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Mobile applications allow planners to access and use information from their smartphones and tablets. Here are 20 free apps that span decibels to demographics. >Go to Story

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Founded in 1984
“The Oregon Planners’ Journal is a forum for the open and free discussion of planning issues in Oregon. The ideas presented in the Journal are the official position of the American Planning Association only when so stated.”

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Suggestions for authors or articles, or comments regarding the Journal can also be sent to Colleen Greer Acres, Ph.D, AICP at shamrock@teleport.com, Phone: (503) 256-5264.
ADS: To place an ad, or for information about this service, please contact Becky Steckler, AICP at (503) 889-6536.

**Membership Information**

If you have a change of address or want to become a member of the American Planning Association, please contact the APA national office, not the Oregon Planners’ Journal. APA national maintains the membership records and monthly mailing labels.

Membership in APA can take several forms:

- Regular members belong to national APA and the Oregon Chapter, thus getting benefits of both national and state membership. Dues for regular APA membership are pro-rated by income.
- AICP members are planners who have met rigorous national standards to become members of the American Institute of Certified Planners.
- Students and Planning Commissioners qualify for a reduced fee that gives them membership in both the national and state organizations.
- Chapter-only members pay lower fees, but are members only of their state or regional chapter, not of the national organization.

To become a member, sign up at: http://planning.org/join/

For more information about the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association, contact Becky Steckler, AICP, Program and Policy Manager at (503) 889-6536 or becky@oregonapa.org.
President’s Message

By Brian Campbell, FAICP, OAPA President

This is my last message as president of Oregon APA, with Jason Franklin stepping into the position on April 1st. It’s been a busy, productive and very rewarding four years. The organization has made some significant changes in that time through the amazing efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers who deserve great credit for keeping OAPA relevant and vibrant. As I have mentioned many times in this space, OAPA depends on the time and enthusiasm of the members who step forward and volunteer to help raise the money, run the programs and put on the events that benefit all of us.

I’d like to thank the out going Board members for their years of service: Damian Syrnyk, AICP, Vice President; John Russell, AICP, Treasurer; David Sykes, Planning Commission County Representative; and Jeannine Rustad, Legislative and Policy Affairs Chair. Damian will transition to the position of LPAC Chair and we are thankful for his continued work on behalf of the organization. In addition, I’d like to welcome two new board members—Tamra Mabbot, Umatilla County Planning Director and our new Vice President, and Jay Renkens, MIG, our new Treasurer. Congratulations are also in order for the reelection of Read Stapleton, AICP as Secretary, and Terri Harding, AICP and Ali Turiel, AICP as members at large.

While it’s not possible in this space to acknowledge everyone who has helped over the last four years, I would like to mention a significant few. First of all, I’ve been very lucky to serve on the Board with many talented and dedicated people who have made this organization stronger, and all of them deserve great thanks for their service. Among that group a few have stood out over the past few years and I would like to recognize each of them with a President’s Award. They are: Amanda Ferguson, Jason Franklin, Jeannine Rustad, Becky Steckler, Damian Syrnyk, and Scott Whyte. They have each given so much to OAPA over the years as conference and other committee chairs and all-around great workers on behalf of our membership that I felt they deserve special recognition.

One of the signature accomplishments of the Board over the past two years has been the restructuring of OAPA staff and the way we conduct the organization’s business. When Pat Zepp announced her retirement we went into a full analysis of how we could re-structure staff to be even more responsive to our members while doing without the convenience of an office space that came along with Pat when she was our staff person. We were able to split her salary and duties and are now lucky to have two very capable and enthusiastic staff who have a lot of history with the organization and have stepped into their roles in a seamless transition. Stephanie Kennedy has taken over the administrative functions as Chapter Administrator, while also maintaining her separately funded role as our conference manager. Becky Steckler has assumed the new position of Program and Policy Manager, giving us a professional planner on staff to assist with the planning projects that have previously been done using all-volunteer help. This alone is a huge improvement in what the organization will be able to accomplish in the years to come.
A couple of other developments in the past few years deserve particular note. We now have an active Membership Committee to work aggressively on growing our ranks, and better serving the needs of existing members. We have recently created an Emerging Planners Group to better integrate the students and younger planners into our profession, and recently revived the Women and Diversity in Planning Committee to do a better job of broadening our activities to serve constituencies that have historically been under-represented.

Finally, I want to thank the planners of Oregon for allowing me to serve as your president for the past four years. It has been an eventful and enjoyable experience, and has also enabled me to be involved in a couple of initiatives that I will continue to pursue in the future. First among these is the Oregon 2050 Initiative, which will be the subject of a half day session at the Oregon Planning Conference in May and builds on the Northwest Livability Challenge work of the Big Ideas Forum last year, and previous sessions at the 2011 and 2012 conferences. Given this year’s conference theme of the Next Forty Years this should be a good way to kick off what promises to be an exciting event and a great set of discussions about this timely topic. See you there!
Top 20 Planning Apps

By Ric Stephens, OPJ Editor

New information and communications technology is available to urban planners and designers through specific software designed for smartphones or tablet computers. These mobile applications, or apps, are tailored for a variety of fields that support research, decision-making and design.

The following twenty apps have specific applications for urban planners and designers; are not site-specific; are available for both iOS and Android, and are free for initial or continual use. They can be downloaded from app stores or searched online.

1 America’s Economy

Economic Development / Demographics

This app provides “real-time updates for 20 key economic indicators released from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis.” America’s Economy tracks employment, international trade, manufacturing, residential construction/sales and retail sales.

2 American City & County

Governance

The American City & Country app delivers local government news. “Regular coverage includes local government policy, politics, management, finance, public works, environment, economic development and technology.”

3 American Planning Association

Urban Planning

The APA app connects members with the national organization and provides “Daily Planning News,” Jobs Online and other relevant information.

4 ArcGIS

Geographic Information Systems

“The ArcGIS app extends the reach of your GIS from the office to the field. Navigate maps, collect and report data, and perform GIS analysis.”

5 AutoCAD 360

Computer Assisted Design

“AutoCAD 360 is an easy-to-use drawing and drafting mobile app that allows you to view, edit, and share AutoCAD drawings. Simplify site visits and fieldwork with powerful design review and markup tools—available online and offline. Seamlessly share drawings with others across desktop, web, and mobile devices.”

6 BAO Business Analyst Online

Economic Development / Demographics

“With the free Business Analyst Online (BAO) app, you can access key demographic and market facts about any location in the US using your smartphone or tablet.”
7 Cyburbia
Urban Planning
The Cyburbia app connects with the urban planner social networking site Cyburbia.org, which provides discussion forums, a job board and other content.

8 FEMA
Disaster Planning / Urban Resiliency
The FEMA app focuses on disaster preparedness, response and recovery information including tracking / updating applications.

9 GoogleEarth
Land Use / Geography
The GoogleEarth app provides mapping and satellite reconnaissance photography worldwide. In addition, this app allows viewing at street level, thematic mapping, oblique aerial photography, and a wide range of cartographic tools.

10 GoogleMaps
Land Use / Circulation
This app is ideal for navigating and researching urban environments and includes:

- Comprehensive, accurate maps in 200 countries
- Voice-guided GPS navigation for driving, biking, and walking
- Transit directions and maps for over 800 cities
- Live traffic, incident reports, and dynamic re-routing
- Detailed information on more than 100 million places
- Street View and indoor imagery for restaurants, museums, and more

11 Planetizen
Urban Planning
“The Planetizen Newswire is a free email newsletter that brings together the most popular news and features from our website into a condensed, readable form in your inbox.”

12 Rex Light Meter
Urban Design / Sensing
This is one of two sensing apps included in this list for urban designers. The Rex Light Meter measures incident-light based on the smartphone or tablet camera. This app measures luminance and also provides information for photography exposure.

13 Sitegeist
Urban Design / Demographics
This app compiles information from a variety of sources for neighborhoods such as demographics, housing, popular spots and weather.

14 Sitewise
Economic Development / Demographics
Sitewise provides market and trade area data for business decision-making.

15 Sound Level Meter
Urban Design / Sensing
This is the second sensing app in this list. Sound Level Meter measures noise volume in decibels from the built-in microphone of your smartphone or tablet.

16 Trulia
Community Planning / Real Estate
Trulia is a real estate app that provides housing
data valuable for community and neighborhood planning.

17 Urban World

Economic Development / Demographics

This is a global urban data app that compares “GDP, population and household income for more than 2,600 cities worldwide.”

18 Walkonomics

Community Planning / Urban Design

“Walkonomics aims to rate the pedestrian-friendliness of every street in the world. By enabling ordinary people and local communities to add a rating of any street, it is hoped that a realistic walkability score will be created for each street.”

19 Walkscore

Community Planning / Real Estate

“Walk Score calculates the walkability of any location and shows you a map of nearby restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, schools, and more. Walk Score is the only app that lets you search by commute time or near public transit.”

20 Zillow

Community Planning / Real Estate

“Zillow is a home and real estate marketplace dedicated to helping homeowners, home buyers, sellers, renters, real estate agents, mortgage professionals, landlords and property managers find and share vital information about homes, real estate, mortgages and home improvement.”

There are currently about 2 million iOS and Android apps on the market. If you are looking for urban planning-related apps, please see the bibliography for more extensive lists and in-depth reviews.

Sources


Hink. (2013) “10 Apps (or so) That Every Planner Should Have.” Cyburbia http://www.cyburbia.org/content.php?r=134-10-apps-that-every-planner-should-have


Ric Stephens is the OAPA Managing Editor; a university instructor and an international planning consultant.
Stay in touch!

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter

Be part of the conversation on the
Oregon Planners’ Network

OAPA hosts an email listserv, the Oregon Planners’ Network (OPN) for planners to ask questions and share information. To subscribe to the Oregon Planners’ Network, send an email to majordomo@lists.uoregon.edu with the following message in the body: subscribe OPN. To unsubscribe, send an email to majordomo@lists.uoregon.edu with the message: unsubscribe OPN. A subject is not needed.
Stay in Touch with OAPA

By Becky Steckler, AICP, OAPA Program and Policy Manager

Email. Website. Facebook. Twitter. There are many ways to stay in touch with OAPA. And if none of those methods work, you can always call.

Last Fall, the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) conducted a communications assessment to see how we could improve our outreach efforts. OAPA uses a variety of tools and techniques to communicate with members, non-member professional planners, elected officials and other leaders, as well as Oregonians across the state, with varying degrees of effectiveness.

Email

Every OAPA member receives periodic emails reminding them of OAPA events and information on a periodic basis. In addition, the University of Oregon hosts the Oregon Planners’ Network, an email listserv where planners across the state can ask questions and get advice from other planners (see box at right to subscribe).

Website

The OAPA website (www.oregonapa.org) has all of the information you need to find a planning job, sign up for the Annual Conference or a workshop, get updates on legislation and policy efforts, download the Oregon Planners’ Journal, and so much more. OAPA is also planning on updating our website this summer or early fall.

Facebook and Twitter

Another way to keep in touch is to like OAPA on Facebook: American Planning Association — Oregon Chapter and Twitter: @OR_APA

Talk to Someone

Sometimes you need to talk to someone because you need to change your registration for an event, you want to volunteer, or you need more information about nominating someone for an award. Phone numbers and a link to all of the OAPA leadership and committee chairs are at http://www.oregonapa.org/contact. In addition, you can always email Becky Steckler, AICP, Program and Policy Manager at becky@oregonapa.org or Stephanie Kennedy, Chapter Administrator at oapa@oregonapa.org about any questions you may have about the Chapter.
A State of Collaboration: The New National Collaborative of State Planners Kicks off with Positive Feedback

By Contributed by Peter G. Conrad, AICP and Zachary Chissell of the Maryland Department of Planning

The National Collaborative of State Planners, a new project of the Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division, was launched in November to create a network within the American Planning Association for state planners in all 50 states.

The Collaborative provides a venue to work together and advance effective state-level planning through sharing success stories and ideas.

A survey distributed to almost 350 state planners across the United States yielded an unexpectedly high response rate and a wealth of meaningful feedback that validates that state planners are indeed seeking a means for increased collaboration.

“Great idea for a state collaborative...It would be good to know what each state thinks it does best - this may be an entire program and not just a best practice.” -- Rhode Island state planner

According to the survey, important issues facing state planners today include climate change, the need for outreach regarding the benefits of statewide planning, and the integration of economic development with planning.

![2013 Survey Responses by State](image-url)

SOURCE: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
Additionally, planning for public health is a growing area of interest that is not well addressed.

Survey results showed that with tight budgets, state planners prefer a free online platform to share best practices, seek and provide feedback, and connect with one another. State planners see the most value in tools such as periodic e-newsletters and webinars that address state-level planning issues.


The Collaborative’s website also features a growing set of best planning practices from across the country. Initiatives such as Massachusetts’ Ocean Management Plan and Delaware’s Strategies for State Policies and Spending are highlighted in addition to multi-state practices such as statewide growth/land use councils.

The National Collaborative is collecting information on state climate change initiatives to be the subject of a webinar this spring. The webinar will explore issues about integrating the related issues of disaster mitigation/response and sea level rise, additional issues identified by survey participants.

Join the National Collaborative at a facilitated discussion at the APA national conference in Atlanta to learn more. The discussion will be led by Richard E. Hall, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, Armando Carbonell of the Lincoln Land Institute, Allison Joe of the California Strategic Growth Council, and Tim Chapin of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University. It is an exciting time for this new division initiative, and we encourage all state planners to get involved and add their voices to the collaboration.

For more information: www.stateplannersus.wordpress.com

Peter G. Conrad, AICP is the Division Director of Membership and can be reached at peter.conrad1@maryland.gov.
OAPA Committee Updates

By Damian Syrnyk, AICP, Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee, Jon Makler, Professional Development Committee, and Angela Lazarean, Education and Outreach Committee

OAPA committees are hard at work on legislation and policy, bringing professional development events to planners, and reaching out to students and the public about the benefits of planning.

Legislative and Policy Committee
The OAPA Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee (LPAC) has been hard at work in early 2014. The OAPA Board adopted the Chapter’s 2014 Legislative Agenda in January of this year – you can find it here at the Oregon APA website: http://www.oregonapa.org/LPAC-

The 2014 session of the Oregon Legislature began in February of this year and is expected to end in early March. LPAC has been tracking over 23 land use bills this session that cover a range of topics. These bills include, but are not limited to:

- HB 4017, regarding local improvement districts;
- HB 4078, regarding the Metro urban/rural reserve decisions;
- SB 1511, regarding the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries (no comments from the peanut gallery), and;
- SB 1575 relating to the processing of raw logs in resources zones.

In addition, LPAC has appointed a Policy Subcommittee to help OAPA track and participate in rulemaking, policy development, and study projects of state and federal agencies. The Policy Subcommittee is chaired by Richard Ross and includes nine (9) OAPA members and is tracking policy activity in the areas of transportation, urban issues, disaster preparation, rural issues, energy, regional planning, sustainability and climate change, and natural systems. If you interested in learning more about the Policy Subcommittee, please contact Richard at richardross@earthlink.net. For more information about LPAC and what we’re doing for OAPA, please visit our website at http://www.oregonapa.org/LPAC-

Education and Outreach Committee
The Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) focused on a Communications Assessment in Fall 2013. The Committee recommended that the
Chapter update the structure of the website as well as make numerous, smaller edits. In addition, the Chapter is working at updating the Facebook page on a regular basis with planning information from around the state and the country.

The popular Healthy Community Speaker Series is back. This year we will bring Jim Sallis, Ph.D., Distinguished professor of Family and Preventative Medicine Chief, Division of Behavioral Medicine at UC San Diego to Oregon from October 6 - 10, 2014. He has done a lot of work on active living, (read more here: http://sallis.ucsd.edu/). OAPA is partnering with the Transportation Growth Management Program, EOC also partnered with the Department of Land Conservation and Development and Metro to host a both at the NW Youth Expo on March 18. Representatives from these organizations talked about the planning profession to some of the 6,000 students that attended the event.

EOC is also working with a teacher from the Beaverton Arts and Communication Magnet Academy to develop an Oregon urban design and planning curriculum. We hope this curriculum will be available by early 2015.

Professional Development Committee

As OPJ goes to press, the PDC is very busy. 15 Oregon planners took an AICP exam prep course with Seth English-Young on February 1st. The application window for taking the exam in November will open on June 3, 2014. Go to https://www.planning.org/certification/2014/nov/ to find out more.

In March, over 65 planners took a public involvement workshop. Topics covered included techniques specific to outreach for developing multi-unit housing, strategies for engaging youth in planning activities, and the emerging trend of sponsored (or compensated) participation. Thank you to all of the Public Involvement presenters: Anyeley Hallova (Project), Pamela Kambur (HomeForward), Erin Keye (JLA), Jessica Pickul (JLA), Kim Armstrong (Washington County), Jeanne Lawson (JLA), Mandy Putney (EnviroIssues), Marty Stockton (City of Portland) and Bill Lennertz (National Charrette Institute) as well as workshop co-chair, Sara Morrissey (Parametrix).

Plans are also afoot for a 1-1/2 day workshop in Eugene this summer. The agenda will include legal issues, urban design and economic development. Keep an eye on the website and on email alerts for workshop information.

Also, save the date for the 2014 Oregon Transportation Summit: September 15th at Portland State University. Please visit oregonapa.org for more information about all of these events.

Volunteer with OAPA

Ever thought about volunteering for OAPA but didn’t know who to contact or how to sign up? OAPA has multiple volunteer opportunities, and in particular we are looking for volunteers outside of the Portland metropolitan region to help bring events and workshops to all parts of the state.
Consider volunteering for:

- **Professional Development Committee (PDC):** The PDC focuses on workshops and trainings for professional planners. We are particularly interested in volunteers across the state that would be willing to help organize workshops. To volunteer, contact Jon Makler at (503) 725-2842 or plangineering@gmail.com.

- **Education and Outreach Committee (EOC):** This committee focuses on education for non-professional planners, from students, to planning commissioners, to the public. We are particularly interested in volunteers that will help with planning commissioner trainings across the state. To volunteer, contact Angela Lazarean at (503) 934-0056 or angela.lazarean@state.or.us.

- **Membership Committee:** The membership committee works to retain and increase membership in OAPA. We are particularly interested in volunteers across the state that would like to plan social events (Happy Hour or brown bag lunches) for planners in their region. To volunteer, contact Read Stapleton at read.stapleton@abam.com or (971) 219-5013.

- **OAPA Board Member:** Start planning now for the next Board election cycle. OAPA will be looking for new Board members in May 2014. To be considered, contact Tamra Mabbot at (541) 278-6246 or tamra@co-umatilla.or.us.
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