



APA Board of Directors – Task Force Report

BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 25, 2009

TO: APA Board of Directors

FROM: Robert B. Hunter, FAICP
Bruce A. Knight, FAICP
David M. Siegel, FAICP
Rebuilding America Co-Chairs

SUBJECT: National Infrastructure Investment Task Force Status Report

ADOPTED POLICY:
Yes

TYPE OF REPORT:

- Action
- Information

CONSENT AGENDA

- Yes
- No

FISCAL NOTE:

All activities will be funded from the biennial 2010-2011 adopted budget.

RELATES TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOAL: GOAL 1: TELL THE PLANNING STORY.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD IS INFORMED OF THIS TASK FORCE’S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR AND WHAT STEPS ARE PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE BOARD:

NONE

Overview

Through its National Infrastructure Investment Task Force and its initiative, *Rebuilding America*, APA is working to engage members, APA components, and its allies and partners in a national conversation about how to address our infrastructure crisis and increase investment in building communities of lasting value.

The mission of the task force is to evaluate current conditions and challenges affecting the nation’s vital infrastructure, develop a new vision for the nation’s infrastructure, and identify specific recommendations for changes in public policy, funding, and planning

practice needed to meet the infrastructure needs of the 21st century. This work will lay out a blueprint for action needed to increase and improve performance, competitiveness, community quality of life, citizen choice, equity, and efficiency. The task force's work and recommendations will become linked to key legislative initiatives, federal infrastructure commissions, existing and potential programs, and funding mechanisms. Also, the task force recognizes the need for planners to play a leadership role in bringing their comprehensive perspective to capital improvement projects and programs in the communities they serve.

The task force is led by the three co-chairs: APA President Robert Hunter, FAICP; APA President – elect Bruce Knight, FAICP; and APA Immediate Past President David Siegel, FAICP. In addition, eight planning experts were recently appointed to (co-)chair six infrastructure sub-categories: *Transportation* – Robert A. Leiter, FAICP and Diana C. Mendes, AICP; *Water and Wastewater* – Kelli Sertich, AICP and Joseph A. Scorcio, AICP; *Energy* – Ingrid N. Kelly; *Technology and Telecommunications* – Kathleen McMahon, AICP; *Public Facilities* – Paul S. Tischler; and *Green Infrastructure* – Karen S. Walz, FAICP.

On October 20, 2008 APA hosted the National Design Professionals Infrastructure Summit in Washington, DC. The Summit brought planners, architects, landscape architects, and engineers together to engage in a focused discussion on the state of the nation's infrastructure. Participants set their sights forward by beginning to outline a new vision for federal infrastructure policy and investment. During the day-long series of sessions and events, U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) – a strong proponent of infrastructure policy reform - challenged the group to consider new dynamics and funding structures to renew America's transportation systems, infrastructure, and economic engines.

Following the October 2008 Summit, the task force immediately began conducting a series of regional field hearings throughout the United States to identify major issues of local regional concern related to infrastructure policy and investment. The nationwide hearings convened regional leaders, planners, issue experts, academics, allied professionals, and engaged citizens. In addition to a review of some of the existing data and initiatives related to the current state of U.S. infrastructure, this preliminary report provides an outline of the task force's activities since the Summit, which has primarily been the organization of regional field hearings across the country, promotion of the initiative, and engaging APA members and other allies to participate in a nationwide dialogue on infrastructure investment.

Regional Field Hearings: October 2008 – April 2009

To date, the task force has held seven field hearings in the following locations: Seattle, WA; Chicago, IL; Washington, D.C.; Tallahassee, FL; Arlington, TX; Lincoln, NE; and Ontario, CA (with one last hearing tentatively scheduled for Durham, NC in late April). Below is a reporting of the findings from each of the hearings.

Washington

APA initiated its regional field hearing series in Seattle on October 28, 2008 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Chaired by AICP President, Graham Billingsley, AICP, the Seattle hearing focused on infrastructure issues within the Seattle metropolitan area, as well as the Pacific Northwest. Local and regional practitioners and stakeholders included:

- Charles Howard, Director of Transportation Planning, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Dori Costa, Manager Revenue & Capital Development, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Ivan Miller, AICP, Principal Planner, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Matt Sheldon, AICP, Program Manager, Policy & Planning Division, Sound Transit
- Paul Inghram, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Bellevue, WA

Illinois

In order to gauge the state of infrastructure in the Great Lakes region of the Midwest, APA hosted a field hearing in Chicago on November 20, 2008. Hosted at the APA General Office, Executive Director Paul Farmer, FAICP, gave opening remarks and welcomed the participants to the second public forum of the Rebuilding America agenda. Bruce A. Knight, FAICP, President-elect and Task Force Co-Chair, led the hearing's discussions. The day's agenda focused primarily on the Chicago metropolitan area, but the participants did not overlook the regional linkages to Great Lakes region and vital network of rivers and locks that cross many jurisdictional and state boundaries. The opening panel of experts and practitioners included:

- Josh Ellis, Community Building Associate, Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council
- Jim Farrell, Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Council
- Ron Thomas, AICP, Ron Thomas & Co.
- Curt Wiley, Executive Director, ULI Chicago Council

Washington, D.C.

On December 16, 2008, planners, policy staff, and industry experts throughout the National Capital area gathered to discuss the state of infrastructure and to share ideas facing resource planning and investment in Washington, D.C. and the Mid-Atlantic region. Hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, COG Executive Director David Robertson welcomed APA's Infrastructure Investment Task Force and its third field hearing on the state of the nation's infrastructure. APA Executive Director and CEO, Paul Farmer, FAICP, gave opening remarks describing the Rebuilding America initiative, while Jason Jordan, APA Director of Policy, chaired the forum. The opening panel set the stage for the day's discussions and included:

- Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, MWCOG
- Sarah Kline, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- Sam Black, Senior Counsel, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.C.
- Jodye Levy Russell, Engineering Planning Supervisor, D.C. Water and Sewer Authority

Florida

The Tallahassee regional field hearing held February 4, 2009 was chaired by APA President Robert B. Hunter, FAICP, and was dominated by discussion of the economic stimulus package making its way through Congress at the time. With a proposed \$800 billion for tax breaks, infrastructure projects and other measures, the unique legislative undertaking would potentially shape the future policy regarding roads, rail, energy, water and technological investment. Jason Jordan, Policy Director of APA, spoke about the specifics of the legislation. In order to gain perspective on the scope of the infrastructure challenges facing Florida, the panel included:

- Geof Mansfield, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
- Ron Garrison, Executive Director, STARMETRO
- Howard Glassman, Executive Director, Florida MPOAC
- Toy Keller, Florida Ports Council

Texas

The Arlington, TX regional field hearing held March 9, 2009 at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) was moderated by the task force's co-chair, APA President – elect Bruce Knight, FAICP. Along with the APA Texas Chapter, UTA School of Architecture and UTA School of Urban and Public Affairs co-hosted the hearing. The Arlington hearing primarily highlighted the major growth and potential of the booming Central Texas region. North Texas is the fourth largest metro region in the U.S. (behind only New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago). Since World War II, the region has experienced several major stages of outward expansion and growth, signaling an unsustainable pattern of infrastructure investment. The panel of regional infrastructure experts included:

- Karen Walz, FAICP, Project Manager, Vision North Texas and Principal, Strategic Community Solutions
- Michael Neuman, AICP, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University
- Dan Kessler, P.E., Assistant Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Tom Gooch, P.E., Vice President, Water Planning Group, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
- Kenneth Donohoo, P.E., Director of System Planning, Distribution & Transmission, Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC

Nebraska

Chaired by APA President Robert Hunter, FAICP, the full-day regional field hearing in Lincoln was held March 20, 2009 at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and focused on the infrastructure needs of Nebraska and surrounding states. The day’s panelists, which included representatives and experts on rail, highways and bridges, aviation, trails, water and sewer, electric transmission, wind energy, sustainability, and funding, included:

- Joe Bateman – Vice President, Public Affairs, Northern Region – Union Pacific Railroad
- Allan Abbott – Aide to Senator Ben Nelson; former Public Works Director for the City of Lincoln; and former Director of the Nebraska Department of Roads
- Aemal Khattak – Associate Professor of Civil Engineering – UNL
- Russ Gaspers, P.E. – Head of Engineering – Nebraska Department of Aeronautics
- Marty Shukert, FAICP – RDg Planning and Design
- Steve Riehle, P.E. – Public Works Director/City Engineer – City of Grand Island, Nebraska
- Mike Sousek – Rural Water Manager – Lower Platte North Natural Resource District
- Lawrence E. Ciecior, P.E. – Division Manager, System Planning & Work Management – Omaha Public Power District
- John Richards, P.E. – Nebraska Public Power District
- Kevin Nordmeyer, AIA – Director of the Iowa Energy Center – Iowa State University
- Roger Meeks – USDA (Lincoln)

California

After initially focusing on the infrastructure needs of the Pacific Northwest at the first field hearing, the Rebuilding America initiative convened outside of Los Angeles on April 1, 2009 to receive testimony on the state of infrastructure in Southern California. Kurt Christiansen, AICP, President of the California Chapter gave opening remarks on the chapter’s initiatives to increase awareness on the role of planning in addressing infrastructure challenges. The hearing was chaired by David Siegel, FAICP, Immediate Past-President and Task Force Co-Chair. Representing a variety of fields and expertise - and coming from Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego - the panel included:

- Robert A. Leiter, FAICP, Director, Land Use and Transportation Planning, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
- Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., Groundwater Replenishment System Program Manager, Orange County Water District
- Larry Rillera, Energy Commission Specialist, California Energy Commission
- Mike Zdon, San Diego to Los Angeles Via Inland Empire Project Director, California High Speed Rail

- Katherine Aguilar Perez, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute (ULI) Los Angeles

North Carolina

A final Regional Field Hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2009 in Durham, North Carolina, in a partnership with Duke University. This field hearing is expected to draw several members of Congress, and will include significant contributions to the program and panel from the academic community in the Research Triangle area.

Existing Literature and Initiatives Related to Infrastructure

The following is a compilation of prominent association and think tanks' findings and projects on the current state of the infrastructure in the United States.

American Society of Civil Engineers

Six "Report Cards" detailing the state of American infrastructure have been released since 1998, most recently in 2009. Since their creation, the Report Cards have been cited in publications and studies, and referenced by elected officials as a guide for policy decisions. Each report card offers a letter grade to various aspects of the nation's infrastructure, with a breakdown by state, and an overall grade for the nation. As a result of a "inventory" of the nation's infrastructure, ASCE has developed five overarching recommendations to help address the declining state of most infrastructure and the difficulty of providing adequate funding:

- Increase federal leadership in infrastructure;
- Promote sustainability and resilience;
- Develop federal, regional, and state infrastructure plans;
- Address life cycle costs and ongoing maintenance;
- Increase and improve infrastructure investment from all stakeholders.

More information is available here:

<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

More information on the policy recommendations can be found here:

http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/sites/default/files/RC2009_5key.pdf

New America Foundation

NAF launched an American Infrastructure Initiative in a coordinated effort among members of the institute to promote economic growth, global competitiveness and middle-class prosperity in America through national infrastructure that is state-of-the-art, energy efficient, environmentally sound and secure. The American Infrastructure Initiative, co-sponsored by the Economic Growth Program and the Next Social Contract Program and directed by Michael Lind, provides informed commentary about America's

infrastructure needs and analyzes specific proposals for funding and building the next American infrastructure.

US Chamber of Commerce

The “Let’s Rebuild America” is focused on long-term plans for maintaining, modernizing and expanding the nation’s infrastructure. The initiative focuses on advancing public awareness, expanding research efforts, and gathering political support toward four key goals:

- Establish infrastructure as a core economic issue and a high priority at all levels of government.
- Engage the public to support sound policies and greater public and private infrastructure investment.
- Remove obstacles to private investment in infrastructure capacity and promote policies that streamline project delivery.
- Ensure adequate public sector investment guided by effective policies and programs.

To that end, the Chamber released a series of policy recommendations for improving United States' transportation, energy, telecommunications, and water networks at a national infrastructure summit in December, 2008.

More information is available here:

<http://www.uschamber.com/infrastructure.htm>

Policy recommendations are available here:

http://www.uschamber.com/assets/lra/081209lra_transition.pdf

Building America’s Future

The “Building America’s Future” initiative is headed by Governor Edward Rendell of Pennsylvania, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York. Created in 2007, the bipartisan coalition is seeking to lead elected officials and organizations in a coordinated effort to advocate for increasing the nation's infrastructure investments and reforming national infrastructure policy. Specifically, these policies would promote the revitalization of urban centers and economic competitiveness, with a focus on strategic planning, economic analysis, accountability and rigorous performance standards for U.S. infrastructure investment.

More information is available here:

<http://www.investininfrastructure.org/>

Regional Plan Association/America 2050

The "Rebuilding and Renewing America" campaign was launched in an effort to create a National Infrastructure Investment Plan that identifies opportunities to integrate roads, rail, ports, energy transmission, broadband, and water infrastructure. The goal is to

provide a strategy to improve infrastructure which will promote global competitiveness, environmental sustainability and social equity, while transitioning away from fossil-fuel dependence. To accomplish these goals, America 2050 will host large-scale regional meetings to help identify key infrastructure priorities in 11 defined “mega-regions” around the country throughout 2008 and 2009.

More information is available here:

<http://www.america2050.org/infrastructure.html>

Brookings Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative

The Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative was created to develop timely, independent analysis, frame key debates, and offer policy recommendations to help leaders in the U.S. and abroad address key infrastructure challenges. This effort has a specific emphasis on transportation, building on 10 years of research and policy development within the Brookings Institute. The result has been the production of a book, policy briefs, reports, op-eds and media reports, Congressional testimony and presentations - all highlighting the need for reform of the nation’s infrastructure policies. In addition to promoting global competitiveness, the initiative seeks to address growing national concern over the condition and quality of our existing infrastructure, difficulties and lack of choices in moving people and goods, and major national problems like climate change, foreign energy dependence, and strained household budgets.

More information is available here:

<http://www.brookings.edu/metro/Infrastructure-Initiative.aspx>

Promotion and Member Engagement

To support APA in its outreach and educational efforts, Rebuilding America launched an online forum to engage members, allies, and the general public in a conversation on the state of the nation’s infrastructure. The online forum is located on the social networking site NING. To date, the number of registered users on the online Rebuilding America forum is over 175. Users have and continue to post their comments and questions regarding local infrastructure issues and national policy. In addition, APA staff and users have uploaded documents, reports, videos, and presentations to continue to provide the forum with the latest and most accurate information with regard to activities at the local, state, and federal levels.

Next Steps for Rebuilding America

The task force’s work and recommendations will become linked to key legislative initiatives, federal infrastructure commissions, existing and potential programs, and funding mechanisms. Beginning in the summer of 2009 and through 2010, a series of town hall meetings will be held across the country coordinated through APA’s state chapters. A toolkit, currently in development, will be available to facilitate the planning,



conducting, and reporting of each town hall. The purpose of the town halls is to engage planners, local leaders, and citizens in discussion about infrastructure issues and the implementation of policy and practice recommendations.

APA staff will continue to engage members, leadership, and the task force co-chairs and subcommittee chairs in order to create an ongoing dialogue about the direction of Rebuilding America. A final report detailing the state of infrastructure and policy recommendations will be released by the October 2009 Federal Policy and Program Briefing.

The three-year Rebuilding America effort is scheduled to conclude at APA's National Planning Conference in Boston in April 2011.



National Infrastructure Investment Task Force – Rebuilding America

Roster:

Robert B. Hunter, FAICP	Co-chair
Bruce A. Knight, FAICP	Co-chair
David M. Siegel, FAICP	Co-chair
Ingrid N. Kelley	Energy Task Force Co-Chair
Robert A. Leiter, FAICP	Transportation Task Force Co-Chair
Kathleen McMahon, AICP	Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Co-Chair
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