planning fun,” we collected about 1,000 responses. Compared to their representation in the population as a whole, we had twice the number of under 35 year olds participate than we would have expected.

Of course, we can never move completely away from public meetings. We make a concerted effort to move events around the metro and to host meetings at a variety of times; for some of our outreach events, we have hosted morning, lunch, and evening events over a period of days. We have found success at larger open houses, too. Our last event involved around twenty other community groups and drew around 350 people – our largest single event to date.

-Bethany Wilcoxon, Des Moines Area MPO ■

THE ZONER'S CORNER



Fort Dodge Site Plan Ordinance Amendments *(continued)*

Submitted by Stephanie Sheetz, AICP; City of Fort Dodge

make sense. In such a case, the sidewalk requirement may be temporarily waived. Should the City adopt a comprehensive program in the future, the owner is still responsible for sidewalk installation.

How much landscaping is required? The 2006 ordinance required landscaping. By 2009, the City adopted an overlay ordinance which substantially increased the landscaping requirement along the Business 20 Corridor. In 2010, the City adopted a new downtown business district ordinance that also substantially increased the landscaping requirement over the 2006 site plan ordinance. While we adopted these based on area-specific plans, the requirements were getting confusing. The new site plan ordinance applies a consolidated city-wide approach, removing landscaping from other parts of the ordinance. The new ordinance provides flexibility based on the site's size recognizing, for example, that small sites have difficulty providing large amounts of green space and even a little bit can make an impact. The ordinance also splits landscaping requirements into two areas: 1) the amount of green space, and 2) the amount of plantings. We removed requirements on the location of the plantings, opting to let the owner choose where, within the green space, to locate plantings. As we looked at this issue we found different approaches. All of them were aesthetically pleasing and exemplified good site design. We chose to focus on increasing green space and incorporating a mix of plantings. Other flexibility in the ordinance now includes a substitution ratio for existing trees on a site (to encourage preservation of trees) and the ability to substitute types of plantings (if the owner prefers bushes to trees, then we allow that to a certain point).

Calculating the Amount of Green Space:

Lot Area	General Green Space Percentage Required	Interior Green Space Required (Parking Lot Islands/Foundation Plantings)
0 – 49,999	6%	0%
50,000 – 99,999	10%	0%
100,000 – 249,999	12%	1.5%
250,000 or larger	15%	1.5%

Calculating the Number of Plantings:

Lot Area	Shrub Calculation	Tree Calculation
0 – 49,999	1 per 100 square feet of required green space	1 per 300 square feet of required green space
50,000 – 99,999	1 per 200 square feet of required green space	1 per 500 square feet of required green space
100,000 – 249,999	1 per 300 square feet of required green space	1 per 900 square feet of required green space
250,000 or larger	1 per 300 square feet of required green space	1 per 900 square feet of required green space

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President's Message *(continued)*

The chapter board approved a chapter-only membership contest. For more information on how you can help the chapter increase membership and win a \$150 gift card to Amazon.com at the same time, visit our website:

<http://www.iowa-apa.org/assets/files/APA%20Chapter%20Only%20Flyer.pdf> or see page 3 of this newsletter.

I will be attending the APA Fall Leadership Meetings on your behalf from September 30th through October 1st. I will report on issues and ideas from those meetings in the next issue of this newsletter.

In closing, please let me know of any way your chapter can provide more benefits to you as a member. Also, please let me know of any way you'd like to be more involved in the chapter.

Rich Russell, AICP
APA Iowa

russell@cityofdubuque.org
(563) 589-4152 ■

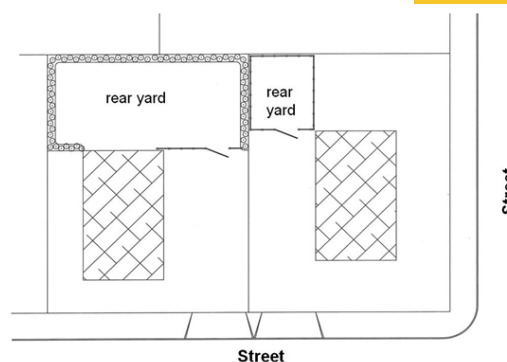


THE ZONER'S CORNER

Fort Dodge Site Plan Ordinance Amendments *(continued)*

Submitted by Stephanie Sheetz, AICP; City of Fort Dodge

Is gravel allowed? The 2006 ordinance required any portion of the site used for driving or parking to be paved. Industrial areas or storage yards were included in this. We were experiencing difficulty with this, particularly in the recruitment of heavy industrial businesses. The new ordinance provides flexibility on the use of gravel, within our goals of improving the community's visual environment and minimizing negative impacts to neighbors. Commercial and light industrial areas may use gravel in the rear yard of a property provided it is not intended for or used by the general public and it is clearly defined and screened. This screening can be through landscaping or 6' solid fencing. An illustration of the rear yard, where gravel could be permitted, is included here. Heavy industrial areas may use gravel in the rear or side yard of a property provided the same criteria are met. Less screening may be required when heavy industrial is adjacent to heavy industrial or agriculturally zoned property. This avoids requiring two adjacent and potentially similar uses from having to screen from each other. We focused the regulation on areas where screening or dust mitigation is important.



How is stormwater addressed? Concurrent with the site plan ordinance amendments, engineering staff worked on a stormwater ordinance. City Council opted to discontinue discussions on the stormwater ordinance. Dealing with this area remains difficult. However, the new requirement that a design professional must prepare any major site plan helps integrate some level of stormwater management controls with a development. We hope to pick up conversations on a stormwater ordinance in a year or two.

On June 1, 2012, we began implementing this new ordinance. Only a handful of developments have occurred since then. Our initial assessment is that the new regulations give us the ability to clearly guide applicants on how to prepare their plan and better enables staff to provide guidance to customers. We plan to continue monitoring its effectiveness on an annual basis.

Since 2006, Fort Dodge has adopted or modified four sections of its zoning ordinance: site plan review (new 2006, significant amendments 2012), overlay ordinance (new 2009), sign (overhauled 2009), downtown districts (overhauled 2011). Substantial changes like these require regular evaluation of effectiveness. It also challenges the City to consider how and when text amendments should be made.

If you would like to learn more about any of these ordinances, feel free to contact [Stephanie Houk Sheetz](#) or [Angela Torres](#) in the Business Affairs & Community Growth Department at the City of Fort Dodge. ■

Description: The City of Dubuque and the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) are partnering with the IBM Corporation in developing smart technology to help plan and operate their public transit system. The partnership has in place two data collection systems, an RFID-based system and a smartphone application, that have been obtaining travel pattern data from volunteer participants. The RFID-based system is primarily collecting boarding and alighting locations from JULE riders, which will be used by the partnership for evaluating operation and planning modification to the existing transit operation. The smartphone application is targeting community wide travel patterns that will assist with the planning of an integrated transportation system. A third dataset consisting of cellular phone locations will be purchased by IBM to expand their analysis of mobility in the community.

The transit supportive activities, walking and biking, are often forgotten elements in the operation and planning of transit systems. It is these elements that form the basis for a request of assistance to the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) for extending the public transit evaluation and planning the City of Dubuque and their partners are completing at this time to connect. The project to be led by the SURP will use the summary of current walking and biking patterns in the City of Dubuque in the form of two origin-destination (O-D) matrices. The O-D matrices will be provided to SURP by ECIA after being obtained from IBM. Each O-D matrix will be based on the existing transportation analysis zones (TAZ) boundaries as defined by the MPO for the 2010 US Census. The number of walkers and bikers will be reported in separate O-D matrices that are based on the data currently being generated by IBM from the above described data collection systems.

The summary of travel patterns (O-D matrices) will be the basis for a targeting model for the expansion of the complete streets program outside of the Millworks District. Tentatively, the areas of realized demand for walking and biking will be identified along with a measure of accessibility between the areas. The accessibility measures should include the presence/absence of infrastructure, adequacy of the infrastructure if present, travel times, safety, and qualitative measure of attractiveness. Preliminary layouts for connecting or improving existing connections between points of demand and the modified transit system will be provided along with generalized costs. Using the derived measure of accessibility, estimates of changes in transit ridership will occur.

3. Determination of Real Housing Need with Special Attention to Residential as well as Commercial Development in the Washington Neighborhood (Project partners: Alvin Nash, Dubuque Housing & Community Development Director, Laura Carstens (Planning Services), Guy Hemenway (Planning Services), Shannon Gaherty (GDDC), Angela Petsche (Washington Neighborhood Development Corp.)

Description: The housing issue we are looking at is related to the Dubuque region's growth and the changing demographics and economics of the future, and determining the new mix of housing the community should plan for. In particular, affordable market rate housing option for new workers is a growing concern for the future. Alternatives will also be examined for stimulating population growth in Dubuque through making the development of housing more attractive. Special attention will be paid to prioritizing residential and commercial development strategies for the Washington neighborhood.

4. Successful Neighborhood School Strategies (Project partner: Stan Rheingans, Acting Superintendent, Dubuque Community Schools)

Description: Dubuque has an existing neighborhood schools platform that needs to respond to changing needs in education and in the community to prepare Dubuque's young people for the 21st century. This project will identify a comprehensive strategy for our neighborhood schools that strengthens neighborhoods and builds culturally vibrant neighborhoods while meeting the needs of current and future students and families. Currently, the Dubuque Community Schools district is faced with declining enrollments in central city schools and changing demographics. In addition, open enrollment is permitted by the School Board. As efforts are made to keep enrollments balanced across schools of varying socioeconomic characteristics, parents respond to increasing percentages of free and reduced lunch students by removing their children to other schools with lower percentages. The resulting decline in enrollments in central city schools not only threatens efforts to maintain diversity in all schools, but poses fiscal cha-

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Regents Give Green Light to Two New ISU College of Design Graduate Programs *(continued)*



lems and promote social, political and economic justice.

Students will work in interdisciplinary teams on projects that may include funded research, community-based design work and theoretical investigations. They will gain knowledge and skills in sustainable design strategies, systems and materials for environmental and product design.

"Environmental sustainability has become a necessity in contemporary design practice," Ghandour said. "By focusing on qualitative and quantitative tools for sustainable design, the new MDes curriculum meets the needs of both experienced practitioners and young designers who wish to integrate sustainability within their professional practice."

Both degree programs will draw on existing faculty expertise in the College of Design. In addition to the new core courses developed for each degree, these curricula also provide opportunities for students to engage in coursework on sustainability and urban issues offered by other disciplines at Iowa State, Ghandour said.

The Master of Urban Design will begin accepting graduate applications this fall for summer 2013 admission. The Master of Design in Sustainable Environments will begin accepting applications this fall for consideration for fall 2013 admission. Contact Mark Chidister, acting director, (515) 294-7427, markchid@iastate.edu, for more information.

Contacts:

Marwan Ghandour, Design Administration, (515) 294-7427, marwang@iastate.edu
Mark Chidister, Design Administration, (515) 294-7427, markchid@iastate.edu
Heather Sauer, Design Communications, (515) 294-9289, hsauer@iastate.edu

Article previously published by the ISU College of Design at:
<http://www.design.iastate.edu/news.php?ARTICLEID=520> ■

University of Iowa Sustainable Dubuque Initiative *(continued)*

allenges to the school district. Students will critically examine the role of neighborhood schools as keys to neighborhood redevelopment as well as the role of schools in maintaining opportunities for supporting and attracting diverse populations. Special attention will be paid to how these issues have been addressed in other school districts in the nation facing the same challenges as Dubuque. Attention will also be paid to transportation costs associated with the busing of students to and from their neighborhoods.

5. Survey of best practices for general plans for redevelopment of port areas (Project partner: Rick Dickinson, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation)

Description: With the possible shutdown of the Dubuque Power Plant and the aging of facilities in the South Ice Harbor and 12th Street Peninsula (Southport and Northport), the opportunity to reshape the waterfront outside of the Ice Harbor (location of the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium) presents itself. This project will focus on looking at best practices and highest and best uses by examining redevelopment processes and outcomes at other ports on the Upper Mississippi as well as examining the best opportunities for Dubuque.

Article previously published by the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning at:
<http://www.urban.uiowa.edu/content/2012-2013-Dubuque-Initiative-Project-Details> ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Website
Re-stitching the Urban Environment: The Columbus Urban Commercial Overlay (Webcast)	9/14/2012	Webcast by Columbus Planning Division	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/227777386
Upper Mississippi River Conference	9/26/2012 - 9/28/2012	Moline, IL	http://www.riveraction.org/umrc/
Upper Midwest 2012 Planning Conference: Planning for the Next Generation	9/26/2012 - 9/27/2012	Madison, WI	https://www.planning.org/ecommerce/conference/viewConferenceDetails.aspx?conferenceId=186
Housing and Transportation for the Boomers and Beyond	9/28/2012	Webcast by Virginia Chapter	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/890800882
Comprehensive Approaches to Stormwater Management (Training for Policy Makers)	9/11/2012	Charles City, IA	http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/community/stormwater/default.aspx
	9/13/2012	Des Moines, IA	
	9/18/2012	Hiawatha, IA	
	9/20/2012	Bettendorf, IA	
9/25/2012	Storm Lake, IA		
Comprehensive Approaches to Stormwater Management (Training for Design Professionals)	10/8/2012	Cedar Rapids, IA	
	10/9/2012	Ankeny, IA	
	10/10/2012	Council Bluffs, IA	
Comprehensive Approaches to Stormwater Management (Putting Policy into Practice: Green Infrastructure Tour)	10/18/2012	Charles City & West Union, IA	
Growing Sustainable Communities Conference	10/2/2012 - 10/3/2012	Dubuque, IA	http://gsclubuque.com/
Hazard Mitigation Planning in Nebraska	10/5/2012	Webcast by Nebraska Chapter	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/661502978
Planning Flood-Resilient Communities	10/10/2012	Kansas City, MO	http://www.planning.org/pts/oneday/
A Tale of Three City Pairs: Regional Economic Growth and Rail Transit Investments	10/19/2012	Webcast by Economic Development Division	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/717566602
Planning for Fracking: Booms, Busts and Beyond	10/26/2012	Webcast by NY Metro Chapter	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/769403026
Reaching the Ones Who Don't Show Up: Using Web 2.0 tools for better public involvement	11/9/2012	Webcast by Ohio Chapter	https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/961393026

Note from the Editor - Submitted by Carissa Miller, MIDAS COG

Ask the Planner, Zoner's Corner, University News, Meet the Planner... APA Iowa Chapter appreciates all of the Iowa Planners who have contributed to each of these columns of the Iowa Chapter Newsletter! APA Iowa would like to keep these columns going, so if you have any planning questions; or you'd like to introduce yourself as an Iowa Planner; or you'd like to provide an article relating to zoning and land use, please submit them!

APA Iowa would also like to encourage Iowa Planners to take part in a future column of the newsletter where planners can share about planning books they've recently read. Reflecting on planning materials not only benefit the readers, but also introduce other planners to re-

sources they may not have been aware of. The book reviews will be discretionary, in that they will be established depending on information or feedback received from Iowa Planners. Let's get this column rolling... submit your review of a planning book today!

We would also like to inform entities that we welcome advertisements! For more information on submission and pricing contact me at cmiller@midascog.net.

To submit articles, ask questions or for more information on the APA Iowa Chapter Newsletter, Iowa Planning, contact me at cmiller@midascog.net. ■