

OKLAHOMA PLANNER



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Oklahoma Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Note from Paula Dennison, President of APA OK

APA Oklahoma is for YOU!

We are fixing to begin a new calendar year and I want to take this time to wish everyone very Happy Holidays! Your APA Oklahoma Chapter board is busily preparing for exciting opportunities for the membership in 2015. We will be rolling out a Chapter Awards program. The information will be in the Spring newsletter so watch for the application dates and categories. It is not too early to begin preparing an awards nomination!

Oklahoma APA Conference in 2015

Also, for the annual conference in 2015, Oklahoma has partnered with Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas for a Quad-State Conference to be held in Kansas City, MO. Again, watch for more information in the Spring. The 2014 annual conference "Planning for a More Resilient Oklahoma" held in Norman was hugely successful. We received great feedback from attendees and positive comments from the session presenters. Thanks to Dr Dawn Jourdan and the RCPL students!

Items to Note for 2014

The APA Oklahoma Board has no vacant positions. After the conference in Norman, 3 planners volunteered to serve the Chapter membership so please welcome: Susan Connors – Vice-President, Jill Hall Ferenc – Secretary, and Chad Denson – At Large Director #5. Also, the Chapter is financially sound and a budget is adopted for 2015. Treasurer, Erik Enyart provided our financial status at the annual meeting. If you missed it, please contact Erik.

Thanks to each of you for your dedication to planning in Oklahoma. Happy Holidays & have a very prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Paula J. Dennison, AICP

APA Oklahoma President



Infrastructure Recovery and Implementation Plan

Elizabeth Jones, AICP, Director, Community Development, City of Moore

Kelly Driscoll Urban Planner, Cardinal Engineering

On May 20, 2013 the City of Moore was struck by a catastrophic tornado. In the days that followed the city, residents, and volunteer organizations worked diligently to respond to pressing needs. And in early 2014 the City received word from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it was awarded over \$26M of federal funding under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). A small part of these CDBG-DR funds are going towards the development of an Infrastructure Recovery and Implementation Plan (IRIP, or The Plan). The Plan will guide capital improvements to water, wastewater, stormwater, roadways, sidewalks, bikeways, trails and open space infrastructure systems as the City rebuilds over the next five years.

A team of consultants, led by Cardinal Engineering, is assisting the City of Moore in developing the IRIP. Team members include experts from TAP Architecture, Lemke Land Surveying, and TDA Consulting. The study area is approximately 3,406 acres, or 5.32 square miles and encompasses the tornado path from SW 19th and S Santa Fe along SW 4th and east to S Bryant.

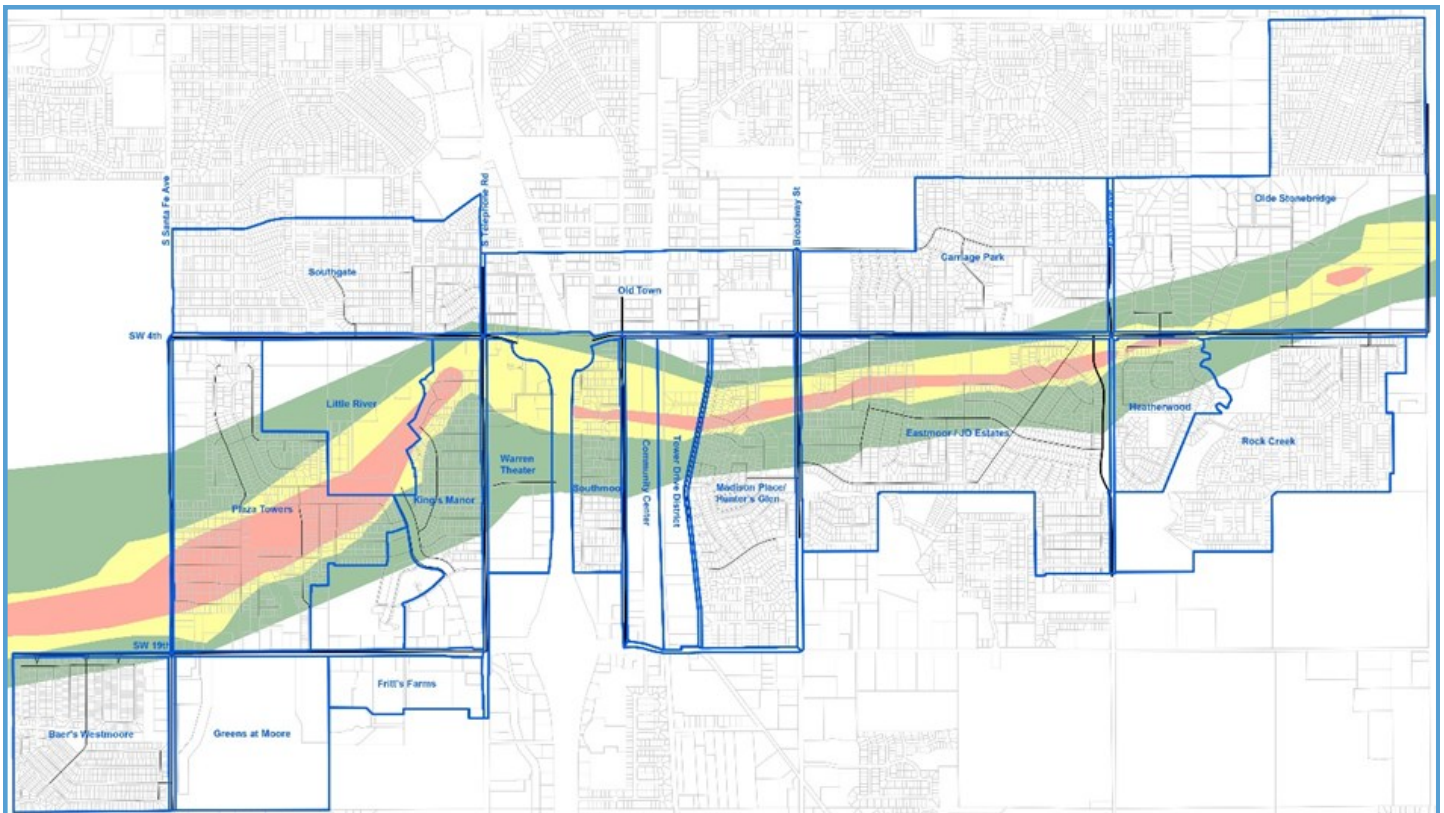


Figure 1: IRIP Study Area (with Tornado Path/Intensity)

The first stage of the plan includes a thorough assessment of infrastructure in the impacted areas – water, sewer, stormsewer, roads, and sidewalks. The study area was broken down into 25 distinct zones in order to make the field assessment more manageable. All of the data gathered will then be compiled in GIS and analyzed. A complex methodology for assessing and weighting each of the infrastructure categories was developed by the team. Each of the sub-areas or zones assessed receives a score called Infrastructure Rating Index (IRI). The IRI is the sum of a given area's score across nine general categories including Background Data, Condition, Health and Safety and Damage. As a part of the funding requirements the methodology had

to include Low-Moderate Income impacts, Sustainability and Green Infrastructure, as well as potential for Long-Term Recovery or Economic Revitalization.

The IRIP process has also included public input and outreach. A visioning meeting was held in mid-October at the Moore Public Library. Residents in attendance were asked to envision ways to better rebuild, and to incorporate innovative approaches to things such as traffic calming and stormwater management. A couple of public workshops were also recently held to assess the walkability of areas surrounding Plaza Towers elementary and Highlands East Junior High. At these workshops team members met with the public and explained what walkability is, why it is important, what contributes to making a space walkable (or not), and led them through the process of completing a 'Walkability Checklist' for their neighborhood. Participants left the meetings with copies of the Checklists to pass out to neighbors and complete on their own for routes they routinely walk in their neighborhoods.



Figure 2: Participants discuss ideas to improve their neighborhoods at the Visioning meeting.



Figure 3: Nate Clair, RLA, LEED AP explains what to look for when completing a Walkability Checklist.

In order to incorporate all of the public input gathered at these meetings the team has included an 'Opportunities' category into the infrastructure assessment methodology and IRI score. This category allows residents' ideas gathered at the meetings and workshops to be incorporated into the GIS database. In an effort to capture as many ideas, and engage as much of the public as is possible the City is also utilizing an online community engagement tool. The website envisionmoore.org has been set up to allow citizens opportunities to submit ideas as well as provide feedback through various surveys. A visual preference survey is planned for the near future to gauge residents' approval of features such as gateways, pedestrian walkways, traffic calming and stormwater management.

In order to speed the assessment phase GIS Specialists on the team custom built a mobile application to enable Technical Professionals to accurately document field conditions of the various infrastructure systems. The app allows for the capture of point data, associated attributes, and photographs. All of these data immediately uploads to the GIS database and is viewable instantaneously by GIS Specialists, Engineers, Planners and City Staff working on the project. The Technical Professionals are assessing road conditions, water, sewer, stormsewer, as well as identifying opportunities for pedestrian and trail connections, and gateways.

The IRIP is expected to wrap up at the first part of 2015. At which time the City will have a prioritized list of fundable infrastructure improvement projects to be initiated over the next five years. The IRIP will include cost estimates and project descriptions, and in some cases concept designs for particular projects.

2014 APA OK State Planning Conference

Planning for a More Resilient Oklahoma

On October 2-3, planners, engineers, commissioners, professors, and students descended on Norman for the Oklahoma State Planning Conference. Over 100 people from around the state and abroad presented, planned or attended the Conference.

Hosted by the University of Oklahoma Regional and City Planning Program, the Conference took place on campus and offered presentations ranging from natural disasters to food sovereignty and transportation systems to resilient economies. Mobile workshops included tours of OU's campus, Norman, and downtown Oklahoma City.

Professor Emeritus Bob Goins and Aparna Bamzai welcomed attendees with a presentation on the History of a Resilient Oklahoma. John Nolon, professor of law at Pace University School of Law, discussed the Law of Hydrofracking at the Lunch Keynote presentation.

We want to thank all the many individuals and organizations who made this conference such a huge success! Thanks again to all of the 2014 Conference Sponsors:

OU College of Architecture
Division of Regional and City Planning
Institute for Quality Communities
Tulsa Urban Design Studio
Frankfurt Short Bruza
Steadystate Geothermal
ASLA Oklahoma
Howell & Vancuren
Select Design
DEQ
Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, Civil Engineering Consultant



Images from Top to Bottom: Ken Bryan presenting Local Food Systems in Oklahoma; John Nolon and his presentation on the Law of Hydrofracking; Ron Frantz and Oklahoma's Resilient Economies.

OU RCPL Alumni Reunion Welcomes 150!

On October 6, the Division of Regional and City Planning welcomed more than 150 of its nearly 800 alumni back to campus for an all RCPL Alumni Reunion. Guests, brought together by Jim Duncan (RCPL '65), came together to celebrate the Division's 65 year anniversary. Faculty, students and alumni mingled at the Sam Noble Museum, a picnic at Professor Lee Rodgers home, a tailgate at the College of Architecture, and for dinner and dancing at the OU Memorial Student Union.



Help Plan the Future of APA

APA's [Development Plan](#) and Budget Committee, chaired by APA President-Elect Carol Rhea, FAICP, invites members to apply their skills toward developing a comprehensive, long-term plan for the association's growth and progress. Please start by considering the big questions which can frame later conversations. Join us on [MindMixer](#), respond to a [brief survey](#), or send an e-mail to getinvolved@planning.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

OKAPA Has A New Website!

For the last few months a few volunteers have been giving the OKAPA website a new and fresh look. Please go to the new [website](#) and provide any feedback on what you would like to see on the website!

Please Submit Images and Articles

We need your help to keep the website and newsletter current and fresh. Do you have any images or websites you to contribute. [Click here for the details.](#)

Board Member Highlight: James B. Wagner, AICP

James is the Professional Development Officer for the A P A O k l a h o m a Chapter. James received his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Oklahoma State University and a dual-master's degree in City & Regional Planning and in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. He is currently the Principal Transportation Planner for INCOG in Tulsa. As PDO, James is tasked with promoting membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners, assisting candidates in preparing for the AICP, advocating for the AICP Code of Ethics and professional Conduct, and many other Chapter responsibilities. Please say "Hi" to James the next time you see him.



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