

The

# WASHINGTON PLANNER



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Washington Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Photo credits: Spring bikers & Burien foliage, MAKERS Architecture

## APA-WA LEGISLATION

# Governor Signs Bill Protecting State From Major Oil Spills

On the anniversary of the catastrophic April 20, 2010, crude oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Gov. Chris Gregoire signed landmark legislation that significantly advances protection of **Washington state's environment**, economy and cultural resources from the impacts of a potential major oil spill.

"Our state is already recognized for having one of the strongest spill prevention and response programs in the nation," Gregoire said. "But the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster illustrates the importance of being as well prepared as possible for a major spill. This bill helps ensure that Washington gets the best tools and equipment to mount an aggressive, rapid and well coordinated response in the event of a major spill in Puget Sound and other waters of our state. We are the first state in the nation to pass significant new legislation in this area."

Under the new law, oil companies that operate in Puget Sound, the outer coast and on Columbia River will need

to invest in response equipment and personnel to provide continuous on-water oil cleanup activities – even at night and during fog and rain. If industry can remove as much oil on the water as possible during a major spill, adverse shoreline impacts can be reduced.

The legislation also ensures local resources like commercial fishing vessels and citizen volunteers are able to effectively participate in an oil spill response.

"Our citizens expect us to be able to respond quickly and effectively in the case of a large oil spill," said Rep. Christine Rolfes, who was the prime sponsor of the bill. "To do so is key to protecting our quality of life and our economy here in Washington state, from the Columbia River to Puget Sound. This bill will help maintain our state's evergreen legacy."

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## Communications Committee

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The **Washington Planner**, published monthly, is the membership publication of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association. Submit copy by the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication. Submit via e-mail in a standard PC format to [newsletter@washington-apa.org](mailto:newsletter@washington-apa.org). Submitted images should be optimized for online viewing when submitted, 72 dpi. Submit JPG files for photos and GIF files are acceptable for other images.

## GET IN GEAR

# May is Bike Month!

Join the Cascade Bicycle Club in celebrating Bike Month this May! The best way to celebrate Bike Month is to get on a bike: ride to work, ride to the grocery store, or just ride for the sheer joy of being outside soaking up the spring weather.



Spring is for new beginnings. Take that bike out of the basement and wipe off the cobwebs. Or give your bike some love after months of winter riding. Hop on and join other riders on roads and trails, even if this is the first time you've ridden in years. You won't be alone. Last year thousands of people started biking for the first

time during Bike Month.

Bike Month motivates new riders and inspires experienced cyclists. Bike to Work Day (Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>) is a vision for what the region can look like in the future. The roads are packed with more than 20,000 cyclists.

More bicyclists mean safer streets, healthier people, cleaner air and more livable communities.

More info at: <http://www.cbcef.org/btw/index.html>

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## AICP EXAM

# AICP Exam Prep Session a Success

**Nancy Eklund, AICP, WA-APA Professional Development Officer**

Twenty five people spent a recent overcast Saturday preparing to take the AICP Exam at the Chapter's annual Study Session. Many thanks to the instructors who donated their time to lead sessions on a variety of exam-likely topics, including:

- Shawna Kitzman, AICP (Test-taking Hints)
- Tim Parham, AICP (Test-taking Hints, Quantitative Methods and GIS)
- Rick Sepler, AICP (Site Development Basics)
- Kevin O'Neill, AICP (History/Theory)
- Nancy Eklund, AICP (Planning Ethics)
- Kris Liljeblad, AICP (Transportation)
- Tim Trohimovich, AICP (Planning Law)
- John Doan, AICP (Budgeting, Finance, and Planning Administration)

Also, Ivan Miller, AICP, helped out with the set-up.

We received financial support for the

event and other aspects of the AICP program from the following underwriters:

- Berk & Associates
- Otak, Inc.
- Puget Sound Energy
- The Watershed Company
- Tulalip Tribes

The Exam is scheduled for May 9-23 and we wish our chapter members taking the exam all the best!

## How are You Doing at Logging Your AICP Credits?

Don't forget ... the end of the 2011 reporting year is right around the corner! Have you [logged your credits](#)? If you need more credits, there are several Chapter events coming up throughout the state, plus, many free and online credits. If you need any help locating some of the options, or have other CM-related questions, please contact Chapter PDO [Nancy Eklund, AICP](#).

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## STARS

# New Certification For Sustainable Transportation Projects and Plans

**Jan Whittington, Peter Hurley, and Jill Sterrett**

The non-profit North American Sustainable Transportation Council, with support from the Portland (Oregon) Bureau of Transportation, is currently inviting applications for pilot transportation projects for the STARS certification program.

STARS – the Sustainable Transportation Analysis & Rating System – is a performance-based system unique in its focus on improving economic, environmental and multimodal performance over the life cycle of a transportation project or plan. While several rating systems have emerged in the transport sector, STARS is the first to provide a framework for analyzing and optimizing capital and operating investments in walkability, bicycling, transit, demand management, and land use, with investments in roads and highways. As such, it is best initiated early in the process (before the selection of a preferred alternative). It may also be applied in collaboration with green

transportation systems that, like LEED for buildings, focus on construction materials and methods.

For planners and engineers interested in learning how to improve the performance of their projects for the local economy, environment, and community (aka, the Triple Bottom Line), this is an extraordinary opportunity. Managers of pilot projects have the option of working with specialists to conduct analyses that show which project strategies:

- Provide people and businesses better, healthier, more affordable access to jobs, schools, housing and goods,
- Reduce imported oil use and greenhouse gas emissions, and
- Meet these goals and objectives in the most cost-effective ways

STARS also offers certification. Certification can show the public and potential funders that a project is

**Continued on [page 7](#)**



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## FUNDING

# PSRC Seeks Comments on Transportation Project Funding

**PSRC News Release: April 14, 2011**

The Puget Sound Regional Council is encouraging people to comment on the 2011 Contingency Lists for PSRC's federal funds should any additional transportation funding become available for the region. There are two lists available for comment, one with projects eligible for Federal Highway Administration funds and the other for Federal Transit Administration funds.

In 2010, PSRC was able to fund additional projects from the contingency lists. The public review and comment period for the 2011 Contingency List will run from April 14 to May 12, 2011. The full lists are available online at [psrc.org](http://psrc.org).

Examples of projects up for public comment:

- Sound Transit, North Link: \$4.87m
- Bellevue, NE 4th St Extension: \$3.3m
- Bainbridge Island, Rockaway Beach Road Stabilization: \$900,000
- Tacoma, Tacoma Way Corridor Multimodal Improvement: \$4.6m

- Monroe, E Main Street/Old Owen/US 2 Intersection Improvements: \$510,640
- Pierce Transit, Clean Fuel Technology Bus Replacements: \$1.98m

The public comment period runs from April 14 to May 12, 2011. Written comments received by May 5 will be included in the agenda packet for the Transportation Policy Board meeting on May 12, when it finalizes its recommendation. Comments can be made in person at the Transportation Policy Board meeting.

Make a comment via mail: Puget Sound Regional Council, ATTN: Kelly McGourty, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98104-1035  
E-mail: [tipcomment@psrc.org](mailto:tipcomment@psrc.org) – or in person: May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at PSRC

For more information contact Kelly McGourty at 206-971-3601 or [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org)

## Ad Hoc Committees

**Kids in Planning**  
*Steve Butler, FAICP*  
*Lynn Miranda, AICP*

**Sustainable Washington**  
*Lyn Keenan*  
*Anindita Mitra, AICP*

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**Bill Proposal**  
*Ivan Miller, AICP*

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## Update: HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is pleased to announce that \$100 million is **included in HUD's Sustainable** Communities Initiative for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Appropriations, which was passed by Congress in April.

Specifically, \$70 million is allocated for regional planning grants, of which no less than \$17.5 million will be made available to regions with populations of less than 500,000, and \$30 million for Community Challenge planning grants.

In its first year of the program, HUD was privileged to award \$138 million in grant funding to 45 regions and 67 communities across the nation. These funds touched 85 million Americans in urban, suburban and rural places throughout the nation. Almost 1,000 applications were submitted last year for the two grant programs, which are designed to support local, regional and state efforts to improve the integration of housing, transportation and economic development efforts. HUD worked closely with the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and other federal partners to better align its programs and policies to support livable communities.

In addition to the appropriations **announcement, HUD's FY2011 General** Section federal register publication

listed the Preferred Sustainability Status for 29 additional regions. The FY2011 General Section includes priority points for sustainable **communities in a number of HUD's** discretionary grant programs for the coming year.

Sustainable Communities supporters encourage continued program funding through FY2011 and FY2012. These people share the belief that the Sustainable Communities Initiative is **essential to the nation's continued** economic recovery and contribute to winning the future. This positive outcome will be achieved by investing in innovation, leveraging existing resources and using collaborative approaches to build neighborhoods that are connected to jobs and provide greater access to opportunity. The President is requesting \$150 million in the FY2012 budget request to **maintain HUD's Sustainable** Communities Initiative.

***Continued on [page 7](#)***

## HUD, continued

### *Continued from [page 6](#)*

HUD looks forward to continuing its partnerships with the Sustainable Communities supporters and all communities throughout the country that are working to become more innovative and inclusive.

For more information on HUD's work, please visit: [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability)



## STARS, continued

### *Continued from [page 4](#)*

designed to improve triple bottom line performance. To certify, project managers choose at least nine out of the twelve STARS credits to pursue. As a minimum, credits are obtained by involving key stakeholders in establishing project goals and objectives, increasing multimodal access, improving climate and energy performance, and calculating cost-effectiveness. Additional credits currently available include the comparative analysis of strategies for demand management, system management, road and transit capital investments, vehicle mile reduction, improved vehicle flow, construction materials and methods, renewable energy, energy efficiency and improved cost-effectiveness.

Complex projects grappling with congestion are particularly well-suited for STARS, as are projects where businesses and community members are hoping for the benefits of auto-access without the trappings of auto-

dependence. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission in California is currently applying STARS to a planned expansion of the scenic Highway 1 corridor, in the Monterey Bay area. In doing so, they seek to improve the sustainability of the project and more closely align it with community values.

Clark County-based C-TRAN will use STARS to help improve performance of a transit project on Fourth Plain Boulevard. The Sustainable Transportation Council is seeking nominations for three additional pilot projects. The Council has also started developing the STARS system for regional and local transportation plans.

Anyone interested in proposing a project or learning more can contact [Peter Hurley](#), of the Portland Bureau of Transportation and the North American Sustainable Transportation Council, at 503.823.5007.

# improve

Photo credit: Seattle Center in spring, MAKERS Architecture

## BOOK REVIEW

## Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Change

**Dick Winchell, PHD, Eastern Washington University**

Every four years, geographers from Canada, the US, the UK, Ireland, and Australia, meet to compare research and explore the changing setting for rural development, communities, and society. The last conference was

hosted by EWU's urban planning programs in 2007. Over fifty participants exchanged research and perspectives while exploring Spokane and the Inland Northwest through extensive field excursions.

Papers from this comparative exploration of rural change are presented in a [new book](#) edited by Dick Winchell, EWU Planning, Canadians Rhonda Koster; Lakehead University, Doug Ramsey; Brandon University, and Australian Guy Robinson; University of South Australia.

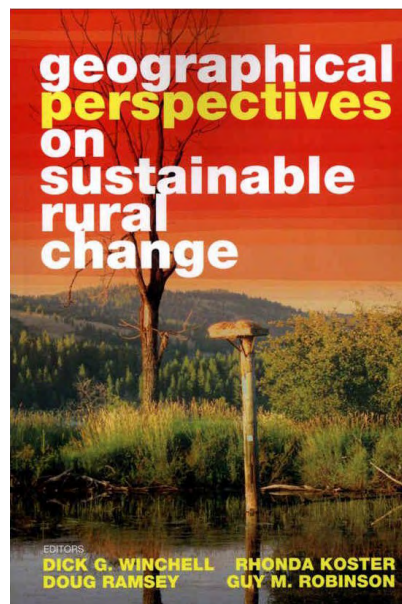
*Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Change* is organized around three themes: farms and farming, the restructuring of rural communities and rural space, and rural policy and planning.

The book's introduction highlights the strengths of rural restructuring across the UK and Ireland. In the UK especially, ecologically sound and locally-based agriculture is promoted by EU and national policies, and

strong positive values toward rural landscapes. Canada, Australia, and especially the US have emphasized "new urbanism" to address suburban and sprawl-caused problems while generally ignoring rural policy and change.

Continued urban sprawl at the edge of American cities, combined with on-going support and subsidies for corporate agriculture with no

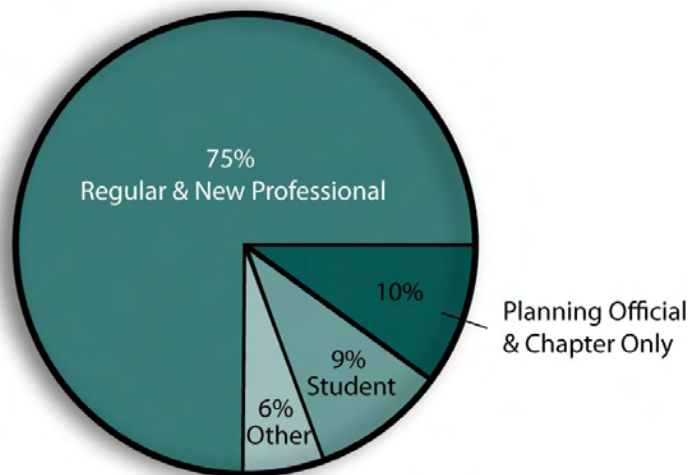
national or regional policies for rural restructuring, ignore rural ecological and community decline and fail to recognize food security as a critical planning issue. Examples of rural restructuring, rural policy and planning examine UK successes, especially from Canada, and highlight the potential for more positive rural change despite a lack of national and regional recognition of rural issues. The conclusions suggest the importance of rural change and critical rural issues across all nations.



## MEMBERSHIP

# APA Washington Membership At a Glance

As of March 2011, the APA Washington Chapter boasted a membership of 1,451 members. Membership is primarily comprised of Regular members, with 25% of the membership as Planning Official, Chapter-Only, Student, Life, and Retired Members. 43% of the Chapter Membership are AICP members.



## LEGISLATION, continued

**Continued from [page 1](#)**

**“Unfortunately, a large oil spill in Washington waters is almost inevitable,” said Sen. Kevin Ranker. “This bill will keep us prepared, so when a spill happens, we can protect our coastal communities as well as the businesses that depend upon their functionality through a quick and effective response.”**

House Bill 1186 is consistent with the unanimous recommendations of the Oil Spill Work Group convened by the Puget Sound Partnership—which includes industry, environmental, tribal, agency, local government and military leaders. It also applies

important lessons learned from the catastrophe in the gulf, incorporating many key recommendations in a joint report released today by Ecology and the Puget Sound Partnership. At the governor’s request, the two agencies evaluated President Obama’s final national commission report about BP Deepwater Horizon spill.

The Ecology-Partnership report and related information is available at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/studies\\_reports/ecypspreview-dwhcommissionreport.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/studies_reports/ecypspreview-dwhcommissionreport.html)

Join

**AICP EXAM, continued**

*Continued from [page 3](#)*

**Congratulations to New AICP Members**

Congratulations to the 23 planners those who passed the AICP exam in 2010! This is an important professional milestone in a planning career, and obtaining this certification strengthens the entire planning profession. Please congratulate these folks on their accomplishment.

**May 2010**

- Kadie Bell, AICP
- Katherine Chalmers, AICP
- Charles Davis, AICP
- Steve Degrush, AICP
- Erin George, AICP
- Steven Letson, AICP

- Robert Matthews, AICP
- Steven Schlenker, AICP
- Amanda Sparr, AICP
- Charles Wisdom, AICP

**November 2010**

- Tirrell Black, AICP
- Katherine Cote, AICP
- Julia Egenolf, AICP
- Michael Forsyth, AICP
- Bruce Johnson, AICP
- Shawna Kitzman, AICP
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- Tim Parham, AICP
- Lynn Scroggins, AICP
- Ellen Talbo, AICP

**APA**

**PDOs Convene at National APA Conference**

**Nancy Ecklund, PDO**

At the APA conference in Boston, Professional Development Officers (PDOs) from across the country met to discuss a variety of professional development issues that Chapters are currently facing. The group focused on the recommendations emerging from a survey of PDOs conducted by the AICP/PDO Task Force. This group was assembled to identify how APA National and the local Chapters could

better support PDOs. Since the introduction of the AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) program, the job of the PDO has changed significantly and the task force was developed to explore how PDO burnout could be avoided. Anyone wishing more information about the survey or the PDO Exchange should contact Chapter PDO [Nancy Ecklund, AICP](#).

## PRIORITIES

# Office Administrator: Work Life Balance

By Andrew L. Estep, CAE

It has always been important to me to keep a clear boundary between my professional and personal lives. This is rooted in practicality. Much of my personal life has been very different from my professional life, and the two would not mix well. As I have gotten older and the pace of both has accelerated, I am grateful to have such a clear and strong boundary.

The pressure to be available for work 24/7/365 can be pretty intense these days, with smart phones, tablets, and other computers providing instant access to our working world. The problem, and it is a big one, is that if **we are "always on," our hearts and minds will rebel.** Down time, off time, is required for healthy living. I recently read *Invisible Gorilla* by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons. The book taught me much, but the most important lesson is that I am not as great as I think I am. My strength, my capabilities are limited.

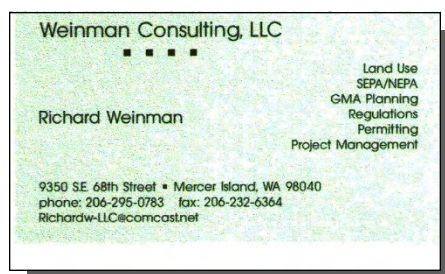
We are all limited.

Based on this premise, it is necessary to ration my energy. Only a portion of me is devoted to my work. Not all of me, not 24/7/365. We all need to find and keep a balance between professional and personal, work and life, earning and spending. Only then can we realize our full potential and all that we have to offer. Burnout is not **an option anymore. We can't afford it.**

I am a member of three associations. Two are work related: Washington Society of Association Executives and American Society of Association Executives. Those groups and the work I do with them go into the profession bucket. The third, the American Association of Retired Persons, goes into my personal bucket. Time spent on each is allocated accordingly.

Overall, I would say my life is in balance today. What would you say about yours?

balance



**CALENDAR**

**Upcoming Events**

**May**

6	CM Webcast	<a href="#">Using GIS to Improve Planning Decisions, part 1: Identifying Factors that Influence Rural Land Parcelization - Advanced PDO-Advanced</a>
13	CM Webcast	<a href="#">Secrets to Improve Consultant-Client Relations - Introductory</a>
17-18	Portland, OR	<a href="#">National Historic Preservation, Section 106 Essentials (CM 12.0)</a>
18-19	Mt. Vernon, WA	<a href="#">Designing Compensatory Mitigation and Restoration Projects (CM 14.5)</a>
19	Seattle, WA	<a href="#">Water Rights Transfers 2011 (CM multipart)</a>
19	CM Webcast	<a href="#">New Ideas for Bike-friendly Communities-Introductory</a>
25	Mt. Vernon, WA	<a href="#">Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats (CM 6.0)</a>
26	Webinar	<a href="#">Powerful Messages in Unnatural Times (CM 1.0)</a>

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Do you have a good eye for graphic design? Enjoy collaborating with a creative team? Interested in helping out our local chapter? If so, the **Communication Committee** can certainly use your help producing the

monthly newsletter you are currently reading. Access to a PC is currently required. Please contact Co-Chair [Bryan Fiedorczyk](#) for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE: HOUSING WA**

*Housing Washington*, taking place Sept. 26-28 in Spokane, will address the relationship between housing and jobs, and the resulting economic impacts that tie into the livelihood of

urban and rural communities. Mark your calendars today to join your colleagues in the affordable housing industry at the best and largest [conference](#) of its kind in the region.