



American Planning Association
Minnesota Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

APA Minnesota 2010 Policy Platform

Adopted November 20, 2009

Policy Statement 1. Intergovernmental Cooperation

APA Minnesota supports legislative reform to enhance coordination, communication and cooperation among local government units in the administration of land use planning, environmental controls, capital expenditures for infrastructure improvements, and all corporate boundary adjustments. APA Minnesota supports legislative reform efforts to clarify the roles of townships, cities, counties and regional/ state agencies with regard to annexation and other cross-boundary issues.

Policy Statement 2. Integrated Multimodal Transportation System

APA Minnesota recognizes a sustainable and efficient integrated multimodal transportation system is needed to enhance the intra and interstate movement of people and goods and achieve goals of choice, mobility, access, safety, livability and economic vitality.

Policy Statement 3. Comprehensive Planning

APA Minnesota supports a clearly defined role for comprehensive planning outside the Seven County Metropolitan Area. The content of comprehensive plans should include elements that address land use, housing, parks, transportation, infrastructure systems, economic development, the environment, growth management (redevelopment and growth on the edges) and implementation strategies. A process should be outlined that supports and fosters intergovernmental coordination with regard to plan development, adoption and implementation. Enabling laws should require that zoning be consistent with an up-to-date comprehensive plan, when such plan exists.

Policy Statement 4. Natural Resources and Land-Based Economies

Minnesota's natural resources benefit ecosystems, quality of life, and the economy. APA Minnesota supports the continuous improvement of tools to protect land important to Minnesota's land-based economic sectors—agriculture, forestry, and mining—from loss due to wasteful land-use practices. APA Minnesota supports the prudent use of new funding from the Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water sales-tax to protect the state's habitat and water. APA Minnesota supports development of technology and methods to map and prioritize important resource lands, land-use planning and regulation, and conservation easements.

Policy Statement 5. Community Development and Housing

APA Minnesota supports community and housing development and redevelopment that builds and maintains the strength, vitality and stability of neighborhoods and communities. APA Minnesota supports activities and programs that provide a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of society, in order to promote community livability.

Policy Statement 6. Economic Development

APA Minnesota supports economic development that diversifies and strengthens local, regional and the state economy through the creation and retention of permanent, private sector family wage jobs, and the expansion and diversification of the tax base. The Chapter recognizes that economic development can take many forms, from downtown revitalization, to industrial development, to tourism. Sustainable economic development balances interests and provides mutual gain overall, rather than simply moving economic activity from one place to another. Economic development should maximize a community's assets, be pursued in a manner consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, and leverage public and private partnerships and resources.

Policy Statement 7. Sustainable Development

Sustainable development enhances community and economic vitality without compromising the needs of future generations. APA Minnesota supports activities that promote sustainable practices in the preservation, development, and maintenance of natural and built environments. Improvements to the built environment (buildings, infrastructure, and utilities) should be undertaken with awareness of their effects on other systems, including natural systems, energy consumption and community livability.

These policy statements are a collective initiative of the volunteer members of our organization to promote sound planning laws and practice in Minnesota. They are not intended to bind any member from supporting policies or legislation different from or inconsistent with the adopted policies in this Platform.