

# APA Louisiana Legislative Committee

## Policy Priorities 2019



*As planners for cities, parishes, and other agencies, we support the public welfare through the technical practice of forecasting future conditions and engaging the public to identify the most effective actions to ensure sustained economic and social vitality of our communities.*

### 1) Hazard Mitigation

In Louisiana, repetitive cycles of natural and man-made disasters cause extensive loss of life and property, often with a disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities. Hazard mitigation plans form the foundation of a community's short and long term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of repeated damage.

We Support:

- ◆ Production of high-quality data and predictive models for hazards;
- ◆ Resiliency standards for materials, construction techniques, siting of critical facilities, and development patterns;
- ◆ Planning that preserves areas providing natural floodplain functions.

### 2) Infrastructure Planning & Financing

Much of our Infrastructure in Louisiana is in very poor condition. Planners in Louisiana must take a long- range, sustainable, and equitable approach to infrastructure planning and financing.

We support:

- ◆ Increased funding for key capital projects throughout the State;
- ◆ Development of a sustainable infrastructure system.

### 3) Coastal Restoration

Wetlands in their natural state perform ecological functions which are vitally important to the environment and economic health of the state, and are impossible or costly to replace. Threats facing coastal Louisiana such as sea level rise, land subsidence, and saltwater intrusion must be addressed through long-term coastal planning and policy interventions.

We support:

- ◆ A statewide restoration approach, rooted in scientifically sound data;
- ◆ Enhanced mapping, classification, and identification of sensitive coastal areas;
- ◆ Education and research on coastal restoration and protection.

#### 4) Bicycle & Pedestrian Policy

Biking and walking are effective, sustainable, and accessible forms of transportation. Due to lack of appropriate infrastructure, biking and walking is either unsafe, uncomfortable, or impractical on many Louisiana roadways. Louisiana has one of the highest rates of cyclist and pedestrian deaths in the nation.

We support:

- ◆ A renewed focus on pedestrian safety;
- ◆ Investment in cycling infrastructure as a viable transportation mode;
- ◆ Repair and modernization of infrastructure, particularly systems that support community health.

#### 5) Sustainability

Planners are focused on long-term solutions and sustainable development. Communities need to be developed and cultivated to have long-term economic prosperity and environmental health. Planning should provide a sustainable built environment to fulfill the need of present and future generations.

We support:

- ◆ Equitable access to housing, employment, education, and healthcare;
- ◆ Transportation practices which support mobility while limiting impacts to the natural environment;
- ◆ Resilient, low-impact development patterns and construction.

#### 6) Affordable Housing

Disparity in housing opportunity is a long-standing problem in Louisiana. Housing affordability issues disrupt established communities and impede economic growth.

We support:

- ◆ The reduction of housing stratification, and the provision of housing for all ages and income levels;
- ◆ Increased housing density in areas that have access to community services and are not subject to natural or man-made disasters;
- ◆ Policies which mitigate the effects of gentrification and rising housing costs on existing residents.



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