MAP's on-site workshops can also be offered to staff, township boards, and city or village commissions/councils and seasoned commissioners. Our on-site workshops are a flexible and affordable way to bring training to your community. You pick the topic, date, location, and invite the attendees - MAP brings the instructor and the materials. Collaborating with neighboring communities provides added value to the workshop and helps cover costs.

Planning for Health | 2 hour program
Community planners can lead at the local level to develop and implement planning policies and zoning regulations for land use and a built environment conducive to healthy, active living. Workshop participants will gain an understanding of how to engage the community around a vision of health; how to move plan goals and objectives to a "health in all policies" framework; how to develop and use health impact assessments; and the importance of including an implementation plan that includes zoning and other regulatory language.

Master Planning Process | 3 hour program
A comprehensive master plan envisions the future physical development of the community. This workshop is designed for both communities updating existing master plans as well as those creating entirely new documents. Learn the purpose of a master plan, its components, the process of creating and updating the plan, and implementation.

Community Engagement | 3 hour program
Knowing which public engagement technique to use for which audience, and managing the public participation process so that all voices can be heard, all the while ensuring that the input is meaningful and relevant is one of a community's greatest challenges. A process that can be rife with politics on one hand, and rewarding and beneficial on another, is part and parcel of the effort. This interactive session explains best practices on how to engage with community members and stakeholders in a meaningful way.

Capital Improvement Planning | 2.5 hour program
When Public Act 33, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA), was adopted in 2008, it expanded provisions for Capital Improvements Programs (CIP). City and village planning commissions are required to prepare a CIP, and townships that operate a water or sewer system are, too. This program explains everything you need to know to prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program, including: who should be involved in the process; the accounting and budgetary requirements of a CIP; how the CIP connects to the master plan; how to tie the program into your infrastructure capacity; and how to handle controversial topics.

Master Planning for Coastal Resiliency | 3 hour program
This workshop was designed to help local officials and staff integrate environmental protection in the master plan process. Environmental protection can serve as an economic development tool for waterfront communities, driving tourism and creating unique places where people want to live. This interactive program will introduce specific planning techniques and case studies for shoreline protection, urban waterfront redevelopment, smart growth techniques and environmental policy and regulation at the local level, where the positive impact can be significant.

Zoning Administration | 4.5 hour program
The zoning administrator is responsible for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of the zoning process and for the public support it receives. Since he or she is often the initial contact with affected property owners, intelligent administration and enforcement conducted with sensitivity to public relations is essential. This program is for zoning administrators in rural, suburban, or urban settings as well as municipal officials, other staff members, or citizens interested in a more complete understanding of all facets of zoning administration.

Planning and Zoning 101 for Inspectors | 2 hour program
A community's inspector often has the first and final word in zoning enforcement. They see and hear how the zoning ordinance is working for property owners, but are often not at the table when master plans and codes are being developed. This 2 hour workshop offers inspectors and officers a concise history of planning and zoning, the local players involved in the community and their roles, a tour of a typical zoning ordinance, an overview of development reviews and best practices for administration.
New Training! You design the agenda by selecting 3 modules from a dozen topics that can be mixed and matched. These modules are on demand so you view the training when it's convenient for you.

What topics have your officials been interested in? Is there a new tool or issue that officials would like a primer on?

Select 3 modules from our comprehensive menu and MAP does the rest. These workshops will provide your officials with a greater understanding of more advanced planning topics and tools.

OUR HIGHLY EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS PROVIDE A DEEP DIVE INTO INNOVATIVE PLANNING TOOLS.

$75 member rate | $100 non-members | Want to train your entire commission? Call for group price

Asset Management - 36 minutes
This technical presentation includes an overview of the process, tools, and strategies for undertaking asset management and is best for staff or officials who have a basic understanding of CIP's and asset management.

Clean Energy Planning - 2 hours
This workshop explores the need (especially in rural communities) to consider renewable energy in planning and zoning, and provides practical tools for doing so. Learn how the market for renewables is changing, and the opportunities that may exist in urban, suburban and rural environments. Communities that have large parcels of open land (250+ acres) who are considering wind and solar farms will find this workshop particularly valuable.

Community Engagement - 41 minutes
Managing the public participation process so that all voices can be heard, while ensuring that the input is meaningful and relevant, is challenging. This module is an introduction to engagement techniques and tools.

DDA's and TIF's - 35 minutes
Michigan has many different types of authorities that use Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Learn the different kinds of authorities available to government under state law; how tax increment financing works; and what projects are eligible.

Environmental Planning - 46 minutes
Rain gardens and complete streets are all aspects of environmental planning. This deep dive covers the relationship between land use and the natural environment, the importance of environmental planning and current trends.

Form Based Codes - 52 minutes
This presentation gets to the heart of Form Based Codes, including how they are different from conventional zoning, when a FBC is appropriate, how to incorporate FBC into your community's codes, and next steps.

Housing - 30 minutes
Housing is an important issue in many communities. This presentation covers how a community should assess its housing needs and strategies for ensuring those needs are met. State and federal housing laws are also addressed.

Parking - 26 minutes
How can you ensure that parking remains the vital (but supporting) role in your downtown's present and future? This workshop explains the past, present, and future of parking, along with case studies from small Michigan cities.

Planned Unit Development - 24 minutes
This workshop explains what exactly a PUD or Planned Unit Development is and how communities can leverage this powerful planning tool. If your community is considering adopting or amending its PUD ordinance, this workshop is for you.

Roles and Responsibilities - 16 minutes
City Councils, Township Boards, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Who is supposed to do what? This workshop reviews roles and responsibilities to ensure that everyone stays in their lane and goes in the same direction.

Target Market Analysis - 50 minutes
Target Market Analysis (TMA) is a powerful tool that can assist communities in planning and zoning. This presentation explains the in's and out's of TMA, provides an example case study, and gives you next steps.

Utility Basics - 48 minutes
A great primer for officials and non-engineering staff, this course explains how utilities - from sewers to electricity and everything in between - work, how they show up on site plans, and what best practices should be utilized going forward with new development.

Zoning Administration - 26 minutes
An introduction for officials or citizens who want a better understanding of what goes into administration.

WHAT MAKES MAP'S WORKSHOPS VALUABLE?

- Instructors are certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).
- Attendees receive valuable resources and handouts for easy reference later.
- Networking opportunities with fellow officials.
- MAP's credibility and reputation as a land use leader is widely recognized, assuring the highest quality educational experience.

Three different presentation methods, and multiple sessions within three general categories of topics provide a custom experience. Read on for details.

Planning and Zoning Essentials | ("Basic Training") | 4.5 hour program
This information-packed program is not only perfect for introducing new planning commissioners and zoning board of appeals members to their roles and responsibilities, it's a great course for more experienced officials looking to hone their skills and knowledge. Newly elected officials will benefit from this comprehensive overview which explains how the zoning board of appeals, planning commissioners, elected officials and staff interact. It covers roles and responsibilities, site plan review, comprehensive planning, zoning ordinances, conditional rezoning, variances, and standards for decision-making.

Zoning Board of Appeals | 2.5 hour program
Quasi-judicial functions of the zoning process are handled by the Zoning Board of Appeals. This interactive, case study based workshop goes into greater depth on the issues of practical difficulty and unnecessary hardship. Case studies, along with a summary of voting and membership requirements, and other procedural requirements unique to ZBA operations are covered. A tribal government module is also available.

PC Toolkit | 2 hour program
The Planning Commission plays a pivotal role in the development of a community. This workshop explains all of the Planning Commission duties from the master plan to site plan review and everything in between. How to conduct a meeting, handling difficult cases and conflict of interest are also reviewed.

Site Plan Review | 3.5 hour program
This program demonstrates the site plan review and approval process and provides practical tools and techniques for reading a site plan. The course covers site design principles such as building placement, pedestrian and traffic flow, lighting, utilities, ADA compliance, and landscaping. Participants in this hands-on workshop receive an engineering scale, turning template, and a sample site plan to evaluate.

Risk Management | 2.5 hour program
Litigation related to planning and zoning decisions is not uncommon. This essential training for elected officials, planning commissioners and zoning board of appeals members prepares you to make sound, legally defensible decisions. Topics include identifying a conflict of interest, applying discretionary standards during special land use reviews, reasonable expectations of a developer and how your comprehensive plan can minimize risk.

Roles and Responsibilities | Pre-recorded | 42 minutes
City Councils, Township Boards, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Who is supposed to do what? This workshop reviews roles and responsibilities to ensure that everyone stays in their lane and goes in the same direction.

Email Amy Vansen for a quote at avansen@planningmi.org