



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

APA PA 2026

this year!

- **500** planners expected
- Over **50** classroom sessions
- 7 mobile workshops offered
- Up to **12.25** CM credits, including Sustainability/Resilience, Equity, Law and Ethics
- **Welcome Reception at Hotel Bethlehem**
- **Opening Keynote "The Future Is Already Here: How Technology Is Reshaping Planning"** with John Houseal, FAICP, Houseal Lavigne
- **State of the APA PA Chapter**
- **Annual Awards**
- **Tuesday Plenary "Planning with the Past: Preservation, Partnership, and the Next 250 Years"** with Historic Preservation Panel
- **Pitkin Lecture "Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities"** with Veronica O. Davis, PE, Transportation Nerd and Author
- Tuesday afternoon Desserts with our **Exhibitors**
- **The largest annual gathering of planners in PA!**



Photo Courtesy of Discover Lehigh Valley®

PA Chapter of the American Planning Association
2026 Annual Conference
Sunday, October 18 – Tuesday, October 20
Bethlehem, PA
#APAPA26

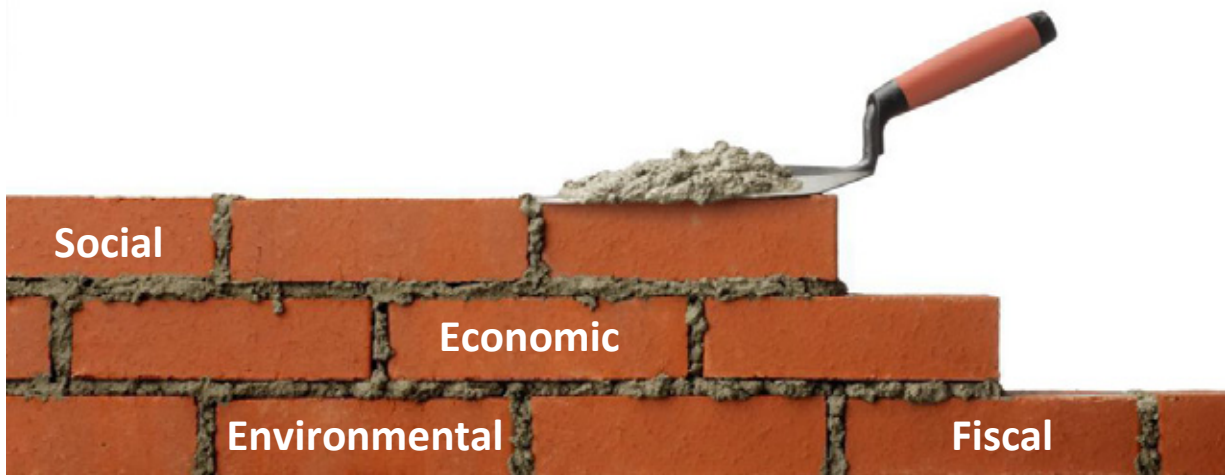


American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Inclusive Transportation

A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities

Veronica Davis, PE AICP

Island Press, an imprint of Princeton University Press

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American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

PA Chapter of APA President: **Leah Eppinger, AICP**

2026 Conference Chairs: **Craig Beavers, AICP; Craig Peiffer, AICP; and Molly Wood, AICP**

PA Chapter of APA

PO Box 4680

Harrisburg, PA 17111

admin@planningpa.org

Register online at
planningpa.org

Conference

@AGLANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Mobile Workshops
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions A
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break (coffee & tea)
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions B
5:15 PM	Walk to the reception
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Hotel Bethlehem
Evening	Dinner on your own

Questions? If you have questions about the conference, please contact the Chapter office at admin@planningpa.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome & Introductions
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening Keynote with John Houseal
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Mobile Workshops
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions C
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break/Travel
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions D
12:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Chapter Address & Annual Awards
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Break/Travel
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions E
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions F
After 5:30 PM	Dinner on your own
Evening	Networking event hosted by Lehigh Valley/Berks Section

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Introductions
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Plenary with Historic Preservation Panel
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions G
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Pitkin Lecture with Veronica Davis
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Dessert with Exhibitors
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions H
2:30 PM	Adjourn

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to our Sponsors, Exhibitors and Advertisers (as of July 31)

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- Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
- University of Pennsylvania
- USA Architects
- West Chester University
- Woodmont Properties

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

2027 APA-PA Annual Conference

October 17 – 19, 2027
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel
at Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA

2028 APA PA Annual Conference

October 15 – 17, 2028
Sheraton Valley Forge
King of Prussia, PA

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Monday, 800a–9:30a

Opening Keynote



The Future Is Already Here: How Technology Is Reshaping Planning (8:30a – 9:30a)

JOHN HOUSEAL, FAICP, Houseal Lavigne

CM | 1.25

New technologies - from geospatial intelligence and digital twins to artificial intelligence and immersive visualization - are transforming how communities analyze problems, engage the public, evaluate alternatives, and make decisions. Yet technology alone is not the story. The real opportunity is how these tools can help planners better preserve community character, strengthen collaboration, and shape more resilient places. Through real-world examples from communities across the country, John Houseal explores how innovation is expanding the planner's role, what changes are coming next, and why the profession has never been better positioned to lead.

Tuesday, 8:00a – 9:30a



Planning with the Past: Preservation, Partnership, and the Next 250 Years (8:15a-9:30a)

JESSICA EDRIS (MODERATOR), Lehigh Valley 250

KATHERINE FAULL, PHD, Moravian Heritage



SCOTT PAUL GORDON, PHD, Lehigh University

LINDSEY JANCAY, Historic Bethlehem Museum & Sites

MEGAN VAN RAVENSWAAY, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society

CM | 1.25



Using Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley as a case study, this plenary conversation will explore how preservation can strengthen community identity, support economic development, and guide thoughtful growth. Panelists will discuss Bethlehem's UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, heritage tourism, placemaking, adaptive reuse, redevelopment, funding, and regional collaboration—offering practical lessons for communities planning for the next 250 years.

Tuesday, 11:30a – 1:00p
Luncheon & Pitkin Lecture

Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities (12:00p – 1:00p)

VERONICA O. DAVIS, PE, Transportation Nerd and Author
CM | 1.00

In her new book, “Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities,” Veronica lays out her vision to bring about a new era of transportation planning. During the keynote, Veronica will explain why centering people in transportation decisions requires a great shift in how planners and engineers are trained, how they communicate, the types of data they collect, and how they work as professional teams. She’ll explain how centering people can create something safer, better, and more useful for all people. Veronica will conclude with a call to action to planners and engineers to reconnect with and help shape communities.



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Houseal Lavigne integrates planning, geospatial intelligence, visualization, and design to help communities understand change, explore possibilities, and make better decisions. Through data-driven analysis, immersive storytelling, and compelling graphic communication, we turn complex challenges into clear, actionable solutions that shape stronger places and more resilient communities.

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CONFERENCE ETIQUETTE

The dress code for the conference is **business casual** attire.

Cell phones and other devices that make noise should be disabled during sessions. If you must take a call, please exit the session as quietly as possible and take the call in the corridor.

Room temperatures are difficult to regulate. It is advisable to dress in layers so you can add or remove a layer for your personal comfort.

The conference is a **no-smoking** event. Smoking is not permitted in any conference event, including mobile workshops.

Please be considerate of other conference participants who may have allergies or sensitivities to **fragrances**. If your fragrance is strong, please consider using less of it, or not using it during the day.

APA PA is **not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speakers you will hear**.

Conference

PLANNING COMMITTEE(*CO-CHAIR)

Thiago Almedia, *Berks County Planning Commission*

Craig Beavers*, *Palmer Township*

Isabella Fiume, *DCED*

Evan Gardi, *Lehigh Valley Planning Commission*

Robert Gates, *Bowman*

Jennifer Gomez, *City of Allentown*

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Molly Wood*, *LANTA*

Sean Ziller, *City of Bethlehem*

David Zipf, *Bucks County Planning Commission*



Questions? If you have questions about the conference, please contact the Chapter office at admin@planningpa.org.



Sunday, 5:30p – 7:00p (*gather in lobby transportation 5:15*)

Welcome Reception: Hotel Bethlehem (437 Main Street)

The Hotel Bethlehem is a historic destination. Located on the site of the First House of Bethlehem in 1741, Historic Hotel Bethlehem continues the tradition of warm and gracious hospitality brought by the Moravian settlers over 280 years ago. This reception includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Monday, 12:00a – 1:45p

Luncheon, State of the Chapter and Annual Awards Presentation

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of fellow Pennsylvanians who shape where we live, work and play! Join **Craig Peiffer**, chair of the PA Chapter of APA Awards Committee, for an inspiring **Annual Awards** program. We will recognize the work of fellow planners, planning officials, and elected officials and their roles in planning Pennsylvania. PA Chapter of APA President, **Leah Eppinger** will present the **State of the Chapter** highlighting the Chapter's successes and key activities during 2026.

Monday, 6:30p

Planners Social

Planners Social will be at Social Still Distillery (530 E. 3rd Street/corner of Pierce Street), from 6-8pm. Every good planner has a team of colleagues to lean on. This social aims to connect planning professionals from all over the state for an evening of drinks, appetizers, and good conversation. This social is sponsored by Lehigh Valley-Berks Section and Michael Baker International. Drink tickets will be distributed, and additional food and beverage will be available for purchase. This event is limited to 125 people, please make sure you register for this event. There will be no onsite registrations.

A second location of after-party fun, sponsored by HRG, will be at Country Club Brewing (323 Pierce Street) starting any time after 6pm.

Small Cities Lab



LEHIGH

U N I V E R S I T Y

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Support the next generation of Planners!
Give to the PA Chapter of APA Scholarship Fund!

...and in other Scholarship Fundraising Committee news, we will also be selling tickets for the yearly **basket raffle**, and again this year we will be coordinating a **50/50 raffle**!

Your contribution to the PA Chapter of APA Scholarship Raffle will help current planning students with their education-related expenses. Both undergraduate and graduate planning students are finding it hard to make ends meet. Students must not only juggle their academic pursuits, but also pay their bills, which is more difficult with fewer student loan options and higher textbook prices.

HOW TO HELP:

- **Make a tax-deductible contribution.** Simply indicate your financial gift when you register for the Conference and include it with your payment. We'll mail a thank you letter for your tax records.
- **Purchase raffle tickets** at the Conference. Help make it fun again this year while raising funds to support young planners. Generous donors contribute a variety of great prizes, from weekend getaways to gourmet food baskets to Pennsylvania-themed gear. Tickets will be on sale throughout the Conference.
- **Participate in the 50/50 raffle!**
- Donate items for the raffle—big or small! Donate a **basket** from your county or region. Reach out to your local attractions for **tickets**. Donate a **book**! Donate a **painting or print**! Are you lucky enough to have a **vacation condo or cabin** you can donate for a week or weekend? Please contact the PA Chapter Office with the details of your giveaway at admin@planningpa.org.



GENERALINFO

About the Main Speakers, Sessions and Certification Maintenance Credits

Application will be submitted to APA for approval of Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for all of the main speakers and most of the educational sessions at this year's conference. A total of 12.25 CM credits may be earned depending on session selections. Mobile workshops will have CM credit. And Sustainability/Resilience, Equity, Law and Ethics CM credits are offered.

The list of approved sessions will be posted on the PA Chapter website, www.planningpa.org, after approval is received from APA.

Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled because of low registration or unforeseen circumstances. Changes and cancellations will be noted in the Final Program which is distributed at the conference as well as on the Chapter website prior to the conference.

Following the conference, materials will also be available on the PA Chapter of APA website in electronic format.

The PA Chapter of APA is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speakers you will hear.

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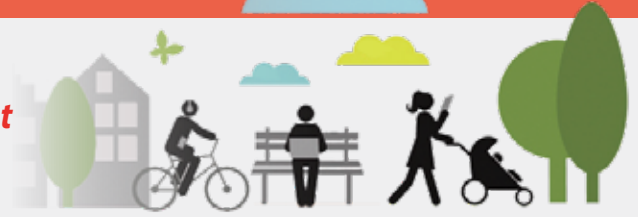
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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Please join us for all three days of the conference or just Monday. Monday, October 19 has a spotlight on Healthy Communities.



The day includes:

- **Exciting sessions** centered around this emerging topic.
- **Discounted rate** available for health professionals and advocates.
- **Networking** session to meet colleagues from around Pennsylvania.
- **Expanded resources** available on the [Healthy Communities in PA](https://planningpa.org/healthy-communities-in-pa) website after the conference.

Healthy Communities Sessions

- C1.** SHIPshape: What Is a Planner to Make of the State Health Improvement Plan?
- C2.** Layers of Place: Integrating Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Areas into Planning
- D1.** Leading the “Green” Way: Planning a Sustainable Future for the Bushkill Creek
- D2.** Our City in a Park: The Allentown Parks Plan 2025
- E3.** What IS and ISN’T Happening in Health Planning?
- F3.** Trail Town Planning for Downtowns: The Place Where Heritage Tourism Meets the Outdoor Economy

About the Healthy Communities in PA Task Force

The Healthy Communities in PA task force envisions communities in all parts of Pennsylvania being built in a way that makes the healthy choice the easy choice for every resident. The Healthy Communities in PA task force achieves its vision through volunteer efforts by planning and health advocates creating tools and resources to assist partners in promoting healthy community design. The tools and resources are created by working groups of task force topic experts collecting best practices needed by Pennsylvania’s healthy community design partners and to create new partners. The American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Chapter is committed to sharing these resources and facilitating discussion around healthy community design in Pennsylvania.

Questions? If you have questions about the conference, please contact the Chapter office at admin@planningpa.org.



MOBILEWORKSHOPS

All mobile workshops require an extra fee to cover transportation and other logistics. **These workshops will be cancelled if sufficient participation is not reached.** Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for walking or biking.

Sunday, 12:30p – 3:00p

M1. Bethlehem SteelStacks: Re-forging the Cultural and Community Legacy of the Lehigh Valley

CM | **2.50** *Additional \$10 fee required*

This walking workshop explores the transformation of the former Bethlehem Steel site into SteelStacks, a nationally recognized cultural and economic development destination. Through guided tours and presentations from project partners, participants will learn how industrial heritage, arts and culture, strategic planning, and public-private partnerships revitalized one of the nation's largest brownfield sites. Attendees will gain firsthand insight into the vision, implementation, and long-term community and economic impacts of this award-winning redevelopment.

Participants will be walking a total of 1.5 miles, plan on wearing comfortable clothing and shoes. Session is limited to a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 participants.

Tony Hanna, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Bethlehem

Jared McKnight, ASLA, AIA, WRT

Keiko Tsuruta, RLA, WRT

Sunday, 1:00p – 3:00p

M2. Enhanced Bus Service: Connecting a Region through Incremental Rapid Transit Growth

CM | **2.00** *Additional \$10 fee required*

This mobile workshop explores LANTA's Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) program and its phased approach to developing a Bus Rapid Transit network in the Lehigh Valley. Participants will tour the EBS corridor from Bethlehem to Allentown, learning how transit investments have been coordinated with municipal planning, zoning, transit-oriented development, and regional partnerships. Through on-site presentations and discussion, attendees will gain practical insights into implementing high-quality transit service and integrating it with community development initiatives.

Session is limited to a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 participants.

AJ Knee, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority

Molly Wood, AICP, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority



MOBILEWORKSHOPS

Sunday, 2:00p – 5:00p

M3. Building the Bethlehem Bike Network

CM | **3.00** *Additional \$20 fee required*

This mobile workshop explores Bethlehem's Complete Streets Plan and citywide bicycle network, developed through the Safe Streets for All program. Participants will bike a planned route to examine how bicycle facilities were selected, the tradeoffs involved in different street designs, coordination with LANTA, and the next steps in implementing the network. Attendees will gain firsthand insight into the data, planning process, and design decisions that support safer, more connected, and multimodal streets.

Participants will be biking, plan on wearing comfortable clothing and shoes. Session is limited to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 participants.

Laura Ahramjian, AICP, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

Cathy Fletcher, AICP, City of Bethlehem

Corey Gray, City of Bethlehem

Tara Hofferth, PE, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

Monday, 9:00a – 12:00p

M4. Piloting the Power of Proximity with Allentown Works

CM | **3.00** *Additional \$30 fee required*

This mobile workshop showcases Allentown Works, a federally funded workforce development initiative that uses place-based strategies to reduce prime-age unemployment and connect residents to high-opportunity careers. Through guided visits to program hubs in Franklin Park, Center City, and the 1st and 6th Wards, participants will learn how partnerships, workforce training, childcare, transportation, and community engagement are being integrated to build a local workforce ecosystem. Presentations from program partners and the Allentown Works Power Cohort will highlight innovative approaches to equitable economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

Session is limited to a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 participants.

Jennifer Gomez, AICP, LEED AP ND, City of Allentown

Manuela Guevara, Allentown Economic Development Corporation

Trevor Tormann, City of Allentown

Register online at
planningpa.org



MOBILEWORKSHOPS

Monday, 9:30a – 11:30a

M5. ADU Mobile Workshop: How Bethlehem is Boosting Housing Supply by Reviving an Historic Housing Type

CM | **2.00** *Additional \$30 fee required*

This mobile workshop explores how Bethlehem is expanding housing choice through accessory dwelling units by reintroducing historic alley houses as a response to today's housing affordability challenges. Participants will tour neighborhoods showcasing the city's diverse housing types, visit a pilot alley house, and learn how the City, Lehigh University's Small Cities Lab, and Community Action Lehigh Valley partnered on zoning reforms and research to support gentle density. The workshop highlights an innovative public-private collaboration that combines historic preservation, housing policy, and community engagement to create new housing opportunities in a built-out city.

Participants will be walking roughly 2 miles, plan on wearing comfortable clothing and shoes. Session is limited to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 participants.

Karen Beck Pooley, PhD, Lehigh University

Wes Hiatt, AIA, NCARB, Lehigh University

Sara Satullo, City of Bethlehem

Anna Smith, Community Action Development Bethlehem

Monday, 2:00p – 3:30p

M6. Growing the Middle: Planning an Abundant Future for Northside Bethlehem

CM | **1.5** *Additional \$30 fee required*

This mobile workshop explores Bethlehem's Northside as a case study in balancing neighborhood revitalization with housing affordability, equity, and community preservation. Led by City staff, planning consultants, and neighborhood leaders, participants will visit key redevelopment sites and community assets while examining the opportunities and challenges that accompany reinvestment in a rapidly changing neighborhood. The tour concludes with a facilitated discussion on strategies for fostering inclusive growth, preserving neighborhood character, and addressing displacement pressures in maturing communities.

Session is limited to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 participants

Sara Satullo, City of Bethlehem



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MOBILEWORKSHOPS

Monday, 3:30p – 5:00p

M7. Steel Site Planning & Tour

CM | 1.5 *Additional \$10 fee required*

Join a guided walking tour of the former Bethlehem Steel site led by the project's master planner and team, offering a firsthand look at the planning framework behind one of the nation's most significant industrial redevelopments. Through discussions at key locations, attendees will learn about the site's planning approach, phased implementation strategies, and ongoing collaboration with public and private partners. The session will explore lessons in large-scale adaptive reuse, public-private partnerships, historic preservation, and implementation strategies, providing practical insights that can be applied to other legacy industrial redevelopment projects.

Tim Harrison, TCH Realty & Development Co.

Donna Taggart, Taggart Associates

Sean Ziller, City of Bethlehem

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EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026

- 11:00a – 5:00p** **Registration Open**
- 1:00p – 3:00p** **Legislative Committee Meeting**
- 3:15p – 5:00p** **PMPEI Meeting**
- 12:30p – 3:00p** **M1. Bethlehem SteelStacks: Re-forging the Cultural and Community Legacy of the Lehigh Valley**
- 1:00p – 3:00p** **M2. Enhanced Bus Service: Connecting a Region through Incremental Rapid Transit Growth**

2:00p–3:00p **Concurrent Education Sessions A (1.00 CM)**

A1. Lights, Camera, Aging: Adapting “Aging Our Way, PA” for Local Planning Success

CM | **1.00 Equity**

Pennsylvania’s aging population presents an opportunity to build stronger, more livable communities. Join PA Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich and the Pennsylvania Council on Aging for the official launch of the Local Companion, a free planning guide developed to help local leaders implement the Commonwealth’s Aging Our Way, PA Multisector Plan for Aging. This session will highlight best practices for engaging older adults in community planning, demonstrate practical planning tools, and showcase strategies for integrating aging into local priorities across areas such as housing, transportation, arts and culture, and other key policy initiatives.

Velma Carter-Dryer, PA Department of Aging

Jessie Pierce, PA Department of Aging

Melanie Titzel, PA Department of Aging

A2. Growth at Full Speed: How Planning Tools Are Guiding Upper Macungie’s Future

CM | **1.00**

Upper Macungie Township has transformed from a rural community into one of Pennsylvania’s fastest-growing municipalities, driven by rapid commercial, warehouse, and population growth. This session explores how the Township has used a coordinated planning approach—including a Vision Zero Action Plan, parks and open space planning, zoning updates, and an Official Map—to balance economic development with quality of life, mobility, and conservation. Attendees will learn how strategic planning, meaningful public engagement, and long-term visioning have positioned the Township to successfully accommodate major investments, including a new \$50 million recreation center and Eli Lilly’s \$3.5 billion manufacturing campus, while preserving the community character residents value.

Rob Gladfelter, RLA, ASLA, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

Register online at
planningpa.org



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026, *continued*

A3. Creating Change in Small Cities through Cross-Sector Collaboration: A Conversation with Lehigh University's Small Cities Lab

CM | 1.00

This interactive peer session brings together planners and public officials from Pennsylvania's smaller cities and boroughs to discuss shared planning and policy challenges, exchange practical solutions, and build professional connections. Facilitated by Lehigh University's Small Cities Lab, the discussion will draw on the Lab's work in housing, zoning, urban resilience, and community planning while fostering cross-sector collaboration and strengthening networks that support planning capacity in smaller communities across the Commonwealth.

Karen Beck Pooley, PhD, Lehigh University

Wes Hiatt, AIA, NCARB, Lehigh University

A4. Beyond the Journey to Work: Building a Robust Multi-Modal Data Collection Program that Captures a 24-7-365 Picture of Travel Needs

CM | 1.00

As travel patterns continue to evolve beyond traditional commuting, transportation planners must adapt the way travel demand is measured and modeled. This interactive roundtable will explore how AI, cellular data, advanced survey tools, and camera-based traffic technologies can improve travel demand forecasting and capture 24/7, multimodal travel patterns. Following a brief overview of post-pandemic travel trends and AI modeling efforts in the Lehigh Valley, participants will share innovative practices and emerging tools that can strengthen transportation planning across Pennsylvania.

Subham Kharel, PhD, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Steven Weber, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

A5. All Aboard: Transit-Oriented Development Across the Keystone State

CM | 1.00

Transit-oriented development (TOD) can create vibrant, walkable communities while strengthening transit systems, but successful implementation requires strong coordination among transit agencies, municipalities, and the private sector. This session will highlight how SEPTA and Pittsburgh Regional Transit are advancing TOD through policy, planning, and strategic partnerships, using real-world examples to demonstrate effective approaches. Attendees will gain practical strategies for aligning land use and zoning with transit investment, fostering public-private collaboration, addressing market challenges, and creating transit-oriented communities that support housing, accessibility, and economic opportunity.

Jennifer Dougherty, AICP, SEPTA

Maira Egler, AICP, Pittsburgh Regional Transit

Dan Hutton, AICP, PP, RSP1, STV, Inc.



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026, *continued*

A6. Let's Talk PennEnviroScreen: Mapping Out a Just Future
CM | 1.00

This interactive session explores how planners can use the Pennsylvania DEP's PennEnviroScreen mapping tool to identify environmental justice concerns and guide more equitable planning decisions. Participants will receive an overview and hands-on demonstration of the tool, discuss challenges in environmental justice mapping, and collaborate in roundtable discussions to analyze environmental burdens and community vulnerabilities in their own regions. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using PennEnviroScreen to support climate resilience, reduce disproportionate environmental impacts, and advance environmental justice across Pennsylvania.

Justin Dula, AICP, PA Department of Environmental Protection

John Roper, PA Department of Environmental Protection

A7. All Hands On Housing: Connecting State, Regional, and Local Action
CM | 1.00

Addressing Pennsylvania's housing challenges requires coordinated action across state, regional, and local levels of government. This session will showcase how the Commonwealth Housing Action Plan, the Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy, and the City of Allentown's housing initiatives work together to expand housing supply, improve affordability, and support implementation. Through case studies and interactive discussion, attendees will gain practical strategies for aligning housing policies, leveraging available tools and funding, and fostering collaboration to address housing needs in communities across Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Gomez, AICP, City of Allentown

Jill Seitz, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

2:00p – 5:00p **Mobile Workshop**
M3. Building the Bethlehem Bike Network

Register online at
planningpa.org





EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026, *continued*

3:30p–4:45p **Concurrent Education Sessions B (1.25 CM)**

B1. Wicked PA Themed Planning Ethics Skits

CM | **1.25 (1.00 Ethics)**

Building off successful presentations at NPC23, NPC26, and the 2024 and 2025 PA Chapter Conferences, join the PA Chapter Players as they present a new installment of Planning Ethics skits. In this session, several PA based TV shows or movies main characters are reimagined as planners, through the presentation of a series of skits based on past AICP Ethics Cases of the Year. In Silver Lining Planning Book, two planners who are crazy about planning, Pat and Tiffany, bond over their love of good planning. Pat needs help writing a County hazard mitigation plan and Tiffany “borrows” a plan from a neighboring county that she found on the internet. Is Pat headed toward a plagiarism charge? Next meet Rocky, a planner in the Philadelphia Planning and Development Department by day and moonlighting as a boxer and planning consultant by night. Might Rocky be headed towards an epic conflict of interest? Next we head west to the Pitt, a fast paced planning triage unit, where AICP planners in training diagnose and treat a variety of planning scenarios with ethics concerns. In the finale, a never before attempted ethics musical skit will be performed: reimagine Wicked’s Defying Gravity as Defying Zoning and somehow tie in an ethics dilemma!

Scott Duncanson, AICP, ENV SP, LEED Green Associate, GFT

Pattie Guttenplan, AICP, RLA, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Eric Jarrell, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Matthew Popek, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Mike Pritchard, AICP, York County Planning Commission

Rebecca Ross, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

B2. Gettysburg 1863 to 2025: Preservation, Conservation and Growth

CM | **1.25**

This session will discuss the development challenges the Borough has faced as a result of the Battle of Gettysburg. A review of the impact of the battle, the later reunions, nation reflections on development 100-years after the battle, rejuvenation post 2000, and finishing with the community’s experience of the 2025 Zoning Ordinance update process. A multi-year analysis provides context of historic preservation and development in Gettysburg, the national reflection on the urban decay that occurred as a result of limited regulation tourism, and the current economic realities affecting and shaping the built environment.

John Whitmore, AICP, CFM, Borough of Gettysburg



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EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026, *continued*

B3. Every Park in Ten Years: Bethlehem's 40-in-10 Parks & Recreation Master Plan CM | 1.25

This session highlights the development of the City of Bethlehem's 40-in-10 Parks & Recreation Plan, a community-driven vision to enhance more than 40 parks over the next decade through strategic investments in facilities, maintenance, and programming. Presenters will explore the plan's equitable Neighborhood Park Network approach, data-driven analysis, and robust public engagement process, demonstrating how park planning can improve access to recreation and amenities while meeting the diverse needs of residents across the city.

Corey Gray, City of Bethlehem

Sheila Fuentes, Omnes

Laura Stedenfeld, PLA, ASLA, APA, WEDG, Omnes

B4. From Warehouses to Web Servers: Planning for the Next Generation of Industrial Uses CM | 1.25

As industrial development shifts beyond warehouses to include data centers, advanced manufacturing, and energy-intensive technology facilities, municipalities must adapt their planning and zoning approaches. This session will examine emerging industrial land use trends, provide a practical framework for evaluating infrastructure, transportation, and land use impacts, and highlight regulatory strategies and case studies—including experiences from South Whitehall Township. Attendees will leave with actionable planning tools to proactively prepare for evolving industrial development while balancing economic growth, infrastructure capacity, and community needs.

David Manhardt, AICP, South Whitehall Township

Jill Seitz, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

B5. Why Creative Public Financing May Be the Fastest Way to Boost Housing Supply CM | 1.25

Facing a severe housing affordability crisis despite a strong real estate market, the City of Bethlehem developed Opening Doors, its first affordable housing plan, to expand housing supply and increase affordability through innovative, data-driven strategies. This session will explore the plan's extensive community engagement process, use of housing and displacement data, and public-private partnerships, with a focus on Bethlehem's pioneering revolving loan fund model to support mixed-income housing production. Attendees will gain practical insights into creative financing and planning approaches that can help communities address housing shortages and affordability challenges.

Emily Folenta, City of Bethlehem

Sara Satullo, City of Bethlehem

Liz Sidor, Center for Public Enterprise



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Sunday, October 18, 2026, *continued*

B6. Megawatts and Megadeals: Data Center Dilemma in Pennsylvania CM | 1.25

As data center development accelerates across Pennsylvania, planners must navigate competing priorities related to economic development, environmental impacts, infrastructure demands, and community concerns. This interactive session will examine these tradeoffs through case studies, mapping exercises, and group discussions, providing participants with practical tools to evaluate data center proposals and develop balanced planning and policy responses. Attendees will also gain access to publicly available mapping resources and a customizable evaluation framework to support decision-making in their own communities.

Kerry Fany, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Jamaal Green, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Betsy Logan, AICP, City of Lancaster

Zhenpeng Zhang, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

B7. Planning for Place: What Two Active Transportation Plans Reveal About Community, Need, and Strategy CM | 1.25

Active transportation planning in small communities requires solutions that reflect local priorities, resource constraints, and long-term community goals. Using Wilkesburg and Millvale as case studies, this session will explore how planners tailored planning processes, public engagement, and implementation strategies to address distinct community needs while advancing multimodal connectivity and broader revitalization efforts. Attendees will gain a practical framework for comparing planning approaches across different community contexts and applying those lessons to strengthen active transportation planning in their own municipalities.

Ashley Cox, evolveEA

Christine Mondor, FAIA, LEED AP, EcoDistricts AP, evolveEA

Varun Shah, evolveEA

5:30p – 7:00p **Welcome Reception: Hotel Bethlehem** (437 Main Street)

The Hotel Bethlehem is a historic destination. Located on the site of the First House of Bethlehem in 1741, Historic Hotel Bethlehem continues the tradition of warm and gracious hospitality brought by the Moravian settlers over 280 years ago. This reception includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Evening

Dinner on your own

Questions? If you have questions about the conference, please contact the Chapter office at admin@planningpa.org.



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026

7:00a – 5:00p Registration Open

7:00a – 5:00p Exhibit Hall Open

7:00a – 8:00a Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00a – 9:30a Welcome & Introductions

Opening Keynote

The Future Is Already Here: How Technology Is Reshaping Planning

CM | 1.25

New technologies - from geospatial intelligence and digital twins to artificial intelligence and immersive visualization - are transforming how communities analyze problems, engage the public, evaluate alternatives, and make decisions. Yet technology alone is not the story. The real opportunity is how these tools can help planners better preserve community character, strengthen collaboration, and shape more resilient places. Through real-world examples from communities across the country, John Houseal explores how innovation is expanding the planner's role, what changes are coming next, and why the profession has never been better positioned to lead.

Sascha Meinrath, Penn State University

9:00a – 12:00p Mobile Workshop

M4. Piloting the Power of Proximity with Allentown Works

9:30a – 10:00a Refreshment Break with Exhibitors

9:30a – 11:30a Mobile Workshop

M5. ADU Mobile Workshop: How Bethlehem is Boosting Housing Supply by Reviving an Historic Housing Type



legal practice areas include:

Municipal | Public Finance | Real Estate | Litigation
Business | Employment | Bankruptcy | Estates | Family

1 W Broad Street | Suite 700 | Bethlehem, PA 18018
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4400 Walbert Ave | Allentown PA 18104
610-332-0390 | www.kingspry.com



From Ideas to Impact

Michael Baker integrates planning, engagement, and technical design to transform community priorities into realistic, buildable solutions across transportation, development, and infrastructure systems.



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

10:00a – 10:45a Concurrent Education Sessions C (0.75 CM)

C1. SHIPshape: What Is a Planner to Make of the State Health Improvement Plan?

CM | 0.75

Planning decisions have a significant impact on public health, yet many planners are unfamiliar with state health initiatives such as Pennsylvania's 2023–2028 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This session will explore how the SHIP and other health-focused planning resources can complement existing planning efforts, introduce attendees to health data and regional reports, and identify opportunities to build partnerships that advance healthier, more equitable communities through planning.

Sam Pearson, Pennsylvania Downtown Center

C2. Layers of Place: Integrating Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Areas into Planning

CM | 0.75

Cultural landscapes reveal the connections between people, history, and the natural environment, offering planners a holistic framework for understanding and shaping communities. This session will explore how a cultural landscape approach can integrate land use, historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, and community engagement through regional partnerships such as National and State Heritage Areas. Using examples from the Brandywine Conservancy, participants will gain practical strategies and planning tools to identify, protect, and celebrate the layered landscapes that define their own communities.

Elizabeth Burns, Brandywine Conservancy

C3. It Takes a Village: Effective Multi-Municipal Planning

CM | 0.75

Multi-municipal comprehensive planning offers communities a powerful way to address shared challenges that extend beyond municipal boundaries. This session will highlight successful regional planning initiatives in the Lehigh Valley, demonstrating how collaboration can improve housing, infrastructure, economic development, and land use decision-making. Attendees will learn practical strategies for building regional partnerships, structuring collaborative planning efforts, and leveraging DCED resources to strengthen long-term planning outcomes.

Jill Seitz, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Carolyn Yagle, AICP, PLA, NAP, Environmental Planning and Design

Register online at
planningpa.org



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

C4. Bridging the Gap: A Community Planning Technical Assistance Showcase

CM | 0.75

This session introduces the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Community Planning Technical Assistance Program (C-TAP) and its role in helping municipalities move from planning to implementation. Through a series of case studies, presenters will demonstrate how C-TAP supports communities by evaluating land use ordinances, preparing for larger planning efforts, and advancing implementation strategies. Attendees will gain practical insights into how targeted technical assistance can build local capacity, foster consensus, and create actionable pathways for successful community planning.

Daniel Carpenter, PA DCED

Isabella Fiume, PA DCED

Joy Fronzoli, PA DCED

John McGranor, PA DCED

Lisa Mroszczyk Murphy, AICP, PA DCED

C5. Reducing Road Salt Through Planning: Practical Strategies for Municipalities and Winter Maintenance Contractors

CM | 0.75

Site design decisions made during land development review have long term implications for winter maintenance needs and chloride pollution. Planners can influence salt use by encouraging design choices that reduce pavement area, improve drainage, and support efficient snow management. This interactive workshop introduces low salt design principles and guides participants through hands on review of mock site plans. Attendees will identify design elements that drive salt use and propose alternatives that maintain safety while protecting water resources.

Jennifer Latzgo, MS, Pennsylvania Road Salt Action

Mary Rooney, PE, Pennsylvania Road Salt Action

C6. Best Practices for Transit Oriented Development

CM | 0.75

Transit-oriented development (TOD) can expand housing opportunities, reduce sprawl, improve affordability, and create more walkable, connected communities, but implementing successful TOD projects requires careful planning and collaboration. This session will feature perspectives from the Montgomery County Planning Commission, SEPTA, and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania on best practices, common challenges, and emerging policy initiatives. Attendees will gain practical strategies for advancing TOD while addressing issues such as staff capacity, development constraints, and displacement concerns.

Marley Bice, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Jennifer Dougherty, AICP, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Pattie Guttenplan, RLA, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Chris Sandvig, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

C7. Data Into Dollars: How Better Metrics Strengthen Plans and Funding Applications

CM | 0.75

Strong data and well-crafted planning documents are essential for securing competitive grant funding. This session will demonstrate how to use planning metrics to build compelling grant applications and create “grant-ready” plans by incorporating meaningful data, performance measures, and implementation tools into planning documents. Attendees will learn practical strategies for aligning local priorities with funding agency criteria, developing defensible project narratives, and positioning their communities for successful grant opportunities.

Kaitlin Mills, AICP, CPRP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Lauren Zumbrun, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

10:45a – 11:00a **Break/Travel**

11:00a – 12:00p **Concurrent Education Sessions D (1.00 CM)**

D1. Leading the “Green” Way: Planning a Sustainable Future for the Bushkill Creek

CM | 1.00 **Sustainability/Resilience**

This session showcases the community-driven master plan for the Bushkill Creek Greenway in Palmer Township, highlighting strategies to protect and enhance the corridor’s parks, trails, and watershed in the face of climate change and environmental pressures. Presenters will share lessons from the planning process, including community engagement, ecological and engineering analyses, and approaches to flood mitigation, habitat restoration, and trail design. Attendees will gain practical, replicable strategies for integrating climate resilience, natural resource stewardship, and public partnerships into sustainable park and greenway planning.

Craig Beavers, AICP, Palmer Township

Kristie Fach, Wildlands Conservancy

Laura Stedenfeld, PLA, ASLA, APA, WEDG, Omnes

D2. Our City in a Park: The Allentown Parks Plan 2025

CM | 1.00

Parks are vital civic infrastructure that support recreation, environmental resilience, and community well-being. This session will showcase the development of Allentown Parks Plan 2025, a community-driven vision for the city’s 40-park system that integrates recreation, watershed management, climate resilience, and equitable access through a “gray-green-blue” infrastructure framework. Attendees will learn practical strategies for public engagement, prioritizing investments, building partnerships, and developing comprehensive park plans that strengthen environmental stewardship and community development in municipalities of all sizes.

Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

Rob Gladfelter, RLA, ASLA, APA, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

D3. The New Planner Series: First Jobs, Big Choices, and the Skills That Matter Now

CM | 1.00

Designed for students, new planners, and early-career professionals, this interactive roundtable explores the transition from planning education to professional practice. Presenters from diverse planning backgrounds will discuss career paths, day-to-day work across sectors and settings, the role of AICP certification, and the evolving skills needed for success. Through facilitated discussions and mentoring, participants will gain practical insights, compare career pathways, and leave with a stronger understanding of planning practice and strategies for professional growth. This session is part of the Pennsylvania Chapter APA Student Engagement Committee's New Planner Series, now in its fourth year at the annual conference.

Liam Darr, University of Pennsylvania

Stephanie Fuentes, Connect the Dots

Daniel Kukula, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Austin Mosby, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Jeff Raykes, AICP, DEd, Stuart Group Consulting

Gabriella Sabwa, Michael Baker International

D4. Problem Solving: Community Engagement When You Don't Have Capacity in a Quick Build Project

CM | 1.00

This interactive session explores how meaningful, high-quality community engagement can be achieved in underserved communities despite limited funding, staffing, and stakeholder capacity. Using quick-build projects in two Delaware County communities as case studies, participants will examine engagement strategies involving schools, municipalities, families, and project teams. Through facilitated discussions and breakout groups, attendees will identify practical solutions to common capacity challenges, compare approaches with community engagement best practices, and leave with lessons learned and a toolkit of questions to apply to their own low-capacity engagement projects.

Tara Hofferth, PE, Kittelson and Associates

Caitlin Mildner, AICP, Kittelson and Associates

Sophia Peterson, Delaware County Planning Department

Cathy Spahr, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

D5. Messy by Design: Building an Implementable County Comprehensive Plan

CM | 1.00

This session examines how Allegheny County's new comprehensive plan, Allegheny Forward, was designed around implementation from the outset by engaging departments, agencies, municipalities, and partner organizations as co-designers. Presenters will discuss strategies for aligning county priorities across 130 municipalities, integrating capital investment and infrastructure planning, navigating political and operational challenges, and building partnerships that endure across administrations. Attendees will gain practical insights into creating implementation-driven comprehensive plans that translate long-term vision into lasting action.

Jenni Easton, AICP, CNU-A, Pashek+MTR

Matt Trepal, AICP, Allegheny County Economic Development



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

D6. Don't Stop the Party: Navigating City Policy to Preserve Street Festivals

CM | 1.00

This interactive session explores the economic and community value of street festivals while addressing the financial and policy challenges that threaten their success. Drawing on a Temple University planning study conducted with the Philadelphia BID Alliance, presenters will share findings on permitting, public safety costs, economic impact measurement, and event operations. Through a problem-solving roundtable, participants will exchange best practices, compare experiences from communities across Pennsylvania, and leave with practical strategies and tools for planning, managing, and sustaining successful neighborhood festivals.

Jeffrey Doshna, PhD, AICP, Temple University

Alison Petracek, City Council of Philadelphia

Nathaniel Shaw, Philadelphia Gas Works

D7. AICP: Is This Certification For You?

CM | 1.00

Are you interested in becoming a certified planner by taking the AICP exam? Not sure yet? The PA Chapter and its Professional Development Committee are here to help you decide. In this session, speakers will explain the benefits and requirements of certification, the application process, and the format of the exam for those trying to decide if or when to take the exam. For those who have already decided to take the exam, speakers will identify resources available to help prepare for testing. The session will be driven by the needs of attendees, and questions are encouraged.

Steve Thomas, AICP, Michael Baker International

Alexis Williams, AICP, PP, STV, Inc

12:00p – 1:45p

Luncheon, State of the Chapter and Annual Awards Presentation

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of fellow Pennsylvanians who shape where we live, work and play! Join **Craig Peiffer**, Chair of the PA Chapter of APA Awards Committee, for an inspiring **Annual Awards** program. We will recognize the work of fellow planners, planning officials, and elected officials and their roles in planning Pennsylvania. PA Chapter of APA President, **Leah Eppinger** will present the **State of the Chapter** highlighting the Chapter's successes and key activities during 2026.

1:30p – 3:30p

Mobile Workshop

M6. Growing the Middle: Planning an Abundant Future for Northside Bethlehem



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

2:00p – 3:15p Concurrent Education Sessions E (1.25 CM)

E1. Rethinking Housing Permitting in Pennsylvania: A Framework for Reform

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Law)

This session examines how streamlining Pennsylvania's housing permitting process can reduce costs, shorten approval timelines, and help address the state's housing shortage. Drawing on research by the Mercatus Center and interviews with developers, planners, attorneys, and public officials, presenters will discuss recommendations for improving permitting procedures, accountability, transparency, PennDOT review processes, and appeals. Panelists will distinguish between reforms requiring state legislation and those municipalities can implement today, while engaging participants in a discussion of practical strategies and best practices to modernize local permitting and support housing development.

Charles Gardner, JD, Mercatus Center

Ed LeClear, AICP, Borough of State College

Stacie Reidenbaugh, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Luke Zubrod, Square Roots Collective

E2. Opportunity at Home: Powering Community in Action

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Equity)

This session explores the inclusive planning and community engagement strategies behind the launch of Allentown Works, an initiative designed to reduce the city's Prime-Age Employment Gap by connecting residents in priority neighborhoods to sustainable careers in healthcare, manufacturing, and early childhood education. Presenters—including City staff, Power Cohort members, and community partners—will share lessons on building trust, engaging residents, fostering cross-sector partnerships, and leveraging neighborhood leadership to create equitable employment pathways and support long-term community capacity building.

Hannah Clark, AICP, WRT

Kevin McNulty, City of Allentown

Matt Trust, MS, Leonard Parker Pool Institute of Health

E3. What IS and ISN'T Happening in Health Planning?

CM | 1.25

This panel brings together members of Healthy Communities in PA to discuss how health considerations are being integrated into planning practice and where opportunities remain for improvement. Panelists will explore topics including intergenerational planning, food systems, active transportation, roadway safety, health policy, data, and the social determinants of health, while highlighting strategies for strengthening collaboration between planners, health departments, and state and local agencies.

Tiffany Bransteitter, PA Department of Health

Lauren Finn, AICP, City of Lancaster

Samantha Pearson, Pennsylvania Downtown Center

John Turack, Penn State Extension

Rebecca Wetzler, AICP, DVRPC



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

E4. **Preparing for the Future: A Planner's Playbook** CM | 1.25

This interactive session introduces two practical tools—the Drivers of Change Framework and the Community Readiness Plan—to help local governments prepare for emerging challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and demographic shifts. Drawing on pilot projects in North Carolina, presenters will demonstrate how these tools can strengthen community resilience through future-focused planning. Through polling, breakout discussions, and hands-on exercises, participants will identify key drivers of change and develop strategies to help their own communities adapt to an increasingly uncertain future.

Benjamin Hitchings, FAICP, CZO, Green Heron Planning, LLC
David Rouse, FAICP, David Rouse FAICP

E5. **Anatomy of the Development of a Housing Toolkit Study for the Northwest Pennsylvania Region** CM | 1.25

This session highlights the NWPA Housing Development Toolkit, a regional strategy developed for eight northwestern Pennsylvania counties to address housing affordability, vacancy, and aging housing stock. Presenters will review the study's analysis of housing markets, zoning, stakeholder input, and national best practices before engaging attendees in a discussion of how the toolkit's recommendations can be adapted to other communities. Topics include zoning reforms, accessory dwelling units, housing rehabilitation, strategies for addressing chronic homelessness, and partnerships to expand housing opportunities.

Todd Poole, EDFP, 4ward Planning Inc.
Brandi Rosselli, AICP, Mackin

E6. **Running the Room: A Confidence-Building Guide to Your First Public Meeting** CM | 1.25

Designed for emerging planners, this interactive workshop builds confidence and practical skills for facilitating effective public meetings. Experienced practitioners and planning educators will cover meeting fundamentals, including agenda development, communicating technical information, managing challenging participants, and fostering productive discussions. Through role-playing, small-group exercises, and real-world scenarios, attendees will practice facilitation techniques and leave better prepared to lead engaging, inclusive, and successful public meetings.

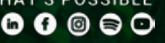
Keyleigh Kern, AICP, ASLA, AECOM
Nicole Ozdemir, AECOM

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EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

E7. From Solar Fields to Server Farms: Modern Pressures on Local Zoning

CM | 1.25

This session examines emerging land-use issues driven by technological change, evolving energy systems, and new development trends. Presenters will discuss zoning approaches for renewable energy facilities, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, data centers, logistics hubs, battery storage, microgrids, and telecommunications, highlighting common challenges and best practices from Pennsylvania and beyond. Attendees will gain practical guidance for updating zoning ordinances and reviewing complex development proposals while preparing their communities for the future of land use.

Laura Ludwig, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Sommer Achneller, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

3:30p – 5:00p

Mobile Workshop

M7. Steel Site Planning & Tour

3:45p – 5:00p

Concurrent Education Sessions F (1.25 CM)

F1. Ethics Cases of The Year 2026

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Ethics)

During this session planners will learn firsthand how the AICP Code of Ethics emphasizes a commitment to equity and inclusion, to protecting the public interest, and to supporting AICP planners from frivolous complaints. Understand how the Code sets certified planners apart from others by focusing on integrity, appearance of fairness, and commitment to supporting fair and just communities. This session will review multiple scenarios including real-life ethical issues, that came before the Ethics Officer last year in 2025. Learn how to readily access the Code on the APA website and how to download a copy of the Ethics Pledge to display as a reminder to themselves and a notice to others that they adhere to a Code of Ethics. One member from the AICP Ethics Committee will assist in presenting the materials along with the PA Chapter's Professional Development Officer and members of the PA Chapter's Professional Development Committee.

Scott Duncanson, AICP, GFT, Inc.

Steve Thomas, AICP, Michael Baker International

Alexis Williams, AICP, PP, STV, Inc.

F2. Local Climate Action Planning in Doylestown Borough

CM | 1.25

This session explores how Doylestown Borough developed its DB2035 Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan through parallel planning processes and how the two initiatives work together to guide the community's future. Panelists will discuss public engagement, coordination between planning efforts, greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and the Borough's approach to implementing climate action recommendations alongside broader community planning goals.

Dennis Livrone, Temple University

Steven Nelson, AICP, Eastwick Solutions

Michael Roedig, Bucks County Planning Commission

Grant Rowe, Borough of Doylestown



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

F3. Trail Town Planning for Downtowns: The Place Where Heritage Tourism Meets the Outdoor Economy CM | 1.25

This session explores how trails and the outdoor recreation economy can drive downtown revitalization and economic development in Pennsylvania. Through case studies of Honesdale, Carbondale, and Shippensburg, presenters will examine successful trail town strategies, including trail improvements, downtown investments, wayfinding, heritage tourism, form-based codes, civic space design, and public-private partnerships. Participants will engage in interactive discussions and leave with practical best practices and a toolkit for leveraging trail-based economic opportunities in their own communities.

Mark Evans, AICP, PP, AIA, Derck & Edson, LLC

Kyle Stauffer, PLA, CPRP, Derck & Edson, LLC

F4. Innovative GIS Tools for Municipal Planning CM | 1.25

This session showcases how South Whitehall Township is using integrated GIS technologies to modernize planning, zoning, and public engagement. Through real-world examples, presenters will demonstrate how tools such as ArcGIS Hub, ArcGIS Urban, and EuclidHL zoning portals improve transparency, provide easier access to planning information, support AI-assisted zoning searches, and enable 3D visualization of land-use scenarios. Attendees will gain practical strategies for implementing GIS platforms to streamline municipal operations, enhance decision-making, and improve community engagement.

Marc Gaeta, Schuylkill County

John Houseal, FAICP, Houseal Lavigne

David Manhardt, AICP, South Whitehall Township

F5. Safe Streets for All in Practice: Lessons from Three Pennsylvania Safety Action Plans CM | 1.25

This session explores how three Pennsylvania Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plans—South Whitehall Township, Lackawanna County, and Lancaster County—translated federal guidance into locally tailored, implementation-focused traffic safety strategies. Presenters will compare approaches to safety analysis, public engagement, project prioritization, equity, and implementation across different community contexts and governance structures. Through case studies and interactive discussion, attendees will gain practical, replicable strategies for developing SS4A Action Plans that advance Vision Zero goals and support safer streets in communities of all sizes.

Kristiana Barr, Lancaster County Planning Commission

Mary Liz Donato, Lackawanna County Department of Planning & Economic Development

Randy Waltemyer, AICP, Bowman



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

F6. Context Matters: Forming a Code Built for Allentown CM | 1.25

This session examines ZONE Allentown, the city's new form-based code, and how it combines context-sensitive urban design with housing strategies to support walkable development and expand housing affordability. Presenters will discuss the building type study that informed the code, zoning reforms such as accessory dwelling units, mixed-use expansion, and affordable housing incentives, and the role of Lehigh University's Small Cities Lab in developing Pattern Books that help translate zoning policies into practical, buildable designs for residents and developers.

Jennifer Gomez, City of Allentown

Wes Hiatt, AIA, NCARB, Lehigh University

Leslie Oberholtzer, AICP, PLA, LEED AP, Codametrics

Melissa Velez, CZO, BCO, City of Allentown

F7. Fast Fun Fervent CM | NO CM

Hear six dynamic speakers covering partnerships, plans, and regional planning topics at the lightning speed. Each speaker will have 7-10 minutes to cover a maximum of 20 slides for 20 seconds each. Attendees will get to learn about a wide variety of topics in short spurts.

Moderated by Conference Committee Member

Rehabilitation of 1724 Chester Courthouse

Kate Clifford, County of Delaware

One Intersection at a Time: A Case Study of Toolkit-Based Active Transportation Planning

Marley Bice, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Pivoting with Purpose: Adaptive Engagement for Resilient Communities

Jamie Genevie, AICP, ICF

From Compost to Community: Activating Underused Spaces Through Recreation

Margaux Petruska, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Integrating Green Infrastructure with Municipal Improvements: Lessons from Radnor Township

Michael Busch, EIT, Meliora Design

Open Space Accelerator: Turning Open Space Plans into Action

Ryan Mawhinney, AICP, Chester County Planning Commission



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Monday, October 19, 2026, *continued*

Evening

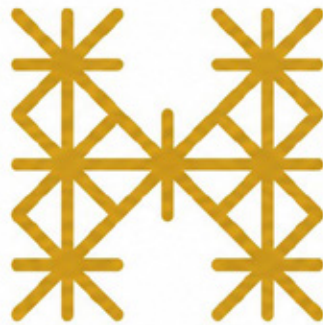
Planners Social

Planners Social will be at Social Still Distillery (530 E. 3rd Street/corner of Pierce Street), from 6-8pm. Every good planner has a team of colleagues to lean on. This social aims to connect planning professionals from all over the state for an evening of drinks, appetizers, and good conversation. This social is sponsored by Lehigh Valley-Berks Section and Michael Baker International. Drink tickets will be distributed, and additional food and beverage will be available for purchase. This event is limited to 125 people, please make sure you register for this event. There will be no onsite registrations.

A second location of after-party fun, sponsored by HRG, will be at Country Club Brewing (323 Pierce Street) starting any time after 6pm.

Evening

Dinner on your own



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EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

7:00a – 3:00p Registration Open

7:00a – 2:00p Exhibit Hall Open

7:00a – 8:00a Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:15a - 8:00a Professional Development Committee Meeting

7:15a - 8:00a Planning Officials Development Committee Meeting

8:00 a – 9:30a Introductions

Plenary

Planning with the Past: Preservation, Partnership, and the Next 250 Years

CM | 1.25

Using Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley as a case study, this plenary conversation will explore how preservation can strengthen community identity, support economic development, and guide thoughtful growth. Panelists will discuss Bethlehem's UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, heritage tourism, placemaking, adaptive reuse, redevelopment, funding, and regional collaboration—offering practical lessons for communities planning for the next 250 years.

Jessica Edris (moderator), Lehigh Valley 250

Katherine Faull, PhD, Moravian Heritage

Scott Paul Gordon, PhD, Lehigh University

Lindsey Jancay, Historic Bethlehem Museum & Sites

Megan van Ravenswaay, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society

9:30a – 10:00a Refreshment Break with Exhibitors

10:00a – 11:15a Concurrent Education Sessions G (1.25 CM)

G1. The Official Map: A Powerful Tool for Open Space Preservation

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Law)

This session explores the Official Map as a powerful but underutilized planning tool available through Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code. Presenters will explain how local governments can use Official Maps to guide future roads, parks, public facilities, and open space preservation, including agricultural lands and passive recreation areas. Through practical instruction and real-world case studies, attendees will gain strategies for effectively using Official Maps to advance long-term community planning and conservation goals.

Mark Fischer, Esq, High Swartz LLP

Nathan Jones, AICP, MPA, Lower Macungie Township



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, *continued*

G2. River Connections for Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction

CM | **1.25 (1.00 Sustainability/Resilience)**

This session explores how removing obsolete run-of-the-river dams can improve community resilience, reduce flood risk, enhance public safety, and restore ecological health. Through Pennsylvania case studies, presenters will highlight the planning, community engagement, and implementation of successful river restoration projects that have expanded recreation access, improved water quality, and strengthened quality of life. Attendees will gain practical guidance on evaluating dam removal as a strategy for climate adaptation, flood resilience, and long-term community sustainability.

Geoffrey Goll, PE, Princeton Hydro

Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, AICP, American Rivers

Beth Styler Barry, The Nature Conservancy

G3. Chance of a Lifetime: Planning (and Zoning) for an 862-acre Blank Slate

CM | **1.25**

This session examines the long-term planning and redevelopment of the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, highlighting the tools Horsham Township has used to transform the 862-acre site into a mixed-use community. Presenters will discuss the master planning process, official mapping, zoning updates, and build-out analyses that are guiding redevelopment, improving transportation connectivity, preserving public spaces, and creating new housing and employment opportunities while supporting the township's long-term economic growth.

Marley Bice, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Erik Garton, PE, Gilmore & Associates, Inc.

Michael Shinton, PE, CZO, BCO, Horsham Township

G4. Hit the Streets and Make it a Party: Hands-on Citizen Planning

CM | **1.25**

This session showcases how Indiana Borough transformed a traditional planning process into an interactive community design experience through a two-day charrette and tactical urbanism demonstration. Presenters will share lessons on building momentum, engaging residents of all ages, fostering partnerships, and turning community ideas into an actionable corridor redesign. Through storytelling and interactive role-playing, attendees will explore practical strategies for using charrettes, tactical urbanism, and intergenerational collaboration to create more engaging, creative, and implementation-focused planning processes.

Kirsten Compitello, AICP, Michael Baker International

Trajan Jones, CZO, Indiana Borough

Jeff Raykes, AICP, DED, Stuart Group





EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, *continued*

G5. The Chinatown Stitch: Collaboration as Community Repair

CM | 1.25

This interactive roundtable explores the community engagement strategies behind Philadelphia's Chinatown Stitch project, which will reconnect neighborhoods divided by the Vine Street Expressway. Presenters from the City of Philadelphia, WSP, and the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation will share lessons on building trust, fostering inclusive engagement, and sustaining community partnerships through a complex infrastructure project. Through facilitated discussions and hands-on exercises, participants will explore practical tools for identifying key audiences, overcoming participation barriers, and strengthening collaboration with community partners.

John Chin, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Kristen Ciambella, City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems

Chang Gao, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Daren Jin, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Heather Martin, AICP, WSP

Julia Whyte, Connect the Dots

G6. Beyond Poverty Rates: New Metrics for Measuring Community Livability

CM | 1.25

This session introduces the Keystone Well-Being Index, a new framework developed by the Pennsylvania Economy League to measure community livability through both traditional economic indicators and innovative measures of social infrastructure. Using Pennsylvania as a case study, presenters will explore how factors such as liquid asset poverty, third-place density, childcare access, and elder-care capacity reveal important regional disparities and provide a more complete picture of community well-being. Attendees will learn how these replicable indicators can inform comprehensive planning, housing policy, and age-friendly community development.

Vinny Cannizzaro, PhD, Pennsylvania Economy League

Steve Jacob, PhD, Pennsylvania Economy League

Mike Pritchard, AICP, York County Planning Commission

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EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, *continued*

G7. Fast Fun Fervent

CM | **NO CM**

Hear six dynamic speakers covering partnerships, plans, and regional planning topics at the lightning speed. Each speaker will have 7-10 minutes to cover a maximum of 20 slides for 20 seconds each. Attendees will get to learn about a wide variety of topics in short spurts.

Moderated by Conference Committee Member

Crossing the Chasm: Moving Planning Innovations from Pilot to Policy

Andrew Gottlieb, No Typical Moments

AICP in the Age of AI: Low Cost Public Administration and a Profession on the Brink

John Whitmore, AICP, CFM, Borough of Gettysburg

ADA at Historic Sites

Kate Clifford, County of Delaware

Engaging Youth When You Don't Like Kids: A Crash Course for Planners

Austin Mosby, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Engaging Youth When You Don't Like Kids: A Crash Course for Planners

Christine Caggiano, AICP, PP, Michael Baker International

11:30a – 1:00p

Pitkin Luncheon & Lecture

Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities (12:00p – 1:00p)

CM | **1.00**

In her new book, "Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities," Veronica lays out her vision to bring about a new era of transportation planning. During the keynote, Veronica will explain why centering people in transportation decisions requires a great shift in how planners and engineers are trained, how they communicate, the types of data they collect, and how they work as professional teams. She'll explain how centering people can create something safer, better, and more useful for all people. Veronica will conclude with a call to action to planners and engineers to reconnect with and help shape communities.

Veronica O. Davis, PE, Transportation Nerd and Author

1:00p – 1:30p

Dessert with Exhibitors & Announcement of Winners (basket, auction and 50/50)



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, *continued*

1:30p - 2:30p

Concurrent Education Sessions H (1.00 CM)

H1. Planning With, Not For: Planning for Better Community Engagement and Outreach in Underserved Communities

CM | **1.00 Equity**

This interactive session explores how environmental justice principles, data, and innovative outreach strategies can strengthen community engagement in planning. Presenters will review environmental justice policies, introduce tools for understanding community socioeconomic and environmental conditions, and share lessons from Allentown's sustainability program. Through a hands-on role-playing exercise, participants will develop a community engagement plan for a real-world planning scenario, using data to identify stakeholders, design inclusive outreach strategies, and create community-led solutions. Attendees will leave with practical tools for engaging traditionally underserved and under-resourced communities in meaningful and authentic ways.

Justin Dula, AICP, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Veronika Vostinak, City of Allentown

Maria Tavera Vilchis, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

H2. Navigating the AI Frontier: Ethics, Law, and the AICP Code in Planning

CM | **1.00 Ethics**

As artificial intelligence rapidly transforms civil engineering, transportation dynamics, and municipal data analysis, planners face unprecedented ethical and legal challenges. APA's blog post "Planning Ethics and Generative AI" (August 2024) and Open Letter address these concerns. This session builds on these ideas and provides a rigorous examination of Federal and State requirements regarding AI use in planning, anchored by the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Through a review of recent ethics cases, participants will critically evaluate how to integrate AI tools in government agencies and private practice while safeguarding public trust, ensuring data accuracy, and maintaining professional integrity.

Susan Myerov, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Beth Ritter-Guth, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

H3. About the State Geospatial Coordinating Board and Civic Boundary Data

CM | **1.00**

This interactive session introduces the Pennsylvania State GeoBoard, the APA Pennsylvania Chapter's role on the board, and the work of the GeoBoard's Civic Boundary Working Group to reconcile differences between Pennsylvania's and the U.S. Census Bureau's civic boundary datasets. Following brief presentations, participants will engage in a problem-solving discussion to explore practical strategies for resolving boundary discrepancies and improving the consistency and accuracy of civic boundary data.

Scott Drzyzga, PhD, GISP, State Geospatial Coordinating Board



EDSESSIONSAGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, *continued*

H4. Residential Adaptive Reuse in Commercial Zones

CM | 1.00

This session explores how commercial-to-residential adaptive reuse is emerging as a strategy to address Pennsylvania's housing shortage by transforming underutilized commercial, office, and industrial properties into new housing. Panelists will discuss evolving zoning policies, proposed state legislation, research on adaptive reuse, and the practical challenges of financing, building codes, community engagement, and project implementation. Through case studies from across Pennsylvania, attendees will gain insights into policy reforms, redevelopment strategies, and best practices for converting existing commercial spaces into vibrant mixed-use and residential communities.

John Callahan, Peron Development

Pattie Guttenplan, AICP, RLA, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Stacie Reidenbaugh, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

H5. Be a Transit Champion: What You Can Do For Your Local Transit Authority

CM | 1.00

This session explores how planners, engineers, consultants, municipalities, and transit agencies can work together to improve transit access through stronger coordination during the land development process. Presenters will share best practices for designing better bus stops, incorporating pedestrian and transit infrastructure into development projects, using model ordinance language, and pursuing grant funding for streetscape improvements. Attendees will gain practical strategies for collaborating with transit providers and becoming effective advocates for more accessible and efficient public transportation.

Mark Cassel, AICP, Bowman

Molly Wood, AICP, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority

H6. Flipping Housing Rules: How to Reform Regulations to Create Opportunity for Housing Choice

CM | 1.00

This session examines how communities can expand housing choice beyond traditional single-family development through zoning and planning reforms. Presenters will provide historical context for current housing patterns and highlight case studies from McCandless and Pittsburgh, including the Rachel Carson Eco Village and Pittsburgh's comprehensive planning efforts. Through discussion and audience engagement, attendees will explore practical strategies, challenges, and lessons learned for gaining community support and creating more diverse housing options.

Carolyn Ristau, City of Pittsburgh

RJ Susko, OHM Advisors

Questions? If you have questions about the conference, please contact the Chapter office at admin@planningpa.org.

2026REGISTRATION/PRICING

Save big when you register by September 11! **Speakers, Emerging Planners, Planning Commissioners/Officials, Health Advocates/Professionals and Retired Planners** receive a **20% discount off** the registration fees. Discount applied during online registration. **Discount does not apply to mobile workshops.**

Non-Member

(Out of state APA members are considered non-members. If you're not a APA member, then you're considered a non-member.)

Member

(APA members who belong to PA Chapter are considered members.)

	Non-Member		Member	
	Early Bird Rate September 12	Regular Rate October 7, last day to register	Early Bird Rate September 12	Regular Rate October 7, last day to register
Professional Planner				
Full Registration (Best Deal!)	\$460	\$505	\$400	\$450
Sunday	\$155	\$200	\$130	\$155
Monday	\$285	\$330	\$260	\$285
Tuesday	\$250	\$295	\$230	\$250
Student				
Sunday	\$95	\$95	\$95	\$95
Monday	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120
Tuesday	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120

FINE PRINT (When you register for the conference you agree to the following below)

Fee, Refund and Other Policies:

- There is NO onsite registration. There are limited spots available for the conference please don't wait to register. Registration will close on Monday, October 5, 2026.
- All paid registrations will receive an email confirmation of registration (when a valid email address is provided).
- Registration fees include all applicable conference sessions and materials, and the meals listed herein. They do NOT cover lodging accommodations, any non-conference meals, mobile workshops and travel expenses.
- The registration fee is fully refundable if the PA Chapter of APA office receives written notification postmarked or emailed no later than Monday, September 21, 2026.
- Cancellations received after September 22, 2026 but before October 1, 2026, will be subject to a \$50.00 administrative fee. If the cancellation is received after October 2, 2026, there will be no refund.
- NO-SHOWS WHO HAVE REGISTERED, BUT HAVE NOT PAID, ARE STILL LIABLE FOR THE REGISTRATION FEES.
- In the unlikely event of cancellation of the conference, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the APA's liability is limited to 100% refund of registration fees and does NOT include penalty fees on travel tickets, deposits for hotel accommodations, or any other incurred expenses.

Information on

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Wind Creek Bethlehem

77 Wind Creek Blvd
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Book your group rate for American Planning Association Room Block

Room Rate: \$169 (Plus applicable taxes)

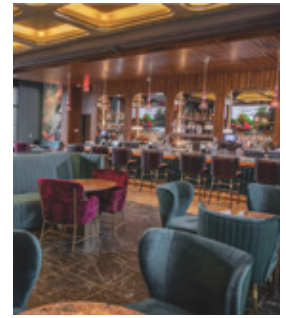
Parking: Self-Parking is free

[Book your group rate for American Planning Association Room Block](https://book.passkey.com/event/51244482/owner/50267574/home)
(<https://book.passkey.com/event/51244482/owner/50267574/home>)

Room rate is good until September 28, 2026, but don't wait to make your reservation. The chapter only has a certain number of rooms in our block and once it's full, it's FULL so don't wait...book now.



Photos courtesy of windcreek.com



TRAVEL INFO

Wind Creek Bethlehem is within easy driving distance from New York (only 82 miles and a fast 90 minutes), Philadelphia (50 miles and 60 minutes), and everywhere in between - closer than Atlantic City from both locations.

Parking and Property Accessibility

Wind Creek Bethlehem offers 3,300 parking spaces in our self-park garage and an additional 1,400 parking spaces on our surface lot. Valet parking & EV Charging is also available.

For your convenience, electric scooters are also available for rent. Reservations are highly recommended to ensure availability. For Guests staying at the Wind Creek Bethlehem Hotel, please call hotel valet at 484-777-7973. All other Guests, please call casino valet at 484-777-7547. Rental Fee: \$45.00 per day.

- All entrances are handicap accessible.
- Handicap accessible parking spots available in hotel surface lots and garage

Motor Coach

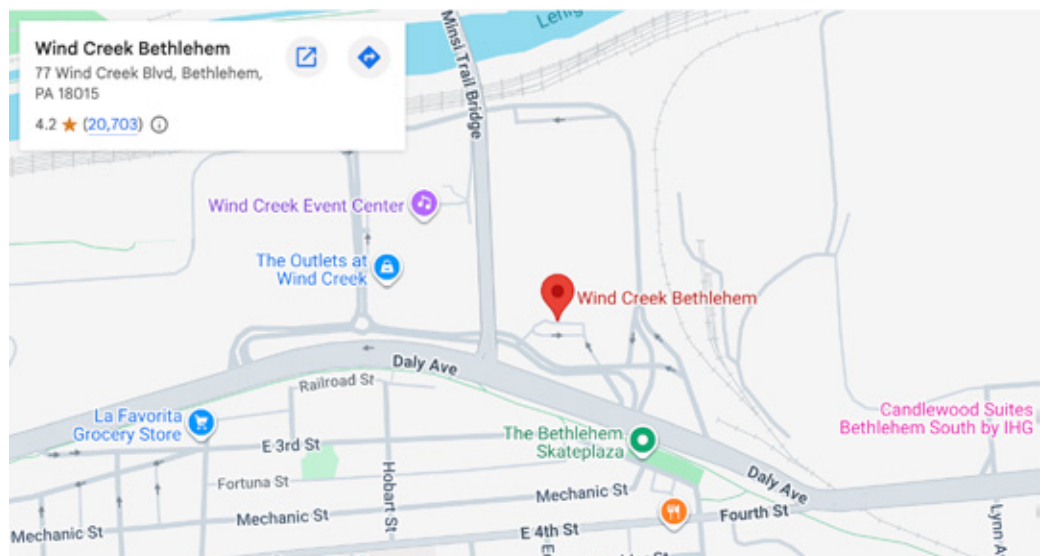
Wind Creek Bethlehem is the perfect destination for a group tour or rest stop when you're passing through the area. With so much to offer from exciting gaming to delicious dining, great entertainment and shopping, there's something for everyone.

Single Passengers

Wind Creek Bethlehem has many scheduled line runs throughout the tri-state area. For more information, please call 877-726-3777.

Traveling from Port Authority

Trans-Bridge Lines motorcoach company operates round-trip service seven days a week from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City to Wind Creek Bethlehem. For more information, please contact us at 877-726-3777. For Trans-Bridge Lines reservations, please call 610-868-6001.



CONFERENCE GREENING

In keeping with the PA Chapter's mission, the chapter incorporates the following sustainability initiatives to reduce the impact of the conference on the environment:

- Conference announcement **was not printed** to reduce the Chapter's carbon footprint.
- **Purchase products** made from recycled, recyclable, and rapidly renewable materials.
- Work with the hotel to **purchase local foods** and plan a seasonal menu.
- Prominent on-site effort to **increase recycling** of cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, and cans.
- **Donate excess food** to a food rescue agency when possible or to the employee cafeteria when we cannot.
- Encourage exhibitors to **use products made from recycled, recyclable, and rapidly renewable materials**.
- **Water stations** in lieu of bottled water breaks.

We encourage attendees to participate in these initiatives through the following options:

- Participate in the hotel's **linen reuse program** (sheets and towels). Information can be found in the guest rooms.
- **Return waste paper** to conference registration for recycling.
- **Register for the conference online** to save postage and paper costs.
- **Carpool** with colleagues, or take public transportation.

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- Grant Writing & Administration
- Expert Witness Testimony

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CONGRATULATIONS

CZB congratulates its partners in the Altoona community as they move forward with the implementation of their new comprehensive plan, zoning code, and SALDO. Keep up the great work!



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