



**APA-NC
LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

VISION STATEMENT

The APA-NC Legislative Committee will inform and equip North Carolina planners to better participate in the legislative process and build lasting relationships with strategic partners and the General Assembly in pursuit of beneficial planning legislation. We will serve as an objective source of information on the anticipated impacts of proposed legislation, and will raise awareness of the value of planning in North Carolina communities. We will provide assistance to planners and local governments in adapting to changes in planning-related legislation.

Source: APA-NC Legislative Committee Strategic Plan

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

Chad Meadows, AICP
Legislative Committee Chair
Principal & Founder
Code Wright Planners
chad@codewrightplanners.com

Michael Zehner, AICP
Legislative Committee Vice-Chair
Environmental Programs Director
The Berkley Group
michael.zehner@bgllc.net

MEMBERS

Andrew Ausel
Planner
City of Charlotte

Michael Kelly, CZO
Regional Planning & Economic Development
Director, Kerr-Tar Regional COG

Ian Hamilton, AICP
Transportation Planner
VHB

Mike Kirkman
Current Planning Manager
City of Greensboro

The Legislative Committee is comprised of planners from across the State who are interested in legislative advocacy and issues. The Committee is always looking for planners and interested members to join and encourages those interested to reach out to the Legislative Chair for more information on how to get involved.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

- Tracked 73 bills in the General Assembly during the 2021 Long Session:
 - Became Session Law: 16
 - Made Crossover (but did not become Session Law):
 - Opposed: 9
 - Neutral: 11
 - Support: 7
 - Did Not Make Crossover: 30
- Conducted 21 conference calls with Chapter membership on legislative tracking (first and third Fridays of the month at noon Feb-December).
- Wrote and posted 5 blog posts:
 - April 29, 2021 - [APA-NC Legislative Committee Responds to Questions on HB401/SB 349](#)
 - May 11, 2021 - [How to Get Involved in NCDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan \(SHSP\)](#)
 - May 21, 2021 - [2021 Legislative Session Crossover Roundup](#)
 - August 2, 2021 - [Understanding Crossover](#)
 - December 22, 2021 - [Report from the 2021 National Policy and Advocacy Conference](#)
- Conducted a Q&A session with Chapter membership on HB401/SB349 - the Housing Bill - in May 2021
- Performed outreach to partner organizations, including the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC), NC Conservation Network, and Sierra Club.
- Appointed Michael Zehner as vice-chair of the Committee

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021 - CONT'D

- Submitted comments to the General Assembly on behalf of the Chapter on two (2) major bills:
 - HB496/Property Owner's Rights/Tree Ordinances - July 21, 2021
 - SB105/2021 Appropriations Act - September 16, 2021
- Coordinated and moderated a session on legislative advocacy ([Building Stronger Bridges & Forging Better Inroads - Increasing our Effectiveness at the General Assembly](#)) as part of the Chapter's 2021 Annual Conference. Facilitated by Mr. Meadows, the session focused on on increasing the effectiveness of advocates for planning at the state government level, a mock legislator meeting, and an overview of NCLM and NCACC resources. Session panelists included Erin Wynia (Chief Legislative Counsel, NCLM), Amber Harris (Director of Government Relations, NCACC), and Senator Natalie Murdock (NC District 20); Senator Murdock's participation built upon a relationship established by the Committee in 2020. The Committee will be making the video of the session available on the Chapter website.
- Committee Chair Chad Meadows attended the National Chapter Legislative Summit in Lansing, Michigan. The emphasis of the summit was additional information on zoning reform efforts underway in states across the country. The Committee will be preparing a report on the session and zoning reform in general during 2022.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021 - CONT'D

- Committee Vice-Chair Michael Zehner participated in APA's 2021 Policy and Advocacy Conference and, along with other North Carolina planning professionals, met with staff of North Carolina legislators as part of Planners Day on the Hill. This annual conference is billed by APA as an opportunity for planners to learn about the policy issues that affect the profession, communicate with legislators, and become an effective advocate for planning. The topics of focus of this year's conference were:
 - Zoning reform and planners' push for change that advances housing access and affordability;
 - The federal transportation infrastructure program and its significant impact on local and regional planning efforts; and
 - The best approaches to combating climate change and planning's potential to influence the decisions and investments.
- Maintained the Basecamp site for all information pertaining to the efforts of the Legislative Committee.

2022 WORK PLAN & GOALS
In Order of Priority

1

Updating the Committee's legislative tracking form to improve usability. Improvements include increased tracking of bill language evolution, easier sorting by keyword, progress. Plan is to post the tracking form on the webpage.

2

Finalizing the What Planners Do brochure/leave-behind to ensure that it is useful in meetings with local officials and representatives, as well as with legislators in the General Assembly.

3

Conduct an in-person meeting of the Legislative Committee to coordinate activities and review and update the Committee's Strategic Plan.

4

Designate one member to oversee the Committee's tab on the Chapter website, to ensure that the legislative tracking form is available and updated and that postings and information are more current and responsive.

5

Establish a clearinghouse (on the Committee's Basecamp site) for talking points and details on proposed planning and land use legislation for use by APA legislative committees throughout the Country.

2022 WORK PLAN & GOALS
CONT'D

6

Continue to establish relationships with members of the General Assembly, including House and Senate leadership, members representing counties where a large majority of the Chapter's membership perform planning functions - Wake, Durham, & Mecklenburg Counties, and various members serving on committees with pending planning-related legislative bills.

7

Improving the Basecamp platform through re-organization of content.

8

Work with the Chapter's Executive Committee to determine the Chapter's position on zoning reform efforts and the degree to which APA-NC will advocate on this issue.