

COUNTY PLANNING



American Planning Association
County Planning Division

Making Great Communities Happen

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OUR MISSION: The County Planning Division of the APA seeks to strengthen relationships among county planners, county elected officials, and other county personnel by facilitating the sharing of technical information, encouraging continuing professional development of its members, researching county planning issues, and building strong ties with other organizations and disciplines with related interests.

NEWSLETTER Schedule

SPRING

Submittal deadline: March 15

SUMMER

Submittal deadline: June 15

FALL

Submittal deadline: September 15

WINTER

Submittal deadline: December 15

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: This newsletter is published by the County Planning Division of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the County Planning Division (CPD). The CPD Executive Committee welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to County planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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From the Chair:

Dear County Planning Division Members,

Greetings County Planners!

It has been an incredible busy Spring and I believe time has flown by faster than it ever has before! Division leadership has been very busy, and I am going to give you an update on our current activities... The annual meeting held in conjunction with the APA conference in Los Angeles was quite a success and the division presented several awards to worthy recipients. Look inside this newsletter for more information about them. Joe Scorcio, a member of our division, chaired a well-attended division-sponsored panel on the economic impacts of recreation facilities. Finally, the Delegate Assembly did approve a new APA policy guide on Smart Growth that will be posted here <http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/index.htm>.

I have been working as the Divisions Council liaison to the State Chapter Presidents Council – and we held our first joint meeting at the conference. During the meeting, leadership from the divisions and state chapters agreed to work on a “trial balloon” collaboration to identify ways to enhance communication between the divisions and state chapters. Our first focus area will be on “Livability and an Aging Population,” and we’ll be sharing information through newsletter articles, webinars, and conference sessions. You can find out more information about this topic here

<http://www.planning.org/resources/ontheradar/aging/>. Please look inside this newsletter for a terrific article on this topic from Ramona Mullahey from the Women in Planning Division. If you have an article or report you’d like to share in our next newsletter, please feel free to send that to Robert Hill, our editor at rhill@brookingscountysd.gov.

It’s also time for us to begin thinking about the division’s next election. Are you interested in taking on a leadership role? In order for us to continue to provide county planners with relevant information and opportunities for involvement in APA strategic direction, we need volunteers who are willing to step up and get involved. If you would like to know more about leadership opportunities in the division, please contact me at Judy.Francis@ncdenr.gov.

Enjoy these last precious days of Spring, and once again, I thank you for your membership and for all the wonderful contributions you make every day as you plan to make our counties better.

Judy Francis, AICP
County Planning Division Chair



2012 County Planning Division Award Winners Announced

On Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the County Planning Division's Business Meeting conducted at the APA National Conference in Los Angeles, the County Planning Division in conjunction with the National Association of County Planners will present their 2012 Project Awards. This year three awards will be presented, two Awards of Excellence and one Award of Merit.

An Award of Excellence will be presented to Charlotte – Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in the Small Area/Special Area Planning category for their *Elizabeth Area Plan*. The *Elizabeth Area Plan* was developed over an 18-month period and included a thorough analysis of the opportunities, challenges, goals, and vision for the community. It provides succinct direction for land use, transportation, community design, infrastructure and public facilities, and environmental policies through the use of text, maps, and graphics. A stakeholder group was integral in the development of the plan document and provided thorough review and comment on the draft plan. Their comments were addressed by staff in the final document adopted on November 14, 2011.

An Award of Excellence will be presented to Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in the Best Practices category for their *Model Ordinance Series*. The *Model Ordinance Series* provides a comprehensive and easy to use set of tools for the County and its municipalities to foster sound land use development. The publications provide the user with an explanation of the pertinent land use issues to be addressed by each model. Also a clear description of design elements that should be incorporated to address the topic of each model ordinance is described through numerous photographs and illustrations. The layout of each model ordinance document makes it easy to understand the purpose of various standards and criteria used in the model and how to modify them to better meet any local concerns. Effective aerial photographic illustrations clearly depict suitable locations for types of land uses and how individual development projects can be designed to achieve overall community goals. Various forms of computer simulated site design are used to illustrate key design concepts within each model.

An Award of Merit will be presented to Westchester County, New York in the Best Practices category for their *Homeseecker Website*. The *Homeseecker Website* provides a straightforward comprehensive tool for outreach to broad communities and diverse populations and to provide information that makes it easy for potential "homeseechers" to take advantage of the homeownership and rental affordable housing opportunities offered in the County. With the click of a mouse, visitors discover a wealth of information about the homes, the neighborhoods, financial eligibility requirements, affiliated housing resources and counseling agencies, and can view the housing site they select in Bing maps to experience a virtual satellite-view tour of the very community they are considering moving into.

Congratulations to all the winners. You can find out more about the County Planning Division of APA at <http://www.planning.org/divisions/countypanning/index.htm> .

You can also find out more about the National Association of County Planners, an affiliate of the National Association of Counties at <http://www.countyplanning.org>.

2012 County Planning Division Award Winners

With Chair Judy M. Francis, AICP

	
<p>Mecklenburg County, North Carolina represented by Ruchi Agarwal</p>	<p>Westchester County, New York represented by Brian O'Leary</p>
	
<p>Montgomery County, Pennsylvania represented by Nickolas Magilton</p>	

NEWS

**The County Planning Division is joining the
webinar series in 2012**

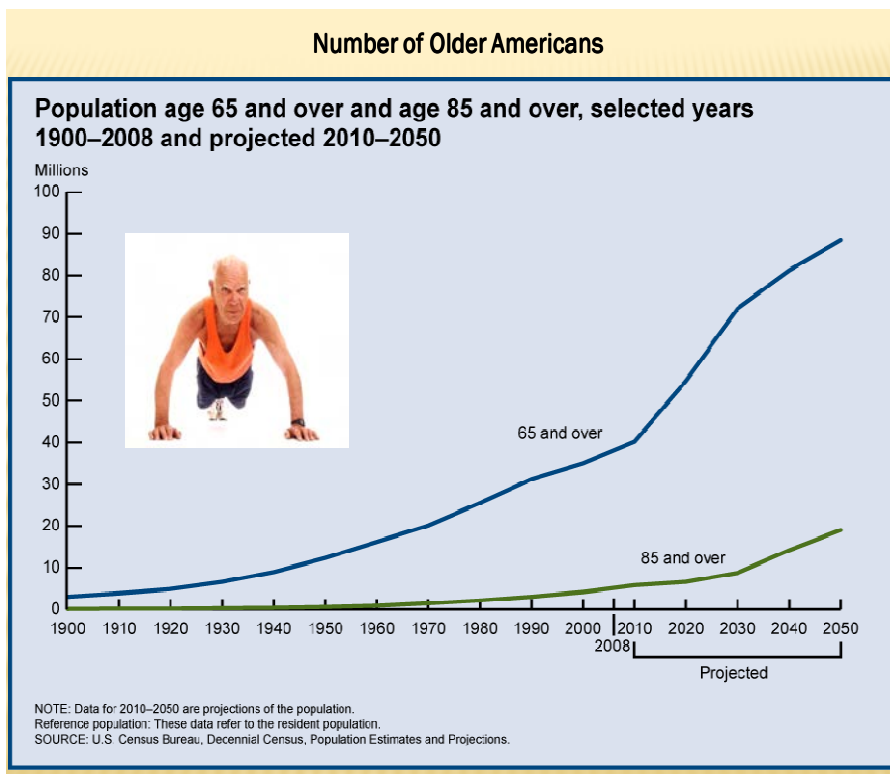
As you may know, the Ohio State University in conjunction with APA Chapters and Divisions offers a yearly webcast series. The webcasts take place on Fridays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. eastern time and are offered at no cost. The webinars are setup in a tier system, (“Introductory” Advanced” and “Allied”), to assist registrants with identifying sessions that best match their subject matter experience level. The webinars are hosted by the Utah Chapter at <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts>.

The County Planning Division has joined the webinar series for 2012. At this time we would like to make a call for webinars. Any County Planning Division members wishing to conduct a webinar as part of this yearly series please let us know at judy.francis@ncdenr.gov or downtown54@hotmail.com. We are especially interested in webinars concerning the new Divisions Initiative “*Planning for a More Dynamic Population.*” This Initiative includes three primary themes of The Changing Face of America, Shrinking Cities, and Mega Trends.

NEWS

The Demand for Age-friendly, Livable Communities

The U.S. is undergoing a demographic transformation. One critical trend started on January 1st, 2011 when the very first Baby Boomers - defined as those born between January 1st, 1946 and December 31st, 1964 - turned 65. According to the Pew Research Center, it is projected that for the next 19 years, about 10,000 people “will cross that threshold” every day. The aging tsunami has begun, and by 2030, when the last of the baby boomers are 65, the rate of the population who are 65 and older will have grown to 18 percent. By 2050 one in every five Americans will be 65+, an increase of 120 percent from 40 million to more than 88 million. As the older population grows larger, it will also reflect the demographic changes in the population by growing more diverse.



Today's elderly are living longer and the cost of health care is rising dramatically including demands on entitlement programs such as social security and medicare. Those two factors are going to make it incredibly challenging to address the needs of all of these retiring Baby Boomers — especially, as many of them have no intention of ceding to others their independence and their youthful perspective towards life.

This means that the 79 million baby boomers, about 26 percent of this country’s population, will be redefining what it means to be older. Besides living longer, the boomers will be working longer and placing greater demands on the social safety net and a community infrastructure to be more responsive to the needs of aging in place. The lifetime associations and connections rooted in place can be pivotal to successful aging. Older adults require access to services, a range of housing types and transportation options for active living in the community. According to AARP [<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place-2011-full.pdf>], unsupportive community design, unaffordable and inaccessible housing, and a lack of access to needed services are barriers to the desire of older adults to live in their own homes and to thrive in their communities.

ARE WE PREPARED?

Most experts agree that many communities have not planned and redesigned their services for the aging boomers. Making cities more age-friendly can be daunting.

At the same time, a tight economy is pushing communities to cut spending on critical programs and services that are needed more than ever.

However, there is progress being made in the more than 300 age-friendly/ livable community initiatives underway nationwide based on age-friendly models proffered by organizations such as the World Health Organization, AARP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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Innovative partnerships are forming among government agencies, businesses, nonprofits, social service providers, aging experts, grassroots advocacy groups, academia, and senior centers to brainstorm how to make their city or town age-friendly for both the very active and the very frail.

PHILADELPHIA: A BEST PRACTICE

Aging as a Planning issue can be addressed in two basic ways:

- ❑ The Traditional Approach where interventions focus on the individual rather than the wider community in which that individual resides, or
- ❑ The Age-friendly efforts which focus on improving both the physical and social environments that surround elders in order to facilitate independence and neighborhood cohesion.

Philadelphia has the highest proportion of older persons (age 60+) of the ten largest U.S. cities. Fifty-five percent are minority, foreign born or both and reflect a wide range of health status and education. The Philadelphia Corporation of Aging (PCA), the City's Area Agency on Aging, chose to develop an agenda based on the 'age-friendly' model of EPA's Aging Initiative to better serve this community. www.pcaAgefriendly.org

The EPA framework integrating Smart Growth principles focuses on environmental and behavioral factors as expressed by: social connectedness, housing choice, transportation and mobility, and staying healthy through access to healthy food and exercise. Initiated in 2008, PCA catalyzed a broad-based coalition of nonprofit, private and government agencies beyond the aging-related service organizations as well as academia....a partnership which continues to grow to foster new collaborations around aging and the environment.

In practice the award winning Age-Friendly Philadelphia has established accessory dwelling units through zoning code changes, promoted age-friendly parks checklist, age-friendly bus shelters, developing a process for age-friendly neighborhoods, integrating aging issue in the Sustainability Plan, Regional Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

A PCA-sponsored initiative to connect older adults with young professionals, GenPhilly is a new network of emerging leaders in their 30s. The effort fosters support for an Aging-Friendly Philadelphia recognizing that an aging population as an asset to their own professional growth. It breaks down stereotypes surrounding an aging population through events and other opportunities for engagement and sharing of experiences.

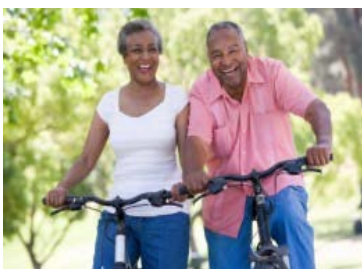


20s and the becomes

With every improvement, the whole community benefits. If a park age-friendly, it appeals to families as well.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Aging of America provides an extraordinary opportunity for planners to create plans, policies and practices to develop and redevelop communities that are more age-friendly and enable aging in place ... and, therefore, create communities more *livable for all*.



All ages benefit from Smart Growth/livable communities strategies and age-friendly communities also create family-friendly communities.

The Divisions Council has an Aging and Livable Communities Initiative online at: <http://www.planning.org/leadership/divisions/initiatives/aging/index.htm>.

The goal of the initiative is to create a one-stop resource for planners to help them guide the fundamental transformation to create communities that are livable for all.

Currently, the web page has articles and links to webinars and reports on aging. You may help to create a more robust resource through sharing of best practices and case studies from your work and local communities. Help build the APA Resource Database. Please start the conversation in your chapters and divisions. Contact your Chapter President and/or Division Chair.

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RESOURCES

Aging-Friendly Contacts

- ❑ **Kathy Sykes, Senior Adviser** U.S. EPA Aging and Sustainability
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Phone: (202) 564-3651
- ❑ **Kate Clark, Planner** Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
KClark@pcaphl.org
Phone: (215)765-9000 x 5072
- ❑ **Dr. Allen Glicksman, PhD, Director of Research and Evaluation**, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
AGlicksman@pcaphl.org
Phone: (215)765-9000 x 5063

Online Publications



- ❑ **Older Americans 2010: Key Indicators of Well Being • Updated 1/14/11 •** Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics [includes reports, federal partners, websites] www.agingstats.gov
- ❑ **Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices •** December 2011 • A Research Report by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the AARP Public Policy Institute
<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place-2011-full.pdf>

Contact: Ramona Mullahey, Divisions Council Initiative on Aging and Livable Communities at:
ramona.mullahey@hud.gov



Open your eyes to new possibilities when you join thousands of planners from around the world in Chicago on April 13-17, 2013.

2013 Key Conference Dates

- July 20, 2012 Local Host Committee and Mobile Workshop proposal deadline
 - August 7, 2012 Division Sessions proposal deadline
 - August 21, 2012 Session, Presentations, Posters, Technology Showcase, Training Workshop, Facilitated Discussion, and Division Sessions proposal deadline
 - October 9, 2012 Student Posters and Capstone Presentations proposal deadline
- Conference Location: Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL**

NEWS

A National Conversation on the Future of Our Communities: Seeking New Ideas in Community Planning, Design, and Development Call for Papers, Blog Posts, Videos, and Photos!

What's your vision for the future of your community? Join the Smart Growth Network (SGN) in the first national conversation about how neighborhoods and regions could be planned, designed, or developed to meet the needs of current and future generations. Your ideas will help the members of the Smart Growth Network form strategies to help communities grow in ways that strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life. Here's how you can participate:

- **Submit a short paper by June 30** about a community planning, design, or development issue you believe communities will be facing in the next 15 years. Visit <http://smartgrowth.org/nationalconversation> for details. **Deadline: June 30, 2012!**
- **NEW: Submit blog posts, videos, and photos** describing your image of the ideal community, which will launch in late summer 2012. Submission details will be available by July 9 at <http://smartgrowth.org/nationalconversation>.

What kinds of topics is SGN interested in?

We're open to all ideas on community design, planning, and development. Here are just three examples:

- Immigrants? Millenials? Which new demographic groups will shape communities and how will we meet their needs? (*New populations*)
- How will communities engage and energize traditionally disadvantaged community members? (*Social equity*)
- How will communities finance smart growth? (*Financing mechanisms*)

What will happen to your contribution?

Select submissions will be posted on <http://smartgrowth.org/nationalconversation> and shared widely among smart growth organizations. Submissions may also be featured at the National Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Kansas City, MO, Feb. 7-9, 2013.

What is the Smart Growth Network?

The Smart Growth Network is a group of private, public, and nongovernmental partner organizations seeking to improve development practices in neighborhoods, communities, and regions across the United States. Learn more at www.smartgrowth.org/network.php.

Roberta Lane White, Management Analyst, U.S. EPA	Office of Sustainable Communities Mail Code: 1807T	1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
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NEWS

Dennis Sandquist, our County Planning Division Past President has been appointed to NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use (EELU) Steering Committee for 2011-2012 by his state association. Periodically throughout the year he will be receiving emails from me regarding legislative happenings in the EELU issue area.

About the EELU Committee: The Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU) Steering Committee oversees all matters pertaining to air, water, and noise pollution control; solid and hazardous waste management and disposal; the preservation and proper utilization of water resources; energy; and the use of land resources, including comprehensive planning, coastal zone management, growth management, energy facilities siting, and recreation.

Within EELU, there are four subcommittees. They are: Air Quality Subcommittee; Energy/Renewables Subcommittee; Land Use and Solid Waste Management Subcommittee;, and the Water Quality Subcommittee. While each subcommittee has a Chair and Vice Chair (named by the NACo President), there are no subcommittee assignments. NACo Members can go to whatever subcommittee meetings they choose at the conferences.

The EELU Steering Committee also has a website. Refer to the EELU website for conference related materials, current NACo policy, the EELU membership list, and other legislative policy pieces:
<http://www.naco.org/legislation/policies/Pages/EELU.aspx>.

EELU Leadership: Chair, Vice Chair, Subcommittee Chair/Vice Chair appointments are made by the current NACo president.

For the 2011-2012 year, Supervisor Salud Carbajal (Santa Barbara County, CA) has been named Chair of the Committee. To see the other leadership appointments (and current EELU membership list), go to:
http://www.naco.org/legislation/policies/Pages/EELU_Members.aspx.

Conferences: The EELU Committee meets at least twice a year at the Legislative and Annual Conferences. The Legislative and Annual Conferences are where NACo policy in the environment and energy realm is initially vetted and debated. Mark your calendars!

The 2012 Legislative Conference occurred March 3-7, 2012 in Washington D.C.

The Annual Conference is July 13-17, 2012 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Allegheny County/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. EELU Committee meetings will most likely will be scheduled for Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14th. The official start of the Annual Conference is Sunday, July 15th.

Policy: The NACo policy process mirrors the Congressional policy process. The policy must be proposed by a member of the NACo membership, debated by the jurisdictional steering committee(s), passed by the NACo Board of Directors, and ultimately the NACo membership. The policy is a majority driven process and is meant to be representative for counties as a whole.

NACo's American County Platform is its "permanent" policy, similar to how America views the U.S. Constitution. Platform policy is representative of issues that continue year after year and can only be modified once a year at the Annual Conference. Platform amendments use a similar process to proposed resolutions (referenced below).

Resolutions, on the other hand, are for issues that are relatively temporary on Capitol Hill or in the agencies. For example, a resolution is used for a bill or issue that has a short life span of a year or two. Resolutions are debated twice a year, at both the Legislative and Annual Conferences. If a resolution passes at the 2012 Legislative Conference, it is called an "interim" resolution and it must be resubmitted months later for the 2012 Annual Conference in July. However, if a resolution is passed by the NACo membership at the Annual Conference, it is NACo policy until the next year's Annual Conference.

Resolutions cannot conflict with the platform; otherwise, they will be ruled out of order. Likewise, platform language cannot be modified using a resolution.

If you have any questions about anything NACo-related, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

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www.naco.org

Important Contact Information

Feel free to contact any of the following individuals with your ideals and suggestions, as well as your willingness to volunteer to assist the Division in any capacity:

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<u>ADDITIONAL DIVISION VOLUNTEER</u>	Michael J. Kayes, AICP 1506 River Street Olean, NY 14760 Telephone: (518) 842-2669 FAX: (518) 842-5533 EMAIL: MJKayes504@aol.com
<u>ADDITIONAL DIVISION VOLUNTEER</u>	Royce Maniko Director Monroe County Planning Department 125 East Second Street Monroe, MI 48161 Telephone: (734) 240-7380 FAX: (734) 240-7385 EMAIL: royce_maniko@monroemi.org
<u>ADDITIONAL DIVISION VOLUNTEER</u>	Your name could be here, all it takes is the willingness to volunteer for the County Planning Division in some productive way.

Pipeline Safety New Voices Project



The Need For Better Planning Near Pipelines

Do not be misled by the apparent short length of this paper! Inside, there are a number of links to other reports and resources about planning near pipelines. This briefing paper acts as an introduction to those additional resources, and if you want to know more, please follow the links and read them to acquire a more complete understanding of the issues surrounding land use planning near pipelines. Don't miss the webinar. Plus, there are a lot more pictures included in the other resources!

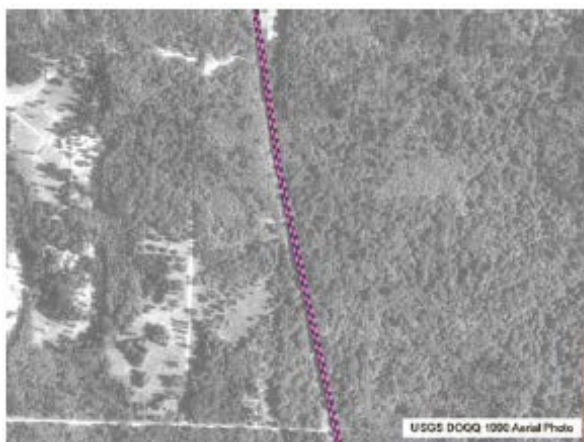


Figure 1 - 1990



Figure 2 - 2002

Aerial views of an area of a Washington county. Red line indicates pipeline location.

The majority of the large transmission pipelines in this country were put in the ground decades ago in what at the time were predominantly rural areas. As our communities have grown, more and more neighborhoods and businesses have been built near these once rural pipelines. Development near these large pipelines increases the risk to the people living near them in the rare event of a pipeline failure. It also increases the risk that the pipelines could be damaged, also putting people in harms way.

To better understand issues related to land use planning, PHMSA, in conjunction with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), sponsored a comprehensive study of land use practices, zoning ordinances, and preservation of environmental resources on transmission pipeline rights-of-way (ROW). In an [October 2004 report](#), the Transportation Research Board (TRB) recommended that PHMSA “develop risk-informed land use guidance for application by stakeholders.”

Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance

In response, PHMSA initiated and supported a collaborative effort - The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance - made up of land use planning and pipeline safety stakeholders to implement the recommendations from the TRB study.

The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) participants represent a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including: property developers; the real estate industry; local, state, and federal government; fire marshals; the public; and the transmission pipeline industry. Over 150 PIPA participants worked in three separate Task Teams to consider and develop recommended practices related to protecting communities, protecting transmission pipelines, and ensuring better communication among stakeholders. The PIPA initiative began in January 2008 and has resulted in several recommended practices related to risk-informed land use planning and development adjacent to transmission pipelines.

The final PIPA report including the recommended practices can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). Here is the associated report from PHMSA that helps communities understand risk - [Building Safe Communities: Pipeline Risk and its Application to Local Development Decisions](#).

For the past few years, a handful of local governments around the country have started to use their land use planning efforts and their zoning and permitting authority to try to increase the safety for people living near pipelines.

The Municipal Research Service Center, a nonprofit that serves cities and counties in Washington State, has a valuable website collecting a variety of information about planning near pipelines. The site includes a two-part webinar, <http://www.mrsc.org/webinar/pipawebinar.aspx>, featuring Carl Weimer of the Pipeline Safety Trust and Jim Doherty of the MRSC, providing background and advice to local governments seeking ways to increase the safety of their residents living near pipelines. The MRSC website also captures many of the examples of local land use ordinances showing the variety of ways municipalities have chosen to try to improve safety around existing pipelines including mandatory consultation between a developer and a pipeline operator, and in some cases imposing setbacks from existing lines for new construction. [Planning Near Pipelines website - Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington](#)

Some of you are familiar with a concept used when talking about natural gas pipelines – the potential impact radius, or “PIR.” This is the area “within which the extent of property damage and the chance of serious or fatal injury would be expected to be significant in the event of a rupture failure.” (C-FER circle model report , at p. 3). Some local governments use a variation of the PIR in their planning ordinances relating to pipelines. This concept of a PIR comes from a study, [A Model For Sizing High Consequence Areas Associated With Natural Gas Pipelines](#), now relied on by PHMSA in defining PIR in its regulations for use in defining high consequence areas for natural gas transmission lines. Unfortunately, the PIR does not take into account the length of time before a line’s valves can be closed and the remaining gas in the pipe is released. During that time, the pipeline will continue to act like a giant blowtorch, fueling whatever structural fires are nearby. The resulting fires can encompass an area much larger than the original PIR. There is also growing concern that the PIR calculation is not accurate and underestimates the size of affected area, for very large diameter pipes operating at high pressure.

The PHMSA program manager in charge of the PIPA implementation team recently spoke at the Trust’s mini-conference in Salt Lake City further describing the PIPA report and current implementation efforts. You can see a video of her presentation here: mms://slcstream.slcgov.com/Videos/MYR_2012_0316_PSW_D2S4.wmv (Note: this may not run on a Mac without compatible video software)

The slides from her presentation are here: http://www.pstrust.org/slc_docs/Julie%20Halliday.pdf

Moving Forward

This initial report from PIPA is just the beginning and there is still much more to do to make this an effort that can continue to provide local governments the tools they need to address pipelines safety within their jurisdictional limits. The two main things that need to happen next are:

1. The PIPA team needs to formulate and fund a plan to get this information into the hands of local governments, and provide the technical assistance needed to help them implement the recommendations that make sense in their areas. It is hard to get the word out to thousands of local governments about adopting a new set of ordinances, make sure they get the right information and have support as they go through the process. As planning departments have shrunk since the housing bubble burst, few local governments have the staff time available to take on a new project that no one is requiring and no one is paying for. **Just drafting and posting the report on a website is not enough!** Industry and PHMSA thought PIPA was important enough to participate in while the report was being negotiated, but who will pay for and participate in its implementation?

2. This first effort from PIPA focused on new development near existing pipelines. We now need to turn this equation around and help provide recommendations for new pipelines near existing development. While this was discussed during the first round of PIPA, the development of such ideas was put off because of concerns raised by FERC and the pipeline industry.

Here are two pictures showing pipelines through residential areas and passing schools.



Can you tell which picture represents new development near an existing pipeline (covered by PIPA), and which is a new pipeline placed near existing development (off limits for PIPA)?



It doesn't make sense to talk about trying to avoid risks with better planning of new development near pipelines and not talk about avoiding risk by better planning of new pipelines near houses.

News articles about housing/pipeline conflicts:

Calif. pipeline explosion raises concerns in Pasco <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/09/27/1185030/gas-pipeline-explosion-in-california.html#ixzz17DkykwYN>

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/safepipelines/message/16779>

School Closures - Two elementary schools - one in California and one in Texas - are closed by local school boards because of proximity to pipelines

[Quick closure of N. Sacramento school debated](#) This story describes the quick closure of this California elementary school after the school district received a risk analysis about nearby pipelines. The risk assessment can be downloaded [here](#).

[School Board votes to close Pumphrey Elementary School](#). This link will download a document that includes all the stories regarding this closure of an elementary school in Texas near Houston. The risk analysis that was used to make this decision can be downloaded [here](#)

Mid term Exam!!

And now, an optional quiz, for those of you who enjoy such things, synthesizing what you've learned about damage prevention programs, planning near pipelines and operators' regulatory obligations.

About a year ago, a news story showed up about the travails of the homeowners in a recently developed subdivision in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. They had learned, after building their new homes, that two natural gas transmission pipelines (10 and 16 inches) crossed the back yards of an entire line of more than 10 lots in a new subdivision. Here's the link to the article: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/safepipelines/message/18420>

And here's a local TV news story:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=QLp5butleg

Your quiz (and they will not be turned in or graded) is to identify how many people or entities must have "made errors" (in the developer's letter's terms) and in how many ways, for these homeowners to end up in this situation.

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And since we're on the subject, the next paper will be pipeline routing. Stay tuned.