



American Planning Association
**Regional and Intergovernmental
Planning Division**

Creating Great Communities for All

REGIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLANNING DIVISION eNEWS

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2023 Regional Futures Forum

When: March 31, 2023, 12:00 - 5:00 pm (EDT)

Where: DVRPC Headquarters (190 N Independence Mall West, 8th Floor)

The American Planning Association (APA) will be hosting its National Planning Conference this year in Philadelphia from April 1st to 4th. On March 31st, the APA's Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division (RIPD) will hold its annual Regional Futures Forum. The Forum is a national event for planning leaders from regional planning agencies and major American cities with a focus on issues having a high impact on America's metropolitan regions.

2 general CM credits and 1 equity CM credit will be available for those who attend the Forum. You can view the CM event and log your credits [here](#).

This year's Forum will include three forum plenaries and two networking break out times. A light lunch will be provided prior to the forum, and we encourage attendees to arrive early to network, grab lunch, and settle in. Please see the agenda on the following pages.



12:00 - 12:45 pm: Lunch and Networking

Arrive prior to the official welcome in order to get settled, enjoy some refreshments, and network amongst other attendees. We encourage attendees to arrive early to network, grab lunch, and settle in.

12:45 - 1:30 pm: Welcome

Introduction to the Philadelphia metropolitan area and how DVRPC is centering equity in regional planning and infrastructure. DVRPC will be presenting a panel of members of their team to share the different ways DVRPC is achieving its equity vision. Not only is this a topic that is important to DVRPC, but we think it is an important context for forum participants, as Philadelphia is the poorest big city in America.

Moderators: Ariella Moran (Executive Director, DVRPC) and Patty Elkis, PP, AICP (Deputy Executive Director, DVRPC)

1:30 - 2:45 pm: Remote Work and the Future of American Cities & Regions

This panel will discuss the impacts of the shift to remote work and hybrid work on cities, regions, the economy, and people living in metropolitan regions, as well as non-metropolitan regions that have experienced significant growth since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. The panel will contemplate how cities and regions might address challenges to their viability and particularly what planners can do to accelerate positive changes that will reinvigorate downtowns.

Panelists: Michael Fichman (University of Pennsylvania), Susan Wachter (University of Pennsylvania), and Tracy Hadden Loh (Brookings Institute), Spencer Gober, AICP (DVRPC)

Moderator: Paul Inghram, FAICP (Puget Sound Regional Council, RIPD Board)

3:00 - 4:00 pm: Equity in the Regions

One of the biggest concerns faced by regional planners is how to integrate equity into climate, environmental justice, MPO investment strategies, and other issues. Regional planning agencies have been working to develop strategies to achieve equity and plan for a sustainable future in our large metropolitan areas. This panel will focus on the different approaches taken at the regional level and the challenges faced in implementing equity goals.

Panelists: Tigist Zegeye (Wilmington Area Planning Council), Ben Bakkenta, AICP (Puget Sound Regional Council), Andrea Harris-Long, AICP (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), Van Du (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), and Becky Bradley (Lehigh Valley Planning Commission)

Moderator: Ralph Willmer, FAICP (RIPD Chair)

4:00 - 5:00 pm: Focus on Infrastructure

This panel will look into regional infrastructure projects; specifically on how the Regional Planning and Development Agency in Kentucky is applying the Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework to work with water and wastewater utilities to develop resilience strategies in a regional hazard mitigation plan. The session will also include an update on federal infrastructure funding programs.

Panelists: Dr. Sandra Pinel, AICP (US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Division) and Jason Jordan (APA)

5:00 pm: Post Forum Social Hour

Stay behind for a networking happy hour event with other attendees. (Place TBD).