



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2007

Contact: Andre Anderson
Orlando –Metro Section FAPA
(407) 230-6790
aanderson@pdqfla.com

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ORLANDO, FL - The Orlando Metro Section (OMS) and Heart of Florida (HOF) Section of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA) will host the 2007 Annual Statewide Planning Conference. This is the first time two sections have joined to host the annual conference. Therefore, both Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty and Polk County Chairman Bob English will be at the conference to welcome the conferees.

This year's conference theme is "Planning a Delicate Balance" which focuses on the design of good development while balancing and preserving our limited resources for future generations. The topics to be discussed during the conference are varied and will include four tracks: Urban, Rural, Hot Topics and Professional Development. A fifth track was added this year for the first time which will be a Design Charette to "masterplan" a community and analyze a variety of development issues.

The conference will host several guest speakers including Florida State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Secretary Tom Pelham who is the Conference Plenary speaker on Thursday morning. Secretary Pelham will present a brief overview of the evolution of the DCA and discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future.

Former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, a noted leader of Smart Growth and an advocate for environmental protection will be the Thursday Keynote Luncheon Speaker. Governor Glendening, in 1996 used the entire state budget to leverage Smart Growth across the state, revitalizing neglected downtowns, spurring economic growth and preserving more than 400,000 acres of open space.

Mayor Linda Chapin who is the Director of the UCF Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies will present "Florida 2060: We Can Do Better" during the Thursday Luncheon. The report expands on the Penn Design Study of the Central Florida Seven County Region which formed the basis of much of the ***How Shall We Grow?*** Regional Initiative.

Robert Grow, Esquire, is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of ***Envision Utah***, a regional visioning effort which has since become a model for regional visioning nationwide and has been recognized with several national awards. Mr. Grow will discuss regional visioning during the Friday Awards Luncheon.

WHAT: 2007 FAPA Annual Planning Conference

WHEN: Wednesday thru Saturday, September 5 – 8, 2007
Wed 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thu & Fri 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Hilton in the Walt Disney World® Resort
1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830

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