Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

2016 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization with 850 members that provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA PRIORITY POLICIES

• **Support Oregon’s planning program.** OAPA is dedicated to making sure that state and local governments have the resources, tools, and expertise to help make great communities happen. It is dedicated to fighting efforts that would weaken Oregon’s statewide land use program. A key provision of this priority is to ensure that Oregon’s citizens can effectively participate in all aspects of planning.

• **Make sure the planning program works in both urban and rural communities.** Great communities are no accident—they were planned that way. Oregon has many laws that are intended to ensure communities think comprehensively and long term about the decisions and the investments they make today and the impact they will have on future generations. OAPA works to ensure that proposed land use policies support local comprehensive planning throughout Oregon.

• **Plan for and fund infrastructure.** Well-planned and efficient infrastructure is the backbone of great communities. An integrated, multi-modal transportation system is critical to move people and goods, safely and efficiently. Planning for water, sewer, and stormwater is essential for fiscally responsible local governments to plan for its residents and businesses. One of the most pressing challenges for local governments is how to finance infrastructure. Federal, state, and local funding is critical to ensure that infrastructure can be designed and constructed to support local economic and community development. Good planning is important to minimize costs and ensure infrastructure is designed to support a community’s goals.

• **Increase affordable housing.** Oregon’s planning program requires communities across the state to plan for all types of needed housing for residents at all income levels. OAPA supports programs and policies that ensure there is affordable housing in well-connected, complete communities close to good schools and jobs. Funding from federal, state, and local sources is critical to support the development of and increase the stock of affordable housing in all neighborhoods.

• **Plan for natural hazard resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation.** Oregon has and will continue to be vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfire, flooding, and winter storms. OAPA supports efforts to help make communities more resilient, mitigate the impacts from natural hazards, and adapt to them.

• **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.** OAPA supports efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses through community design and changes to our transportation infrastructure and proactively plan and adapt for climate change.

• **Support economic development programs and policies.** Oregon’s statewide planning program requires communities to provide adequate opportunities for a variety of economic activities vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon’s citizens. This mandate includes providing adequate supplies of land for employment and industrial development in urban areas. OAPA supports planning policies and programs that support existing urban and rural employers and makes Oregon more economically competitive.
OAPA GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LEGISLATION

OAPA considers the following when taking a position on legislation or proposed policies:

• **Benefit.** Will the policy advance the goals of the Oregon planning program and the APA objective of “making great communities happen”? Does the policy recommend “best planning practices” for both process and outcomes? Does it facilitate effective and meaningful engagement of citizens; help sustain vital, resilient, and healthy communities?

• **Clarity.** What will the proposed policy require? Is it clear? What are the outcomes and products expected from local, regional, state, and federal agencies, businesses, and private citizens? Is this a policy that will help the public understand the benefits of planning?

• **Diversity.** Is the policy helpful and balanced to a broad range of citizens rather than narrow special interests? Do all local governments required to implement the change in policy have the resources to do so? Does the policy support and further equity especially and including communities that have faced historic injustice?

• **Cost.** How much will the policy cost, to the state, the public, local governments, or others? Does it provide for an efficient and equitable allocation? Who will pay?

• **Creativity.** Can we come up with a more efficient, effective and creative policy that accomplishes the same purpose with broader political and public support? If a policy has negative impacts, can we come up with a way to overcome the harmful effects consistent with the proposal’s intent? Can we think of a way to accomplish the purpose in a way that gets broader legislative support?

• **Demonstrated Need.** Does the change in policy address a demonstrated need or problem? Is there evidence that shows the Legislature needs to act to address a need or solve a problem?