

## Public Asked To Identify Traffic Congestion and Safety Problems

Who knows more about traveling our local roads than the people who use them everyday? That simple question provided the foundation for Operation Bottleneck – a public outreach effort designed to identify traffic bottlenecks as well as auto, bike, and pedestrian safety issues throughout central Arkansas.

Coordinated by Metroplan, the regional transportation planning agency, and its member govern-



ments, Operation Bottleneck asked local citizens to provide feedback about problem areas that may not be easy to recognize. All residents of central Arkansas were encouraged to participate by completing on-line survey forms and attending local town hall meetings during the month of September.



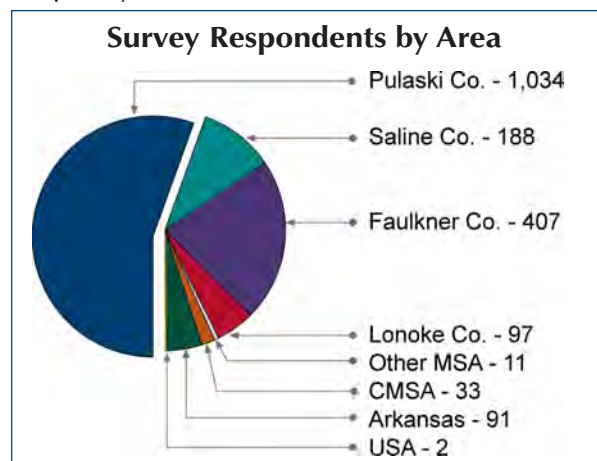
“We’re aware of the major congestion issues in our area and have identified those in our long-range plans, but we know there dozens, maybe hundreds of neighborhood problems throughout the region that could be fixed with something as simple as a roundabout or coordinating traffic signals to improve flow,” says Jim McKenzie, Metroplan’s Executive Director. “Localized problems like these can be harder to identify and are sometimes overlooked, even though they can be just as frustrating to drivers. Often they can be addressed much more quickly than larger projects. Those are the types of areas we’re hoping to identify through Operation Bottleneck.”

Metroplan and its member governments will investigate every survey response and suggestions before reporting back to the citizens of central Arkansas.

In the Operation Bottleneck summary report, Metroplan will identify all of the problem areas pointed out by citizens as well as provide details about how to fix the problems.

Surveys were gathered four different ways totaling 2,813 participants, the majority of which were collected via internet survey. Issues of concern included, but were not limited to: corridor congestion, congestion at interchanges and intersections, sidewalks, traffic signals and transit. The chart below, illustrates congestion issues identified by area.

Metroplan is currently preparing a detailed analysis of the responses, which will be made available to its Board of Directors at the end of January. A final report will be available in downloadable format on the Metroplan website, [metroplan.org](http://metroplan.org). For additional information, contact Jim McKenzie or Richard Magee at 501-372-3300.



# President's MESSAGE

by Hugh Earnest



## The Past, Present and Future:

An exciting and challenging year is behind us.. We had growth in our membership, we, thanks to a number of committed people and you know who you are, put on two excellent conferences with the last conference a joint event with the Arkansas Chapter of Landscape Architects. Both were well attended and certainly served us well in slowly building our attendance at these important events. The certification process relative to credits

**Make your plans now to attend the spring  
APA conference in Hot Springs, March  
12th & 13th, 2009.**

for courses was somewhat rocky as might be expected. Despite that, the issues around the process have either been resolved or will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction in the very near future

Work is progressing on our next conference in Hot Springs in March and an informational mailing on the event will be forthcoming later this month. Jim VonTunglen and others are working very hard to see that we have a conference that speaks to the many issues that planners face in these challenging times.

Speaking of challenging time, It is no secret that the new administration plans to replicate the New Deal programs of Franklin Roosevelt. The size and scope of what was done in Arkansas during the nearly 10 years that the WPA was active is impressive even now. A short summary of what was accomplished: The WPA alone in Arkansas built 773 buildings statewide. In that number were 297 new schools, 81 gymnasiums and 34 stadiums with the remainder covering an ever broader spectrum of public buildings. In 1938, the number of WPA workers topped out at 56,351 individuals

While the world of the 30's is long gone, we as a country are certainly not facing quite the crisis situation of that time. Nonetheless, the opportunity for those entities that have projects and programs ready for implementation will have a better than even chance of receiving funding. While we can not state with any certainty that this topic can be addressed at our conference, we will be making every effort to identify an individual or a group that can provide information on a program that will almost certainly be in place by our conference.

Planners and planning commissions will be ideally situated to influence the distribution of much needed public projects that will provide jobs during the coming year. The challenge for us is to see that we are ready.

I wish for all of us a happy and prosperous New Year as we prepare to meet the challenges that exist in this great country.

*Hugh*

## Who's WHO?

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For those of you who are interested in becoming AICP, National APA twice a year has testing periods for the exam

– generally in May and November. The Arkansas Chapter periodically purchases CDs to help with preparing for the AICP exam. If you would like additional information please contact me at [wmalone@littlerock.org](mailto:wmalone@littlerock.org). Unfortunately the Chapter can only offer one scholarship of \$125 per calendar year to assist toward the costs of the exam. The 2009 scholarship has been awarded. If you are interested in being considered for the 2010 scholarship, please send your information (biographical and professional) to the Chapter by November 1, 2009.

### Continuing Maintenance (CM)

We have just completed the first year of CM. If you have not started working on getting your continuing education, you need to ‘get a move on’. We did offer several CMs at the Spring Conference and expect to get the sessions from the Fall Conference CM credited. It is my goal for the Chapter to offer you half to two-thirds of your required CM through conferences. In order to further help, the Chapter will start a lending library in 2009. We have purchased four CDs, two will meet you the Ethics and Law requirements (1.5

each respectively). These were the most requested topics. In addition, the CDs on ‘Complete Streets’ and ‘LEED of Neighborhoods’ have been acquired. Please contact me if you would like to borrow these from the Arkansas Chapter Library.

**Any Chapter member** is welcome to request the temporary use of the following CDs from the Arkansas Chapter Library –

**2007 Planning Law Review (1.5CM)**

**Ethics in Planning (1.5 CM)**

**Complete Streets (1.5 CM)**

**LEED for Neighborhoods**

Send your request to borrow a CD to [wmalone@littlerock.org](mailto:wmalone@littlerock.org) with the name of the CD and your contact information for ground delivery.

The Arkansas Chapter is co-sponsoring with several other Chapters around the country a web series for our members to acquire additional CMs. These will be monthly webcasts – you can earn more than 12 CMs a year taking advantage of this series sponsored by your Planning Chapters around the country (you can get both your Ethics and Law requirements from this series). Notice about this series was emailed in December to all Chapter AICP members that I have email addresses for (If you did not receive this email, send me your address so that I can keep you informed on CMs opportunities).

## Planning Commissioner Training Workshop Scheduled

Each year Arkansas APA and the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC) hold three planning commissioner training workshops. Two are “planning 101” and one is Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA). The trainings are typically held the Wednesday before an Arkansas APA conference. The next Planning Commissioner Training will be held March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Hot Springs at the Transportation Depot from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.

On October 22, 2008, the Arkansas APA in conjunction with APAC held a Planning Commissioner Training in Harrison. There were approximately 15 attendees. This may not sound like a lot, but they were a very interested group and asked numerous questions beyond just the basics. It was nice to see new faces in



Richard Hedman (*Stop Me Before I Plan Again*, APA)

the crowd. The attendees were from the north central part of the state and were first time participants.

I would like to thank Dana Carney, Robert Voyles and Danielle Semsrott for volunteering their time as trainers. The entire program depends on members volunteering their time. I especially would like to thank Dana,

as he has provided training for the subdivision and zoning sections for, at least, the last 2 years. THANKS DANA!!!!

I have trainers for this workshop, but if you are interested in being one in the future, come to the workshop and see how it works. Contact Dianne Morrison at 501-321-4804 if you are interested in being added to the list.



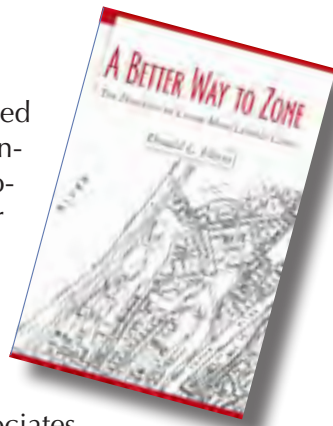
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## A Better Way to Zone...

Donald L. Elliot, FAICP, will be a featured speaker at the spring conference of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association in Hot Springs. Mr. Elliot is a planner and attorney who recently authored *A Better Way To Zone—Ten Principles to Create More Livable Cities*. He will speak and answer questions on Friday morning, March 13, 2009. Mr. Elliot is a senior consultant in the Denver, Colorado office of Clarion and Associates.



His book has won praise for its clarity and organization. Reviewers call it a must read for every professional planner, planning student, planning commissioner, and city council member. It is written in clear, concise prose, a departure from most books on planning.

The book, in addition to spelling out ten ways to improve zoning codes, provides a short history of zoning in the United States. It also provides an analysis of various innovations including PUDs, performance-based zoning and the current iterations of form-based zoning.

A full review of the book will appear in the January 2009 edition of *City and Town* magazine, the official publication of the Arkansas Municipal League.

*Welcome* –  
**New Members**

**Mark Overturf**

City of Arkadelphia Planning  
Commissioner

**Sarah Bennings**

Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon  
Porter Architects, Little Rock

**David Roberts**

Crafton Tull Sparks & Associates,  
Little Rock

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Membership form and other chapter information is available on the our website. Visit:

**[www.arkansasapa.org](http://www.arkansasapa.org)**