



February 2014 VOLUME XXVIII1 ISSUE 2

February President's Message

Ivan previews upcoming education efforts and encourages interested planners to get involved with the Chapter leadership.

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Michael McCormick "Retires" From APA Washington Legislative Committee

Colleagues celebrate his decades of crucial contributions to the state's land use planning and growth management legal landscape.

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Chapter Seeks Candidates For President-Elect

Contact the nominations committee by Feb. 17 if you'd like to get in the running for this four-year role, which begins in July.

[Continues](#)

APA Washington 2013 Membership Report

APA Washington 2013 Membership Report.

[Continues](#)

Wanted: Award-Winning Plans

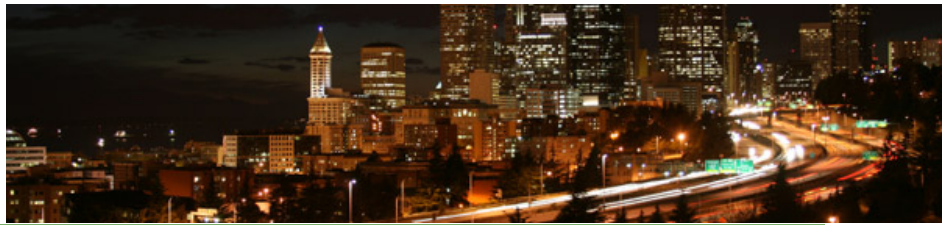
APA is looking for a great economic development plan worthy of the Donald E. Hunter Award. Deadline is Feb. 7.

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Get Trained On Bike and Pedestrian Topics in Portland This Year

Portland State's Institute for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation unveils its 2014 course line-up, starting with a free Feb. 27 webinar.

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February President's Message

By Ivan Miller, AICP



Ivan Miller, AICP—President, APA Washington

With the holidays behind us, the chapter is once again busy. As I noted last month, the Board adopted the annual budget and acted on a number of initiatives. Neither of these actions ends the work; instead, they start more work. The officers, committees, and sections kicked off 2014 with fresh work plans—there are great things planned for 2014!

EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

Speaking of new things, APA Washington has some exciting initiatives in both its education and leadership programs. On the education side, a new effort of our Continuing Education Committee will be reaching out to engage more fully with state agencies. These agencies are an important resource for planners, and we anticipate more information about opportunities related to grants, task forces and policy development. For AICP members, we are strengthening our coordination among the sections in order to develop an organization-wide calendar so that certified planners have more knowledge about

all the options for securing credits (if you still need legal or ethics credits, see [here](#)).

On the leadership side, the chapter is implementing a new way of communicating with members regarding legislative issues. Building on the success of the chapter's electronic ADVISE communication, the legislative committee will start a new series called LEAD that provides information to members about key deadlines and schedules, opportunities for planners to provide input during legislative hearings, and letting members know about bills of interest to planners.

Note that the committee comments on bills; if you are interested in volunteering, we're interested in talking to you. The new electronic communication, however, will be less about taking positions and more about sharing information. As the session goes on, let me know what you think about our new LEAD series.

And speaking of things not-so-new, after 20 years of service, Michael J. McCormick is "retiring" from the committee. This is the end of an era for me and for many others. See the [kind words](#), plus a limerick (!) that a few of our legislative committee stalwarts have written about Michael.

READY TO BE PRESIDENT-ELECT?

The chapter has started the process to identify candidates for the next president-elect position. As noted in Nominations Committee Chair Chris Comeau's [article](#), this is a great opportunity to make a difference in the planning profession! Let me assure you, being president is not that hard. You get to write 24 newsletter articles, host two conferences, facilitate eight board meetings, and adopt two budgets; most planners can do this in their sleep, so consider running!

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING: THE TENEMENT MUSEUM

During my family's holiday vacation, to my pleasant surprise, my wife and kids were game to explore city planning in the Big Apple. We set out for Manhattan and visited the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. This was more meaningful since my mother was with us and our not-too-distant relatives had grown up in

tenements like the ones we were touring.

We took the sweatshop workers tour and visited the “homes” of two families that ran garment factories in their living rooms and kitchens. The tour guides helped us imagine raising families-housework, schoolwork, meals, religious customs, and more-while paid workers spent six (usually long) days a week in these very small spaces. The story had a lot of human layers, including the fact that the building owner/developer lived on site and shared in these experiences.

As noted in this [article](#) on the history of planning on APA's national website:

As more immigrants came to the cities looking for work and homes, property owners divided their buildings into even more rooms and built other dwellings on what had been lawns and alleys. By the time the first tenement house law was enacted in New York City in 1867, there were 18,000 tenements in the city, more than half of which were in "bad sanitary condition." The overcrowding of people in the fast-growing cities, along with inadequate city infrastructure, led to poor living and sanitation conditions, which further concentrated poverty in certain areas.

All of these issues were clearly on the minds of the early figures of the planning movement as they met in Washington, D.C., in 1909 to discuss city planning and the problems of congestion. However, the conference participants not only had the conditions of American cities to discuss, but also new innovations in city planning and regulation, which had greatly accelerated in the decade leading up to the conference.

Thus, at the turn of the century, the stage was set for the organization of and more communication within the planning movement. The condition of cities needed serious attention; planners had found a new professional role through a shift in the paradigm of city planning, and several prominent figures, including [Benjamin Clarke] Marsh and [Frederick Law] Olmsted, had emerged to formally organize a national conference on city planning and lead the movement and the city planning profession forward.

It's interesting and inspiring to think about these early leaders in the profession. For me, experiences like these continue to reinforce the value of planning. With current pressures related to property right advocates, Tea Party meeting disrupters, and deregulation promoters, reminding ourselves of the history and accomplishments of planning help us take the long view and share that perspective with our clients and elected leadership.

There is much work still to be done in communities of all geographies related to social equity, distribution of wealth, ecosystem health, climate change, infrastructure funding, and more. However, if our success in tackling the most pernicious ills from the tenements is an indicator, it seems clear that planning should continue to be one of the central professions for addressing these pressing issues.



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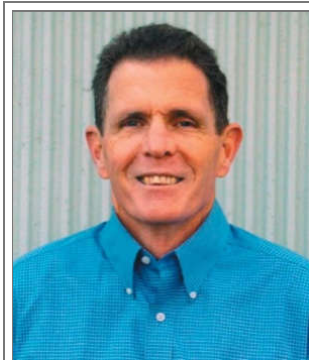
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Michael McCormick "retires" from APA Washington Legislative Committee



Michael McCormick

Michael McCormick started the New Year with a bang by informing us that after 20 years, he is now "retiring" from the APA Washington Legislative Committee. With his usual grace and brevity, he wrote:

Adios Amigos.

I'm sending you all my best wishes for a productive 2014 legislative session. After serving on the legislative committee for 20 consecutive years, it's time to pass the baton to you and our younger colleagues.

Upon retiring from state government, one of my priorities was to see if I could help WA APA have a meaningful presence in Olympia. I couldn't be happier with our progress and successes. We provide real substantive advice. We do, and can continue to, play an important role in the complex processes that continue to boil!

I know we are in excellent hands. I wish you all the best.

Mike

This is another passing of an era—for me and for others. Since I joined almost a decade ago, Michael has been a steadfast mentor and guide to the Legislative Committee. When Michael weighed in on a position the committee was considering, I took it as the final word. His great work prompted APA Washington to award him the President's Award and the Myer Wolfe Award. I will personally miss his good spirit, guidance, and contributions.

And I'm not alone. Below are thoughts from other APA Washington Legislative Committee stalwarts who worked with Michael.

Mike, Thanks to you for all your years of dedication to land use planning and the GMA as well as to the legislative priorities for the chapter, our communities and the planning profession. Happy trails to you and your family.

— Esther Larsen, legislative committee co-chair

I have had the privilege of working with Mike for many years and consider him a friend as well. In his consulting practice, I have observed that Mike often got the call on the really tough issues. Mike's career helped Washington form its first impression of the GMA. His consulting work provided many communities a path through some of the toughest implementation challenges in the state. I personally have learned a great deal just from watching him work. Much of what works in the GMA works because of Mike. The people of Washington owe him more than they know.

— Dave Andersen, Eastern Regional Manager, Washington Department of Commerce

Mike McCormick, Diplomat, Friend, Scholar, Fellow-Leader! Depending on who you ask, Mike is credited (or blamed) with how growth management has evolved in our state. From the sketchy and confusing directions of the 1990 statute, he has been steadfast in helping us all parse this thing to make plans that work. Remember "urban is everything that's not rural" and "rural is everything that's not urban"—that wisdom from our courts' interpretations of those terms, undefined in the law.

Mike's calm and reasoned demeanor has had a lot to do with how local elected officials and planners have worked through the complexity to apply the principles and create workable, meaningful plans. As a dedicated legislative "schmoozer," Mike has used his skills and intelligence to support the interests of

planners in the crazy world of state legislative politics. Congratulations on a great career, Mike!

— Your friend, Roger Wagoner, past chapter president

I worked with Mike McCormick. He was our "Rock of Gibraltar" at the state. Always ready to help and always available. Not only that, he was a great guy, and extremely good at his job. I am glad he is well and ready for retirement. I wish him the best.

— Kay Shoudy, past chapter president

If Mike didn't know about the bill, it wasn't worth knowing about.

— Mark Hinshaw, past chapter president

Having worked at Commerce through 12 legislative sessions, I was able to personally witness Mike's tireless commitment to keeping track of bills and trends in the legislature each and every one of those years. It takes an amazing amount of effort every day to do that, as things change in the legislature quickly. I greatly respect Mike's dedication and insight in tracking and working to influence legislation on behalf of the planning profession. State law regarding planning is in far better shape than it would have been without Mike's involvement for the past several decades. We have big shoes to fill!

— Leonard Bauer, City of Olympia

My first contact with Mike McCormick's work with land use planning and growth management came from working with him as a member of the staff he assembled and directed for the Washington Department of Community Development's first Growth Management Division in 1990. The Division was created as a result of the passage of the Growth Management Act. With a bare bones staff of about 10, within its first year, the Division was able to distribute the first planning grants, organize a technical assistance program that included workshops and guidebooks, and complete the adoption of Minimum Guidelines for Designation of Resource Lands and Critical Areas and for the Protection of Critical Areas.

Mike tirelessly traveled the State to patiently and articulately explain the requirements for implementing the GMA to county and city elected officials and planning directors. Mike had developed the needed repertoire with even the most conservative county commissioners, overworked planners and planning directors, skeptical state agency directors and staff, county and city organizations, and nervous legislators—all who had a role to play in making the GMA work. I appreciated how Mike understood the political realities of GMA's early days and how he treated all the stakeholders with respect. And we always had a sport coat hanging in our office, in case Mike had to run up to the Legislature or the Governor's office.

Later after Mike retired from state government, he formed a consulting business where he worked with school districts to develop impact fee schedules and advise counties on GMA compliance. I watched him from the Growth Management Hearings Board as he nudged recalcitrant counties towards compliance with GMA. Mike brought this rich experience to his participation on the legislative committee.

— Holly Gadbow, legislative committee

I first began working with Mike McCormick in the 1980s when he was the assistant director of the Washington State Department of Community Development and I was the president of the City Planning Directors Association. Mike knew almost every planning director in the state, had an encyclopedic knowledge of our planning laws, and understood the legislative process and the politics of planning. His participation was invaluable to the planning directors at their 1989 Crescent Bar conference, where many of the major features of what became the GMA were fleshed out.

He coordinated the efforts of state and local governments in getting our new law off to a strong start and continued to be a knowledgeable and successful advocate for good planning for two decades through his participation on the APA Washington Legislative Committee. The fact that our chapter now shows up on the radar screen of state legislators and stakeholder groups in Olympia owes much to Mike's insight and hard work. Mike is one of my heroes, and we all owe him a great debt of thanks.

— Joe Tovar, past chapter president

I served with Mike on the Legislative Committee for several years in the mid-1990s. The GMA had just been adopted, and cities and counties were in the throes of preparing updated comprehensive plans and development regulations to comply with the act. Mike had left his position with the state as the head of the Growth Management Division of the then-named state "Department of Community Development." As the state's chief planner, Mike had been on the frontlines of GMA adoption. Active in APA, Mike had the knowledge and experience of the legislative process. He knew all the key players, the rules and the strategies.

In those early years, bills were introduced annually to kill GMA or at least water it down so that it would be essentially ineffective. It was a constant battle to keep the GMA intact. The chapter's legislative committee began to be more active in the legislative arena—preparing detailed position statements, retaining a lobbyist for the first time and testifying before legislative committees. Of course, Mike had a keen interest and unique perspective. Although he liked to move behind the scenes, he was always willing to represent APA with legislators and during committee hearings. Mike had sincere credibility and knew how to avoid the land mines of the legislative process.

At that time, we started the weekly phone conferences during the session to discuss pending bills, and Mike would share his insights on legislative history, positions, and alliances (the last often being the key to success). He had a fine sense of balance and brought in perspectives from a variety of interests (cities, counties, businesses, environmental). Although Mike wasn't shy about his opinions and would share them with anyone who would listen, I recall him being so damn thoughtful and reasoned.

Mike has volunteered an incredible amount of his personal time to the legislative committee over the past twenty years. He has served the chapter well as a guiding light and steady hand. We all owe him a deep sense of gratitude, respect and appreciation for everything he has done for APA and for the citizens of the

state of Washington.

— Paul Stewart, legislative committee

Mike had an in-depth knowledge of both the legislative process and specific legislators, which proved to be invaluable to the work of the chapter's legislative committee. When an unexpected hearing on a significant planning-related bill popped up at the last minute and our lobbyist was unable to attend, Mike would be at the ready to testify. Not only that, his testimony would usually result in the legislative changes desired by the Chapter.

— Steve Butler, past chapter president

Mike has been APA's voice, and the strong voice advocating good planning, in Olympia for many years. He guided us through many rocky times and helped us get our message to decision makers. Thanks to Mike, APA has a seat at the land use and planning legislation table.

— Lisa Verner, past chapter president

Mike has been engaged with the state of Washington Growth Management Act from the beginning. I very much enjoyed the two years that I represented the Washington Chapter APA with him on the GMA Working Group in Olympia and even more our long association on the chapter's legislative committee.

Mike was not only most knowledgeable about the legislative partners regarding what was possible for GMA changes, but also always positive toward various initiatives for resolving issues from any direction. The Washington Chapter APA developed a strong and respected position in support of subsequent updates in the Growth Management Act through Mike McCormick's leadership.

When the Washington Chapter APA first developed the idea of a legislative committee to participate in planning legislation, except for a few planners like Mike McCormick working in state government, we had no voice on issues regarding our professional interests (unlike other professions, notably medical and legal practitioners). Now 25 years later, our legislative committee provides input on every legislative issue important to planners. Mike has become a stalwart of the Washington APA Legislative Committee, and in his well-deserved retirement he will be missed.

My best regards to Mr. McCormick, a wonderful colleague and pretty darn good poker player.

—Brad Collins, past chapter president

Mike McCormick has provided enthusiastic, steadfast encouragement and support during my tenure to date as Legislative Committee Co-Chair. There is no doubt that my job would have been harder, and our work wouldn't have been as effective, if Mike hadn't been contributing all along with his wisdom, knowledge, and experience. We're going to have to figure out how to move forward without him.

—Josh Peters, legislative committee co-chair

And, to conclude, a limerick:

*There once was a Michael McCormick
who planned for so long, 'twas a neat trick.
He said with no spin, "My plan's a shoo-in
to guide you through times thin and thick."*

— Josh Peters, legislative committee co-chair

Michael (and Kathy), best wishes to you and your family on all of your future endeavors!



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Chapter seeks candidates for president-elect

By Chris Comeau

The Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association is seeking candidates for the office of President-Elect in 2014. This is a four-year commitment: The President-Elect position begins in July 2014 for one year, it transitions to President in July 2015 for two years, and concludes with one year as Past-President ending in June 2018.

Serving in these roles is an extremely rewarding opportunity to make a contribution to the planning profession in Washington. Chapter presidents help guide the state Board of Directors; oversee the lobbyist, office and conference management staff; and interact with the diverse membership. Serving as president is a chance to give back to the profession, support planners and planning across the state, and make planning a force for positive change.

Candidates for the Washington APA board must be a member in good standing of APA National at the time of their nomination and must have their primary place of residence, primary place of work, or both in Washington.

If you are interested in being a candidate for the President-Elect position, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee by **Monday, Feb. 17:**

- Chris Comeau, APA Washington Secretary and Committee Chair at ccomeau@cob.org
- Jill Sterrett, APA Washington Past-President at jill.sterrett@gmail.com
- Mark Kulaas at mkulaas@co.douglas.wa.us
- Brad Collins, former APA Washington President at collinsassociates.collins@gmail.com
- Gary Mabley, former Columbia section President at <mailto:gary@mableyassociates.com>
- You can also contact currently serving Board members who are listed at <http://washington-apa.org/about/board>

Candidate information will be needed by **March 7**. Ballots will be prepared by April and chapter voting will occur in May. Candidates will be notified of the election results by June 10. The new President-Elect will begin serving on the board on July 1, 2014.



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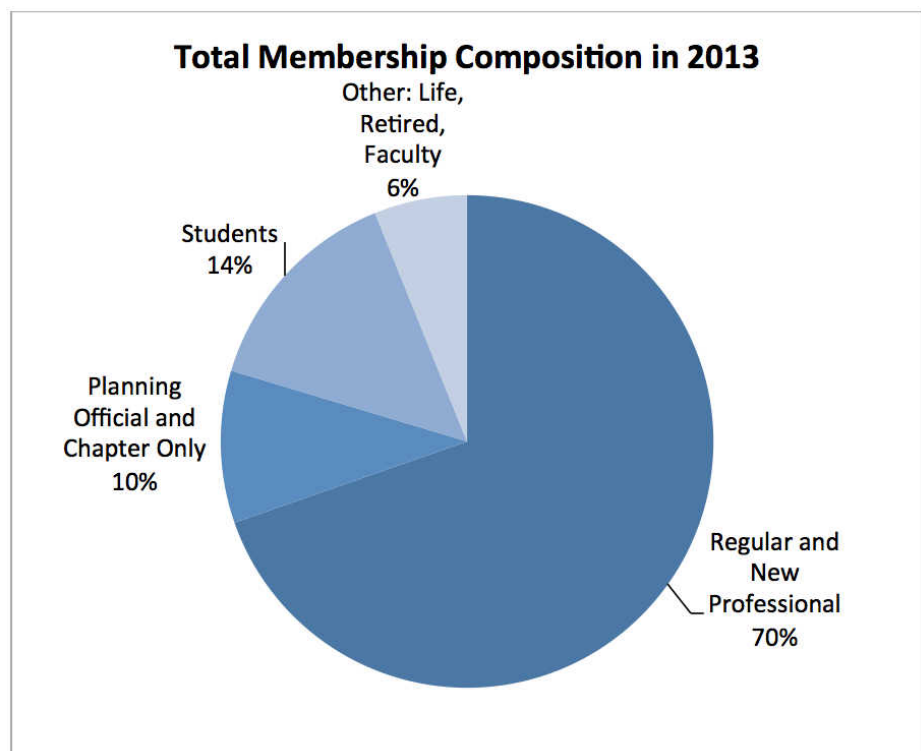
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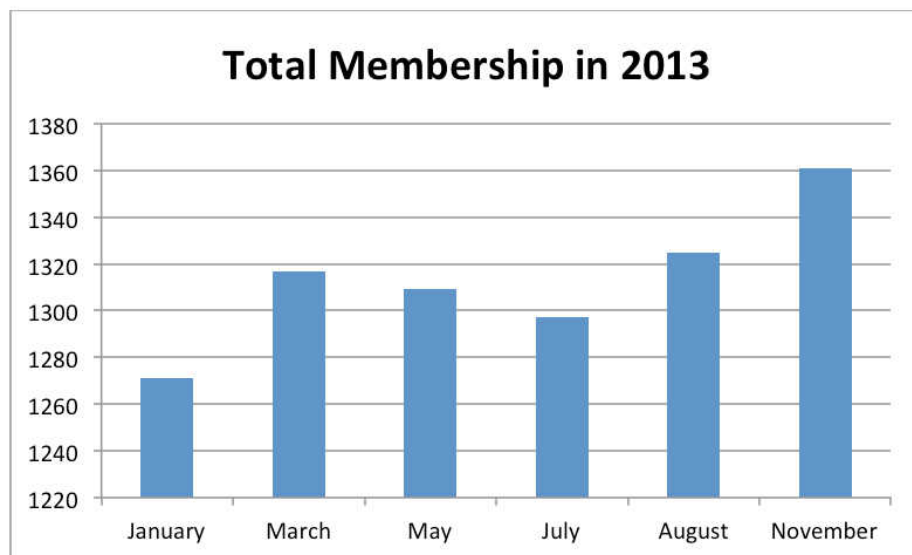
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APA Washington 2013 Membership Report

As we approach 2014, we would like to report our members about the status of membership in 2013. Based on end of November 2013 data, there were 1,361 members of the Chapter. As can be seen from the chart below, the majority (70%) were Regular or New Professional members with the remaining 30% comprising Planning Officials, Chapter Only members (who are not also National APA members), Students, Retired members, and other membership categories.



Over the last year we have seen some increasing trends in membership numbers. The graph below shows the monthly membership from January 2013. As is typically the case, January represented a low water mark as the result of a large number of lapsed memberships. However, memberships steadily increased to close the year with a similar total membership as 2012.



With the Great Recession behind us, the last two years appear to indicate some stabilization of the membership numbers; this is particularly true for the Chapter's AICP membership. The Chapter currently boasts of 593 AICP and FAICP members, 44% of the total membership as shown below.



In 2013, the Chapter undertook a Membership Recruitment Drive in conjunction with the Chapter Annual Conference. This resulted in an increase in the final months of 2012. We plan on holding another recruitment drive and exploring other efforts to increase membership, expanding benefits for members, reaching out to non-member planners and creating partnerships with other organizations so that professional planners in Washington State can be best positioned to respond to the challenges of our time.

Last year, the Board approved a decrease in Chapter only membership from \$83 to \$50. We hope this becomes a great incentive for many to join and get benefits from the APA Washington membership at a lower cost. This will be in effect on July 2014.

For more information or to share your ideas regarding Chapter membership, please contact the Membership Committee at membership@washington-apa.org.

Membership Committee:

Geoff Appel, AICP
Anne Fritzel , AICP
Gloria Gould-Wessen
Liz Stenning
Ferdouse Oneza, AICP, Committee Chair

American Planning Association **Washington Chapter**

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American Planning Association
Washington Chapter
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Wanted: Award-Winning Plans

APA's Economic Development Division is currently accepting submissions for its annual Donald E. Hunter Excellence in Economic Development Planning Award. It is presented each year to a community with an economic development plan or project that demonstrates innovation and success. In addition to receiving a plaque, winners will be recognized at the APA National Planning Conference during the annual division business meeting, along with an article in News & Views, the division's newsletter.

Any economic development plan or project implemented in the last 10 years in Canada or the United States is eligible. Any member of the APA may make a nomination; however, AICP Commissioners, APA Board members, and members of the Economic Development Division Executive Committee and Awards Committee are ineligible from nominating a plan or project. At least one individual (a member of the agency/organization representing the plan or project and/or the person making the nomination) needs to be a member of the Economic Development Division.

The deadline is **Friday, Feb. 7**. Submit applications to Julie Herlands at julie@tischlerbise.com. Please indicate in the subject line: "[Your Jurisdiction] Economic Development Division Award Application."

For questions, contact Julie Herlands at her above email address or call her at (301) 320-6900, ext. 15. Submission information is available at the award's website at

<http://www.planning.org/divisions/economic/awards/>. Past winners can be seen here:
<http://www.planning.org/divisions/economic/awards/previous.htm>.



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Get trained on bike and pedestrian topics in Portland this year



The Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation at Portland State University has unveiled its list of professional development courses for 2014. OTREC, a university transportation center at PSU, houses IBPI.

IBPI is offering the following courses, most of which are on campus in Portland:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian-Friendly Site Design
- Comprehensive Bicycle Design and Engineering 1.0
- Comprehensive Bicycle Design and Engineering 2.0
- Integrating Bike-Ped Topics into University Transportation Curriculum
- Sustainable Transportation in the Netherlands (international experience)
- We Are Traffic: Creating Robust Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Programs (free webinar)

The first workshop, We are Traffic, takes place on February 27. AICP credits are available for most courses. OTREC is located at 1900 SW Fourth Ave., Ste. 175, Portland, OR 97201. For more information, visit www.pdx.edu/ibpi/ or send an email to ibpi@pdx.edu.