

PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY TODAY



American Planning Association
Technology Division

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Technology Division of the American Planning Association

How Can Planners Identify New Technologies That Provide Them the Most Value?

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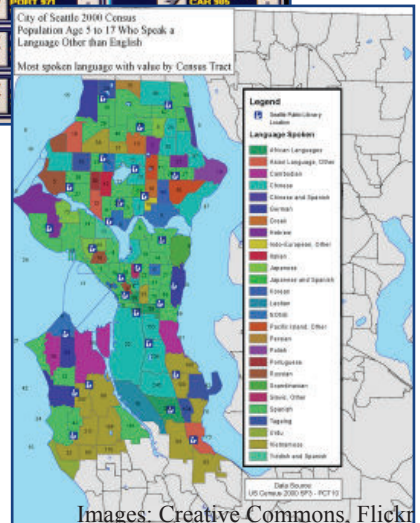
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Images: Creative Commons, Flickr



*Jennifer Evans-Cowley,
PhD, AICP*

*Chair of APA Technology
Division*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP

This month, Harsh Prakash, the Technology Division Vice-Chair, attended the annual APA Leadership Workshop in Washington, DC the weekend of October 3-4, 2009. Division Chairs learned that APA's Board passed an additional fee on them based on their respective memberships, without consulting the Division Council (DC), a council composed of division chairs. This is a fee, \$2.50 per member, which affects our budget by \$892.50 this year and by which we will probably have to cut back in other places. All divisions are now asking through the divisions council how divisions can have input into APA policy issues.

While this is certainly a setback we are moving forward in providing our members with what they need. We will be hosting a session on the use of crowdsourcing at the APA Conference in New Orleans. Not sure what crowdsourcing is? It's the idea of using

the collective creativity and knowledge of a group. For example, I am on the faculty at the Ohio State University. We are using crowdsourcing to generate ideas for redesigning our curriculum.

You can feel free to submit your ideas on the future of planning education at <http://crpsemester.knowlton.ohio-state.edu>. We are working on providing access to webcast training. We are participating in the chapter and division webcast series. We have an excellent series planned for 2010. You can learn more about this effort at <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm>. We are also sponsoring our annual awards program, please see information in this newsletter for more detail. If you have ideas on what the Technology Division can do to help you please let me know. Just send an e-mail to cowley.11@osu.edu.

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION TO HOST FREE WEBCAST

The Technology Division is participating in the Chapters and Divisions webcast series. Members can signup for as many webcasts in the series as they would like. The full schedule is at <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm> For 2010 the Technology Division will be sponsoring a May session... The Technology Division is participating in the APA Chapters and Divisions webcast series. We invite members to signup for our next webcast: "Implementing Planning Support Tools: Best Management Practices for Adoption and Use" which will be held on May 14, 2010. Below is a summary of the session.

Summary: In the fast-changing world of planning information technology, it's difficult to know when to invest in something new. In this session, attendees will learn about the functions of a wide range of planning support instruments, their potential value, and their associated implementation requirements and costs. Drawing on recent research on technology use in local government planning, presenters will provide both urban and rural planners with valuable insight on how best to select and use tools for their specific needs.

Speaker: Jeffrey D. Hamerlinck, AICP, Director, Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center

To Register:
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/331747707>

Members of the Technology Division are invited to register for any of the webcasts sponsored by the chapters and divisions.

To see the schedule and register, please visit <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

DECEMBER TO JUNE

New Partners for Smart Growth and Livable Communities: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities

February 4 - 6, 2010
Seattle, WA
www.NewPartners.org

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute Conference

March 4 - 5, 2010
Denver, Colorado
www.law.du.edu/index.php/rmlui

Where 2.0

March 30 - April 1, 2010
San Jose, California
en.oreilly.com/where2010

American Planning Association National Conference

April 10 - 13, 2010
New Orleans, LA
www.planning.org/conference/

Web 2.0 Expo

May 3 - 6, 2010
San Francisco, CA
<http://www.web2expo.com/webexsf2010>

Real CORP 2009:

The Future of Cities/Cities of the Future
May 18 - 20, 2010
Vienna, Austria
www.corp.at

American Institute of Architects 2010 National Convention and Design Exposition

June 10 - 12
Miami, FL
www.aia.org/conferences/index.htm

If you have an upcoming event/conference/webinar you would like us to include in a future newsletter, please email Stephen Chiamonte at chiamonte@pbworld.com

FREE WEBINARS AND OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES OF INTEREST TO DIVISION MEMBERS

By Karen Rutberg, Education Chair, APA Technology Division

During Summer 2009, the Technology Division completed a division survey about interest in webinars.

Finding interest in a variety of topics, the Division began compiling a list of webinars and resources of interest.

Please direct any comments, questions, and general feedback on the initiative to Karen Rutberg at klrutberg@aol.com.

Autodesk

Offers monthly geospatial webinars on their IMAGINiT application.

http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/event/view?event_id=12614927&siteID=123112&catID=9052235&id=9433218

Bentley Software

This company's Be Employable portal offers unemployed infrastructure professionals with free access to a range of software and training designed for personal learning and professional qualifications. Content includes Bentley's V8i software, and the CADsmart skills assessment.

<http://www.bentley.com/en-US/Community/Academic/BeEmployable/>

CAD-1

Offers a infrastructure and geospatial webinar archive including sessions on the following: AutoCAD Map 3D, Autodesk Utility Design and Autodesk Topobase for REA, AutoCAD MAP 3D, Civil 3D 2010.

<http://www.cad-1.com/Content/WebinarArchiveISD.aspx>

Directions Media

This page provides a listing of webinars produced by Directions Media and sponsored by a variety of companies. The information in each webinar is designed to be educational and provides a more detailed understanding of solutions offered by these companies. A selection of the 18 webinars listed includes: ESRI's Free Web Mapping APIs to Build Rich Internet Applications, How DigitalGlobe and Intermap Benefit from Oracle Spatial, Business Case:

Meeting Community Needs by Leveraging Enterprise GIS Solutions, SPOTMaps for Your Apps - How to easily access high-resolution imagery data when budgets are tight.

<http://www.directionsmag.com/sponsors/webinar.php>

ESRI

ESRI offers more than 100 free trainings on the web on a variety of topics for audiences with different levels of expertise.

<http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm>

Intermap

This company's Terrainscapes Free Webinars focus on how Intermap's high-resolution 3D digital elevation models (DEMs) are enabling GIS and geospatial applications across a wide range of industries, including GIS, engineering, automotive, GPS, risk management, wind energy, environmental planning, wireless communications, 3D visualization, and more. The topical 45-minute interactive events feature geospatial and application-specific discussions by mapping experts, value-added partners, and end users who have successfully used our precise DEMs to develop a host of unique solutions.

<http://www.intermap.com/right.php/pid/6/sid/38>

Mathworks

Offers a webinar on geospatial data analysis using MATLAB.

<http://www.mathworks.com/company/events/webinars/wbnr30805.html?id=30805&p1=16341&p2=16342>

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE AICP EXAM?

By Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP and Chris Steins, M. Pl.

The comprehensive planning examination for acceptance into the American Institute of Certified Planners is the only certification exam for practicing urban planners. The exam is given at over 300 testing sites in the U.S. and Canada, and offered twice a year in two testing windows for two weeks in both May and November. The testing period for this Fall is November 9-23.

How, When To Register?

Beginning with the 2005 exam cycle, AICP has introduced a new application that combines the application and registration steps into one form and one fee. This eliminates the previous two forms and separate fee payments, and makes the process easier for applicants. Education and employment verifications for each degree and job listed in the application will continue to be required in order for your application to be considered complete for review. Fees are \$485 for new applicants and \$425 for returning applicants.

Do You Qualify?

In order to take the exam, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a current member of APA
2. Be engaged in professional planning
3. Have completed a requisite number of years of education and professional planning experience (Most commonly, 2 years of experience with a graduate degree in planning, 3 years with a bachelor's degree in planning, but other combinations are possible: <http://www.planning.org/certification/eligible.htm>)

Preparing for the Exam

There are a variety of ways to prepare for the exam:

Seminars

There are a variety of possible preparation techniques. Many APA Chapters have professional development officers that provide or arrange for day-long seminars that introduce the exam and some of the topics. Contact your Chapter's Professional Development Officer for more information

CPC Study Manual for the AICP Exam

A good place to start is the APA's Chapter Presidents Council's CPC Study Manual. The purpose of this self-study manual is to help review basic planning concepts and to practice skills that are necessary for taking a multiple-choice test.

More information on the CPC Study Manual: <http://myapa.planning.org/certification/studymanual.htm>

Online Courses

If you'd like to start your studying early, and interact with students from around the US, consider an online course to guide your studying. The Planetizen AICP Exam Online Preparation Course, for example, is organized into a series of eight topics with a total of about 50 lessons. Each lesson is about 20-30 minutes to complete, enabling you to fit in a little studying whenever you have time -- during a lunch break, before work, or after you put the kids to bed. More than 10 hours of video presentations are also included, offering students a visual way to prepare. The course also provides over 450 sample questions, including a pretest exam and two sample exams. The course also

To register for the AICP Exam, visit the APA website:

www.planning.org/certification



American Institute of Certified Planners

AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice.

AICP EXAM (CONTINUED)

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includes five discussion forums to interact with other students and course staff, and ask any questions you might have as you prepare for the exam.

More information about Planetizen's AICP Exam Online Preparation Course:
<http://www.planetizen.com/courses/aicp/>

Study Groups

If you live in an urban area, there are likely to be many others who will also be taking the exam. Using your Section's PDO or individual networking to create a study group of 4-6 people. Take turns preparing sample questions and "study sheets" on specific topics to share with the other members of the group. Study groups can be a great way to keep you motivated and studying for the exam when things get busy at work.

What's on the Exam?

The AICP Comprehensive Planning Examination consists of 170 multiple choice questions (20 of which are pre-test and do not count toward the final score) in two main areas: Knowledge (40 percent) and Skills (60 percent). In order to pass the exam, candidates must receive a score of 55 or higher. A score of 55 means that you got approximately 75 percent of the questions correct. Your score is in no way related to the percent of questions that you got correct. The exam is weighted as follows:

- History, Theory and Law [15%]
- Plan Making and implementation [30%]
- Functional Areas of Practice [25%]
- Spatial Areas of Practice [15%]
- Public Participation and Social Justice [10%]
- AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Practice [5%]

More details:

<http://www.planning.org/certification/faq.htm>

About the Authors

Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1999 and is an Associate Professor and Section Head of City and Regional Planning at the Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University. She can be contacted at cowley.11@osu.edu.

Chris Steins, M.PL is co-editor of Planetizen (www.planetizen.com), and CEO of Urban Insight, a Los Angeles-based web development firm focused on providing technology services to the urban planning community. He can be contacted at steins@urbaninsight.com.

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AWARDS: DIGITAL STORYTELLING AS LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION TOOL IN PLANNING

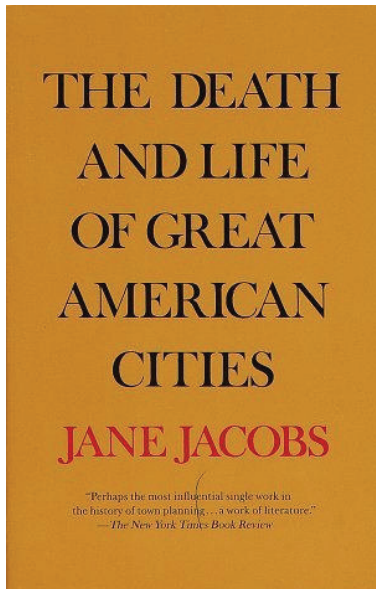
By Bonnie J. Johnson, Ph.D., AICP, University of Kansas

In a juxtaposition of old and new, graduate planning students at the University of Kansas brought to life major figures from planning's past like Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses while learning new communication tools relevant to planning's future. Instead of the standard research paper, the major, culminating assignment for graduate students in the History and Theory of the Planning Process course is a digital story. A digital story is a multimedia narrative combining music, sound, text, and images.

For the assignment, students were divided into teams of three and assigned a major person or event from planning history. Each team produced an eight minute digital story explaining why the person/event is important to planning history, how that person/event used or influenced planning theory, and how the person/event shaped what planners do today. Multiple learning goals are accomplished in this one assignment as students link history and theory with planning practice, learn multimedia production skills which will help them communicate with the public in the digital age, gain experience working in teams, and practice using stories as a communication device.

Like other accredited planning programs, the University of Kansas offers a class in planning history and theory to help new students orient themselves within the larger context of the planning profession. Over time, expectations for future planners have shifted with today's planners urged to be master communicators in addition to being analysts. This shift can be seen in how the requirements for this course have changed over time here at KU. From 1995 to 2001,

writing skills were emphasized with the course occasionally requiring an exam. In 2001, an oral presentation assignment was added, but starting in 2007 the assignments not only develop written and oral communication skills but also multi-media capabilities.



Using new technologies, students at the University of Kansas brought the spirit of Jane Jacobs to life.

Digital storytelling is a valuable pedagogical tool where students are able to reflect on course content while also learning practical skills they can use in planning practice. Georgetown's Digital Commons describes digital storytelling in the classroom as "a powerful way (for students) to produce work that is both creative and critical" (Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship 2008, np). The assignment also allows students to develop as storytellers. Planners use storytelling to help communities think about where they have been and where they are going (Throgmorton 2007). Finally, advancements in video production and use of the Internet allows planners to reach out to the public like never before and "humanize what might otherwise seem like an opaque process" (Steins and Stephens 2008, 35). In addition to enhancing learning, digital storytelling introduces students to new ways of communicating with and educating the public.

In the digital stories, students connect a major planning figure/event with planning theory as they seek to understand "what does the planning profession profess and why?" For example, in the theoretical portion of the course students learn how the rational approach to planning has been replaced over time with more of a collaborative approach. With this assignment,

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References

Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship. 2009. Georgetown Digital Commons. Georgetown Univ. 2008 [cited Jan. 23 2009]. from <https://digitalcommons.georgetown.edu/digitalstories.php>.

Steins, Chris, and Josh Stephens. 2008. Building Cities in the Virtual World. *Planning* 74 (4):32-37.

Throgmorton, James A. 2007. Inventing the Greatest: Crafting Louisville's Future out of Story and Clay. *Planning Theory* 6 (3):237-262.

All four of the sample digital stories can be viewed via this link:
http://ids.ku.edu/john/bonnie_johnson/digital_stories/bjohnson_digitalstories.html

Also, two of the stories are on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvWB8R8yqAA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QB0IUf8Zr1o>

APA TECHNOLOGY DIVISION AWARDS FOR THE OUTSTANDING USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PLANNING

The following attachments are mandatory. Submissions lacking these attachments will not be considered.

1. 2010 Information Technology Division Award nomination form.

2. A two-page (no more than 1,000 character) explanation demonstrating how the submission specifically meets the criteria in the order requested under each category.

3. At least one, but no more than five, one-page letter(s) in support of the entry. The letter(s) should offer support for the value of the nominated effort and may not be written by the nominator of the submission, by the nominated individual or by anyone who directly worked on the project.

4. A set of digital images (.jpg format) with a brief narrative for each numbered image may be submitted as appropriate.

For additional information contact Harsh Prakash at harsh@planningnewsvote.com

The Information Technology Division of the American Planning Association will be issuing the following awards at the 2010 National APA Conference in New Orleans, LA. The deadline to submit an award is February 12, 2010.

Category 1

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.

Category 2

Best Use of Technology for Public Participation

This category recognizes an organization for the best use of technology to enhance public involvement and participation in planning and decision making processes.

Eligibility: Open to APA members and non-members in the U.S. Any plan, project, program, process, report, paper etc must have been published, implemented, or completed within two years of the date of submission.

Nominators must assign each submission to one category. No changes will be allowed after the submission deadline. The jury may move a submission from one category to another.

Members of the Information Technology Division Awards Committee are not eligible to enter, to be nominated, or to receive awards.

Deadline: Submission deadline for the Information Technology Division Awards is Thursday February 12, 2010. All submissions should be submitted electronically.

Information about the winners will be posted to the Information Technology Division website.

Category 3

Best Use of Technology for a University Urban and Regional Planning Program

This category 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.

Category 4

Best Paper on Technology in Planning

This category recognizes a student for an outstanding paper on the use of technology in planning. Papers must have been originally written by a single author for a class in a planning program in a US college or university. Master's theses, terminal professional reports, and student group projects are not eligible. Papers may be no more than 20 pages long, including references. Tables, maps, and other diagrams may supplement the 20 pages of text, but not exceed five pages. Papers must be typed and double-spaced with margins of at least 1 inch and 12 point font.

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DIGITAL STORYTELLING (CONTINUED)

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they can delve into the origins of this switch as they see planning critic Jane Jacobs take planners to task for not observing what is going on within actual neighborhoods. Students use their analytical skills to understand this change and then illustrate it through music, narration, and graphics in a digital story. The quality of the analysis is high as students use the same research methods they would use with research papers and turn in sources for their information, graphics, and music. The graphics and overall quality of the videos has been good, particularly considering that this is the first time many of these students have worked on such a project.

At the start of the semester, students look at codes of ethics for planners from around the world to see what is important to the planning profession. Through the semester we go back to those codes and ask, for example, why the code for the Royal Town Planning Institute in the United Kingdom says planners should be “fearless” and use “independent judgment.” Later on, with the digital stories, students are able to study the lives of actual planners and see how their “judgments” impacted their careers and communities.

On the job, planners discover quickly the need to be effective communicators. With their communication skills, planners help communities tell their stories and help people understand the importance of planning for their futures. Planners also play an important part in empowering citizens and facilitating their participation in decision making. Through multi-media tools, planners have more ways than ever to involve and engage citizens in their governments.

Bonnie J. Johnson, Ph.D., AICP is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas School of Architecture, Design, and Planning. She can be contacted at bojjohn@ku.edu.

APA DIVISION AWARDS (CONTINUED)

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Criteria for all Information Technology Division Awards

Originality/Innovation. Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address agency or customer needs. Explain how the use of the planning process in this context broadened the use of information technology within the context of the local situation.

Transferability. Illustrate how the entry has potential application for others and how application of your entry’s components and methodology would further the cause of good planning.

Quality. Winning entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing and graphics throughout the nomination, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used in a thoughtful and ethical process.

Comprehensiveness. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry’s effects on other public objectives. Identify to what extent your entry includes elements important to the local community.

Role of Planners. Clarify the role, significance and participation of the planner; for instance, how in-house staff and consultants worked together. Demonstrate the connection between the success of this effort and increased awareness of planners and the planning process. (Category 4 submissions do not need to address this item).

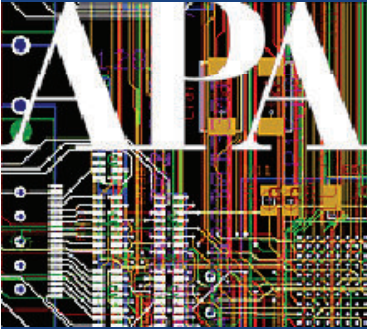
Effectiveness/Results. State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry could have over time.

Judging

Judging for Information Technology Division Awards will take place in February 2009. Jurors are under no obligation to grant an award in any category or may select to move a nomination to a different category. Nominators of submissions will be notified by March 31, 2009. Official announcements of submissions receiving awards will be made after all nominators have been notified.

Award Recognition

Award recipients will be recognized at Information Technology Business Meeting at APA’s National Planning Conference in New Orleans. Information Technology Division award recipients receive a personalized certificate. Each award recipient will be profiled in InfoText newsletter and on Information Technology Division website. The winner selected for Category 4 Best Paper will receive a \$500 scholarship.



The 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.

www.planning.org/tech

Planning & Technology Today 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.

To Join: Send your name, address, and payment to:

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
LOCK BOX 97774
CHICAGO IL, 60678

You may also join at
www.planning.org/joinapa

DIVISION LEADERSHIP

CHAIR

Jennifer Evans-Cowley PhD AICP
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
275 West Woodruff Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1138
(614) 247-7479
cowley.11@osu.edu

VICE CHAIR

Harsh Prakash
IT/GIS Consultant
harsh@planningnewsvote.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Amiy Varma, PhD, AICP, PTOE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
amiy.varma@ndsu.edu

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Milton Ospina
NAVTEQ
Milton.ospina@navteq.com

DIVISION COORDINATOR

VACANT

EDUCATION CHAIR

Karen Rutberg
klrutberg@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Peter Conrad
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
pconrad@mdp.state.md.us

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Stephen Chiaramonte, AICP
PB AMERICAS
chiaramonte@pbworld.com
Rob Goodspeed
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL
rob.goodspeed@gmail.com

POLICY CHAIR

VACANT

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Robert Smith
CROWN CASTLE
robert.smith@crowncastle.com

WEBSITE CHAIR

Steve Kokotas
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stevek@migcom.com

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: *PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY TODAY*

A reminder that the updated format of the Technology Division newsletter will include one or two feature length articles in each issue. We will also be including one page "spotlights" on various technologies and tools of interest. Our regular one page spotlights will cover Public Participation, GIS, Online Tools, Visualization, and Scenario Planning.

Division Leadership will be writing the spotlights. But we still need submissions for our feature length articles. For these articles, we are looking for case studies that demonstrate how planners and/or communities have used technology in

planning. What are the innovative tools and techniques applied; what worked well and what did not?

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 technology in public participation.

Please submit your abstract ideas to: Rob Goodspeed, via email at rob.goodspeed@gmail.com.