



American Planning Association  
Divisions Council  
Creating Great Communities for All

## DC Performance Report 2021

### Welcome to the 2021 Annual Performance Report!

We know you have been hard at work this past year and we are hoping to make the reporting process easier and more streamlined than ever before.

### Performance Reporting Resources

The overall Divisions Performance Criteria is available on the [APA Website](#) and [APA Engage](#).

The overall Divisions Performance Reporting Template for Finances is available on the [APA Website](#) and [APA Engage](#).

### Need help?

The following people are more than happy to assist you with specific questions:

Chad Nabity, ChadN@grand-island.com (Performance Committee Chair)

Jennie Nolon Blanchard, jnolon2@law.pace.edu (DCEC Secretary-Treasurer)

Jennie may assist with specific questions about your budget, or financial reporting.

Maggie Kraus, mkraus@planning.org (APA National Divisions Leadership Associate)

### Division

Regional and Intergovernmental Planning

### Performance Report co-authors

Ralph Willmer, Chair

## Workplans, Financial Report and Budgets

### What are you most proud of?

The biggest accomplishment for this past year was the completion of a two-year research and writing project that culminated in a report released in July, *Creative Placemaking in Rail Transit Corridors*. This effort was partially funded by RIPD. Additionally, RIPD was involved in promoting another report released this summer, *Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience*. Both reports were distributed widely - beyond just RIPD members - and have been receiving positive peer reviews. Both reports will be presented as webinars (Creative Placemaking is scheduled for November 10 and the Climate Resilience report will be scheduled during the winter).

### Workplan

n/a

### Budget

n/a

## Communications

Does your Division send out a membership newsletter at least quarterly?

YES

**Has your Division webpage been updated recently?** YES

**Does your Division use any social media to communicate with members?** YES

**Has your Division conducted a membership survey in the last two years?** NO

**Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to new members?** YES

**Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to student members?** YES

## National Planning Conference activities

**Please share how your Division gets involved during the National Planning Conference.**

RIPD endorsed a session entitled "Implementing a Regional Equity Agenda Approach" that focused on how the Boston area regional planning agency is playing a leading role in helping to achieve equity through the State of Equity Policy it recently adopted. Obviously, due to the nature of the conference in 2021, there were not many other opportunities for Division involvement. Typically, RIPD also organizes an all-day forum the day before NPC begins that is hosted by the region where the conference is located. This has been the case for the seven years prior to NPC 2020. It is our hope that we can renew this commitment in 2022.

A session was proposed to present the Creative Placemaking report, but it was not accepted.

**Did your Division conduct an Annual Business Meeting this year?** NO

### Annual Business Meeting

We have not been able to conduct our annual business meeting yet, but plan to do so in December. We were a bit more focused on the webinars to present the two reports that were recently released as described earlier. We contemplated having a business meeting in conjunction with the webinars but we concluded that would dilute the impact of both the webinar and the business meeting. We are considering doing so in conjunction with a social event as a way to attract more attendance.

### Virtual Divisions Booth at NPC21

RIPD did not participate. This was probably due in part to some skepticism as to whether it would be worthwhile. The Division Chair served on the Conference Host Committee and tried not to overcommit during the conference.

## Year-round programming

**Education programs (including webinars or events co-sponsored with other Divisions, Chapters, and allied professions.).**

Building on the theme of emerging trends in regional planning (the subject of a PAS report in 2017), RIPD released the "Regional Water Planning for Climate Resilience" policy handbook in 2019. This year, the next report in the series, "Creative Placemaking in Rail Transit Corridors", was released and a webinar was presented in November. This effort was initiated by former RIPD Chair Mark

VanderSchaaf. Also released this year was a report co-written by another former RIPD Chair (Robert Leiter) entitled "Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience". A webinar will be scheduled for early this winter and hopefully can be co-sponsored with the Sustainable Communities Division.

### **Networking/social events**

None were scheduled this year. Typically, RIPD sponsors an all-day forum before the start of NPC and we hope to do that again in 2022. That was always RIPD's most effective and well-attended networking event. We hope to combine our Annual Business Meeting with a virtual social event before the end of the year. RIPD would be interested in a social event in conjunction with other divisions at NPC 22.

### **Awards you give out (student papers, scholarships, research fellowships, etc.)**

RIPD provided some funding for the Creative Placemaking in Rail Transit Corridors project.

### **Division management meetings**

The Executive Committee communicates frequently via email and we have several meetings via Microsoft Teams during the year. We meet to address the typical administrative, programming, and work plan development/budget issues. Occasionally, we will meet to discuss specific requests we might receive such as from APA legislative staff to provide input on proposed legislation and regulations, which happened twice this year.

### **Other events**

n/a

## **Membership**

### **Membership changes due to COVID-19**

In January 2021, RIPD had 916 members and according to the latest report (September 2021), membership has increased to 1,006. By contrast, before the pandemic, RIPD had 1,174 members in January 2020. Thus, membership dropped throughout 2020 and has recovered to some extent in 2021. Overall, we have experienced a loss of approximately 10% of our membership.

### **Does your Division have any committees, task forces, or other groups? If so, tell us the name of the group, who's on it, and what they're working on.**

n/a

## **Division Programs**

### **Did your Division plan or implement any programs related to equity, diversity, and inclusion? If not, how will your Division plan for this in the coming year?**

RIPD did not undertake any specific programs related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, but we did endorse a program on equity in regional planning at NPC 21. The Executive Committee has discussed the issue during our meetings and will be considering it as part of our planned regional planning forum in San Diego. Additionally, RIPD would like to organize a webinar that addresses equity issues and will meet the criteria for the new CM requirements.

### **Did your Division provide support to other APA Divisions, Chapters, students, staff, or general membership? Please provide the date, topic, and Division member(s) who participated.**

In February 2021, APA Legislative staff asked RIPD to provide input on a letter they were preparing for new Transportation Secretary Buttigieg. The Executive Committee met to discuss the request and a response was circulated among the Committee members and finalized for submission to staff. RIPD was also asked by Legislative staff to weigh in on a US Census data question over the summer. We are very interested on continuing to participate in this manner as well as getting more involved in the development of policy guides.

Ralph Willmer, Chair and Brad Calvert, Vice Chair for Federal Planning, are participating in the Trend Scouting Foresight Community project undertaken by a team of APA Research staff. The first meeting was in September and another is scheduled for December.

When RIPD offers the webinar on Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience, we would like to co-sponsor it with other divisions such as the Sustainable Communities Division and ENRE.

**Did your Division respond to external requests from journalists, allied professionals, or researchers? Please provide date, topic, and Division member(s) who participated.**

The "Creative Placemaking in Rail Transit Corridors" report was circulated to numerous peers as part of its widespread release (RIPD chose to make it available to anyone, not just RIPD members). The authors of the "Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience" report reached out to RIPD to review it prior to the completion of the final draft. Brad Calvert, one of our Executive Committee members, agreed to conduct that review in June.

**Were any of your members quoted or cited in a publication? (We recommend you highlight it to your whole Division too!)**

n/a

**Are you conducting your own research? If so, please identify any Division-sponsored research activities, and/or publications (provide a web link for all publications).**

We will be discussion the next research project now that the creative placemaking project is complete.

**Divisions Council Meetings**

Ralph Willmer, Chair, attended both meetings.

**APA Strategic Priorities**

RIPD has not yet specifically undertaken any efforts to support the strategic priorities. The Executive Committee will have to discuss this in more detail to determine how we might proceed over the coming fiscal year. Building off our work on emerging trends in regional planning, we could incorporate these strategic priorities into education and outreach to members relating to regional trends as we emerge from the pandemic - housing, transit, employment, development, equity, public health, open space, etc. this could be a focus for the pre-conference forum in San Diego.

**Division Challenges**

Like many divisions, RIPD has struggled with those issues. We lost members during the pandemic and have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Finances are always tight, but we committed funds to the creative placemaking project which has left little room for new initiatives. We previously provided a stipend to our Communications Officer but cannot afford to continue to do that. We hope that if we can conduct an in-person forum in San Diego, that we can use it as a means to attract a more active membership, especially since next year will be an election year for RIPD.

We encourage all Divisions to submit for Divisions Council Awards, which include:

- Overall Division Performance
- Education Excellence
- Division Communications Excellence
- Best Practice
- Best Newsletter Article
- Overall Contribution to the Planning Profession

**Divisions Council Achievement Awards**

I'm not sure but would like to learn more!

You're done! Please hit "SUBMIT" below.

On behalf of the DCEC and the Performance Committee, thank you so much for your work over this past year. Your leadership and efforts do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to another tremendous year of Division achievements.

Many thanks,

Chad Nabity, AICP (Chair - Performance Committee)