



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

## April Monthly Newsletter

 News and Announcements

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**\*NEW\***

### **Section Event - Planning for Data Centers: Regional Perspectives and Local Implications**

Join our section as we host our first CM event of the year on Monday, April 27th from 12pm to 1pm.

This webinar will provide planners with a practical, planning-focused overview of data center development, with emphasis on local land use implications, infrastructure demands, and regional coordination strategies. As interest in data center siting continues to grow across Pennsylvania, planners are increasingly tasked with evaluating proposals that have

significant impacts on zoning, utilities, transportation, energy systems, and community character.

The session will feature a moderated panel discussion bringing together perspectives from municipal and county planning, regional planning, and engineering and development professionals. Panelists will discuss how data centers differ from traditional industrial uses, common planning and zoning challenges, infrastructure and utility considerations, and best practices for local governments preparing for or responding to data center interest.

Participants will gain insight into how planners can proactively address data centers through comprehensive planning, zoning ordinances, development standards, and inter-municipal coordination.

To register click the button below.

[Sign Up Here](#)

## **Next Meeting: May 21st**

Please see below for our Full Section Membership Meeting schedule for the rest of the year. More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

- **Thursday, May 21, 2026 - Hamilton Family Restaurant**
- **Friday, August 14, 2026 - TBD**
- **Thursday, November 19, 2026 - TBD**

If you are able to attend our May meeting, please click the link below to RSVP:

[RSVP Here](#)

## Sponsorship Opportunities Available

We are pleased to announce that the City of Bethlehem will host the Pennsylvania Chapter American Planning Association Conference on **October 18-20, 2026**. This prestigious event will welcome more than 400 planning professionals who will engage in comprehensive training, strategic networking, and professional development activities.

This year's conference theme "***Forging the Next 250 Through Preservation, Innovation, and Collaboration***" will comprehensively highlight the growth and future of Pennsylvania's planning profession, underscoring the Commonwealth's pivotal role in transforming its history through regional development and innovation. Sessions will focus on critical topics including land use planning, affordable housing solutions, sustainable infrastructure planning, transportation planning, historic preservation, geographic information systems, and economic development strategies designed to strengthen communities across diverse urban and rural settings. Attendees will gain valuable insights from industry leaders on implementing future-focused planning approaches.

The conference presents an exceptional opportunity for organizations to showcase their expertise and capabilities to planning professionals and policymakers from across the Commonwealth.

We encourage anyone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor, exhibitor, or advertiser for our upcoming conference to visit the link below to learn more.

[Click Here for More Info](#)

## **Webinar Wednesday: When a Region Commits to Safety**

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

In the Delaware Valley (Philadelphia and its suburban counties), someone dies or is seriously injured in a traffic crash every 3.7 hours. This is too often, we (DVRPC and partner agencies) are committed to getting to zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2050 if not sooner. This presentation will focus on DVRPC's Regional Vision Zero (RVZ) Safety Action Plan process and outputs. Delving into the foundational block of a Regional High Injury Network (RHIN) as a data-driven process. We will also highlight stakeholder conversations and feedback.

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

Speaker(s):

Rebecca Wetzler

*\*\*The Pennsylvania Chapter is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speaker(s) you will hear\*\**

Deadline to register is May 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:

- [April 17 - Behind the Cloud: Planning for Data Centers](#) (1.5 CM)
- [April 27 - Section Event: Planning for Data Centers: Regional Perspectives and Local Implications](#) (1 CM)
- [May 1 - ADA Compliance for Local Governments](#) (1.5 CM, 1 Eq)
- [May 6 - Webinar Wednesday: A Recipe for Heritage-Based Planning: Comp Plans, Placemaking and Partnerships](#) (1 CM)
- [May 7 - Reimagining the Industrial Past: Context-Sensitive Design in the 2026 APA Student Competition](#) (1.5 CM)
- May 14 - Conference Planning Meeting
- May 21 - Full Section Meeting

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 Transportation Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)
- [Chief Planner - City of Easton](#)

To view more job opportunities, click the button below.

[View More Jobs](#)

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

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