

PARTNERSHIPS

Coalition building is a hallmark of MAP's campaign to advance best land use and planning practices. We strove to leverage the power of alliances to inform and enlighten those whose decisions can affect positive social, economic, and environmental change and create quality communities. As such, affiliations were built and strengthened with state agencies, land use stakeholder groups, leaders in the building, construction, and design professions, state and local elected officials, ancillary professional organizations, and many others. MAP embraces its responsibility to advise and illuminate about the consequences – often unintended – of state, local, and organizational policies and practices that can result in unmitigated growth: harm to the environment and economy, social inequities, and diminished quality of life. We take this responsibility seriously, and seek to build and strengthen coalitions with a vast array of entities. MAP has led or participated in many initiatives in 2006 - 2007.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

MAP participated in the development of the MSHDA 5 Year Strategic Plan for Affordable Housing in 2006 as a member of the Land Use Committee, and was appointed in 2007 to the Land Use Executive Committee charged with developing an implementation plan for its recommendations. The committee is conducting research, prioritizing recommendations, and developing strategies to accomplish them.

MSHDA became a strong partner of MAPs in other ways as well, presenting at and sponsoring our 2007 Spring



Institute, participating in the 2006 *Planning Michigan* conference as a full conference sponsor, and generally engaging the Association for advice and counsel on land use related matters. In 2007,



MAP joined the Living in Michigan Coalition to advocate for the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund.

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness

The intersect between Governor's Council initiatives and the activities of MAP is clear: both are dedicated to creating an environment that fosters healthy, sustainable communities. And so a natural partnership was forged, and MAP served as the resident planning expert on the Planning Active Communities (PAC) steering committee. During the last year, the PAC assessment tool, an online process to ascertain whether a community is planning for healthy, walkable environments was

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updated creating an even more viable measurement of a communities' strengths and weaknesses as they strive to improve the health of their community through better designed built and natural environments. MAP also was a key member of the PAC's policy committee, and together we promoted these concepts to the Department of Education and to legislators.



MAP also was represented on the Healthy Living Conference planning committee, providing programming advice and securing speakers for this important event.

And MAP now hosts the PAC Awards Banquet, in alternating years, in conjunction with our own awards ceremony at the annual *Planning Michigan* conference.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

MDOT and MAP have long collaborated on various projects, from the jointly offered Access Management training program, to MAP's role as co-chair of the Transportation Summit – Land Use Action Team (LUAT), to MAP's participation in the development of the MDOT Long Range Transportation Plan, which was adopted in June 2007. These early endeavors served as the bedrock for a sustained and successful relationship.



During the last year, MAP was appointed to

the MDOT executive task force charged with overseeing the implementation recommendations of the Long Range Transportation Plan, and identifying strategies to advance the plan.

Also this year, MDOT committed funding (\$150,000 over two years) to support the LUAT's Development Impact Study (DIS) project. The LUAT has continued to meet since the completion of the Transportation Summit initiative and over the last year developed an Request for

Proposal (RFP) to create the DIS. The study will provide a framework which integrates local transportation and land use goals and objectives into a comprehensive and coordinated decision making process. A model planning ordinance, development review process, and guidebook will result from the project. The Americana Foundation also committed funds to the project in 2007, and the project will launch in early 2008. The groundwork for this important project was accomplished this year, and implementation is anticipated in 2008 – 2010.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S)

The SR2S program operates under the auspices of MDOT, and



MAP has been steadily involved in the development of program goals, promotion, and ad-

vancement for the last three years as a member of the SR2S Steering Committee. Our close partnership has resulted in approval of a \$23,000 grant to promote the SR2S program to community planners, and strengthen the connection between the professional planners and the schools located in our communities. One of four articles was published in the *Michigan Planner* magazine this fiscal year. The remaining project elements—three additional articles, creation, and dissemination of promotional fliers, a Frequently Asked Questions brochure geared toward professional planners, and general advocacy and promotion of the program— will continue in 2007 – 2008.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

In mid-2006, MAP approached the MDE to discuss communications between local government and school dis-



tricts, and how the disconnect can result in fragmented decision making. MAP proposed that a stakeholder group be formed to begin a dialogue about the issues and solutions. Following a meeting in summer 2006 with a Deputy Superintendent at MDE, representatives from the Department of Labor and Economic (the state arm that regulates school construction), and MAP, including our lobbyist and a schools and land use expert, the MDE authorized MAP to prepare a concept paper detailing the program. The paper was subsequently approved by MDE, and the formation of a stakeholder group is moving forward. Concept framing, planning, and outreach occurred during 2006 – 2007, and the project will be a top priority for MAP in the upcoming year.

Michigan State University Extension Citizen Planner Program (CPP)

Recognizing the importance of educating citizen planners about zoning and planning, a natural alliance was forged several years ago to advance the idea of training and education for elected and appointed officials.



CPP has continued to use MAP’s Basic Training Workshop materials as part of their overall training efforts, and during the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year, we expanded our partnership agreement to include cross promotions of our respective training programs. There are many thousands of local planning and zoning officials needing education, information, and resources, and various entities available to provide such training. The most important result is an increase in the number of informed officials, and teaming up with MSUE allows planning and zoning experts to reach many more officials.

Michigan Suburbs Alliance (MSA) – Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Committee



As a charter member of the RRC committee, MAP has been instrumental in helping frame the RRC program and its redevel-

opment ready standards, used by the MSA to certify inner-ring suburban communities as “redevelopment ready.” The professional advice provided by MAP during the process to update the standards in 2007 resulted in important changes related to sequencing and weighting program elements for certification eligibility.

Centers for Regional Excellence (CRE)

The Centers for Regional Excellence program was created by Governor Jennifer Granholm to encourage resource sharing and savings among local govern-



ments. Communities with projects that demonstrate intergovernmental cooperation or collaborative initiatives were eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in grant funds. Thirty five proposals were submitted and MAP participated on a grant review committee along with state agency, non-profit, and university representatives. A total of seven grants were awarded during this pilot project.

Land Information Access Association (LIAA)

LIAA’s Partnerships for Change program provides direct technical assistance to communities committed to advancing multi-jurisdictional land use planning and decision making. MAP is represented on the 12 member



advisory council, who helped develop the program description and the incentives to attract local government interest. The council also established criteria for the selection of demonstration projects, and to date have selected 13 projects through a competitive review process. Strong partners, MAP and LIAA have collaborated on various educational and policy initiatives related to the Partnerships for Change program.