

Carolina Planning

Volume 39 | 2014



Collaborations in Planning

J. PITTMAN

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CB #3140, New East Building

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carolinaplanning@unc.edu

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From the Editors

Bill King
Cara Wittekind

One of the great strengths of communities is their diversity. This can include diversity of thought, class, race, lifestyle, and opinion. As planners, though, we are often challenged to reconcile the many different thoughts and circumstances within our communities to try and reach some solution that improves the places we care about. As such, we must be adept at collaboration, in order to find the best ideas that address the needs and interests of a diverse array of people.

Furthermore, planners are faced with the growing pressure of needing to do more with less. The recent recession left many communities with less tax revenue and fewer resources to work with. Additionally, the recession put even more pressure on communities to revitalize their economies and repair the economic damage done to help put residents back to work. Given these circumstances, planners must rely more and more on collaborations to help meet these demands and leverage as many resources as possible.

Planning also is increasingly a profession that requires breaking down siloes and collaborating across disciplines. For example, the connection between public health, transportation, and land use is more and more apparent in programs like Complete Streets or efforts to address food deserts. Communities across the country are attempting to stimulate economic development through transportation investments like light rail and streetcars or even better urban design. Growing interest in energy efficiency and new technologies are also changing the face of planning and opening new frontiers for planners.

This year's *Carolina Planning* attempts to provide examples of collaborations that may be of use to planners everywhere. The issue includes articles on initiatives that sit at the intersection of different disciplines, as well as many examples of diverse and unique partnerships that are attempting to address some of the biggest challenges in planning. Our hope is that planners and anyone interested in the future of their own communities finds value in this year's issue and *Carolina Planning* continues to further thought and dialogue in the field of planning.

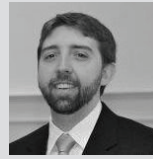
The 2014 issue of Carolina Planning features the following articles:

- *Carolina Planning* is celebrating its 40th year as the oldest student-led planning publication in the country. To commemorate this milestone, two of our alumni, **Nancy Grden '75** and **Kenneth Weeden '75** offer their perspectives on how planning has evolved in the 40 years since this journal began.
- **Andrea Hamre** and **Dr. Ralph Buehler**, Virginia Tech focus on the connection between transportation and economic development with their analysis of their user survey of Washington's Capital Bikeshare to identify economic development impacts of the bikeshare system.
- **Danya Rumore**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, provides a case study of a large collaboration between communities, government agencies and academics in New England to address the coastal impacts of climate change.
- **Jessica Doyle**, Georgia Institute of Technology, examines the concept of the Megaregion, which calls for collaborative planning on a major scale, and discusses some of the benefits and challenges for this type of planning.
- **Christine Gyovai, Dr. Frank Dukes, Abigail Ness, Lucas Lyons, and Allison Spain** of The University of Virginia detail their efforts to foster collaboration among communities in mountainous western Virginia and identify some of the major lessons learned from the Clinch River Valley Initiative.
- As a companion piece to Clinch River, **Sealy Chipley, Linda Giltz, and Carrie Turner** of the Land of Sky Regional Council of Governments discuss the GroWNC initiative in western North Carolina and provide valuable insights into this collaboration.

- Our **North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association** section, introduced by APA-NC Chapter President **Ben Hitchings**, highlights innovative practitioners from across North Carolina and how they are using collaborations in a local context:
 - **Stacy J Guffey and Ben Brown** detail the Opt-In initiative, which is intended to develop a long-term vision that guides policy-making decisions in the southwestern corner of North Carolina over the next 25 years.
 - **Carol Rhea, Darren Rhodes, and Dana Stoogenke** illustrate a collaboration between state agencies, local officials and consultants to develop a transportation plan that addresses a decades-old problem in Red Cross, N.C.
 - **Deborah Ryan**, UNC-Charlotte, discusses an innovative civic engagement strategy in the Piedmont Triad region meant to bring fresh life to planning meetings.
 - **Dean Ledbetter and Lauren Blackburn** explain the benefits of a collaboration on a streetscaping project in West Jefferson and the impact it has had there.
- Continuing our long-standing tradition of recognizing exceptional graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of City and Regional Planning, we publish an excerpt from the Best Master's Project of 2013, which was awarded to **Taylor Dennerlein**.
- **Nathan Page** brings you the latest campus news from UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of City and Regional Planning in our annual Student Connection piece.
- Master's students **Adam Levin, Peter Cvelich, Jill Mead, and Ryan Boivin** contribute book reviews on planning related literature.
- To wrap up, DCRP Assistant Professor **Dr. Danielle Spurlock** provides her thoughts about the challenges planners face and the approaches they must take to address them.

Like our home state, this issue of *Carolina Planning* features examples of collaborations from the mountains to the sea. But in any location, the ability of planners to address the complex problems of the future will depend on their capacity to create innovative and effective collaborations. We hope this issue provides some ideas and thoughts for doing so.

Editors:



Bill King is a 2014 master's graduate in City and Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. While at DCRP, he specialized in economic development and transportation. He previously worked for the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.



Cara Wittekind is a 2015 master's candidate in City and Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. While at DCRP, she specializes in economic development. She previously worked in the nonprofit and local government sectors on civic engagement and voter registration.

Thank You

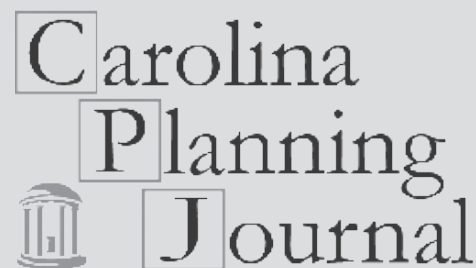
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Feedback

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions. Please contact us at carolinaplanning@unc.edu

Back Issues

Our back issue pages (<http://carolinaplanning.unc.edu/back-issues/>) provide easy and free access to over 500 original articles, commentaries, interviews, and book reviews from some of the most formative years of the planning field. We encourage you to explore this vast resource and share it with your colleagues.



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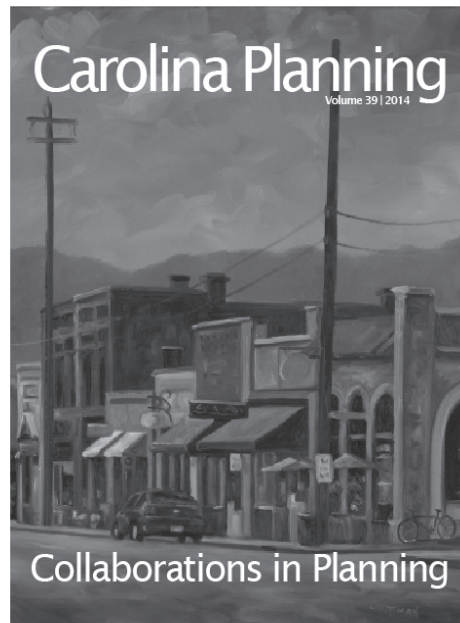
ABOUT OUR COVER



Main Street Weaverville

Jeff Pittman, North Carolina artist

This year, we selected the artwork of local North Carolina artist Jeff Pittman for the cover. We used his painting “Main Street Weaverville” which depicts downtown Weaverville, N.C. located in the western part of the state. We selected this piece, not only for its striking colors, but for its classic downtown setting, which we think is relatable for readers across the country (not to mention its multi-modal transportation options!) Jeff specializes in artwork of scenes around North Carolina and neighboring states from his home of western North Carolina to coastal seascapes, along with skylines and university settings. He uses oils and acrylics and is based in Asheville’s River Arts district. You can find his work at www.jeffpittman.com and visit his studio in Asheville.



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