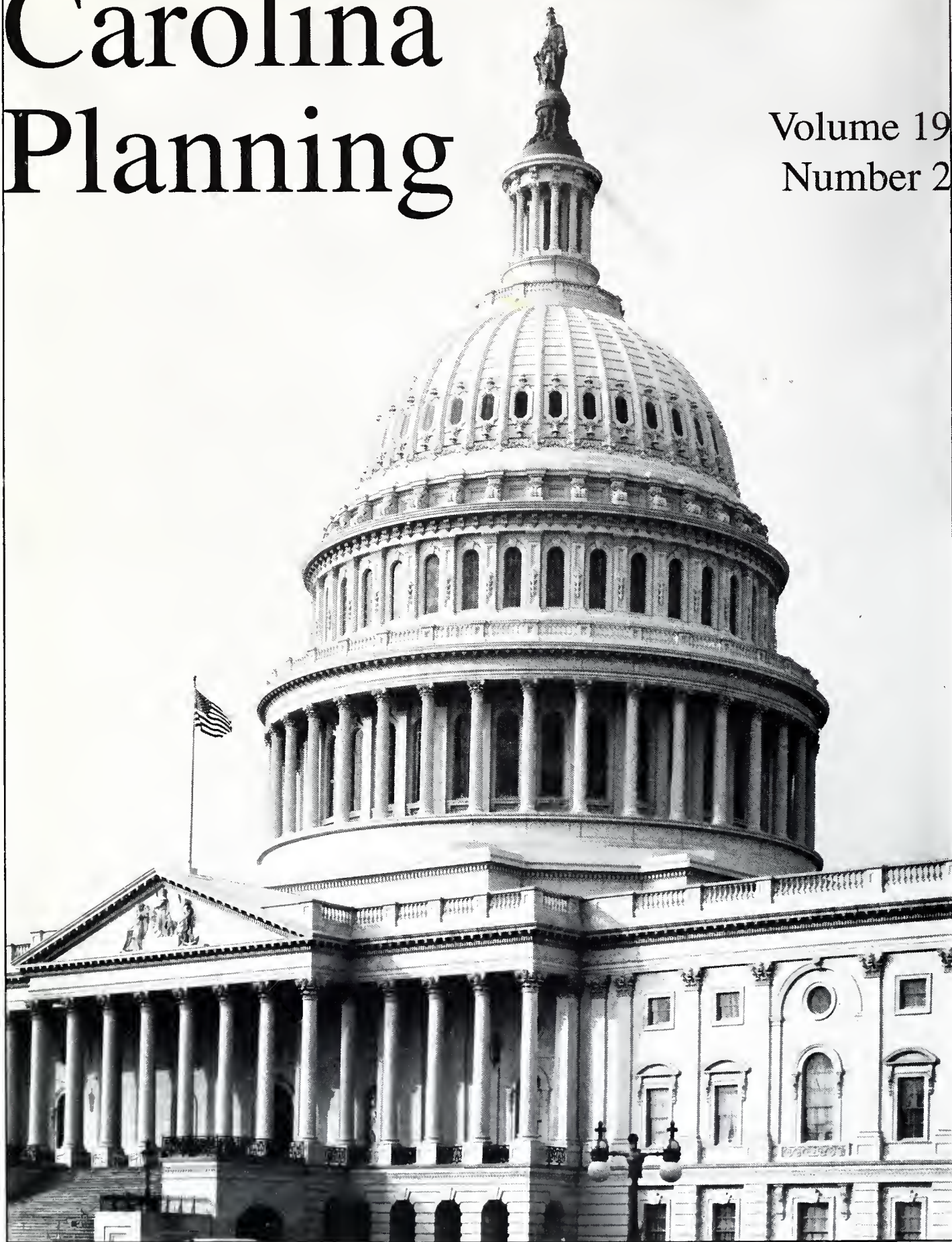


Carolina Planning

Volume 19
Number 2



Federal Mandates

Editors' Note

One of the greatest challenges facing planners is how to handle the myriad of laws and regulations that are introduced every day. Whether you practice economic development or transportation planning, coastal management or housing development, understanding governmental mandates is becoming an increasingly important skill for today's planner.

This issue of *Carolina Planning* focuses on several mandates and their effects on a variety of different planning fields. The articles presented are both prospective and retrospective and discuss federal mandates which impact transportation and land use, air and water quality, and housing and coastal management and range from the relative newcomer, 1991's Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), to the more grizzled Clean Air Act which has its roots in California laws passed in the late 1940's. All the articles, however, share the common theme that planners can not ignore what happens in Washington, D.C.

David Bonk discusses the particular challenges of implementing the broad, multi-modal recommendations and the inter-governmental (local and state) goal-setting requirements of ISTEA in a state with a primary mandate for, and a long history of, increasing intra-state mobility and improving access to its extensive rural areas through highway construction.

In an historical piece, Beth Hilkemeyer provides a legislative and social timeline for the automobile's impact on air quality in her examination of the effectiveness of the technology-forcing elements of the 1970 Clean Air Act. This analysis is particularly enlightening and thought-provoking in view of the technological requirements for automobiles set out in the 1990 Amendments.

Mary Eldridge and Eric Stein address a more recent mandate, the Federal Housing Act of 1988, and illustrate its effectiveness by discussing how several communities in North Carolina have altered their programs for the provision of housing for individuals with mental disabilities.

One of the greatest difficulties in interpreting federal mandates lies in the overlap; of multiple pieces of legislation or of impact areas which do not follow jurisdictional lines. Jessica Cogan and Mark Imperial tackle this issue in their discussion of the role of consistency requirements in the resolution of a dispute over water resources between Virginia and North Carolina. Craig Bromby provides insights into proposed changes to the Clean Water Act and how these changes might affect local environmental management.

In the final two articles, Debbie Warren and Peter Skillern discuss how federal legislation can have significant impacts on lending practices to minorities and the disadvantaged. Warren writes about the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, which is only now being enforced with regularity, while Skillern details an analysis of how effective financial institutions in North Carolina have been in meeting the provisions of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975.

The articles presented here cover a wide range of planning issues but barely scratch the surface of interplay between local or state planning and federal initiatives. We believe that the variety of pieces does illustrate how pervasive federal legislation is in most planning activities. And we hope that this issue will provide either some new tools for facing federal mandates, or at least the knowledge that, in addressing outside directives, you are not alone.

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