

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
ALASKA CHAPTER



FEBRUARY 9-11 2020 | ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT



PLANNING PROJECTS

2019 BEST COMMUNITY PLAN

This award recognizes a plan completed within the past two years that demonstrated public participation & innovative approaches.

SALCHA-BADGER ROAD AREA PLAN

Presented to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Community Planning Department & Agnew::Beck

The Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan serves as a community resource and guide for both short and long-term housing, transportation, utilities, recreation, and commercial needs. The study area was large and made up of several unique communities (Badger Road West and East, City of North Pole, Moose Creek, Eielson Farm Road, Eielson Air Force Base, and Salcha), the team developed a working group to create boundaries for seven subareas within the planning project boundary. Through a robust public engagement effort, involving two large mailouts to thousands of area property owners and two rounds of in person community meetings involving hundreds of residents and other stakeholders, it quickly became apparent that residents of different subareas have very different ideas about their preferred futures. It was important to represent those differences in the plan.

The plan also recognized there is no building code in much of the area; road maintenance varies widely; and zoning limitations are minimal. Priority strategies and related action items are identified for implementation under land use, transportation and housing topics to address those challenges.

2019 BEST INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

This award recognizes an infrastructure plan completed within the past two years that demonstrated a visionary approach through excellent analysis & graphics.

MIDTOWN CONGESTION RELIEF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY

Presented to Alaska DOT&PF & DOWL

The MCR Study utilized the innovative PEL process that enabled the team to explore potential solutions to safety, access, and traffic in the Midtown corridor along the Seward Highway between Tudor Road and 20th Avenue. The PEL process incorporated considerations of the natural and human environment, coordination with resource agencies, and the public, and created clear documentation of decisions and rationales that went into the planning process. Over the course of the two-year study, the team identified and assessed 10 alternatives, incorporated the input from a robust and innovated public engagement process, screened alternatives to discern the most effective solutions to multifaceted improvement needs, and developed a preferred concept with five recommended projects. One additional outcome was the continuation of public engagement in the facilitation of a placemaking initiative – creating space and movement to dovetail community building with the recommended transportation projects.



APA AK Awards

PLANNING PROJECTS

2019 BEST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This award recognizes the public engagement aspects of planning & its effectiveness in supporting good planning; including creative outreach & involvement methods.

2019 KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Presented to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Planning Department & Agnew::Beck

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is 24,754 square miles in area with a population of 58,000 with approximately 35% of its population living in its six incorporated cities and the remaining 65% living in its additional 30 Census Designated Places. Because of this, the public engagement process was more intensive than is typical for many community plans.

The values, vision, goals, objectives and strategies in the plan was developed through an extensive public engagement process, including input and ideas from residents, businesses, tribes, non-profit and community organizations, associations, and government agencies including cities within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The project team traveled to communities across the borough to invite people to participate, gather thoughts and ideas about what the plan should include, and share how and why the plan is relevant to the entire community.

Despite the large geographical and cultural diversity across the borough, the plan was able to address the needs of the borough and was adopted with a great deal of public support. Over 2,000 residents shared their ideas with the project team; more than 50 interviews and small group discussions with local organizations; over 600 telephone survey responses; and attended 20 public events; including Kenai River Festival, Moose Pass Solstice Celebration, Funny River Festival, Kenai Peninsula Fair, and Industry Appreciation Day.

2019 MOST INNOVATIVE

This award is for a specific planning tool, practice, program, project or process that represents state-of-the-art thinking or an advance in a specific element of planning. Emphasis is placed on results & how the innovative methods helped implement a project.

BLUEPRINT DOWNTOWN JUNEAU - COMMUNITY VISIONING

Presented to City & Borough of Juneau, Community Development Department & MRV Architects, along with Sheinberg Associates & Lucid Reverie

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Community Development Department (CDD) is developing an Area Plan for downtown Juneau to guide development over the next 20 years. The project is broken into two separate, but complementary components: The Community Vision and the Plan. Work on the Blueprint Downtown visioning process occurred from August 2018 through February 2019; in this short time period an intensive public outreach process occurred over 6,000 comments were collected. The best estimate is that substantial input was gathered from 800 to 900 individuals through the following mechanisms:

- 300 public participants from three public meetings (with attendance of 120+, 100, and 78).
- 426 on-line comment surveys, and emailed comments;
- 318 street interviews with seasonal visitors (mostly cruise ship passengers);
- 56 “nightlife” interviews, with individuals socializing downtown later at night;
- 46 interviews with downtown merchants and vendors;
- 130 participants in a Gallery Walk “pop up” booth;
- 40 participants from “meetings-to-go,” or facilitated community group meetings;
- 55 responses to comment forms left in businesses downtown;
- 105 participants in three January theme-based walking tours.

Each of the meetings and public interactions were intended to be both fun and informative, working to create a sense of engagement and community spirit. It was also important to establish public confidence that their input was appreciated and was being used as the study moved forward.

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

APA AK Awards



EMERGIN PLANNER OF THE YEAR

This award honors a new professional planner with five or less years of experience that has helped elevate the profession, build public support for planning, & who's work demonstrates continual influence on the profession for years to come.



KARLIE GEDIG

Municipality of Anchorage, Current Planning Division

Karlie is an Associate Planner for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Planning and Design in 2017. She excels in the department with her positive, can-do attitude and impeccable customer service. Karlie works diligently in providing staff analysis on a variety of planning application submittals. She takes a well-balanced approach to her work in understanding the needs of applicants and protecting the quality of life and safety of the community. Her reports and analysis are well prepared, providing an on-point narrative with graphic support that provides decision makers with the material needed to make well-informed decisions.

PLANNER OF THE YEAR

This award honors planning professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the planning field in Alaska over an extended period of time, & who exhibits qualities which lead to the successful accomplishment of planning goals, programs or projects.



COLLIN HODGES

Municipality of Anchorage, Current Planning Division

Collin graduated in 2012 with a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany and moved to Alaska in 2015. He joined the Planning Department in July of 2018 as a Senior Planner and brought with him a broad range of planning experience. The skills that makes Collin indispensable are his professional-level skills in GIS analysis and cartography, urban design tools including illustration and 3D visual modeling, document page layout and design, planning research and analysis, and excellent writing skills. Collin has an appetite for learning. His work often includes findings from research of planning literature with examples and studies to a level beyond the norm. He's aware of urban design and planning trends in places around the world. With each project, he knows more.

PLANNING ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



SYVERINE BENTZ
City of Homer,
Planning Commissioner

This award recognizes an individual, or an appointed or elected official who has advanced and promoted the planning cause in the public area & had demonstrated an understanding of planning processes.

Syverine is a Planning Commissioner has served on the Homer City Planning Commission since 2016 and when a vacancy occurred on the Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission in 2017, where she readily accepted an invitation to apply. She also participates in the KPB's Material Site Working Group which hold contentious and long meeting. Both the City of Homer and KPB Planning Department would like to recognize Syverine's above and beyond volunteerism and advocacy for planning.

She serves with integrity on these planning commissions when hearing the applications that are presented. When conversations stray, she will often steer her fellow commission members back to the code requirements. Regardless of her personal beliefs and professional training, she carefully and thoughtfully makes her decision based upon code requirements and the facts presented.