



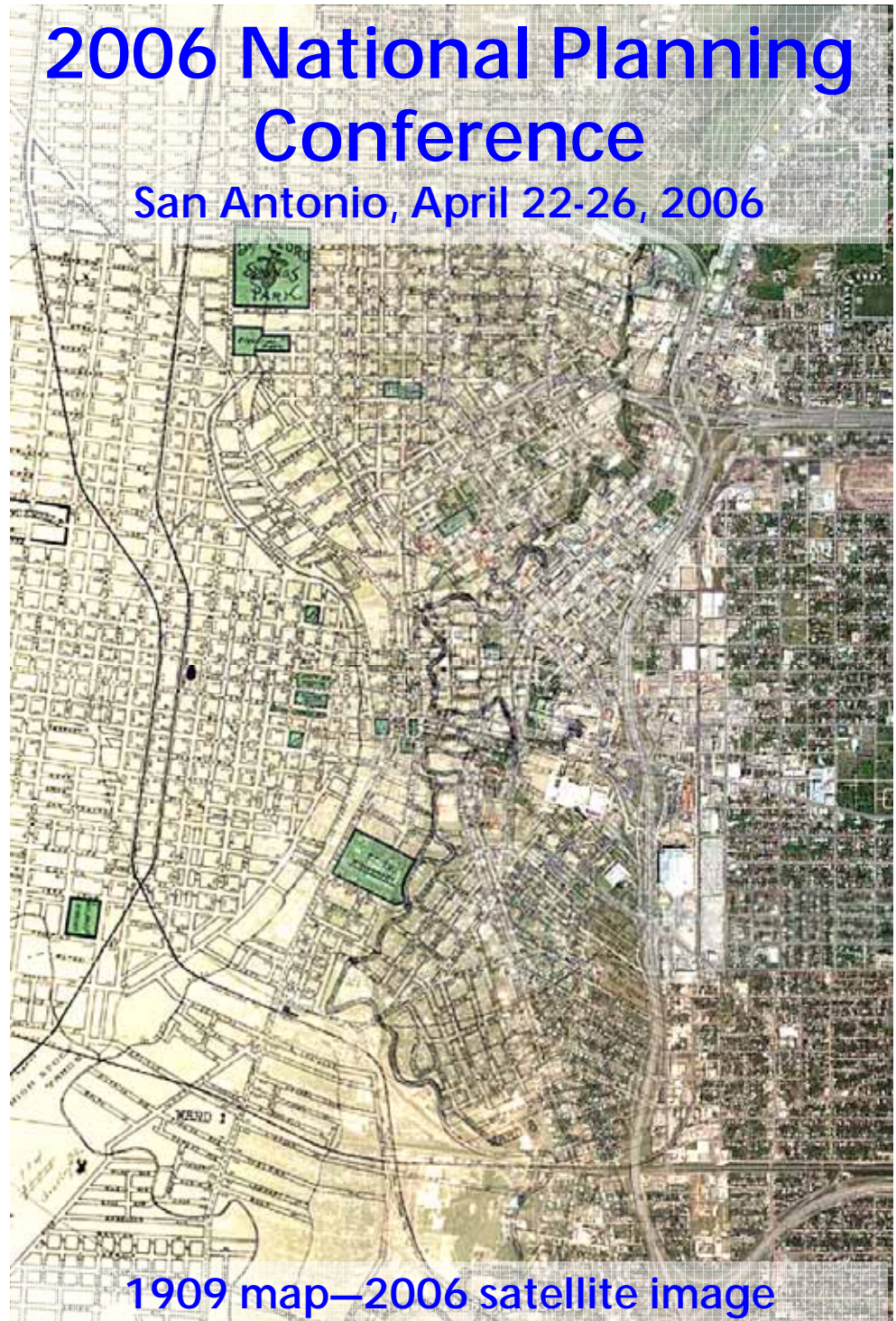
# INFOTEXT

Information Technology Division of the American Planning Association  
Winter 2005/6 • Issue 85

## 2006 National Planning Conference

San Antonio, April 22-26, 2006

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Chair's Message                            | 2  |
| IT Awards                                  | 3  |
| International Outreach                     | 4  |
| Bringing GIS to the General Public         | 5  |
| Circle Software                            | 5  |
| Global Networks in Education and Practice  | 6  |
| City of Grapevine Makes Big Strides in GIS | 8  |
| Zillow                                     | 8  |
| Envisioning Growth and Change              | 9  |
| Facing the Future                          | 10 |
| Call for Articles                          | 11 |
| Urban and Regional Planning ArcGIS Class   | 11 |
| IT Division National Conference Sessions   | 12 |



1909 map—2006 satellite image



[www.planning.org/Infotech](http://www.planning.org/Infotech)

CHAIR

**Ken Snyder**

THE ORTON FAMILY FOUNDATION  
3719 W. 32nd Ave  
Denver CO 80211-3121  
Phone (303) 964-0903  
Fax (303) 455-2833  
ksnyder@orton.org

VICE CHAIR

**Jennifer Evans-Cowley PhD  
AICP**

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Austin E. Knowlton School of  
Architecture  
275 West Woodruff Avenue  
Columbus OH 43210-1138  
Phone (614) 247-7479  
cowley.11@osu.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Harsh Prakash**

REGION I PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 1442  
Princeton WV 24740-1442  
hvp@regiononepdc.org

EDITOR

**Ric Stephens**

ALPHA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Plaza West, Suite 230  
Portland OR 97223  
rbst@alphacommunity.com

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

**Mike Gritz, AICP**

CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
731 South Fourth Street  
Las Vegas NV 89101  
mgritz@ci.las-vegas.nv.us

# Division in Transition

*Joint Statement by Ken Snyder and Mike Gritz*

**O**n December 9, 2005, the APA IT Division Leadership voted unanimously to have

**Ken Snyder**, Director of Planning Tools and the Planning CoLaboratory for the Orton Family Foundation, move from his position as Vice Chair to Chair and replace **Mike Gritz** in this role. In the Fall, Mike Gritz had approached Mr. Snyder about taking over

Chairmanship responsibilities due to an increased work load in his current position as senior management with the City of Las Vegas. Mike will continue to be an active and supportive member of the IT Division. He wishes to extend his appreciation to everyone's gracious courtesy, teamwork and camaraderie, which made for an experience of a lifetime for him. "Working with the leadership and members of the IT Division has been a tremendously exciting and enriching experience for me. It has elevated my personal expectations to make a difference in the planning world."

Ken Snyder joined Orton in 2005 to assist in the realignment of its activities to more fully engage and empower people to make better land use decisions through the adoption and implementation of appropriate and innovative decision support tools. "The Orton Family Foundation's work highly compliments the IT Division's purpose to advocate for best practices in the use of technology to support planning," says Mr. Snyder. "As Chair, I'm excited to work with fellow IT members to spread the word to the planning community about how technology can be integrated into daily practices to improve planning outcomes around the country."



**Ken Snyder**

program that helped communities around the country learn about, select and implement innovative civic engagement and decision-support tools and methods.

Building on the outstanding work of Mike and others, as chair, I plan to continue expanding the membership of the Division significantly by:

1. Making the division, through its website, newsletter, and conference offerings, more relevant to all planners, highlighting the numerous ways technology can make their jobs both easier and more effective;
2. Beefing up the quarterly newsletter with case studies and thought pieces under timely themes and drawing a clearer line between product information from vendors and information from communities and planners;
3. Reaching out to existing membership and tapping into the expertise and energy they can add to the Division; and
4. Collaborating more closely with other APA Divisions as well as other organizations that share an interest in improving planning processes and technologies.

I would like to congratulate **Dr Jennifer Evans-Cowley** who was elected by the leadership committee to move from her position as Education Chair to Vice Chair and **Dr. Amiy Varma** who, just last week, was elected to fill the Education Chair. We have an incredible team to work with and I look forward to seeing and chatting with many of you in San Antonio.

Before joining Orton, Ken founded PlaceMatters.com, the Denver-based



# IT Division Presents Awards for the Outstanding Use of Technology in Planning

*Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP*

The Information Technology Division of the American Planning Association has created five awards that recognize the outstanding use of technology in planning. "This is the first time the division is granting awards ... It is time that we recognize the outstanding work that our members are engaged in," said Ken Snyder, Chair of the IT Division.

In December, the Division made a call for nominations for award candidates in five categories, described below. "Even though this was our first call for award nominations, we received tremendous response from the planning community. The jury had a challenging time selecting the one best project in each category," noted Jennifer Evans-Cowley, IT Division Vice-Chair. The winner of each award category is included below.

**Category 1: Best Use of Technology to Plan for Natural Disaster Prevention or Recovery:** This category recognizes an organization for the use of technology for disaster prevention or recovery before a disaster occurs. Examples may include hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or wildfires.

**Mississippi Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal and the Congress for New Urbanism: Mississippi Renewal Forum**

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Governor's Commission and the CNU organized a six day design charrette that include 400 participants to create a regional growth vision and recovery plans for 11 cities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As part of this project, the nine person technology team provided on-site GIS, CAD systems, digital photography, a website, and participant listserv to allow participants and outsiders to have access to critical information needed to develop plans for rebuilding. To learn more about

this project visit <http://www.mississippirenewal.com>.

**Category 2: Best Use of Technology for Planning Analysis:** This category recognizes an organization or individual for the creative use of technology to carry out in-depth planning analysis and planning forecasting methods.

**Ada County, Idaho Highway District: Ada County Highway District Pedestrian and Bicycle Transition Plan**  
This project combined GIS, pocket PCs, and human manpower to conduct an assessment of 27,000 sidewalk segments, 19,000 street corners, and 1,000 miles of roadside without sidewalks in order to develop a bike and pedestrian facility plan for the county. To view the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transition Plan visit [http://www.achd.ada.id.us/Departments/ppce/ped-bike\\_plan.asp](http://www.achd.ada.id.us/Departments/ppce/ped-bike_plan.asp)

**Category 3: Best Use of Technology for Public Participation:** This category recognizes an organization for the best use of technology to enhance public involvement to enhance public involvement and participation in planning and decision making processes.

**City of Farmers Branch, Texas: E-planning Strategy**  
Farmer's Branch developed an e-planning strategy to develop interactive technology tools to make information accessible and encourage public participation. The Planning Division utilized websites, e-mail, digital convergence meetings, and online television to increase communication with the public. To learn more about the City of Farmer's Branch e-planning tools visit <http://www.ci.farmers-branch.tx.us/Planning/Planning.html>

**Category 4: Best Use of Technology for a University Urban and Regional Planning Program:** This category



RESEARCH CHAIR  
**David Simpson, PhD AICP**  
Professor  
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, University of Louisville, Kentucky  
[dave.simpson@louisville.edu](mailto:dave.simpson@louisville.edu)

POLICY CHAIR  
**Joe DiStefano, AICP**  
Associate, CALTHORPE ASSOCIATES  
[joed@calthorpe.com](mailto:joed@calthorpe.com)

EDUCATION CHAIR  
**Amiy Varma, PhD, AICP, PTOE**  
Associate Professor, CIVIL ENG. DEPT, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
[amiy.varma@ndsu.edu](mailto:amiy.varma@ndsu.edu)

DIVISION COORDINATOR  
**Judy Tjiong**  
Department of Planning and Land Use, San Diego County  
[judy.tjiong@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:judy.tjiong@sdcounty.ca.gov)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR  
**Milton Ospina**  
Urban & Regional Planning and Economic Development Solutions Manager, ESRI  
[mospina@esri.com](mailto:mospina@esri.com)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FORUM CHAIR  
**Robert Smith**  
CROWN CASTLE  
[robert.smith@crowncastle.com](mailto:robert.smith@crowncastle.com)



## International Outreach

One of the pleasures of my [current job](#) is the annual opportunity to interact with professionals from around the world, thanks to the [International Visitor Leadership Program](#). During these interactions, I share with the visiting delegations how regional government works in southern [West Virginia](#).



Mayoral Delegation from the [Republic of Tajikistan](#), 2006



Public and Private Sector Delegation from the [Russian Federation](#), 2005

I always end my presentation on regional governance and [GIS](#) with a quick display of [Google Earth](#) when we try to locate the remote places the delegation members come from. As can be [deduced](#) from these pictures, the members stand in rapt attention of how one private enterprise gives back to the greater common good.

Harsh Prakash  
Secretary/Treasurer  
[pi@spatialink.org](mailto:pi@spatialink.org)

recognizes an accredited university planning program for the most effective use of teaching with technology in preparing future planners for professional work. This can include the work of a single class or the use of technology to benefit all students in the program.

## UC San Diego: Urban Studies and Planning Program Senior Sequence

This two-quarter senior sequence utilized a suite of internet-based tools and guides to help students maximize their educational research and workforce experience. Through a partnership with the San Diego Supercomputer Center students are able to use systems that improve research skills and allow them to become civically-engaged scholars in planning. For related information, please read the "Global Networks" article on page 6. To learn more about the research resources offered through UC San Diego visit <http://www.regionalworkbench.org>

## Category 5: Best Use of Technology to Improve a Plan or Planning Process:

This category recognizes an organization for the creative use of technology in improving planning processes. Examples may include technology in subdivision approval, urban design, or comprehensive planning.

## Northeast Illinois Planning Commission: Full Circle Community Mapping and Planning Project

NIPC is able to enhance local planning processes through better information provided through its Full Circle program. Participants in the Full Circle program are able to collect, update, display, extract, and analyze data at three spatial levels, including parcels, businesses within parcels, and blocks. To learn about the Full Circle Community Mapping and Planning Project, visit <http://www.fulcir.net/FC/>

Members of the IT Division were invited to volunteer to serve on the awards jury. The volunteers spent many hours reviewing the applications and rating each on innovation, quality, transferability, implementation, and comprehensiveness. The jury consisted of five IT Division members including:

- ☛ Alissa Barber Torres, AICP, Chief Planner, Orange County, Florida
- ☛ John McDermon, Acting Deputy Group Leader at Los Alamos National Lab
- ☛ Bill Wiseman, Manager of Planning Services, RBF Consulting

The winners will receive a certificate and a \$100 award at the 2006 National APA Conference in San Antonio, Texas. All members of the division are invited to attend the awards ceremony, as part of the IT Division business meeting, to be held on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Ken Snyder hopes, "that everyone will join us in recognizing the outstanding projects that planners are involved in."

It's not too early to be thinking about projects to nominate for next year's competition. Any project completed in 2005 or 2006 is eligible for the 2007 awards. In addition to the categories listed above, the Division will be adding an award in the area of telecommunications planning.



*For more information about the awards program contact Jennifer Evans-Cowley at [cowley.11@osu.edu](mailto:cowley.11@osu.edu).*

# Bringing GIS to the General Public

By Michael Killion, Principal, Alpha Community Development  
[www.alphacommunity.com](http://www.alphacommunity.com)

In the recent months, Google Earth and Yahoo! Maps have opened a door in the GIS community some thought we might never see. These applications provide an interface that is simple, intuitive, and allows a user to look around the globe in real-time, pan and zoom fashion. For the first time, we don't have to know what we want to look at, we can just browse the entire planet. Compiling this information and streaming it over the Internet is amazing.

But Google and Yahoo went one step further. They provided an easy way for anyone to use their code and a canvas for GIS professionals to improve their internet offerings. Having the keys necessary to put this functionality to work will result in more widely available GIS data.

Now zoning, city or county boundaries, ownership information, anything in a GIS system can be displayed on top of images around the world. This is powerful stuff! For one thing, the buzz about Google Earth and Yahoo! Maps is creating a familiarity with the software that we won't have to teach. We can concentrate on the data, and learn how to deliver it efficiently.

Alpha is creating a system that allows the presentation of GIS information in a fashion that does not require an expert in GIS. By abstracting the user from the process of combining all of the pieces, they can concentrate on what they do best, analyzing the data and making informed decisions. And Alpha is outside the confines of any one jurisdiction, so we are capable of providing a greater deal of content over a greater geographical area.

Land development is governed by many factors, such as natural resources, pedestrian and traffic considerations, and jurisdictional requirements. With different sources come different standards, different data, and varying frequency of updates.



The major hurdles we face lie in speed, space and ease of use. We have tons of information to display, and that is only in the Portland metropolitan area. Streaming this content to the user will be a major challenge. Assuming we continue to acquire and display information in other geographical areas, we are going to need large repositories to store all the information. Maintaining information so that it is current means a lot of scripts and procedures to translate information into xml so that it can be displayed on the web. Finally, displaying all of this content in a fashion that is easy to use will pose a very large challenge.

With the release of Google Maps, and Yahoo! Maps, the dream of interactive mapping, where GIS information is overlaid onto an image, is within reach. Look to see uses on both small and large scale. Imagine scanning the San Juan Islands for vacation rentals, or WIFI locations near your hotel. Imagine looking at your clients parcel, and being able to overlay aerials, tax lots, environmental buffers, contours, etc. in order to determine the future use of the land based on jurisdictional, economical and environmental conditions. The day is very near.

The sites springing up using this platform are numerous, and growing daily. You can check out what Alpha Community Development is working on at [www.alphacommunity.com/mapping/beta.html](http://www.alphacommunity.com/mapping/beta.html). You will also find links to other resources and impressive sites at [www.alphacommunity.com/mapping/resources.html](http://www.alphacommunity.com/mapping/resources.html). Not long from now, you will look at data as it pertains to land use and planning in any county in the nation and have it as accurate as the information from the source. As accuracy and availability of the content improves, so will the system.



Circle Software specializes in real estate software analysis solutions for development, budgeting and investment professionals. Circle Software, a well established company since 1990, has offices in London, Atlanta, Vancouver, Sydney and Kuala Lumpur. They work with local, national and international clients. Circle.Developer™ is real estate development pro forma software that replaces spreadsheets for development analysis. This feasibility software:

- ⊙ Eliminates errors common in spreadsheets (see ComputerWorld article)
- ⊙ Allows modeling of multiple scenarios for a project to determine the highest and best use for the development (See CIRE Magazine article)
- ⊙ Analyzes deal structures with multiple partners, including waterfall returns
- ⊙ Is fast and simple to use - freeing up time for key development decisions

To see an executive overview of Circle.Developer™, simply click on this link:

<http://www.circlesoftware.com/video/circledeveloperexecutiveoverview.wmv>

For more information about Circle Software, visit their web site [www.circlesoftware.com](http://www.circlesoftware.com) or contact them at 888.472.1005 or [infousa@circlesoftware.com](mailto:infousa@circlesoftware.com)



### GPEIG Mission Statement

To work together as planning educators and students to create, integrate and share global perspectives in planning education and research. To foster an understanding of the global perspectives in planning education and research. To foster an understanding of the global context of local and regional issues; an appreciation of and respect for cultural, economic, and political dimensions of planning; and the recognition of the rich array of planning processes that can be fully appreciated only by learning about what is being done in other countries.

[www.gpeig.org](http://www.gpeig.org)



The **International Planning Organizations** directory contains more than 1,000 agencies, associations, institutes, schools and societies interested in urban and regional planning.

[www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)

# Global Networks in Planning Education and Practice

By Keith Pezzoli, PhD  
University of California, San Diego

Global-mindedness" is an increasingly important dimension of planning education and practice. Along such lines, there is a university-based movement underway (nationally and globally) dedicated to improving planning pedagogy and practice on the world stage. This movement includes the Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) and the Global Planning Education Association (GPEAN). The *Regional Workbench Consortium* (based at the University of California, San Diego and the San Diego Supercomputer Center) is seeking ways to encourage collaboration among the APA's Information Technology Division, GPEIG and GPEAN.

The Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) is part of the U.S.-based Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). GPEIG's mission is to enable planning educators and students to collaboratively: (1) share global perspectives in planning education and research, (2) foster an understanding of the global perspectives in planning education and research, (3) foster an understanding of the global context of local and regional issues; and (4) engender an appreciation of and respect for cultural, economic, and political dimensions of planning; and the recognition of the rich array of planning processes that can be fully appreciated only by learning about what is being done in other countries.

During July 2001, the ACSP and GPEIG took part in the first World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) in Shanghai, China. At the Congress, ten of the world's regional associations of planning schools came together and signed the Shanghai Declaration (Tongji University, July 14, 2001). The Shanghai Declaration is a collective agreement to improve the quality and visibility of planning and

planning pedagogy; it gave birth to the Global Planning Education Association (GPEAN). GPEAN is a significant new network of national and multi-national associations of university level planning programs and schools in urban and regional planning. GPEAN's mission is to "facilitate international communication on equal terms amongst the university planning communities in order to improve the quality and visibility of planning pedagogy, research and practice, and to promote ethical, sustainable, multi-cultural, gender-sensitive, participatory planning."

GPEAN and GPEIG have made impressive progress over the past few years. The second World Congress will take place in Mexico City during July 2006. The *Regional Workbench Consortium* (funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Superfund Basic Research Program) is building information and communications technologies, including planning and decision support systems that will be shared with GPEIG and GPEAN. The APA's Information Technology Division could help facilitate this process—especially the challenge of linking academic initiatives with professional practice. Suggestions from Mike Gritz (Chair, APA Education Division) and Judy Tjong (Department of Planning and Land Use, San Diego County) have been very helpful in this regard.

### The Regional Workbench Consortium (RWBC)

The *Regional Workbench Consortium* (RWBC) is a federated network of collaborative regional-scale research projects and educational tools geared to promoting sustainable city-region development. It is currently led by Keith Pezzoli (Urban Studies and Planning, UCSD), Richard Marciano (SALT Lab, San Diego Supercomputer Center), and Ilya

Zaslavsky (Spatial Information Systems Lab, San Diego Supercomputer Center). The RWBC's primary sphere of concern is the San Diego-Tijuana city-region spanning the U.S.-Mexico border. The RWBC is mostly funded by the NIEHS through the Community Outreach Core and Research Translation Core of UC San Diego's Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP). The RWBC is creating a research translation and outreach mechanism that goes beyond traditional science dissemination channels by also providing organizational and technical support for regional-scale information integration and project-based knowledge sharing among university researchers and students, municipal planners, industry associations and local non-profit organizations.

Pezzoli served as the RWBC representative for one-and-a-half years (Dec. 2002- June 2004) on the San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG's) Stakeholders Working Group. SANDAG appointed the Stakeholders to help the agency prepare and implement a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). SANDAG's Board of Directors formally adopted the RCP in 2004. In recognition of the RWBC's contributions to SANDAG's regional planning process and to other educational-outreach initiatives, the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association gave the RWBC an award for Academic Leadership in 2004. How might the RWBC effort help facilitate *global-mindedness* in planning education here and abroad, and how might this tie in with the work of the APA, GPEIG and GPEAN? In a nutshell, our strategy involves a *workbench* approach that we hope can ultimately help tie together regional and global networks.

### The Workbench approach

The Workbench approach is an excellent way to provide a gateway to well-organized information, as well as

scenarios of how these resources can be used in research projects. The RWBC is being developed in the spirit of several discipline-specific researcher interfaces such as the Biology Workbench (National Center for Supercomputing Applications), the Sociology Workbench (San Diego State University), the Environment Workbench (NASA), and the Scientist's Workbench (Cornell). A good workbench enables efficient data mining, computation using internal/external resources, joining of complex repositories, and uploading of completed research. The RWBC Web site includes twelve ongoing research projects, bibliographic guides, tools, award-winning multimedia narratives, TV documentaries, and other visualization and communications resources. One of the RWBC's founding partners, TELESIS Corporation, has created the San Diego regions premier *Quality of Life* data warehouse. And they are in the process of extending this to the entire U.S.-Mexican border.

One of the first tangible products of the RWBC is what we call the *3D Regional Canvas of the Californias*. It is a solid terrain model (4' x 5' x 6") of Southern California and Northern Baja California border region. This *Regional Canvas* (also available in digital format on the web) was created by a multi-institutional and interdisciplinary team of participants from the U.S. and Mexico. The model is being used to focus discussion on urban and regional planning issues facing the border region, including watershed ecology and the flow of toxic contaminants on land and in the sea. SANDAG points to a digital version of the model on their official Web site for the Regional Comprehensive Planning process.

While developing technical tools/models and building capacity for data integration, visualization, and sharing is essential to  
(Continued on page 8)



### Welcome to GPEAN (Global Planning Education Association Network)

Whatever 'economic globalization' or 'global village' is the very portrait of present world, no one can deny that, it is a wise choice, with world developing, to make every citizen enjoy all the peace, wealth and health maintained by human beings.

Any action to hinder the knowledge from spreading is against the original intension of human.

While on the other hand, to accelerate the spreading of the knowledge is proved to benefit those conferrers and dispensers, in particular the education course. And in this aspect, the discipline of urban planning begins with its first significant step.

Promoted by of APSA, AESOP, ACSOP and ANSAPS, the first World Planning Schools Congress was held in Tongji University in July, 2001. And there were nearly 1000 officials, scholars of urban planning, educators, students and practitioners gathered making a deep discuss on the common achievements in urban planning and construction, communicating actively on working experience, as well as referring to practical experience of the other countries, cities and research partners. Therefore it made a full success.  
[www.gpean.org](http://www.gpean.org)

# How much?



## Zillow.com today and in the future...

Today we are answering what we believe is the first question most home buyers, sellers, and the curious ask: "How much is this home really worth?" Zillow.com calculates a valuation (the Zestimate™) that anyone can see — for free — for most homes in the U.S., including yours. Or the one you want to be yours. Or the one you are curious about. Or ours, for that matter. You can refine the value of any home with [My Zestimator™](#), an interactive tool that allows you to enter things you know about a home but we don't. This is just the beginning for Zillow.com. We'll continue adding information and tools for homes, local markets and real estate to make the home buying and selling process easy and accessible.

### Why "Zillow"?

Once they hatched their idea, they needed a name. "Zillow" evolved from the desire to make zillions of data points for homes accessible to everyone. But a home is about more than data - it is where you lay your head to rest at night, like a pillow. Thus, "Zillow" was born. They knew they had a winning name when employees began talking in Z-language and newly-minted words starting with "Z" popped up everywhere (e.g., Zestimate?, Zindex?).

[www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)

*(Continued from page 7)*

the RWBC's mission, these aims are not the heart of the matter. As a whole, the RWBC's family of partnership-driven projects is animated by a collectively articulated vision to create integrated networks of innovative research-learning collaboratives based on trust and mutually reinforcing synergies. This is much more than an enterprise designed to build social capital among researchers and the end users of data. The idea is to foster a new transborder regional culture and institutional capacity for collaboration manifest in real projects (e.g., infrastructure improvements, toxicogenomics and bioremediation, watershed management systems, and community-based development). The social equity component of these projects raises issues of ethics and normative theory, and opens new challenges with respect to defining the role of academic institutions in the discourse and practice of sustainability.

To conclude, we see three major challenges where prospective collaboration among the APA, RWBC, GPEIG and GPEAN could bear significant fruit:

1. Establish a means for swapping lessons learned among those entities leading the world's best organized regional information systems.
2. Create a global database of curriculum and educational tools in support of teaching integrated regionalism that is sensitive to local and global contexts simultaneously.
3. Chart pathways to better connect global networks in planning pedagogy with global networks advocating sustainability science on the world stage.

Regional Workbench Consortium  
<http://regionalworkbench.org/index.php>

List of Regional Workbench Projects  
<http://regionalworkbench.org/databank/projects.php>

San Diego Supercomputer Center  
SALT lab:  
<http://daks.sdsc.edu/salt/>  
Spatial Information Systems Lab  
<http://daks.sdsc.edu/sp/index.html>



Superfund Basic Research Program  
1. Applying toxicogenomics and biomolecular technologies to environmental monitoring, risk assessment and bioremediation  
[http://superfund.sdsc.edu/research\\_translation/index.html](http://superfund.sdsc.edu/research_translation/index.html)  
2. Integrating Superfund Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge: A Tribal Regional Workbench Approach  
<http://superfund.ucsd.edu/outreach/index.html>

Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG)  
<http://gpeig.org>

Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG), Pedagogy Initiatives  
[http://gpeig.org/pedagogy\\_splash.htm](http://gpeig.org/pedagogy_splash.htm)

Global Planning Association Network (GPEAN)  
[http://gpeig.org/gpean\\_links.htm](http://gpeig.org/gpean_links.htm)

Telesis, Quality of Life portal  
<http://www.qolsandiego.net/>

# Envisioning Growth and Change—A Case Study

*Town of Killington, Vermont*

Communities continually face the challenge of anticipating growth over time. Issues of density, visual appearance, and infrastructure impact are just a few of the considerations facing a community planning organization tasked with anticipating the future. Such was the case in 2005 when the Town of Killington, Vermont began to look at changing the zoning regulations for the community. Driven by economic pressures in a growing “ski town” and wishing to maintain the character of the community, planners sought to find ways to simulate different growth scenarios. Specifically, the town wished to create a 3D virtual environment in a key area of the community and then be able to visualize different development options. Empowered with a small grant from the State of Vermont, the town retained the services of Green Mountain GeoGraphics, Ltd., an ESRI Business partner and recognized leader in the use of 3D in the ArcGIS™ environment.

The first step involved creating the existing environment for display in ArcScene™, using the tools in ArcGIS™ from ESRI. SketchUp® from @Last Software was used to create the existing buildings, signs and other landscape features. Buildings were saved in the ESRI multipatch format. Multipatch formatted buildings are GIS features and can be assigned attributes and participate in some geoprocessing operations.

Changing, adding or adjusting zoning regulations can help a community meet development goals. Changes can also bring unexpected results. Creating a virtual environment can help minimize surprises and allow decision makers to take a proactive approach to planning. Standard GIS tools can be used to evaluate the landscape and identify parcels that are likely to be affected by zoning changes. In this project, GIS analysis of the Killington study area identified a large, open parcel that was highly suited for development. Approaching the project with an open mind, issues of setback limits, density, parking and other changes were explored and presented in a visual format for comment. What would the citizens like to see?

Working in a virtual environment, communities can envision their future and construct zoning regulations that meet their goals. Key to this

success is the construction of the “as built” environment, within their GIS, where the power of their existing databases can be employed. Another important consideration is the use of the multipatch shapefile format to represent the buildings. Multipatch buildings are geospecific in that they know their X, Y and Z location on the face of the earth. They can also be made to look highly realistic. Multipatch buildings are GIS features, just like a parcel or soil polygon is a feature in a property or soil layer. This means that buildings can store attributes and respond to queries and spatial searches. Buildings stored as 3D symbols cannot store attributes.

Creation of new building models is quite easy using SketchUp®. The folks at @Last Software have written a free plug-in to their software that allows building models created in SketchUp® to be saved directly to a multipatch feature class in a geodatabase. Perhaps more exciting to the local GIS administrator is the fact that SketchUp® is in wide spread use within the architectural and development communities. In the future, new proposed structures may be presented to local planning commissions in a digital format for review in a virtual environment. Not only will this allow an assessment of the visual impact of the structure(s), but it can also be reviewed for building setback compliance and connection to municipal facilities. Once the proposed building is actually constructed, the digital model can be permanently added to the “as built” database, ready to assist in the analysis of the next proposed structure.



For more information, contact:  
Gary Smith  
Green Mountain GeoGraphics, Ltd.  
57 River Road, Unit 1030  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
Tel. (802) 878-6746  
[gsmith@gis-help.com](mailto:gsmith@gis-help.com)  
[www.gis-help.com](http://www.gis-help.com)



Existing Conditions



Proposed Grocery/Gas



MU Looking South



SM Looking South



A trade association comprised of tower companies and wireless communications providers, PCIA, The Wireless Infrastructure Association's function is to provide representational services to its members and to provide educational outreach to localities and state and federal regulatory agencies. PCIA directly participates in many local ordinance revision and policy development efforts across the country each year, offering helpful information and input to public planners and municipal government staff.



**Monopine**  
A cell tower "stealthed" as a pine tree

# Facing the Future: The Top 3 Actions a Planner Can Take to Facilitate the Spread of New Technology in Your Community

*By Andrea Bruns and Anne Perkins*

Many communities across the county now find themselves in the difficult position of striking a balance between the need for increased and rapid deployment of wireless facilities, and the mandate to responsibly manage those deployments through existing land use regulations and the local permitting process. PCIA, as the representative of the wireless infrastructure industry, has three suggestions for your community to help facilitate the spread of technology and meet the demands of your constituents in this challenging environment.

## 1. Develop a collaborative, inclusionary relationship with the wireless industry.

A difficult paradox plagues the wireless telecommunications marketplace -- often the first step to meeting consumer demand for wireless services (deployment of infrastructure) is out of sync with the local zoning regulatory process and current local policy on facility siting. Balancing the community's demand for services with the need to responsibly manage siting and land use issues requires active discussions among local officials, the planning community, industry, and concerned citizens. A successful model for accomplishing this involves public workshops where controls, processes and policy can be created which reflect and address the public's as well as industry's concerns.

## 2. Encourage Co-location & Streamline the Zoning Approval Process

Where additional wireless capacity is required due to population growth or market demand, new wireless sites should be typically co-located onto existing structures. Likewise when new services or quality enhancements are being provided in a

market already provisioned with wireless services, the additional equipment necessary to offer the enhancements should be typically deployed at existing tower facilities. The benefits of co-location (minimizing impacts while maximizing utility of existing infrastructure) should be recognized and reinforced in the local zoning codes and related policies through specific provisions and incentives which create a co-location friendly permitting environment.

A streamlined zoning approval process ensures that critical wireless services are swiftly and efficiently deployed. For applicants seeking to guarantee a minimal impact on the community, a speedy application process can get their facility into operation sooner, to the benefit of both the consumer and the public safety wireless user. As an incentive, the streamlined process can encourage certain designs, siting requirements and aesthetic standards, while promoting co-location and effecting a higher degree of certainty and compressed timeline in the permitting process. For example, many jurisdictions only require a building permit, not a discretionary use permit for a straight co-location to an existing wireless facility.

## 3. Develop Flexible, Balanced Codes and Supportive, Forward Looking Policy

Each community should develop wireless infrastructure policy that provides guidance to community staff and applicants, so siting proposals can be appropriately and efficiently developed and more readily processed. Likewise, local codes should be developed that are flexible and balanced in application -- leaving an appropriate degree of creativity and discretion to the applicant and staff, so they can develop reasonable and appropriate solu-

## Spring 2006 InfoTEXT Theme: *Tool Integration*

tions to challenges associated with the proposal. As users demand more services and applications from the workplace to the home, infrastructure facilities will have to be installed to support those demands. Both Codes and Policy should anticipate future advances in the industry and technology so that language revisions are minimized and future decision makers are not faced with the obstacles of trying to control new technologies with outmoded, overly specific regulations.

### Conclusion:

Wireless infrastructure siting affects the community as well as the wireless industry. In an effort to facilitate the appropriate and rapid deployment of facilities and services demanded by the community, it is essential that all participants communicate in the process. An open forum enables community planners to recommend codes and policies that meet the needs of all the parties involved, achieving an optimal resolution. Arbitrary and/or independent action taken without the benefit of a full range of comment and input can be a detriment to a community in the long-run.

PCIA is a strong resource for planners and policy makers grappling with land use and siting issues related to the deployment of wireless infrastructure facilities. PCIA has extensive experience with these issues and can help localities develop flexible and balanced solutions. Moving forward, as you begin to consider the need for evolving technology in your community, we encourage you to reach out to the wireless infrastructure industry.



**B**ecause the world of planning touches so many disciplines, communities and planners are often faced with the challenge of bringing technologies from these disciplines together. In one project, a planner might rely on internet tools, visualization tools, GIS mapping, and impact analysis tools, as well as economic and environmental modeling.

**We are looking for case studies where planners or communities integrated several tools and/or technologies and a discussion of the outcomes and lessons learned.**

For example:

- A project where public participation tools were used in concert with tools that improved the quality of information available for decision-making.
- A project where resource management tools were used together with community planning tools.
- Any project where tools were integrated in a planning arena.

In particular we are soliciting articles and sidebars that focus on:

- Case studies directly from communities
- Lessons learned (both positive and negative) regarding the use of technology in planning

Please submit articles to: Jocelyn Hittle, [jhittle@orton.org](mailto:jhittle@orton.org) by May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



### ESRI Virtual Campus

*Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning Using ArcGIS 9* is now available from ESRI Virtual Campus.

Updated for ArcGIS 9, this course teaches basic urban and regional planning concepts using GIS techniques and ArcGIS® Desktop software. Participants learn how to use ArcGIS tools to address real-world social, economic, and environmental planning problems. The skills and techniques presented in the course provide an effective and efficient means of carrying out urban and regional planning tasks.

Authored by ESRI; Christopher Pettit with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Australia; and David Pullar with the University of Queensland, Australia, this course is designed for professional urban and regional planners in both private and public organizations. College and university students interested in urban and regional planning will also benefit from this course.

The first module of this course is free. For a detailed course description and access to the course, visit [http://campus.esri.com/acb2000/showdetl.cfm?&DID=6&Product\\_ID=849](http://campus.esri.com/acb2000/showdetl.cfm?&DID=6&Product_ID=849).





Plaza West, Suite 230  
9600 SW Oak Street  
Portland Oregon 97223

**InfoTEXT**

## Look for Us in San Antonio!

### Information Technology Division Offerings

#### Information Technology Booth

Booth # 227 Located across the Technical Showcase and the Food Court.  
Come find out about new and exciting things that the division is doing  
Drawing for free membership

#### Sponsored Sessions

##### *Wireless Communications and Local Regulatory Controls* (\$551)

Location/Room: HBG Center Room 207 B  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m.– 2:15 p.m.

##### *Predicting Neighborhood Change with Urban Indicators and GIS* (\$512)

Location/Room: HBG Center Room 210  
Monday, 11:00 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.

#### Meeting and Reception

##### *Information Technology Division Reception, Awards Ceremony & Business Meeting* (X010)

Please check the conference program for location  
Monday, 6:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

## ESRI sponsored GIS Hands-On Workshops

#### Saturday

8:30 AM Census Data Analysis Using GIS  
Introduction to GIS for Planners

1:30 PM Census Data Analysis Using GIS  
Planning Analysis Using GIS

#### Sunday

8:30 AM Introduction to GIS for Planners  
Zoning Case Management with GIS

1:30 PM Growth Analysis Using CommunityViz  
Planning Analysis Using GIS

#### Monday

8:30 AM Growth Analysis Using CommunityViz  
Mobile GPS/GIS for Planners

1:30 PM *Develop and Analyze Smart Growth Strategies with GIS*  
Evaluating Development Proposals

#### Tuesday

8:30 AM Evaluating Development Proposals  
What If? Forecasting

1:30 PM How to Set Up a GIS Program



The Information Technology Division is charting the new technologies for the American Planning Association. Planners everywhere need to understand the use and planning implications of new systems: computer simulation, GIS, telecommunications, and computer-based information resources. [Web](http://www.planning.org/infotech) [www.planning.org/infotech](http://www.planning.org/infotech)

APA's **InfoTEXT** is the Division's newsletter, bringing you current information that is useful for making decisions on how to use the new technologies.

If you are presently a member of APA, it costs only \$25 to join the Division; students \$10; non-members \$40. You may also join at [www.planning.org/joinapa](http://www.planning.org/joinapa)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
LOCK BOX 97774  
CHICAGO IL 60678