



American Planning Association  
**Pennsylvania Chapter**  
*Lehigh Valley-Berks Section*

## Monthly Newsletter

 August 2025

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### August is Here!

Hello planners:

Summer is already more than halfway through, and soon schools will be back in session and fall will be on its way. Still, there's plenty happening all across our region. Musikfest kicks off today, the Great Allentown Fair and Kutztown Fair are soon approaching, and Labor Day is around the corner. That also means planners are staying busy as well!

The Berks County Planning Commission is busy with their [County Comprehensive Plan](#) update process, and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission continues several initiatives like the [Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan](#) and the [Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy](#). Our local municipalities are also working on several plans and projects, so be sure to stay tuned for more!

Coming up is the APA Pennsylvania Annual Conference, which will be held from October 12th to 14th at the Hilton Harrisburg. [Hotel reservations are](#)

[available now](#), and conference registration will be opening soon. Make sure to get your travel arrangements made ahead of time!

And in short time, the Christmas City will be hosting the 2026 Annual Conference at Wind Creek Bethlehem! We will be looking for anyone interested in volunteering for the Conference Planning Committee, so please consider helping out!

If you have any questions, concerns, or anything you'd like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me at [craigbeavers24@gmail.com](mailto:craigbeavers24@gmail.com). Otherwise, I'll see you in our next newsletter!

Craig Beavers, AICP Candidate

**Section Chair**



 **News and Announcements**

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## Summer Break!

We will be taking a break from our regular Section Council meetings during August as we all enjoy the wonderful summer weather and schedule various vacations.

Don't worry: there's still plenty happening behind the scenes in the meantime! Check out the information below for upcoming events and initiatives!

Our next meeting will be on [Thursday, September 11th at 12pm](#), [hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams](#).

To add this meeting to your calendar, please download the calendar link here: [Calendar Invite](#)

## 2026 APA PA Conference in Bethlehem

We are thrilled to share that we will be hosting the 2026 APA Pennsylvania State Conference right here in our Section! It will be held from Sunday, October 18th through Tuesday, October 20th at Wind Creek Bethlehem. Professional planners and planning volunteers from all over the commonwealth will be flocking to our region, and we hope you will be one of them!

To help plan this major event, we will be forming a Conference Planning Committee. This committee will help organize the selection of the theme, review keynote speakers, and help frame the overall coordination of the conference. Commitment involves a few meetings over the next year, and help in various subgroups like awards planning, social events planning, speaker selection, etc. Participants are also eligible for discounted registration rates to the conference. [Here is a document providing a more detailed outline of the responsibilities and timeline.](#)

Anyone can volunteer, whether you are an active section member, someone who just reads the minutes or newsletters, or even if you aren't a member or a planner! It takes a team to organize our conference and promote planning in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County, so we are looking for any and all help!

We will be holding a Conference Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, September 11th at 11:00 am on Microsoft Teams.

**Everyone and anyone are welcome to attend**, even non-members and non-planners. Please click here to add the

meeting invite to your calendar: [Conference Planning Committee Meeting Invite](#)

If you are interested or would like more information, please click the link below:

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

## Section Volunteers Wanted!

We have several volunteer opportunities open for anyone in our section who is interested. These positions have a low-time commitment, allow for AICP credits, and are a fun way to connect with colleagues across the region! If any of these items interest you, please reach out to Craig or Samantha.

- **Section Officers** - Later this fall, we will be holding elections for all of our Section Council Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 5 Council (2 planners/ 2 PC members). Positions have various levels of commitment and responsibilities, but are eligible for AICP credits and reimbursement to Section and Chapter events.
- **Election Nomination Committee** - This committee consists of three people who collect the names of interested candidates for section office, and distribute the candidates list and ballot. Commitment involves 1-3 meetings total, and about 30 minutes of data collection.
- **Education and Events Committees** - We have two committees for our section that help with our work. One is our Education Committee, working to promote planning to our local colleges and schools. The second is our Events Committee, developing CM events and social gatherings.

We welcome anyone and everyone to help out with these two committees!

If you might be interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below:

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

## **Webinar Wednesday: Driving Pennsylvania Transportation Forward: Insights from the State Transportation Advisory Committee**

**August 6 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

The State Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has been providing independent guidance to the State Transportation Commission (STC) and the Secretary of Transportation since its creation by Act 120 of 1970. In recent years, the TAC has been addressing many topics that are of interest to transportation planners and PennDOT that are important to improve our understanding of how best to plan for the future of transportation.

As part of this session, the TAC chair will offer an overview of the TAC and its statutory role. This will be followed by an overview of one of the TAC's signature planning efforts, that of the development of the biennial Transportation Performance Report (TPR). The TAC has produced the TPR on a biennial basis as a kickoff to the launch of the 12-Year Program update. The presentation will summarize not only Pennsylvania

transportation system performance, but will also stress the importance of monitoring and reporting as part of the planning process and how planners can incorporate this step as part of their planning initiatives.

*CM credit is pending approval. You must attend the webinar live in order to earn CM credit.*

Speaker(s):

Brian Funkhouser, AICP and Jody Holton, AICP

Deadline to register is August 5

If you're interested in sponsoring a Webinar Wednesday session or have a session for Webinar Wednesday please contact us.

Send your request to [admin@planningpa.org](mailto:admin@planningpa.org).

Register Now

## Upcoming Events

Our Section provides a calendar of CM events, local initiatives, and major planning meetings. Here are a few upcoming events of note:

- [August 1 - APA National: You're the Messenger: Communicating the Value of Planners Part One](#) (1 CM)
- [August 1 - Use By Right and Administrative Approvals](#) (1.5 CM)
- [August 6 - Webinar Wednesday](#) (1 CM)
- [August 8 - New Tools for Evaluating Fiscal Impact of Housing in New Hampshire](#) (1.5 CM)

- [August 15 - Tackling Flood Risks with Data-Driven Approaches](#) (1.5 CM)
- [August 21 - Introduction to Food Systems Planning](#) (1.5 CM)

To view more events and CM webinars, click the button below.

[View More Events](#)

## Employment Opportunities

Our Section highlights a variety of planning and planning related jobs in our area. Here are a few open positions:

- [Senior Community & Regional Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)
- [Community Planner – Hanover Engineering](#)
- [Planning Engineer – Lehigh County Authority](#)

To view more job opportunities, click the button below.

[View More Jobs](#)

 **SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

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Liked this month's newsletter? Don't forget to spread it out!



**Lehigh Valley/Berks Section,  
APA PA**

Allentown, PA

United States of America



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