

The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute Presents
the 24th Annual RMLUI Conference

WESTERN PLACES

BUILDING FAIR & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WESTERN SPACES



MARCH 12-13, 2015

University of Denver Sturm College of Law • Denver, Colorado

Program Guide

Connecting Places

RMLUI
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
LAND USE INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

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WESTERN PLACES/WESTERN SPACES BUILDING FAIR AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Across the West, communities large and small are grappling with change. Our largest cities are thriving, but gentrification is making urban living unaffordable for many. As suburban communities transition towards more compact development and public transit, they are starting to lose the small town appeal that attracted so many. Rural communities struggle to balance their wild and rustic roots in the face of a changing economy. Set against a backdrop of increased risks associated with long-term drought, violent storms, flooding, and wildfire, the West is embracing its latest challenges.

The 2015 RMLUI Conference focuses on the innovative ways cities and towns across the West are building more resilient, equitable, and vital communities. The theme addresses how we can meet the many challenges of the future—including threats posed by climate change, a modern economy, and demographic shifts—while better addressing issues of social and environmental justice. The featured track focuses on resilience. In the wake of fires, flood, and on-going drought, communities across the West are thinking about resilience in many different contexts as they work both to rebuild and to mitigate future risks.

ABOUT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE

The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute seeks to elevate the law, policy and practice of sustainable development in the West to promote nature-friendly, prosperous and equitable communities. Through innovative research, education and professional development programs and its renowned annual conference, the Institute trains and connects students and professionals across disciplines, sectors and regions to build the sustainable development field while creating new possibilities for the future of the West's landscapes and livelihoods.

ABOUT THE STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law is a top 100 law school with nationally ranked programs in environmental and natural resources law, legal writing, clinical training, international law, trial advocacy and tax law. At the heart of the law school's mission is the integration of skills and professional identity with a balanced curriculum. Our goal is to graduate practice-ready, client-focused students who understand and embrace the responsibilities of legal practice, both as a representative of the client and as a professional committed to improvement of the law and the community.

CONNECTING PLACES

This track focuses on transit-oriented development (TOD) in both urban and suburban settings, the impacts of TOD on local communities, as well as a retrospective on Denver's FasTracks project over the past ten years.

URBAN TOD AND WALKABILITY

DESCRIPTION

This presentation focuses on transit oriented development (TOD) in the urban environment and highlights some of the latest planning practices being used to activate a built environment that is often ripe for redevelopment and in need of updated connectivity infrastructure. Successful urban TOD requires more than a plan for mixed-use redevelopment. Urban TOD today is rooted in walkability, active transportation, access to jobs, housing options and community awareness and behavior that supports the changing land use pattern. Today's urban TOD is really what some refer to as a "20-minute neighborhood". Learn how redevelopment tools, integrated connectivity infrastructure and community education are minimizing the need for park-n-rides and increasing last-mile access from the station via bus, bike or foot. Case studies from Denver and Salt Lake will illustrate new ideas around the urban TOD.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

MODERATOR:

Alexis Moore

Associate Planner/Project Manager, City of Lakewood
Lakewood, CO

Alexis Moore, AICP, has worked for the City of Lakewood since 2007. Ms. Moore was the Project Manager for the Sheridan Station 20-Minute Neighborhood Implementation Strategy and the 40 West Arts District Urban Design and Mobility Concepts Plan, which launched the 40 West Arts District along West Colfax Avenue and the West Line light rail. Ms. Moore supports arts district, light rail, pedestrian and bicycle planning efforts in Lakewood. She has a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and has worked for public, private and non-profit sectors in the U.S. and New Zealand.

SPEAKERS:

J.J. Folsom

Senior Associate, Progressive Urban Management Associates
Denver, CO

J.J. Folsom leads placemaking planning and design services to create healthy places and more livable downtowns. He facilitates community outreach processes, conducts quantitative and qualitative best practice research and participates in strategic planning projects. A seasoned urban designer and transportation planner, Mr. Folsom brings 20 years of experience that includes transit oriented development, downtown planning, streetscape design, complete streets and alternative transportation projects. He has worked in several of Colorado's most respected transportation planning and urban design consulting firms, including Charlier Associates, Civitas and MIG. Mr. Folsom is an active member of the Colorado Chapter of the Urban Land Institute and serves on the transit-oriented development committee.

Susan Petheram

Associate Principal/Senior Planner, CRSA
Salt Lake City, UT

Susie Petheram is a Senior Planner and Associate Principal with CRSA, a planning and architecture firm in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has been with CRSA since 2002, where she helps communities implement context-sensitive planning strategies that promote sustainable development patterns, including transit-oriented development. Ms. Petheram is a PhD candidate in Metropolitan Planning, Policy, and Design at the University of Utah, where she is studying the impacts of the light rail system in Salt Lake County beyond the traditional half-mile radius used for transit-oriented development planning.

Beth Vogelsang

Principal, OV Consulting
Golden, CO

Beth Vogelsang is Principal Planner and owner of OV Consulting based on Golden, CO. She has over eighteen years of experience in transit planning, land use integration and strategic bike and pedestrian connectivity planning. She has worked extensively with local jurisdictions throughout Colorado establishing an understanding of the synergies between growing population densities, changing land use patterns, and the increasing demand for improved multi-modal mobility and active transportation as part of a healthy community. Ms. Vogelsang has effectively managed the technical needs of numerous transit and active transportation studies and addressed local community interests, resulting in supported, feasible and fundable alternatives for implementation.

TOD GOES SUBURBAN: MAKING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT WORK WITHIN—AND BEYOND—THE HALF-MILE CIRCLE

DESCRIPTION

Over the past two decades, most plans and regulations for transit-oriented development have focused on stations in downtowns and other highly urbanized areas. As transit systems are being extended into suburban and exurban jurisdictions in places like Denver, Dallas, and Hartford, communities are now recognizing that TOD policies and standards that were a good fit in big city locales need to be reassessed and tailored for more suburban locations. Moreover, it has been an article of faith that the real estate market responds to rail station proximity within a half-mile circle. This session presents data regarding the range of market-based planning distances for different land uses, and will draw on recent experiences in Aurora, Colorado, and communities in the Dallas, Texas, and Hartford, Connecticut, regions to discuss how suburban and exurban local governments can address critical issues like density/intensity of development, uses, parking, and design and development standards to promote compatible TOD in their jurisdictions.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

MODERATOR:

Chris Duerksen

Senior Counsel, Clarion Associates
Melbourne, FL

Christopher Duerksen, Esq., is senior counsel at Clarion Associates LLC, a land use consulting firm with offices in Colorado, Florida, and North Carolina and affiliated offices in Chicago, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia. He has represented local governments, nonprofits, and the private sector in a variety of land-use and zoning matters and specializes in smart growth and sustainable development code revisions, historic preservation, natural resource protection strategies, and airport-area development. He has completed ground-breaking sustainable code diagnosis, revisions and model ordinances for cities, counties, regional governments such as Salt Lake City, Hartford, CT, Tucson, AZ, and St. Louis County, MO. Mr. Duerksen co-founded the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute where he conceived the Model Sustainable Development Code project. He has written and spoken extensively on land use issues across the United States and has authored many books and articles on land use

and conservation issues, including True West: Authentic Development Patterns for Towns and Rural Areas, Nature Friendly Communities, and Saving the World Through Zoning. He is a former member of the board of Scenic America, the Sonoran Institute, and served two terms on the city council in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mr. Duerksen directed the Gateway/Stapleton Development Office for the City of Denver prior to founding Clarion LLC. He has a law degree from the University of Chicago.

SPEAKERS:

Emily Hultquist

Senior Planner & Policy Analyst, Capitol Region Council of Governments
Hartford, CT

Emily Hultquist is a Principal Planner and Policy Analyst at the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). She has nine years of professional experience in land use, transportation planning and urban design in Connecticut. Ms. Hultquist led CRCOG's work with the EPA on a Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grant and is the lead staff on the Sustainable Capitol Region Initiative. She recently managed a Sustainable Land Use Code Development project, which is one of many efforts funded by a \$4.2 million dollar HUD Regional Sustainable Communities grant for the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor. Ms. Hultquist is currently President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association. Ms. Hultquist holds an A.B. in Growth and Structure of Cities from Bryn Mawr College and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

John Fernandez

FasTracks/TOD Team Leader, City of Aurora Planning Department
Aurora, CO

John Fernandez, AICP, is the FasTracks/TOD Team Leader for the City of Aurora Planning Department. The team mission is to work with the Regional Transportation District, landowners, developers and neighborhoods to help maximize the benefit of the region's massive investment in passenger rail service. Previously, Mr. Fernandez served as Manager of the Comprehensive Planning Division of the Aurora Planning Department, for the city of Boulder as Manager of Development Review, and as Planning Director for the city of Glenwood Springs. He has a master's of urban and regional planning, and a B.S. in Journalism.

Arthur C. Nelson

Professor & Associate Dean for Research, University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture
Tucson, AZ

Arthur C. Nelson, Ph.D., FAICP, is Associate Dean in the College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona. He has published more than 20 books and more than 300 other works. Sponsors of his research include NSF, HUD, DOT, Brookings, Ford, ULI, APA, EPA and dozens of others. Dr. Nelson's current research is on evidence-based planning to reshape metropolitan America.

THE (RAIL) ROAD TO PROSPERITY: HOW CITIES ARE LEVERAGING LIGHT RAIL TO REVITALIZE THEIR ECONOMIES

DESCRIPTION

Over the past decade, light rail projects have bloomed in the American West, from Denver to Albuquerque to Salt Lake City. These projects represent a massive regional investment with great potential for stimulating economic development and promoting alternative transportation. This session will discuss the investments, incentives, and impacts of TOD.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

MODERATOR:

Jonathan Thompson

Senior Editor, High Country News
Paoina, CO

Jonathan Thompson is the Senior Editor for High Country News. He has reported on and written about economic, cultural and environmental issues in the American West for two decades. He lives in Durango, Colorado, with his wife and two daughters.

SPEAKERS:

John Fernandez

FasTracks/TOD Team Leader, City of Aurora Planning Department
Aurora, CO

John Fernandez, AICP, is the FasTracks/TOD Team Leader for the City of Aurora Planning Department. The team mission is to work with the Regional Transportation District, landowners, developers and neighborhoods to help maximize the benefit of the region's massive investment in passenger rail service. Previously, Mr. Fernandez served as Manager of the Comprehensive Planning Division of the Aurora Planning Department, for the city of Boulder as Manager of Development Review, and as Planning Director for the city of Glenwood Springs. He has a master's of urban and regional planning, and a B.S. in Journalism.

Steve Gordon

Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Denver
Denver, CO

Steve Gordon is the Comprehensive Planning Manager for the City of Denver.

Shannon Scutari

President, Scutari & Co., LLC, Executive Director, Sustainable Cities Collaborative
Phoenix, AZ

For almost twenty years, Shannon Scutari has facilitated changes in Arizona's public policy and transportation worlds, creating a path in Arizona for rail, transit, sustainability, smart growth, and transit-oriented development. As President of Scutari & Co., Ms. Scutari specializes in facilitating public/private partnerships for transportation infrastructure, community development, health care districts and urban revitalization projects. She is also the co-founder and Director of the Sustainable Communities Collaborative where she works with diverse constituencies and coalitions to get things done that surprise even the staunchest cynics.

FASTRACKS 10 YEARS AFTER THE VOTE: WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

DESCRIPTION

In November 2004, voters in metropolitan Denver approved the Regional Transportation District (RTD) FasTracks program with the intention of expanding rail transit by 122 miles in six corridors throughout the region. While the FasTracks program has faced numerous challenges with rising costs and declining revenues, RTD has been able to make considerable progress toward completion of FasTracks, including opening of the refurbished Union Station in 2014. On the 10-year anniversary of the referendum that approved FasTracks, this panel will consider what lessons we have learned about the implementation of the FasTracks program.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

MODERATOR:

Andrew Goetz

Professor & Chair, University of Denver Department of Geography and the Environment
Denver, CO

Andrew R. Goetz is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography & the Environment at the University of Denver, a faculty member in the Intermodal Transportation Institute and the Urban Studies Program at the University of Denver, and a research associate in the National Center for Intermodal Transportation and Economic Competitiveness (NCITEC). He has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, and research reports on topics including transportation infrastructure and urban/economic growth, rail transit systems, smart growth planning, and transit-oriented development, among other topics. He is a member of the Statewide Freight Advisory Council at the Colorado Department of Transportation, and has served on the Denver International Airport (DIA) Community Focus Group, the Transportation Advisory Committee for the City and County of Denver's Strategic Transportation Plan, and the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Denver Regional Council of Governments [DRCOG]. He received the 2010 Edward L. Ullman Award from the Association of American Geographers for Significant Contributions to Transportation Geography. Professor Goetz received a BA from Northwestern University, MA from Kent State University, and PhD from Ohio State University.

SPEAKERS:

Clarence (Cal) Marsella

Former General Manager, Regional Transportation District
Denver, CO

Clarence (Cal) Marsella served as the General Manager for the Regional Transportation District (RTD) through the creation and successful ballot initiative for Fastracks, the region wide mass transit initiative. Managed RTD as a business, he captured operations savings for the rail and bus buildout. Mr. Marsella utilized cutting edge public /private partnerships for design/build/finance/operate and maintain models for construction and operations for all corridors.

Will Toor

Transportation Program Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Program (SWEEP)
Boulder, CO

Will Toor serves as the director of the transportation program at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP). Prior to working at SWEEP, he was elected to the Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County, Colorado in 2004, and was re-elected in 2008. Prior to being elected County Commissioner, Mr. Toor served as Mayor of Boulder, Colorado from 1998-2004. He represented both the City of Boulder and Boulder County on the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) from 1998-2012, and served as chair in 2005.

Dace West

Executive Director, Mile High Connects
Denver, CO

Dace West is the Executive Director of Mile High Connects, a broad-based collaborative working to ensure that the Metro Denver regional transit system fosters communities that offer all residents the opportunity for a high quality of life. He provides leadership and partner support around the organization's research, policy advocacy, organizing, grantmaking and integration efforts. Throughout her career, Mr. West has brought a high level expertise in pulling together diverse partners across a variety of issues to work toward common, comprehensive goals and create real change for stronger communities.