Planning Minnesota

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Planning and the ‘Smart City’

According to the APA’s Smart Cities and Sustainability Initiative Report, a “Smart City” is a city that leverages information and data, communication tools, and technology to “engage citizens, delivery city services, and to enhance urban systems”. Monumental advances in technology and data management over the past two decades, coupled with a global increase in the percentage of the population residing in urban areas, have paved the way for the increased integration of technological networks into the built environment and public engagement processes. Cultural dynamics are trending a demand for increased public accountability, constant access to real-time data, and a growing awareness of the need to develop cleaner and more cost-effective infrastructure systems. So, is your city ready to be “smart”?

According to the APA report, here are four components to be advocating for in your communities, in order to advance into the future:

**Broadband network expansion** – High-speed broadband networks will become a staple of Smart City technology. The definition of “high speed” is continuously changing, and the demand for streaming services and cloud computing are pushing the limits of what is considered fast and reliable access. The State is continuing to invest in broadband network expansion, so stay in tune with grant opportunities through DEED.

**Technology and Data applications** – Smart Cities require a “scaling up” of data incorporation into existing systems. Smart Cities put data to greater use, which requires enhanced points of data collection integrated into infrastructure. The Smart City is adept at using data, as well as using data to optimize systems and anticipating problems before they occur. This can include everything from the ease of access of census data, to sophisticated asset management systems, to predictive data that can be used in emergency management planning.

**Sustainability, Resiliency and Energy** – Deploying “smart grids” will allow for automated and adaptable energy delivery systems. Green building technologies will help improve the energy efficiency of buildings, the single largest carbon emissions source in the world. Planners can influence code and ordinance development to help usher in these changes in the built environment.

**Equity and the Digital Divide** – The increasing role of technological services in internet provision and infrastructure raises the important question of access and equity. The potential exists for certain populations to be systematically excluded or underserved by Smart City technology, among these seniors, low-income families, and minority households.

Planners will play an important role in the future of Smart City development, and are already facing important questions related to technology deployment, data collection, and overcoming technology access and equity concerns. How will your community be adaptable and flexible to become a “Smart City?”

*Thanks to Karina Helm, Planner at WSB & Associates, Inc for providing the literature review for this article.

Breanne Rothstein
President, APA-MN
Preserving the Root River

Water is one of our states greatest and most cherished resources. Since 1985 with the passage of the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, Counties have been developing comprehensive local water management plans in order to provide a link between land use decisions and local goals for the protection and management of surface and groundwater resources. This created a local water management system of governance based on County jurisdictional boundaries. It also created challenges for managing water which travels across multiple jurisdictions and requires solutions tailored to and implemented across entire watersheds. As a result local water planning has moved towards a watershed approach of water management and in 2012 Minnesota passed legislation referred to as One Watershed, One Plan. This legislation allows the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to adopt procedures that will guide local government water planning and implementation.

BWSR’s vision of One Watershed, One Plan is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation actions. In 2014, the Root River Watershed in SE MN was selected as one of five major watersheds across the state to pilot One Watershed, One Plan.
and provide BWSR with lessons, feedback, and experience gained from the process in order to help inform a statewide rollout of the program.

The Root River planning area encompasses parts of six counties including Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Houston, Fillmore, and Mower County. Plan partners include the six counties, soil and water conservation districts (SWCD), and the Crooked Creek Watershed District. Houston Engineering was chosen as the consultant to assist with plan development. Partners and other stakeholders were organized into three groups: a policy committee with decision making authority; an advisory committee from state agencies and non-profit groups that provides technical input; and, a planning work group that makes recommendations to the policy committee regarding the planning process, Plan content, carries out the planning process, and with the consultants draft the plan.

With thirteen different partners represented by elected and appointed officials and staff, governance has been a major consideration. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was established in order to provide assurances that decision making spanning political boundaries would be supported and responsibilities of the partners would be carried out and upheld. Fillmore County SWCD was a natural choice to lead the planning effort and administer the grant not only because of their experience and expertise but because their jurisdiction comprises the largest portion of the watershed at 46.4%.

To date the final working draft of the plan has been completed and submitted for review and approval by the Policy Committee. A Joint Powers Agreement will provide guidance on how the 13 local governments will work collaboratively to implement the Plan. This collaboration will ensure that water quality improvement strategies will be completed with greater efficiencies and have the greatest impact. Ultimately, the Plan will provide a framework for prioritizing and targeting land use practices that will result in measurable water quality improvements across the entire watershed.
Leveraging Student Work to Implement Planning Projects

Minnesota is lucky to have robust planning programs at several of our colleges and universities. Many planning programs use Minnesota communities as a living laboratory for student projects. The ultimate goal of professors and students is to provide communities with planning products that can be leveraged into real-world results. Recently, students at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs were able to complete a project that led to the creation of an online database of publically-owned land near transitways. It took just one year for the student’s work to be turned into a tool that one developer described as “a powerful tool to initiate conversations with public entities”.

Metro Transit’s TOD Office was established to implement the Metropolitan Council’s TOD policy throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan region. In anticipation of an expanding regional transit system, the TOD Office works to transform Met Council properties to TOD, coordinate internal and external TOD stakeholders, and be a regional resource of TOD information, best practices, and implementation methods.

In 2015, Metro Transit’s TOD Office approached the Humphrey School of Public Affairs to map all publicly-owned land along transitways. At the time, the TOD office had mapped all Met Council property along major transitways and the TOD Office was interested in adding data for other publicly owned property to have
a regional resource available for everyone to sue. The project became part of a capstone course taught by Lee Munnich, Humphrey School Senior Fellow, and Lyssa Leitner, Washington County planner and Humphrey School Adjunct Faculty. The student team members were Kelsey Fogt, Xinjia Ouyang, John Pierce, Mariana Poskus, and Michael Varien.

In the course of one semester, the student team identified and mapped over 3,000 publicly owned parcels (over 13,000 acres) along the Blue, Green, and Red Lines, the Blue and Green Line Extensions, and the A-Line. On paper, identifying these parcels seems like easy work, but there is no way to automatically search or identify public agency names. The sheer variety of public agencies, coupled with spelling errors and past name changes, was a significant challenge. In total, there were over 100 variations of public agency names and in one case, an agency name had over a dozen variations.

The TOD Office gained the benefit of hundreds of student hours to create the initial database, which was further developed with added attributes. In early 2016, Met Council staff developed a new, interactive ArcGIS Online tool that identifies publicly-owned land along active and pending transitways in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region. The tool is helpful for a variety of professionals, including developers interested in new development opportunities; public agency staff along existing and planned LRT and BRT lines; and anyone interested in thinking about potential TOD opportunities on or near public land. Recently, a workshop sponsored by the Metropolitan Council and Urban Land Institute (ULI) Minnesota was held to launch the tool and over 70 people attended.

This student work forming the basis for a real-world planning tool is just one of the many examples of the great opportunities that come with partnering with our Minnesota colleges and universities. Consider reaching out to Minnesota’s future planners the next time you have a challenging project!
Watershed Health Assessment Framework: "Managing for Health"

Introducing (drum roll, please...) the Watershed Context Report!

Okay, maybe you don’t get as excited about new tools in the WHAF as we do, but this one just might save you some time and make your life easier. Ready to hear more?

You can now download an Ecological Context Report for any major watershed in Minnesota. This document provides an overview of landscape characteristics like elevation and soils, historic and current land use, and population trends for your watershed.

Do you have a work assignment in a new area? Are you writing the introduction for a report or a plan? Check out your Context Report to get familiar with watershed features and set the stage for more learning and exploring.

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3, and 4...

1. Open the WHAF Map
2. Click the 'Set Location' tool and click inside your major watershed;
3. Click the drop down menu next to the major watershed name;
4. Select "Context Report"

What next?
You read your report and now you’d like to know more. That page about soil types looked interesting but you need a map for all of Minnesota.

- Open the "Appendix" page of Context Report.
- Find the page you want to map online.

- Click the "Link to Web Map" button.
- This will open the WHAF web map, add the data and display it statewide.

Navigate to your area of interest; but remember to use the watershed scale buttons across the top of the map to keep looking over the horizon!
Carolyn’s Corner: For Your Own Good

By Carolyn Braun

How often do you get an opportunity or take the time to visit with other planners – in person? Do you tend to stay in your office, only having conversations with your co-workers? Recently I was reminded of the importance of getting out.

Last week I called a meeting of the planners from the northern metro area that are affected by the proposed MRCCA rules. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and discuss common issues, if any, with the proposed rules and use that information to create a joint, unified response to the administrative law judge. As typical planners, our concerns lie in how we can administer and implement the rules.

After working on the rules for four years, it wasn’t too surprising that we quickly moved through the discussion and then spent some time ‘catching up.’ (If you haven’t seen Tim Gladhill’s new baby pics, just ask. He’ll be glad to show them to you.) Soon the conversation became: “We should do this more often!” “We used to get together.” “What have you been working on?”

It is important to spend time with others in your field, to create and nurture relationships, to listen and learn from others, and to simply take the time to get together. The relationships you build in the field are one of the most important things you can do. If you don’t, you run the risk of getting what I call “in-grown brain disorder (IGB). IGB is where you convince yourself that you have all the answers because you never hear otherwise.

Enjoy your summer and thanks for reading!
Upcoming Events

Basics of Planning and Zoning Training
If you or someone on your team or in your organization is involved in community development, then you won’t want to miss this informational and engaging training. The next session of this training will be held Thursday, July 21, 2016, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM in Owatonna, Owatonna Public Utilities Building

Elected and Appointed Officials
- Gain the knowledge and skills to effectively and ethically carry out your responsibilities
- Learn what your role, responsibilities and opportunities are,
- Learn how land-use measures can help facilitate a healthier community,
- Network with professionals and other land-use enthusiasts, and
- Take advantage of the 50% discount offered for elected and appointed officials.

Land Planners and Zoning Specialists
- Stay fresh and energized with this review of the basics of land planning and zoning OR stay up-to-date on the new trends and land uses with this advanced look at land-use planning,
- Updated content to include the connection between land use and public health,
- Earn up to 5.5 AICP CM Credits
- Network with other professionals and land use enthusiasts

Citizen Planners
- Gain the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in conversations about land use in your neighborhood or community,
- Learn how land-use measures can help facilitate a healthier community,
- Network with professionals and other land-use enthusiasts,
- Take advantage of a special discounted rate of $25 for designated workshops.

Don’t miss the opportunity to participate in this important and impactful training and discussion! Spots and discounts limited. Register Now

Hatchery Grounds tour
Tour the DNR’s Historic Hatchery Grounds – repurposed to connect with urban youth – on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. This is a joint event with ASLA-MN.

Every profession is looking for ways to engage diverse communities. The DNR is working with several different partners to provide hands-on experiences as well as access to many different professionals in our organization. Visit the 80 acre natural area that serves as an urban restoration lab, where we forge connections to neighborhood teens working for Urban Roots and other conservation groups. Have a conversation about different strategies that create awareness, not just among youth but within their families too, about our professions.

Meet at DNR’s Central Region office: 1200 Warner Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106 at 3:00 PM. Gina Bonsignore, Regional Planner for the Central Region, will lead the tour, which will be followed by a social hour at a location TBD.

Please RSVP to Suzanne Rhees: suzanne.rhees@state.mn.us or 651-259-5677 by July 22.
Upcoming Events (Cont.)

Propose a conference session

Next May, the APA train heads to New York City for NPC17. Get on board early! Pack your ideas about planning’s new directions into your unique proposal for a conference session, workshop, or discussion. The tracks are laid and the online submission window is open through August 25 for most proposal categories. Start your proposal today!

Charting a Course for Southeastern Minnesota

EDAM invites you to join us on July 28th at Charting a Course for Southeastern Minnesota. This event will feature speakers from Destination Medical Center, Journey to Growth, and Southeast Minnesota Together. Following the program, attendees can walk across the street and hop on the Lake Pepin Paddleboat to enjoy a cruise along the Mississippi River.

The event will be held Thursday, July 28, 2016, 2:30-6:30 PM in the AmericInn Lodge & Suites, 1615 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake City, MN.

During this event you will learn how communities in 10 counties of southeast Minnesota are executing a five-year economic development plan that will grow our regional economy beyond healthcare by focusing resources on other target sectors, leveraging existing regional assets, and creating a brand for the entire region.

To register, visit the EDAM website.

Planning for Water: Complete Streets and Green Infrastructure

Join us Thursday, Aug. 4, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for a discussion of complete streets, green infrastructure and the role of planners in these projects. Earn Certification Maintenance (CM) credits by viewing the American Planning Association’s webinar Stormwater Infrastructure, Lessons from Pennsylvania, and then stick around to hear about local projects with Fred Rozumalski from Barr Engineering!

- 8 a.m. — Continental breakfast and networking
- 8:30 a.m. — APA webinar (1.25 CM credits)
- 9:45 a.m. — Local project case studies and Q&A
- 10:30 a.m. — MWMO site tour (optional)

This is the second in our "Planning for Water" series of webinar and speaker events that will continue throughout the fall. Future events will include Green Infrastructure Zoning and Innovations in Urban Water Systems.

Upcoming Webcasts

All webcasts are held at noon Central Time (1 PM Eastern).

July 15 – Sustainable Communities Division – Regenerative Urbanism Rising: Next-Generation Practice – Speakers: Scott Edmondson, AICP; Joshua Foss; and Charles Kelley, AIA
Upcoming Events (Cont.)

This webcast characterizes the current sustainability challenge as a necessary pivot from ad-hoc greening and net negative mitigation to net positive, regenerative urban planning across multiple scales. These new places will form a fundamental, operational part of a new ecological (sustainable) economy, which further underlines their importance. This pivot is already “in play” through innovation occurring across the planning, design, and build professions. Two practice cases will illustrate this pivot. Participants will gain the understanding and resources needed to begin exploring the potential and advance the innovation and practice of next-generation regenerative urban planning in their own cities. The first case is the innovative, turnkey, revenue-generating, integrated utility system (IUS) which is one method of implementing the Restorative City Standard (RCS). The RCS is a whole systems framework used to formulate strategies to achieve city goals that go beyond ad-hoc or net zero sustainability—that would achieve the systems performance imperatives of restorative, net positive, urban sustainability. This approach illustrates the higher value arising from a whole systems approach to engineering and urban planning. This breakthrough innovation will be described further with a study prepared for San Francisco’s Central SoMa Area Plan and EcoDistrict. The second case is that of planning and designing high-performance places across multiple scales, from the building, to the district, to the city and region. This case will illustrate a “toolkit” of old, new, and emerging concepts and practices. The presentation will illustrate how a range of the familiar components of good urbanism and the ecological city, including green infrastructure, can be integrated in an approach that creates higher economic value and placemaking quality that could not be realized otherwise, and that is cost neutral and therefore financially feasible. The toolkit will be illustrated with EcoDistrict projects in Portland (OR), the U.S., and Japan.

Distance Education – these webcast recordings are approved for CM credit for viewing throughout 2016:
- Housing for People with Disabilities: A Civil Rights Lens - 1.5 CM LAW Credits (#.9008313)
- Ethics of Private Practice Consulting - 1.5 CM ETHICS Credits (#.9016910)

2016 Upper Midwest Regional/ APA Minnesota Conference

Members, mark your calendars for the annual state planning conference for APA MN.
- This year’s conference will be held at the River’s Edge Convention Center in Downtown St. Cloud, MN from September 28-30. Conference hotels include the Kelly Inn and Courtyard by Marriott. Both hotels are connected to the River’s Edge Convention Center. Lodging information will be available in the next newsletter.
- 2016 marks the year in which Minnesota is host to the Upper Midwest Planners conference.
- GTS will offer two training sessions prior to the start of the conference on Wednesday morning.

July 22 – County Planning Division – Regulating Electronic Message Centers – Speakers: Mike Freeborg and James Carpentier

On-premise digital signs have demonstrated a proven ability to increase results for those that utilize them for commercial and community-oriented purposes. However, many communities are relatively unfamiliar with this rapidly evolving technology, and have concerns that these kinds of signs will create aesthetic, safety and enforcement problems for their communities. Nearly all stakeholders struggling with digital signs and their regulation often have the same questions, such as: >What really are these digital signs and how do they work? > How is electronic technology evolving? > Is there any way for the community-at-large to actually benefit from them? > How can we strike a balance between allowing businesses to use digital signs without creating aesthetic concerns? > How do we allow them without looking like Las Vegas, or negatively impacting community safety? > How do we regulate them in ways that are understandable and enforceable, without having to hire additional staff?
Upcoming Events (Cont.)

(September 28).

- The program will continue to feature speed sessions; keynotes will address "Bridging the Gaps: Building our Future Together," and mobile tours are available each and every day of the conference!
- Come join us for making new connections, reconnecting with your peers.
- Attend sessions, mobile tours, and keynote speakers, and view the Awards all during these exciting three days!

Watch [www.plannersconference.com](http://www.plannersconference.com) for updated information.
Registration will open August 1, 2016.

New Report on Walkability

There are 619 regionally significant, walkable urban places (or "WalkUPs") in the nation's 30 largest metro areas.

Foot Traffic Ahead 2016, released today by LOCUS in conjunction with the Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis at the George Washington University School of Business, looked at all of them.

The new report ranks the country’s 30 largest metropolitan areas (including Minneapolis-St. Paul) based on the amount of commercial and multi-family rental development in WalkUPs, and uses a series of forward-looking metrics to predict how walkable their future development might be. The research also uses social equity metrics like housing costs, transportation costs, and access to jobs to understand the relationship between walkability and social equity.

This report is available [here](http://www.plannersconference.com).

Watershed Specialist Training

Applications are being accepted for the fall 2016 Watershed Specialist Training.

The session runs September 6 through December 11, 2016.

Learn more and apply at [wst.umn.edu](http://wst.umn.edu).

"What I have gained from this course will help me tremendously when working with water resource issues. We are early in the process with the WRAPS, so this course could not have come at a better time."

-WST participant

The Minnesota Watershed Specialist Training is designed to help local professionals strengthen their ability to protect water resources. Participants are primarily staff from SWCDs, WDs, tribes, county ESDs, and cities, along with state agency staff and private consultants.

Lessons cover fundamentals and give you practical skills you can apply immediately to your water resource work and that prepare you to meet the next challenge in your career. You’ll learn about:

- assessing the community and stakeholders to more effectively engage them in problem-solving,
- identifying social and physical data needs so you can design a monitoring or evaluation program,
- writing a communication strategy and effectively getting your message across to diverse audiences,
- justifying implementation activities that will best address the local water resource issues, and
- pulling it all together into a work plan that could be used for a grant proposal.

WST is delivered entirely online so you can interact with local government staff from around the state facing similar challenges in developing and implementing TMDLs, WRAPS, stormwater plans, Comprehensive Plans, and other water restoration and protection efforts, large and small.

Apply by July 15th to reserve your space in the fall session. Payment is due by September 5th.

A syllabus and application for are at [wst.umn.edu](http://wst.umn.edu).

New Smart Growth Resources

Smart Growth America has released two new resources online.

A new report called [Amazing Place: Six Cities Using the New Recipe for Economic Development](http://www.smartercity.org) takes a closer look at six cities looking at a new approach to economic development. Boise, ID; Denver, CO; Greenville, SC; Minneapolis, MN; Nashville, TN; and Pittsburgh, PA are using a variety of smart growth strategies to create neighborhoods which are in turn attracting new residents, supporting existing businesses, and growing
Job Opportunities and RFPs

Job Title: Planner
Hiring Agency: St. Louis County
Web Link: http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs
Deadline: July 19, 2016
Salary Range: $22.08 - $25.49 Hourly
Job Description
Professional planning work involving the development and implementation of short and long range planning programs in an assigned functional area of the County.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (Pass/Fail):
Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor’s degree in urban and regional planning, land resources management, geography, or closely related field.
Possession of a valid driver’s license.
Application Instructions
For more information and to apply online please visit us at: http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs.

Job Title: Planning/Community Development Director
Hiring Agency: City of Vadnais Heights
Web Link: http://www.cityvadnaisheights.com
Deadline: July 25, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Salary Range: $83,179 - $99,819 DOQ
Job Description
The City of Vadnais Heights, MN (population 13,000) is seeking a Planning/Community Development Director responsible for planning, performing, and developing short and long range planning and community development activities, economic and redevelopment efforts, and supervising the building inspection program of the City. This position serves as principal planner, zoning administrator, and community development director. The position also would develop zoning land use ordinances and activities along with serving as staff support to various boards, commissions and City Council.
Requirements include a bachelor’s degree (master’s preferred) from an accredited institution in urban planning or related field. A minimum five years planning experience is required with a municipality, county or township, or with a consultant to municipalities, or equivalent. Five years supervisory experience preferred.
Application Instructions
Full job announcement and requirements may be obtained on the city’s website at www.cityvadnaisheights.com.

Job Title: Transportation Planner
Hiring Agency: City of Minneapolis
Web Link: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs
Deadline: July 27, 2016
Salary Range: $67,756 - $92,631
Job Description
Assist in all aspects of transportation planning related to regional and citywide transportation projects and initiatives, including development, analyses, review, and implementation of transportation plans, policies, programs, and systems. This position reports to a Supervisor, Transportation Planner - Transportation Planning & Programming Division.
JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Manage short and long term transportation planning projects, programs, and initiatives in order to positively impact and improve the transportation system.
Communicate and routinely report on the status and progress of existing plans.
Identify opportunities to develop and recommend updates and changes to the City’s transportation related plans and programs, including but not limited to, Access Minneapolis in order to improve the City’s transportation planning efforts.
Assist in efforts to represent the City on regional and citywide transportation projects and initiatives.
Participate in the analysis and review of major public and private developments, some of which may require environmental documents (Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, etc). Represent Public Works with the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees and the community in general to obtain their input and participation on various projects, programs, and initiatives.
Manage and assist in the development and delivery of capital improvement projects.
Responsibility for completion of other efforts/projects as assigned.
REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor’s Degree in Planning, Engineering, Urban Design, a related field or equivalent. Master’s Degree preferred.
MINIMUM EXPERIENCE:
Five years of experience, which have included Trans-
portation Planning, Urban Planning and Design, land use planning, project and contract management, transportation demand and capital planning.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS:
Professional Transportation Planner (PTP) or American Institute of Certified Planner (AICP)

Application Instructions
For more information and to apply, please visit our website at www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs.

Job Title: Planner Senior Transportation
Hiring Agency: MnDOT
Web Link: http://www.mn.gov/careers
Deadline: July 29, 2016
Salary Range: $45,894 - $67,317 per year

Job Description
This position will support short and long range multi-modal planning and research activities for the MnDOT Metropolitan District, Office of Planning, Program Management, and Transit.
1. Lead or support in the development of multi-modal transportation plans and studies.
2. Serve as liaison between the Metro District and multi-modal offices such as transit, freight, aeronautics, bicycle/pedestrian, and passenger rail.
3. Work with stakeholders and the public to respond to multi-modal transportation issues.
4. Coordinate the Metro District’s review of local government development plans adjacent to MnDOT right-of-way.
5. Assist the multimodal planning group with analysis of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit needs on the State Highway system.
6. Develop Equivalent Single Axle Load (ESAL) forecasts.
7. Assist with the public involvement process so that plans and proposals are presented in a way that increases the probability of acceptance.
8. Apply regional policy when working with various governmental agencies.
9. Perform other responsibilities as assigned by the Transportation Planning Director or Transportation Planning Supervisor.

Application Instructions
For additional information about the application process, go to http://www.mn.gov/careers click on "External Applicants" and enter keyword "6423".

Job Title: Comprehensive Plan RFP
Hiring Agency: Johnson County PDS
Web Link: http://www.johnson-county.com/
Deadline: August 2, 2016
Salary Range: RFP

Job Description
Johnson County is requesting proposals from professional planning consultants to prepare a comprehensive plan for the unincorporated areas of Johnson County, Iowa. The consultant will be directed to work closely with county staff to solicit feedback from the community and develop a plan to guide Johnson County into the future.

Application Instructions
Go to www.johnson-county.com and click on Bids, Proposals, Contracts, RFPs.

Job Title: Transportation Planner
Hiring Agency: Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
Web Link: http://www.ardc.org/about/employment/
Deadline: August 31, 2016
Salary Range: $17.70 - $30.65/hr

Job Description
The Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC), a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), and the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth, MN - Superior, WI urban area, has an opening for a Planner to develop or assist in coordinating transportation planning for the MPO area. Improve the movement of people and goods by working with representatives from area jurisdictions in a planning process, gathering, analyzing and interpreting data, report preparation, and giving presentations to Metropolitan Planning boards and committees.
Minimum requirement is a Bachelor's degree in Planning or related field and 2 years professional planning experience; Master’s degree and/or 3-4 years professional planning experience with background in Maritime or Environmental Planning preferred. Sound technical skills and a basic knowledge of GIS. Position requires solid written and oral communication skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office programs.
Salary dependent on experience and education, and includes a full benefits package.

Application Instructions
Visit http://www.ardc.org/about/employment/ for
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont.)

more information and application materials. Application materials, cover letter and resume may be submitted by mail, email or fax per instructions on the website by August 31, 2016. EOE

Job Title: Community Development Planner
Hiring Agency: Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission
Web Link: http://www.umvrdc.org
Deadline: open until filled
Salary Range: $42,000-60,000 DOE
Job Description
The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) is looking for TWO community development planners to develop and manage projects with cities, counties and other organizations in the five-county UMVRDC region of Big Stone, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine Counties.
This position will work on a variety of projects including:
Grant writing
GIS mapping and analysis
Facilitating strategic planning meetings
Capital improvement planning
Environmental reviews
Comprehensive plan development
Telecommunication/broadband planning
Business retention and expansion processes
Researching and implementing community finance methods
MN DEED Small Cities Development Program grant writing and administration
USDA Rural Development grant writing and administration
Survey development and analysis
Renewable energy project development
Transportation planning
Development of County Hazard Mitigation Plans
Transportation Planning
Safe Routes to School Plans
Zoning ordinances
Application Instructions
Job description and application available online at www.umvrdc.org

Job Title: Economic Development Planner (Senior Planner)
Hiring Agency: Vierbicher
Web Link: http://www.vierbicher.com/careers/
Deadline: Open until filled
Salary Range: Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience.
Job Description
Vierbicher is looking for a talented individual to join its Planning & Community Development (PCD) team in our Madison or Milwaukee Metro office. Vierbicher, located in four offices throughout Wisconsin, is a leading community planning and civil engineering firm that maintains a growing portfolio of planning and community development projects with well known private and public clients.
In the role, you will:
Report to the PCD Manager and be responsible for economic, market, and real estate analysis.
Work with PCD team and clients to prepare grant applications, tax increment district plans, economic development packages, financing strategies, and other community development documents that provide a strong basis from which communities can create positive change.
Prepare development strategies and implementation actions appropriate to a particular context (downtown, business park, urban, rural, small & large populations, high/low income).
Manage projects and maintain direct client relationships responsibilities, such as the preparation and maintenance of project scope, budget, and schedule.
Utilize quantitative and qualitative data analysis (primary and secondary sources) to understand the dynamics of local and regional economies (i.e. commercial, retail, housing and industrial real estate markets).
Demonstrate a strong understanding of the philosophies, principles, practices, and techniques of economic development planning.
Actively build your professional network and seek opportunities to present at regional conferences.
Provide high-quality planning and community development consulting services to public and private sector clients in ways that impress the clients and build the Vierbicher reputation.
Maintain a professional presence in the economic development and planning community in the Midwest.
We want you to build your career and reputation by
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont.)

Demonstrating the work being done by Vierbicher.

About you and your skills:

Master's degree in Economics, Urban and Regional Planning, Business, or Public Policy from an accredited university and at least five years of planning and community development experience or a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and two additional years of project experience.

Professional certification in economic development, real estate, planning or other related profession.

Excellent oral and written communication skills for preparing and presenting project reports.

Some relevant project experience in other planning specializations, such as municipal planning, zoning administration, urban design, transportation planning, community workshop facilitation, etc.

Basic understanding of ArcGIS mapping applications and/or the Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Illustrator, and/or Photoshop).

Motivated self-starter that can work independently, while proficiently working within a collective team environment.

You work effectively and efficiently to deliver high-quality engagements to your clients.

**Application Instructions**

Send your cover letter, resume, and relevant work samples to hr@vierbicher.com or apply online at http://www.vierbicher.com/careers/.

Job Title: Assistant Planning, Development & Sustainability Director

**Hiring Agency:** Johnson County, IA

**Web Link:** http://www.johnson-county.com

**Deadline:** Open until filled

**Salary Range:** $69,039.23-$81,222.20

**Job Description**

Johnson County Planning, Development and Sustainability (PD&S) department currently seeks a Assistant Planning, Development & Sustainability Director to provide administrative and technical services to the County's PD&S department and to the general public. Manage the Planning division and supervise staff. Serve as Senior Planner. Assist in administering and enforcing the County’s Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. Analyze policy alternatives and prepare and present policy proposals and implementation measures. Provide staff assistance to various County boards and commissions. Support sustainability initiatives to include sustainable land use policies.

Manage the investigation of and respond to alleged violations of Unified Development Ordinance to include zoning code, subdivision regulations, and building code. Manage the Department during the absence of the Director.

Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning or related field AND three years of related work experience with progressively responsible tasks and one year supervisory experience.

Special requirements: Valid driver's license. May also require use of personal vehicle for official business. Obtain American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Associate professional credentials within 2 years of hire.

Compensation: $69,039.23 - $81,222.20 plus outstanding benefits.

**Application Instructions**

To apply and learn more about this position please visit our website, http://www.johnson-county.com. Applications are accepted until the position is filled. Cover letter and resume required.

Job Title: Planning/Building Enforcement Internship

**Hiring Agency:** City of Hutchinson

**Web Link:** http://www.ci.hutchinson.mn.us

**Deadline:** Open Until Filled

**Salary Range:** $12.00/Hour

**Job Description**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provides information via telephone and in-person to contractors, engineers, and the general public concerning zoning and land use policies and procedures for applying for planning, building, and related construction permits.

2. Accepts applications for conditional use permits, (variances, rezoning, amendments to Zoning Ordinance, vacations, annexations, and preliminary and final plats), as needed, and processes permits (building, sign, mobile home installation, demolition, moving, plumbing). Sends out billings and collects permit fees.

3. Assists with administering local land use and zoning regulations. Provides information about local regulations to citizens, contractors, other City staff, and other agencies.


5. Schedules inspections for the Building Official and
Creating a Parking District Metro Transit TOD Forum

Join the Metro Transit Office of Transit-Oriented Development, along with the team from Twin Cities LISC for an informative and engaging discussion about how to successfully create a parking district.

You’ll hear from local and national experts about their perspectives and experience with parking district planning, financing, and implementation. Following a panel presentation and Q&A, Twin Cities LISC - in partnership with AEON, Kage Imagery, and the Center for Policy, Planning and Performance - will lead its award-winning Corridor Development Initiative exercise to explore the ins and outs of parking phasing, finance, land use, and design.

You won’t want to miss this one-of-a-kind, free event!
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont.)

Building Inspector as requested by contractors.

6. Assists with preparing correspondence, reports, agendas, packets for the Planning Commission and Joint Planning Board Meetings, and other miscellaneous materials as required.

7. Assists with performing duties related to Planning Department.

8. Assists with performing administrative duties for the Rental Inspection program, including accepting rental applications, collecting fees, entering information into computer system and generating letters and mailings for the rental inspection program.

9. Records all transactions and maintains permit files. Maintains plan files on all active permits.

10. Assists with the preparation of the monthly building and plumbing reports.

11. Performs related duties as required.

EQUIPMENT

Personal Computer, lap top computer, and software, printer, copier, fax machine, and telephone.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. Post-secondary education with major coursework in planning, community development, or a related field.

2. The demonstrated ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

3. Customer service skills.

4. Working knowledge of personal computer and word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation applications.

5. A "can do" attitude with a willingness to learn and be challenged.

6. The ability to emphasize attention to detail, be highly motivated and reliable, and project a high level of professionalism.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Office conditions. Temporary intern position - approximately 12 weeks, 40 hours per week. Office hours are typically 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with some early morning & evening meetings. Public contact.

Application Instructions

For a full position description and required Temporary/Seasonal application, please contact: City Center, 111 Hassan St. S.E., Hutchinson, MN 55350-2522, tel. 320-234-5608, fax. 320-234-4240, web-site www.ci.hutchinson.mn.us, e-mail: snelson@ci.hutchinson.mn.us.

Job Title: Assistant Planner

Hiring Agency: Hometown Planning

Web Link: http://www.hometownplanning.com/

Deadline: December 18, 2015 or until filled

Salary Range: $18-20/hour or higher depending on experience

Job Description

Hometown Planning, a private company providing contract land use planning and zoning administration services throughout Central Minnesota, is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Planner (minimum 32-40 hours/week). Responsibilities include assisting in the development of comprehensive plans and ordinance updates, reviewing permit applications, preparing monthly staff reports for Planning Commission and other meetings, responding to public inquiries, assisting in ordinance enforcement, conducting site inspections and other duties as assigned. Some work may be conducted remotely, upon approval. A complete job description can be found at www.hometownplanning.com.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or significant coursework in community planning, urban studies, public administration, geography or related field and demonstrated oral and written communication skills. Preferred candidates will have a Master's degree/coursework and/or AICP certification.

Application Instructions

Please send resume/job history and cover letter explaining interest and qualifications to: Hometown Planning, 324 Broadway Street, Suite 101, Alexandria, MN 56308. Interviews will begin after December 18 and continue until filled.
Leadership Directory

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