



American Planning Association  
**Virginia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

# **American Planning Association**

## **Virginia Chapter**

**2011**

**Award Winners**

# APA Virginia Awards 2011

## Award Winners Overview

**Outstanding Plan Award-Plan Element**  
Spotsylvania County Trailway Master Plan

**Outstanding Plan Award - Small Area Plan**  
Pembroke Strategic Area Growth Plan  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Outstanding Plan Award - Town or City**  
South Boston Comprehensive Plan 2030

**Outstanding Plan Award - County Comprehensive Plan**  
The 2030 Carroll County Plan

**Public Outreach and Engagement Award**  
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Neighbors Guide to the Blue Ridge Parkway

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**Student Planning Award**  
Farming on the Urban Fringe  
New Kent County, VA

**Professional Planner**  
Paul F. Berge, AICP

**Legislator**  
Delegate Thomas Davis Rust, PE, AICP

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## Award Winners Overview

### **Outstanding Students**

#### **University of Virginia**

Graduate Student-Andrew Joseph Pompei  
Undergraduate Student-Cameron Alan Williams

### **Outstanding Students**

#### **Virginia Tech-Blacksburg**

Graduate Student-Tommi Godwin  
Undergraduate Student-Mark Chang

### **Outstanding Students**

#### **Virginia Tech Alexandria**

Graduate Student-Matthew Steenhoek  
Undergraduate Student-Joshua Son

### **Outstanding Students**

#### **Virginia Commonwealth University**

Graduate Student-Tyler Klein  
Undergraduate Student-David Wolfe

### **President's Award**

Distinguished Service  
Distinguished Contribution

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## Award Winners Summaries

### **Outstanding Plan Award-Plan Element *Spotsylvania County Trailway Master Plan***

The Spotsylvania County Trailway Master Plan is a thoughtful, innovative, and proactive planning strategy. The plan stands on its own as a master plan for a comprehensive system of both road-based and greenway trails. At the same time, the plan is drawn from goals laid out in the County's existing comprehensive plan, the thoroughfare plan in particular. The Awards Committee was impressed by the initiative and dedication to developing the goals of the comprehensive plan by the Spotsylvania County Planning Department. Not only did the plan provide a regional plan for trailways, but engaged in meaningful partnerships with local non-profit and community groups to create a larger grassroots initiative, the Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative. The creation of SGI is an example not only of participatory planning, but also positive planning education that is dearly needed within the state today. The outcome of the planning process is a thorough plan for trail maintenance, development, and safety that takes into account current and future users and residents of the area to assure that the preservation of natural vistas and healthy lifestyles for years to come.

### **Outstanding Plan Award - Small Area Plan *Pembroke Strategic Growth Area Plan Virginia Beach, VA***

The Pembroke Strategic Growth Area Plan is a highly visual implementation plan. The Committee was impressed with the scale of the suburban retrofit and found the model to be highly applicable to many other localities. As the suburbs age, many of the retail area's buildings as well as building patterns become functionally obsolete. The development principles, form based code, and the very detailed urban master plan make for a very concise but complete "How to" book for future generations. The implementation recommendations were detailed and provided a clear path. The short-term recommendations are a nice touch and the "Relevance" section was quite unique. The successful suburban to urban retrofit of the adjacent Virginia Beach Towne Center is a living example of what can be imagined and then built.

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## **Outstanding Plan Award - Town or City** ***South Boston Comprehensive Plan 2030***

The South Boston Comprehensive Plan 2030 is subtitled “Progress and Preservation on the Dan”. Progress and preservation are goals that seem to really work in this comprehensive and thought-provoking plan. All the traditional elements of a Comprehensive Plan are there as well as the Awards Committee’s favorite feature: a full color Comprehensive Plan poster that provides an excellent overview of key goals and land use issues. Similarly, the fold out Planning Action Area graphics are highly useable and visual. Finally, the Dan River is recognized as a wonderful community asset with key strategies for preservation and public use. The Awards Committee was quite impressed with this plan and feels that the plan has applicability for other towns and cities.

## **Outstanding Plan Award - County Comprehensive Plan** ***The 2030 Carroll County Plan***

The County’s nomination letter states:

“From inception to adoption, the Plan was inclusive of the County’s residents and respectful of the County’s heritage. The data based Plan sets progressive goals, identifying and prioritizing implementable strategies to ensure its on-going relevancy and success.

“The County sought a guide to ensure the viability of on-going agricultural operations while also pursuing increased tourism development that is supported by proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and recent infrastructure improvements. To this end, the Plan implements a tiered development approach. It sets forth alternate development patterns and standards to allow for healthy and compatible rural and community development. In concert with local preferences, the Plan identifies opportunities for enhanced development standards in key locations to support tourism development and local quality of life.

“The planning process included considerable media outreach, public participation events in each County district and significant youth outreach, including an elementary school event. Participation by the high school government classes included a workshop and survey, which resulted in meaningful and insightful input, as well as support for key plan economic development goals and policies. County staff led on-going and in-depth discussions and collaboration with the local Farm Bureau and other vested stakeholders to build support for the Plan in rural areas and ensure its successful adoption and implementation.”

The Awards Committee found this to be true in that the 2030 Carroll County Plan is a highly readable and accessible plan and represents a modern; vision based planning effort that can serve as a model for other Counties.

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## **Public Outreach and Engagement Award** ***East End Charette*** ***Richmond, VA***

The City of Richmond, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital formed a unique public/private partnership in the spring of 2010 to engage in a dynamic community planning process. A series of interactive public meetings were designed to plan for revitalization of the East End and the 25<sup>th</sup> Street/Nine Mile Road Corridor. More than 1,000 people attended the opening and closing events and the various planning sessions throughout the week. The purpose of the charrette was to identify specific designs, housing and business opportunities; as well as policy and management recommendations for the revitalization effort of the City of Richmond's East End and Church Hill neighborhoods.

The Awards Committee found the effort of the award recipient to engage a diverse group of community members, along with their success in drawing a large number of participants to their events as admirable and worthy of recognition. Additionally, the effort garnered an impressive amount of media coverage, bringing the planning process to the attention of as many potential participants as a possible.

## **Outstanding Private Sector Plan Award** ***Neighbors Guide to the Blue Ridge Parkway***

The Neighbor's Guide to the Blue Ridge Parkway is an amazingly original document, compiled through a unique set of partnerships and with a unique goal: providing a how to manual for building along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Hill Studio led this effort but worked closely with the Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service, as well as the private sector Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. The target audience for the Guide is the 4700 adjacent property owners that own land along the nearly 500 miles of the parkway in Virginia and North Carolina. The plan addresses completely these diverse properties and the needs of property owners balanced with the unique viewshed. From subdivision planning, site planning, landscape design to architectural design, this comprehensive volume addresses these key issues. The Awards Committee felt strongly that this was the most Outstanding Private Sector Plan.

## **Planning Innovation Award - Local** ***Transfer of Development Rights*** ***Frederick County, VA***

Frederick County's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Ordinance and Program provide a simple yet comprehensive guide to TDR in Virginia. The Awards Committee found the approach very innovative and refreshing. Transfer of Development Rights in the Commonwealth is one of the most exciting planning tools to be introduced in many years. However, many communities are stalled in the implementation of a TDR Ordinance and some localities do not have a successful program despite adopting an Ordinance. The flow charts and clear definitions make TDR comprehensible and useful

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to all interested parties. The presentations given as part of the public input process were included in the Awards application and provided a very clear picture to different audiences. Scenarios were presented from the farmer, developer and County perspectives and solutions were then shown. The presentations were also full of examples that really help everyone comprehend the program. For these reasons, the Awards Committee agreed that this TDR tool was highly innovative and deserving of this recognition.

**Planning Innovation Award - State**  
***Virginia Surface Transportation Plan 2035***  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

“The 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan (VSTP) represents the first time in Virginia’s history that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) have released multimodal planning recommendations together in a single document. The content and the format are what are innovative about this plan. This long-range transportation plan is provided for stakeholders and the public in a web-based format that includes not only a technical document, but also an easy to read, highly transportable folded map that provides the major recommendations of the statewide plan. Regarding content, typically long range plans only focus on a 20-year horizon. The 2035 VSTP also includes short range planning recommendations that aim to utilize the existing infrastructure for a longer life.

“Completed in November, 2010, the 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan provides information for potential project development and investment based on the goals identified in VTrans2035, Virginia’s statewide multimodal transportation policy plan. The plan includes possible improvements to transit, rail, freight, highway, and intelligent transportation systems.”

“Historically, five staff-level plans from these agencies were developed to feed information to the Secretary’s office for the development of VTrans’ transportation policies. ... This did not allow for the identification of overlap of modal recommendations. It was possible to have rail, highway, and transit recommendations along the same corridor, but with the recommendations being spread across three different documents, these situations were difficult to identify.

“Under the direction of the Secretary of Transportation, VDOT and DRPT eliminated what were previously three separate plans, the State Highway Plan, State Rail Plan and State Transit Plan and coordinated recommendations in a single document, the 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan.”

The Committee considered this plan a stunning work, given the historical separation of modal planning in States and at the Federal level. It may only be possible to do such a

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plan in Virginia. Certainly, it is a model for other States to emulate. Along with program goals and priorities, budgetary requirements are presented as well.

This award recognizes the complicated nature of using County-City base geography aggregated at the regional levels of: Panning Districts, Transportation Districts and five super-regions: Northern, Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge, Piedmont and Eastern. The maps display the most appropriate sub-state geography for the mode. This regionalized effort was possible in part due to the Virginia Rural Transportation Planning program for Planning Districts begun in 1993. This was instituted to encourage local governments outside of urbanized areas that qualified for Metropolitan Planning Organizations to begin making the connections between local land use decisions and traffic congestion. This program contributed greatly to local government planning in the past 18 years.

**Student Planning Award**  
***Farming on the Urban Fringe***  
***New Kent County, VA***  
**Andrew Pompeii**

“Farming on the Urban Fringe” presents a pertinent case study on the tools to ameliorate the current struggles of Virginia’s agricultural economy. The study embodies all the necessary ingredients for a planning-based solution to modern issues. Andrew identified the impact of growth on local farmers in New Kent County and systematically identified best practices from neighboring communities that fit the situation unfolding in New Kent. The recommendations presented by Andrew are well researched, can easily be implemented, and are suitable for New Kent. Not only is Andrew’s research important to Virginia as it grapples with the tensions of development and sustainability, it also can be transferred to other areas of the United States where farmers are feeling the negative impacts of fast growth. The awards committee was impressed by the rigor of Andrew’s research, the timeliness of his case study, and the positive impact that his project may have on New Kent and other applicable areas.

**Professional Planner**  
***Paul F. Berge, AICP***

Paul F. Berge, AICP, served as Executive Director of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission from 1979 until his retirement in 2007. Throughout his twenty-eight (28) year career as Executive Director, Paul continuously promoted the understanding of planning principals and the planning process affecting all residents of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the State of Virginia.

In bringing each of the 19 towns of the Eastern Shore of Virginia into compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, Paul guided each locality through the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan, Zoning, and Subdivision Ordinances. For many of these towns, these were the first Comprehensive Plans and local land use ordinances ever adopted. The plans and ordinances continue to be implemented today. Paul F. Berge, AICP, is therefore recognized as an outstanding planner in the State of Virginia.

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## **Legislator**

***Delegate Thomas Davis Rust, PE, AICP***

During the 2011 Session, on behalf of the Chapter, Del. Rust carried HB 1965, which adds lifecycle costs of capital projects to the items to be considered by planning commissions in developing capital improvement programs. The bill passed all sub-committees, committees and both houses unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor.

Delegate Rust is being recognized for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents and neighbors while recognizing and promoting planning as a positive force on the development of communities throughout the Commonwealth. The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association is pleased to recognize Delegate Thomas Davis Rust, AICP as its 2011 Legislator of the Year.

## **Outstanding Students**

### **University of Virginia**

Graduate Student-Andrew Joseph Pompei

Undergraduate Student-Cameron Alan Williams

**Andrew Joseph Pompei** is recognized for outstanding academic performance, consistent professional quality in his work with particular emphasis on the application to local Virginia communities. His range of substantive interests includes brownfields redevelopment, coastal zone planning and adaptive infrastructure. Andrew's application to local planning includes historic resource preservation, green infrastructure planning, and farming on the urban fringe.

**Cameron Alan Williams** has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated consistent high quality professional work. He has concentrated on local applications of sustainability principles to local planning with some focus on adaptive infrastructure planning and also local food security systems. Cameron is also a talented jazz trombonist!

### **Virginia Tech-Blacksburg**

Graduate Student-Tommi Godwin

Undergraduate Student-Mark Chang

**Tommi Godwin** is an outstanding student, citizen, and person. Her professors state: She entered our program after her active duty deployment to Iraq and five-years of work experience after her BS in Mathematics from Bemidji State University. Extreme weather builds character! And her Minnesota roots instilled an ethic of hard work and service that stands as an example to her student and faculty colleagues. Tommi is an organizer and leader, with the talent to assert authority by her hard work and example. She has

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demonstrated her intellectual and personal leadership in the classroom, in studio projects, as a member of the ULI-Hines competition team, and as the driving force behind the Virginia Coastal Community Adaptation Grant. Through the latter, she has worked with faculty and numerous undergraduate students in helping prepare a climate change adaptation plan with the Middle Peninsula Planning Development Commission.

**Mark Chang** is a graduating senior in Environmental Planning and Policy (EPP). Mark states: I was born in Seoul, South Korea and came to United States at the age of four via the international gateway called New York City. While Flushing, New York, is still home base in my heart, my family has since relocated to Northern Virginia. I completed a psychology degree in 2009 and decided to undertake a second degree in EPP. As the “green” trend began to gain momentum, I jumped on board and was fascinated by the new energy efficiency concepts that were taking shape. The relatively short three semesters that I have spent in the planning program have been filled with formative, influential experiences. My time in the major fortunately coincided with the development of a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Blacksburg. I saw an opportunity to hopefully do something for the community that I had the pleasure of calling home for a number of years. I interned with Dr. Damian Pitt in the summer of 2010, assisting him and his colleagues in drafting this plan. My work specifically focused on helping Dr. Pitt in developing and refining models for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the residential sector. I hope to use this experience as a platform to further pursue energy efficiency applications in low-income multi-family housing sectors. In my spare time, I enjoy playing basketball and spending as much as possible out in this beautiful world of ours that needs a little help.

**Virginia Tech Alexandria**  
Graduate Student-Matthew Steenhoek  
Undergraduate Student-Joshua Son

**Matthew Steenhoek** received his Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Maryland and is currently completing his Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Tech. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional and a professional planner, joining PN Hoffman in 2005. He is currently a Development Manager for the Southwest Waterfront Project. Matthew is responsible for management of the transportation, sustainability, and urban design components of the Southwest Waterfront. He is also involved with the development of temporary urbanism and interim uses on the Southwest Waterfront site during project design. Prior to his involvement on the Southwest Waterfront, Matthew was a Development Manager on Constitution Square in NoMa. Constitution Square is a 1.6 million-square-foot LEED-ND Gold Certified mixed-used project with luxury residential apartments, a Hilton Garden Inn, a Harris Teeter grocery store, office buildings for the General Services Administration and the Department of Justice, and 30,000square feet of street-level retail.

**Joshua Son** is graduating from Virginia Tech with a BA in Public and Urban Affairs and took classes towards a second degree in Visual Communication Design. Joshua was

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born in Lynchburg but grew up in Virginia Beach. He has interned for the Virginia Beach Planning Department and the District of Columbia Office of Planning. Joshua plans to intern for the Navy under NAVFAC MIDLANT in Norfolk, VA to gain experience in the field before attending Graduate School for Urban Design.

## **Virginia Commonwealth University**

Graduate Student-Tyler Klein

Undergraduate Student-David Wolfe

**Tyler Klein** -- Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program. His professors write: Our faculty believes Tyler Klein is the most worthy recipient of the VAPA Outstanding Student Award among our MURP students. He just graduated this May with an outstanding 4.0 GPA and will long be remembered by the faculty as one of the brightest, yet also most congenial students we have had the pleasure to teach. Furthermore, Tyler has been superb in teamwork situations, practicing the gentle, yet persuasive leadership that marks all good planners. But it is his work outside the classroom that really sets him apart. After one semester, MURP students elected him president of the Urban and Regional Planning Student Association. Under his leadership, the group developed new initiatives to serve the community and to strengthen relationships with planning practitioners, as well as to help recruit prospective planning students. Tyler is also active organizing and participating in volunteer work. In the view of the VCU faculty, Tyler is not only an outstanding student but has all the makings of an outstanding planner, and we are very proud of him.

**David Wolfe** -- Bachelor of Urban and Regional Studies (BURS) program. His professors write: Our faculty believes David Wolfe is the most worthy recipient of the VAPA Outstanding Student Award among our BURS students. He just graduated this May with an outstanding 4.0 GPA and he has applied and been accepted into our Master of Urban and Regional Planning program in the Fall 2011 semester. David was one of the best undergraduate students we have had and he has demonstrated excellent work and performance in his undergraduate coursework. We believe David not only has the ability to do graduate-level work and do it well, more importantly, he has the greatest potential be successful and well-rounded professional planner.

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## APA Virginia President's Awards

### **Distinguished Service to the Chapter**

This award recognizes a Chapter Member's contributions to the development and mission of the Chapter in a substantial manner over a sustained period of time.

### **Distinguished Contribution**

This award recognizes a Chapter member's contributions to the development and mission of the Chapter through an extraordinary effort over a short period of time.

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## American Planning Association National Awards Recognition

**2010 APA Great Places of America Program  
Great Street: Washington Street, Town of Middleburg**

**2011 APA National Planning Award  
Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan:  
Tyson's Corner Comprehensive Plan, Fairfax County**

**2011 APA County Planning Division Award of Merit:  
Homeowner's Enhancement Guide, Henrico County**

**2011 APA Economic Development Division  
Donald B. Hunter Award of Excellence: Peninsula Town Center,  
City of Hampton**

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