

2010 Annual Report

City of Bloomington Planning Department





A Message from the Director

The City of Bloomington Planning Department provides a wide variety of professional community planning services to the citizens of Bloomington. Between on-going development administration duties and a variety of special studies and projects, the Department remained exceptionally busy throughout 2010. This Annual Report documents the accomplishments of the Department during 2010 and sets a course for continued progress in 2011. I'd like to highlight some of the Department's notable accomplishments from 2010 (many more are detailed throughout this Report):

- The Department completed an update to the Unified Development Ordinance to conform with new floodplain standards issued by FEMA.
- The MPO Complete Streets Policy received the 2010 Outstanding MPO Project award from the American Planning Association-Indiana Chapter.
- The Department issued 668 Certificates of Zoning Compliance, including 56 for new single family home construction, 16 for new commercial construction, and 224 permits for signage.
- The Department processed 23 Plan Commission cases, 7 Plat Committee cases, 22 Board of Zoning Appeals cases, and 21 Hearing Officer cases.
- The Department sent 411 notices of zoning violation to property owners and resolved 393 of these violations before year's end, including the collection of over \$21,600 in fines.
- Department staff spoke at or led at least fifteen community education events, professional conferences, Indiana University classes, and other venues.
- The Department conducted a Bike Light Campaign, in conjunction with the Parks and Police Departments, that distributed 60 front and rear lights to cyclists riding without them.
- The Department completed the City Public Facilities Report, a comprehensive analysis of key city services and infrastructure that will guide future planning and zoning decisions.

The Planning Department is on track for another productive year in 2011. Despite the uncertain economy, development petitions and permits continue to flow into our office. A number of special planning projects are also on tap, as outlined later in this report. My staff and I look forward to working with our citizens, elected officials, and community partners to keep Bloomington moving forward in 2011.

Thomas B. Micuda, AICP

About This Report

This Report has been prepared for the City of Bloomington, the boards and commissions that play a role in local planning, and the following elected officials:

Mayor

Mark Krusan

Common Council

Susan Sandberg,

President

Andy Ruff,

Vice President

Tim Mayer,

Parliamentarian

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

David Rollo

Mike Satterfield

Chris Sturbaum

Steve Volan

Brad Wisler

City Clerk

Regina Moore



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Planning Department Staff Profile

The Planning Department has a total of 15 staff positions, including 13 professional planners and 2 administrative staff. The chart on the following page illustrates the current organizational structure of the Planning Department. Two new staff members were added to the Department at the end of 2010. The title of one of those positions, Transportation Planner, was changed to Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator to more accurately describe the work done by that staff person. Currently, 7 of the 13 professional planners in the Department have achieved certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), a recognized mark of skills and experience in the planning profession.

Several staff members within the department have additional certifications and professional memberships in their fields of expertise. Raymond Hess, AICP, and Vince Caristo are both Certified League Cycling Instructors with the League of American Bicyclists. Vince Caristo is also a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. Linda Thompson is a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward and a member of the National Association of Environmental Professionals. Scott Robinson is a member of the Urban Land Institute.



First Row (from left): Lynne Darland, Tom Micuda, Carmen Lillard, Nate Nickel; Second Row (from left): Jane Weiser, Josh Desmond, Patrick Shay; Third Row (from left): Vince Caristo; James Roach, Linda Thompson; Back Row (from left): Eric Greulich, Russell White, Katie Bannon, Scott Robinson, Raymond Hess.

The Planning Department staff provides direct support or plays a coordination role with the following boards, commissions, and organizations:

Common Council

Plan Commission

Board of Zoning Appeals

Plat Committee

Hearing Officer

Environmental Commission

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Commission

MPO Policy Committee

MPO Technical Advisory Committee

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Utilities Service Board

Downtown Bloomington, Inc.

Platinum Biking Task Force

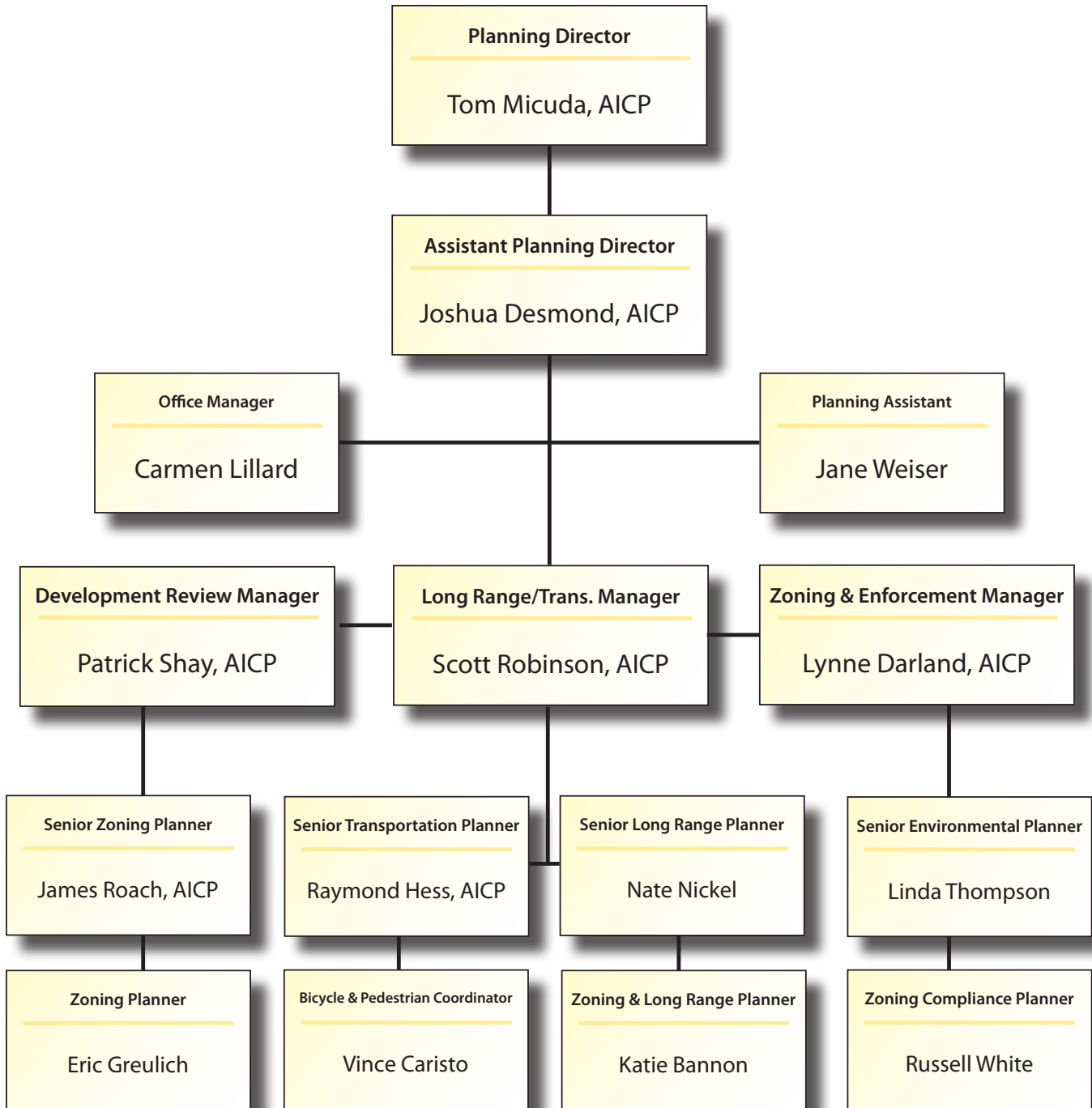
Development Review Committee

Safe Routes to School Task Force

Historic Preservation Commission



Organizational Chart





Appointed Officials

The Planning Department provides direct staff support to the Plan Commission, Plat Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals and Hearing Officer. Staff prepares detailed reports for all petitions that come before these bodies and presents those reports at public hearings. The method by which members are appointed to these boards and commissions is defined by State statute.

Plan Commission

The Plan Commission is comprised of eleven citizens appointed by various City and County elected officials. The Plan Commission makes decisions regarding land use and development through review of subdivisions and site plans. It advises the City Council on rezoning requests, planned unit developments (PUD), and amendments to the text of the Unified Development Ordinance. The Plan Commission also advises the City Council on changes to the Growth Policies Plan.

Members	Appointed By
Jack Baker, <i>President</i>	The Mayor
Milan Pece, <i>Vice President</i>	County Commissioners
Scott Burgins	The Mayor
Susan Fernandes	Board of Public Works
Adrian Reid	City Engineer (ex-officio)
Joe Hoffmann	Board of Parks Commissioners
Tom Seeber	The Mayor
Chris Smith	The Mayor
Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Council Member	Common Council
Travis Vencel	County Commissioners
Pat Williams	The Mayor

Plat Committee

The Plat Committee is a three-member committee made up of one Plan Commission member, one Planning Department staff member, and one Engineering Department staff member. The Plat Committee makes final decisions on certain subdivisions of land. The Committee was established in 1995 in order to streamline the approval process and reduce the Plan Commission's workload.

Members	Appointed By
Rick Alexander	Engineering Department
Lynne Darland, AICP	Planning Department
Adrian Reid	Plan Commission
Eli Eccles, <i>Alternate</i>	Engineering Department
Scott Robinson, AICP, <i>Alternate</i>	Planning Department
Chris Smith, <i>Alternate</i>	Plan Commission



Appointed Officials (Cont.)

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is a five-member board made up of citizens appointed by several City and County governing bodies. The Board of Zoning Appeals hears and makes final decisions on requests for variances from development standards. The Board also hears petitions and makes decisions on use variances and conditional uses.

Members	Appointed By
Milan Pece, <i>President</i>	Plan Commission
Sue Aquila, <i>Vice President</i>	The Mayor
Barre Klapper	The Mayor
Patrick Murray	Common Council
Tom Seeber	The Mayor, from the Plan Commission
Jenny Southern, <i>Alternate</i>	The Mayor

Hearing Officer

The Hearing Officer is a Planning Department staff member appointed by the Plan Commission. The Hearing Officer reviews and makes final decisions on certain conditional uses and variances from development standards. The Hearing Officer was established in 1995 to streamline the variance and conditional use review process.

Hearing Officer	Appointed By
Lynne Darland, AICP	Plan Commission
Scott Robinson, AICP, <i>Alternate</i>	Plan Commission



Appointed Officials (Cont.)

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission (EC) is an advisory body composed of local citizens appointed by the Mayor and the Common Council, and is provided with a budget by the Planning Department. The Environmental Commission provides information and recommendations on environmental matters to the Plan Commission, City Council, and other City departments and agencies, as well as to the public.

Members	Appointed By
Phaedra Pezzullo, Co-Chair	Common Council
Michael Tosick, Co-Chair	Common Council
Beth Smith, Secretary/Treasurer	The Mayor
Regina DiLavore, Staff Coordinator	The Mayor
Carrie Albright	The Mayor
Diane Henshel	Common Council
Chaim Julian	The Mayor
Diane Jung	The Mayor
Kriste Lindberg	The Mayor
Michael Litwin	The Mayor
Robert McCrea	Common Council
<i>Vacant</i>	Common Council

2010 PLANNING DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Programs & Activities



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
ZONING ENFORCEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
LONG RANGE PLANNING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Development Review 2010

The Development Review staff reviews all development petitions for the City of Bloomington to ensure their compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). This includes all building, signage, occupancy, and grading permits. Staff also reviews development petitions and presents them to the Plan Commission, Plat Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Hearing Officer, and Common Council. These petitions include subdivisions, rezoning requests, site plans, conditional uses and variances. In addition, staff serves customers daily at the office's front counter and over the phone by answering zoning and land use questions.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

Plan Commission and Plat Committee

Development Review staff presented a total of 23 petitions to the Plan Commission in 2010. The majority of these petitions (15 of 23) were requests for site plan approval or PUD final plan approvals. Planning staff presented 7 cases to the Plat Committee in 2010, all of which were approved. The Plat Committee hears petitions related to preliminary and final plat approvals as well as requests for vacation of plats or parts of plats. The chart on the following page illustrates the breakdown of the types of petitions filed in 2010.



Development Review 2010 (Cont.)

Out of the 30 petitions considered by the Plan Commission and Plat Committee in 2010, the greatest number were for site plan approvals.

Types of Petitions Filed to the Plan Commission and Plat Committee	Approved	Denied	Withdrawn	Total
Preliminary plan	0	0	0	0
Final plat approval	2	0	0	2
Site plan approval	11	0	1	12
Preliminary and final plat	4	0	0	4
Use variance recommendation to BZA	1	0	0	1
Site plan approval and use variance recommendation	1	0	0	1
Preliminary plat and use variance recommendation	1	0	0	1
PUD amendment	0	0	0	0
PUD final plan	3	0	0	3
Rezone	0	1	0	1
Final plan and preliminary plat	1	0	0	1
Final plan and final plat	1	0	0	1
Final plan; final and preliminary plat	1	0	0	1
UDO approval/amendments	1	0	0	1
GPP plan amendment/update	0	0	0	0
Resolution	1	0	0	1
Time extension	0	0	0	0
Staff level review	0	0	0	0
Total number of petitions filed	28	1	1	30



Development Review 2010 (Cont.)

Plan Commission and Plat Committee Cases

The number of petitions reviewed by Planning staff and presented to the Plan Commission peaked in 2007 with 40 petitions. Since then, the number of petitions has declined in response to the weakened economic climate. In 2010, 23 petitions were filed, the lowest number since 2006. The number of Plat Committee cases in 2010 was 7. Plat Committee cases peaked in 2005 with 25 petitions.

Plan Commission Cases	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Petitions approved (or a positive recommendation to BZA)	8	16	40	33	24	21
Petitions denied (or a negative recommendation to BZA)	0	0	0	2	1	1
Petitions withdrawn	1	1	0	2	3	1
Petitions with no recommendation	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total number of petitions filed	9	17	40	37	29	23

Plat Committee Cases	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Petitions approved	22	15	5	12	11	7
Petitions denied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petitions withdrawn	3	0	1	1	0	0
Total number of petitions filed	25	15	6	13	11	7



Development Review 2005-2010

The distribution of the types of cases filed for the Plan Commission and Plat Committee has varied significantly each year; however, site plan approvals have typically been the most common type of petition filed. This is due to the ordinance change in 2007 requiring downtown projects to be reviewed by the Plan Commission via the site plan approval process.

Types of Petitions Filed to the Plan Commission and Plat Committee	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Preliminary plan	1	0	0	1	0	0
Final plat approval	12	8	6	5	3	2
Site plan approval	0	1	18	24	11	12
Preliminary and final plat	13	7	2	9	6	4
Use variance recommendation to BZA	1	0	5	7	11	1
Site plan approval and use variance rec.	0	0	0	0	0	1
Preliminary plat and use variance rec.	0	0	0	0	0	1
PUD amendment	1	1	4	2	3	0
PUD final plan	10	8	11	6	0	3
Rezone	0	3	1	1	2	1
Final plan and preliminary plat	0	6	3	1	0	1
Final plan and final plat	0	0	0	0	0	1
Final plan; final and preliminary plat	0	0	0	0	0	1
UDO approval/amendments	0	1	1	0	1	1
GPP plan amendment/update	2	0	1	0	0	0
Resolution	0	0	0	0	1	1
Time extension	0	0	0	0	2	0
Staff level review*	6	3	6	6	2	0
Total number of petitions filed	40	35	52	56	40	30

*Petitions filed for staff level review did not go to a board or commission for approval and are not counted toward the total number of petitions filed.



Development Review 2005-2010 (Cont.)



The Board of Zoning Appeals considers requests for variances and conditional use permits.

Board of Zoning Appeals and Hearing Officer Cases

The Development Review staff regularly presents cases to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the Hearing Officer. The BZA hears and decides upon applications for development standard variances from the Unified Development Ordinance, conditional use permits (a land use that is permitted in a particular zoning district only if certain conditions are met), and use variance requests (a request to allow a use that is not permitted by right in a particular zoning district). The Hearing Officer has the ability to make decisions on certain variance and conditional use requests that do not require a full BZA review.

In 2010, 22 petitions were filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Of these 22 cases, 18 were approved, 1 was withdrawn by the petitioner, and 3 were denied.

A total of 21 petitions were filed with the Hearing Officer in 2010. Of these petitions, 18 were approved, and 3 were withdrawn by the petitioner.

The majority of petitions heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Hearing Officer in 2010 were requests for variances from development standards. These made up 79% of all petitions. Please refer to the chart below for a complete breakdown of the types of petitions filed.

Types of Petitions Filed to the BZA and Hearing Officer in 2010	Approved	Denied	Withdrawn	Total
Development standards variance, or package of variances	30	2	2	34
Use variance	1	0	0	1
Conditional use	3	0	2	5
Administrative appeal	0	1	0	1
Use Variance and Development Standards Variance	2	0	0	2
Variance from Temporary Use Standards	0	0	0	0
Total number of petitions filed	36	3	4	43



Development Review 2005-2010 (Cont.)

The number of cases that Planning staff reviewed and presented to the Board of Zoning Appeals declined from 2005 through 2008 and then generally stabilized in 2009 and 2010. The number of Hearing Officer cases grew steadily from 2006 through 2008. It then dropped back to approximately 2006 levels in 2009 and 2010.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Cases	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Petitions approved by BZA	21	27	18	9	16	18
Petitions denied by BZA	2	1	3	3	1	3
Petitions withdrawn by petitioner	6	3	3	5	6	1
Total number of petitions filed	29	31	24	17	23	22

Hearing Officer Cases	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Petitions approved by Hearing Officer	23	19	28	36	17	18
Petitions denied by Hearing Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petitions withdrawn by petitioner	2	1	2	5	1	3
Total number of petitions filed	25	20	30	41	18	21



Development Review 2005-2010 (Cont.)

The most common type of petition filed to the Board of Zoning Appeals or Hearing Officer is for a variance from development standards. The amount of petitions filed for a development standards variance dropped nearly in half from 2008 to 2009, thus bringing down the total number of petitions filed to its lowest in the last five years. In 2010, the number of development standards variance petitions rose to 34 from 24 in 2009.

Types of Petitions Filed to the BZA and Hearing Officer	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Development standards variance, or package of variances	30	28	43	43	24	34
Use variance	9	7	2	7	7	1
Conditional use	12	14	5	4	4	5
Administrative appeal	0	0	1	1	1	1
Use Variance and Development Standard Variance	3	2	3	3	4	2
Variance from temporary use standards	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total number of petitions filed	54	51	54	58	41	43



Permit Review 2010

Permit Review

Planning staff reviews a wide variety of permit applications, ranging in type from building permits for new residential or commercial structures to temporary signage permits. Each permit application is reviewed for compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The applicant is issued a Certificate of Zoning Compliance (CZC) if the application meets UDO standards. The department issued a total of 668 CZCs in 2010.

Residential Building Permit Review

Thirty-two percent of the total CZCs issued in 2010 were for single family residences. Of these 216 CZCs, 26% were for new construction (down from 45% in 2008), and 62% were for remodeling or additions to existing single family structures (up from 45% in 2008). Staff also reviewed building and remodel permit applications for attached single family residences and multifamily residential projects.

Single Family Residential	CZCs Issued
New construction	56
Remodel	79
Addition	54
Accessory Structure	26
Relocation	1

Attached Single Family Residential (Duplex)	CZCs Issued
New construction	13
Remodel	5
Addition	1

Multifamily Residential (Apartments, Condominiums)	CZCs Issued
New construction	3
Remodel	5
Accessory Structure	1



Permit Review 2010 (Cont.)



Three CZCs for new multi-family construction were issued in 2010.

Commercial Building Permit Review

Staff reviewed permit applications for commercial sites, including new construction and remodeling. Of the CZCs issued for commercial sites, 78% were related to remodeling of existing buildings, up from 68% in 2008.

Commercial	CZCs Issued
New construction	16
Remodel	100
Addition	12
Accessory structure	1

Sign Permit Review

Within the City of Bloomington, signage is required to meet the standards set forth in the Unified Development Ordinance, and must receive a sign permit. Staff issued CZCs for 224 sign permit applications in 2010.

Signage	CZCs Issued
Permanent sign	129
Sandwich board sign	17
Temporary sign	78

Additional Permit Review

In addition to reviewing the permit applications noted previously, staff reviewed permit applications for a variety of other proposed changes to sites, including demolition of structures, grading of land, placement of cell towers and establishment of temporary uses.

Other Permits Reviewed by Staff	CZCs Issued
Demolition	29
Grading - commercial	21
Grading - multifamily residential	0
Occupancy (<i>change in use</i>)	6
Other - remodel	0
Cell tower	5
Temporary occupancy (<i>temporary use</i>)	10

Permit Review 2005-2010

Permit Review

The number of Certificates of Zoning Compliance (CZC) issued by the Planning Department gradually rose each year from 2005 (761 CZCs) to 2008 (827 CZCs). The number of CZCs issued then fell substantially in 2009 and 2010 to 637 and 668, respectively.

Residential Building Permit Review

Permit applications for new construction of single family residential structures have fallen each year since 2005, with a dramatic 50% decline from 2008 to 2009. This precipitous drop corresponded with the weakest period in the economic downturn. While the number of permits receiving CZCs for additions to single family residential structures has also fallen over the last four years, the number of remodels has grown steadily.

The number of CZCs issued for new construction of attached single family residential structures significantly dropped from 2007 to 2008 and again in 2009 and 2010.



Staff reviews building permit applications to ensure compliance with the UDO.

Single Family Residential	CZCs Issued					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New construction	174	140	144	128	65	56
Remodel	49	49	59	60	71	79
Addition	80	67	67	65	53	54
Accessory Structure	30	28	44	27	17	26
Relocation	2	1	0	1	0	1

Attached Single Family Residential (Duplex)	CZCs Issued					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New construction	42	48	50	23	10	13
Remodel	1	1	1	1	1	5
Addition	1	2	1	2	0	1

Multifamily Residential	CZCs Issued					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New construction	5	9	4	11	4	3
Remodel	0	0	4	4	2	5
Addition	1	2	0	0	0	0
Accessory Structure	0	1	0	1	0	1



Permit Review 2005-2010 (Cont.)



Certificate of Zoning Compliance

Application #: C10-074
 Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010
 Property Address: 2504 E. 37th St. - Little Caesars Perry 47301
 Zoning: CA
 Proposed Use: Commercial - Permanent Signage

The attached plans have been reviewed for compliance with applicable provisions of Title 20, Bloomington Unified Development Ordinance, and conformance with the terms of any approvals which have been granted under authority of the Ordinance. The Planning Department finds the plans to be in compliance.

- As submitted
 - With modifications or conditions as follows:

1. This permit approves new wall signs (including 30 sq. ft. and one tenant panel including 100 sq. ft.), as submitted.
2. No temporary signage is approved with this permit. Any temporary signage requires a separate temporary sign permit.
3. Window signage shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the glass area of any individual window pane. (DMC: 20-05-07(a), 8.5)
4. Signs that have intermittent blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights, including any device which has a changing light intensity, brightness of color, or gives such illusion, including amber lights, are prohibited. (DMC: 20-05-07B (1)(a))
5. Signet letters must be displayed on the front of the building in Arabic numerals no less than eight (8) inches in height.

This Certificate of Zoning Compliance pertains only to the attached plans and the specific use proposed, coverly as submitted and approved. This Certificate does not constitute the issuance of any required permit nor exempt the property from compliance with any other requirements.

[Signature]
 Rachel Johnson, M.P.
 Long Range Planner
 City of Bloomington
 Planning Department

1 N. Morton Street • Bloomington, IN 47404 City of Bloomington Phone: (317) 340-3423 • Fax: (317) 340-3330
 www.bloomington.in.gov
 email: planning@bloomington.in.gov

Commercial Building Permit Review

CZCs issued for new construction of commercial buildings has also declined since 2008. The number of CZCs issued for remodels has remained about the same from 2006 to 2010.

Commercial	CZCs Issued					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New construction	17	26	24	26	14	16
Remodel	67	95	103	99	107	100
Addition	12	11	12	12	8	12
Accessory structure	4	7	10	11	8	1

Sign Permit Review

The number and type of sign permits issued in 2010 remained relatively unchanged from previous years. The total number of permits issued was slightly above 2009 numbers.

Signage	CZCs Issued					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Permanent sign	111	129	118	129	121	129
Sandwich board sign	7	6	9	15	13	17
Temporary sign	57	76	79	98	86	78
Total sign permits issued	175	211	206	242	220	224

In 2010, 129 permanent sign permits were issued.

Zoning Enforcement

The Zoning Enforcement staff is charged with ensuring that properties throughout Bloomington are in compliance with the rules set forth in the Unified Development Ordinance. The zoning enforcement staff inspects development sites to address signage, landscaping, erosion control, occupancy of buildings and conditions of development approvals. They also respond to citizen complaints and inquiries, and administer enforcement actions with written warnings, tickets, or, as a final option, legal action.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

Zoning Violation Notifications

Zoning Enforcement staff responded to numerous inquiries and complaints from the public concerning zoning violations in 2010. As a result, staff sent 411 notifications to tenants and property owners regarding zoning violations. These included violations of environmental standards, parking on unimproved surfaces, and failure to comply with development standards. The chart below shows a breakdown of the types of violations issued from 2008 to 2010. Staff will continue work in 2011 to resolve all violations that were not resolved by the end of 2010.



Temporary signs are prohibited within the right-of-way.

Unified Development Ordinance Violations	Issued in 2008	Resolved in 2008	Issued in 2009	Resolved in 2009	Issued in 2010	Resolved in 2010
Temporary signage without permit	115	114	116	114	137	137
Parking on unimproved surface	63	63	58	55	48	48
Permanent signage without permit	27	27	29	27	24	24
Temporary use without a permit	0	0	3	3	4	4
Change of use without a certificate of zoning compliance (CZC)	3	3	5	3	3	3
Illegal land use	3	3	4	1	6	6
Operation of home occupation without CZC	3	3	6	5	6	6
Failure to obtain a CZC	6	6	4	3	2	2
Failure to comply with CZC	17	17	11	9	30	27
Failure to comply with development standards	108	108	81	76	85	78
Violation of environmental standards	9	9	3	2	1	1
Parking on unimproved surface tickets	70	66	89	73	65	57
UDO violation totals	424	419	409	371	411	393



Zoning Enforcement (Cont.)



City Ordinance does not permit cars to be parked in grass yards. Zoning enforcement staff issue warnings or fines to property owners who fail to comply with this regulation.

Fines Issued for Zoning Violations

When a property owner fails to correct a zoning violation after a Notice of Zoning Violation letter has been issued, the owner is provided with a final time frame in which to bring the site into compliance before fines are issued. If the owner still fails to correct the violation, fines are officially issued. As a last measure, staff may forward the case to the City Legal Department for further action. In 2010, nineteen cases were sent to the Legal Department. Of these, the City filed suit on seven. The remainder were resolved prior to litigation.

The Planning Department issued fines totaling \$26,100 for zoning violations in 2010. Of the fines issued, \$21,600 was collected before year's end. All fines collected go to the City's general fund. The chart below breaks down the fines issued and collected annually by the Planning Department from 2008 to 2010.

Unified Development Ordinance Violations	Fines Issued (2008)	Fines Collected (2008)	Fines Issued (2009)	Fines Collected (2009)	Fines Issued (2010)	Fines Collected (2010)
Temporary signage without permit	\$4,350	\$4,250	\$6,900	\$6,200	\$10,400	\$8,900
Parking on unimproved surface	\$260	\$260	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$0
Permanent signage without permit	\$250	\$250	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$250	\$250
Change of use without a certificate of zoning compliance (CZC)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Illegal land use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0
Operation of home occupation without CZC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Failure to obtain a CZC	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
Failure to comply with CZC	\$250	\$250	\$750	\$750	\$9,000	\$9,000
Failure to comply with development standards	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$100
Violation of environmental standards	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Parking on unimproved surface tickets	\$3,760	\$3,760	\$4,550	\$3,750	\$3,250	\$2,850
TOTAL	\$12,070	\$11,970	\$13,300	\$11,800	\$26,100	\$21,600

Zoning Enforcement (Cont.)

Illegal Signage Removal

Zoning Enforcement staff also worked continuously throughout the year to rid City rights-of-way of illegal temporary signage. These signs can cause safety hazards by hindering the visibility of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. In 2010, staff removed 1,407 illegal signs from City rights-of-way (89 more than in 2009).

Billboard Inventory

Since 1987, Zoning Enforcement staff has performed an annual billboard inventory to track compliance with the City's strict off-premise sign standards. This detailed inventory helps planners to keep the number of billboards in check, and prevents illegal billboards from appearing within the City's Planning jurisdiction. The number of billboards within the City's jurisdiction and some areas now under County jurisdiction has declined from 111 billboards in 1987 to 46 billboards in 2010.

Stop Work Orders

Stop Work Orders are issued to sites where significant zoning violations are occurring, such as vegetation clearing that is not permitted. When a Stop Work Order is issued, all work being performed on the site must come to a halt, and no work can occur until the violation is remedied and written permission to proceed is obtained from the Planning Department. Enforcement staff issued five Stop Work Orders in 2010. All five of the stop work orders resulted in resolution of the violations and were subsequently lifted.

Certificates of Occupancy

The Monroe County Building Department requires that a Certificate of Occupancy be obtained prior to a building or structure being occupied in order to ensure all regulations have been met and the site is safe for its inhabitants. A final Certificate of Occupancy is issued for a property in the City's Planning Jurisdiction only when the Planning Department has verified that all required site work is complete. A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy may be issued to a site when the majority of construction is completed. In 2010, staff issued 28 recommendations for Temporary Occupancy and 13 recommendations for Final Occupancy to the Building Department.

Video Recording Commercial Corridors

Every year, Zoning Enforcement staff videotapes the commercial corridors in order to track signage and landscape compliance along the street frontages. These recordings allow planners to note any changes over time. Staff has been recording the corridors periodically for the past seven years. These main corridors include, but are not limited to, portions of: State Road 37, 45/46 Bypass, College Avenue, Walnut Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, Kirkwood Avenue, 17th Street, College Mall Road, Sare Road, Winslow Road, Tapp Road, and the Grimes/Patterson corridor.



Builders are required to install appropriate erosion control measures.



Environmental Planning

The City's Senior Environmental Planner works with the Environmental Commission on several of its Committees. These include:

- Steering Committee
- Budget Committee
- Current Planning Committee
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Greenspace Inventory
- Lawns for Life
- Water
- Deer Population
- Education
- Green Building
- Bloomington Toxics
- Food Service Waste
- MLK Day

The Senior Environmental Planner reviews development proposals and enforces City ordinances to ensure environmental protection. Staff also coordinates the efforts of the Environmental Commission (EC), provides project management on City projects with environmental significance, supervises environmental interns and SPEA Service Corps Fellows, and evaluates and implements City environmental regulations and policies.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

Environmental Commission Memos to Boards and Commissions

The Senior Environmental Planner works with the Environmental Commission's Planning Committee both in the office and the field to review environmental aspects of proposed development petitions. In 2010, staff prepared 18 memorandums to the Plan Commission with the EC's suggestions for improving the environmental attributes of the plans for various petitions under review.

Environmental Planning Projects

Bloomington in Bloom Landscape Makeover

In addition to serving on the Environmental Effort Committee for Bloomington in Bloom, Linda Thompson spearheaded a front-yard makeover for a Habitat for Humanity house. The Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department was tasked with the makeover project as part of Bloomington's efforts in the America in Bloom competition. With help from the HAND and Planning Departments, the curb appeal of an entire house frontage was transformed from an unpainted and barren space to a beautifully landscaped front porch, driveway, and outdoor landscape rooms, all in a style that suited the homeowner. Bloomington won its Population Category award as well as the Urban Forestry Award from the America in Bloom competition.

Natural Landscaping

Environmental Planning staff assisted HAND inspectors with determining if certain yards could be classified as "naturally landscaped" or, conversely, whether the yards were in violation of the City's weed ordinance. This involved site visits to identify the species of plants that were growing in the yards. Ten such sites were inspected during 2010, about half of which were found to be in violation of the City's weed ordinance.

Environmental Commission Intern and Service Corps Fellows

The EC and Planning Department were aided by the work of an Intern and two Service Corps Fellows from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The Intern and Fellows focused their work on greenspace analysis for the City, tracking environmental commitments, and providing information to the public regarding sound environmental practices.

Environmental Planning (Cont.)

Greenspace Report Update and Expansion

The Environmental Commission's Greenspace Report was expanded and updated to include greenspaces in the entire county. The Report was digitized and added to the City's GIS map. The report will be used to track changes in greenspace over time and to guide policy decisions.

Environmental Commitment Database

In 2010, Service Corps Fellows began creating a database which will contain all of the environmental commitments made by developers during the planning and approval phases of petitions. The database will be added to the City's GIS and will allow staff to track compliance with environmental commitments. Additionally, the database and GIS layer will track the location and distribution of features such as biofiltration swales and street trees.

Lasagna Gardening Brochure

A Lasagna Gardening brochure was created for distribution with the Lawns for Life initiative. Lasagna Gardening is a no-dig, no-till method of gardening developed by layering different organic materials that eventually decompose to become rich planting soil. It is also sometimes called sheet composting. Lawns for Life is a campaign that uses education and example to increase the number of lawns that do not use synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.

2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reducing Action Items Summary Report and Recommendations for Future Steps

The 2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reducing Action Items Summary Report & Recommendations for Future Steps was completed in 2010. The 2010 update reevaluated the priority of action items and updated action items that have been completed or are already in progress. The action items provide direction to both the City of Bloomington government and the Bloomington community.

Toxics Report for Bloomington, Indiana

The *Toxics Report for Bloomington, Indiana* was drafted in 2010 and will be completed in 2011. The report compiles toxics data collected from scattered and varied technical sources and presents it in a single report that is understandable to a laymen reader. The report will be used to help the City prioritize ways to reduce any potential hazards from toxic substances.

Food Waste Reduction Fact Sheets

Environmental Planning staff researched and created two fact sheets about polystyrene containers being disposed of in the carry-out food industry. One of the fact sheets addresses school cafeteria waste reduction, and the other addresses restaurant carry-out service waste reduction. Both will be distributed in 2011.



Food waste reduction fact sheets encourage using reusable take out containers instead of polystyrene.



Long Range Planning



Staff gathered information on City facilities and services, such as those provided by the Utilities Department, to create the City Public Facilities Report.

The Long Range Planning staff is responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising comprehensive planning activities for the City of Bloomington. A key aspect of long range planning is the community comprehensive plan, known in Bloomington as the Growth Policies Plan. The Growth Policies Plan defines many of the comprehensive planning activities for the Long Range Planning Division. In addition, the Division is also responsible for Neighborhood and Sub-Area Plans, Interagency Coordination (e.g. Indiana University, Monroe County), and works as liaisons on several community boards and commissions.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

City Public Facilities Report

Planning Department staff completed the City Facilities Report and formally presented it to the Plan Commission as an informational item on October 11, 2010. The City Facilities Report is based upon guidance contained in the 2002 Growth Policies Plan. The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive summary of current City of Bloomington facilities, the municipal services that are connected with these facilities, and future facility needs. A total of six City of Bloomington departments, plus the City's transportation network (for both motorized and non-motorized facilities), were analyzed for this report.

The City Facilities Report provides the Plan Commission and City Council with municipal facility and service delivery information that can be integrated into the planning and zoning approval process. This will help to ensure that ideal levels of City services continue to be provided into the future, without interruption.

2010 United States Census - Complete Count Committee

Planning Department staff participated in the Bloomington-Monroe County Complete Count Committee (CCC). The CCC was a joint effort between the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Government that had the goal of improving the local response rate to the 2010 Census. The CCC worked very closely with personnel from both the U.S. Census Bureau and a wide range of community groups. The CCC developed and implemented a local comprehensive outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census. Despite surveys being received during Indiana University's Spring Break, the participation rate in the City of Bloomington increased from 69% in the 2000 Census to 72% in the 2010 Census.

Long Range Planning (Cont.)

SPEA Fellowship Program

The Planning Department participates in the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) Fellowship Program. The goal of the Fellowships is to allow SPEA graduate students the opportunity to enhance their leadership and management skills while supporting the strategic objectives of the agency to which they are assigned. The Planning Department currently has three SPEA Fellows; one is assigned to Long Range Planning and two to the Environmental Commission. The SPEA Fellows work part-time around their class schedules and assist Planning staff with a number of research assignments and on-going projects.

During 2010, the Long Range SPEA Fellow worked on a number of projects for the Planning Department. These included collecting data to track trends regarding bicycle ridership, administering in-person surveys on the B-Line Trail, and assisting with the City's Bicycle Friendly Business application and the renewal of Bloomington's Bicycle Friendly Community designation, both through the League of American Bicyclists. The Fellow also updated the Google map of bicycle parking locations in downtown Bloomington.

Historic Preservation Commission

Planning Department staff are assigned to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in a liaison capacity. They regularly attend meetings in order to provide the HPC with planning guidance, zoning expertise and general information. Outside of this standing commitment, Long Range staff assisted in several on-going HPC special projects.

Downtown Preservation Plan Update

The HPC formed a subcommittee in April, 2010 to begin the process of updating its Downtown Preservation Plan. Originally drafted in 1998, this document serves as the strategic plan for downtown historic preservation activities. Many of the goals and objectives of the 1998 plan have now been achieved. The update process will allow for a new Downtown Preservation Plan to be developed, which will then provide the HPC with a fresh set of historic preservation goals and strategies for downtown Bloomington. Planning Department staff has been providing technical expertise and assistance to this subcommittee.



The Long Range Planning SPEA Fellow updated an interactive Google Map inventory of downtown bicycle parking.



Long Range Planning (Cont.)



One of the 2010 Neighborhood Improvement Grants was awarded to the Bryan Park Neighborhood Association to build a bridge across the creek in Bryan Park.

Garden Hill Conservation District Proposal

Staff worked closely with both Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department staff and neighborhood residents during the conservation district proposal for Garden Hill. A conservation district is a form of local historic district that affects only the moving, demolition, or new construction of a principal or accessory structure. The Garden Hill conservation district process spanned over a year, with Planning staff assisting during neighborhood input workshops and public information meetings. Staff also provided zoning knowledge and planning guidance to the neighborhood subcommittee that was tasked with developing design guidelines that accompany the conservation district proposal. The Historic Preservation Commission approved the conservation district in February 2011. It will now go to the City Council for a final decision at a future date in 2011.

Neighborhood Improvement Grants

Neighborhood Improvement Grants are City funds that are provided for nontraditional capital projects that have a community-wide benefit. Typical projects that have been awarded grants in the past include historic sidewalk rehabilitation, public art, neighborhood signage, and park improvements. The program is administered by the HAND Department and funding recommendations are made by a public Neighborhood Improvement Grant Council. A Planning Department staff member has a permanent seat on the Neighborhood Improvement Grant Council. In 2010, a total of \$48,727.82 in grant funding was awarded to the following groups' projects: Bloomington Housing Authority for the construction of a shelter and bicycle rack at the community building; Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association for painting and tuck-pointing of a neighborhood entrance sign and entryway landscaping; and the Bryan Park Neighborhood Association to install a pedestrian bridge at Bryan Park. These projects are all expected to be completed in 2011.

Transportation Planning

The Transportation Planning staff works to improve the transportation system in Bloomington by planning for bicycle and pedestrian routes and for new and improved roads. Staff provides short and long range transportation analysis and reviews all current development petitions to ensure that transportation needs are adequately met. The staff also assists in the development of corridor studies and roadway projects and works with Bloomington Transit to improve bus routes. Finally, the staff assists the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMCMPPO), an intergovernmental transportation policy group that manages transportation project funding for the Bloomington Urbanized Area.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

College Mall Pedestrian Accessibility Study

Transportation Planning staff completed a pedestrian accessibility study for the College Mall area. The study area includes College Mall, Eastland Plaza, and the Jackson Creek Shopping Center, as well as the street network that accesses these areas. The goals of the study are to better understand the existing conditions and travel patterns for pedestrians in the College Mall area and to provide a blueprint for making the area more pedestrian-friendly. The study consists of a detailed inventory of existing conditions and a series of recommendations for improving the pedestrian environment within the City rights-of-way. The study was finalized and presented to the Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission and Plan Commission in 2010 and is available on the Planning Documents Clearinghouse webpage (<http://bloomington.in.gov/clearinghouse>). The City plans to implement the recommendations of the study in the coming years.

Council Sidewalk Committee

Planning staff provides technical and administrative support to the Council Sidewalk Committee. In 2010, staff used an objective project prioritization tool to evaluate 36 sidewalk project requests based on proximity to transit routes, residential density, Pedestrian Level of Service, and Walk Score. The Committee finds this tool very helpful as they evaluate numerous sidewalk projects against the limited funding available.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission

Planning staff provides support to the biweekly meetings of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission. Staff presents development proposals and the Commission reviews them for bicycle and pedestrian usability and friendliness. Other initiatives and directives, such as the College Mall Pedestrian Accessibility Study described above, originate with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission as well.



In the College Mall area, pedestrians often have to cross large parking lots without sidewalks to reach their destinations. The College Mall Pedestrian Accessibility Study provides a blueprint for making the area more pedestrian friendly.



Transportation Planning (Cont.)



The Bloomington Platinum Task Force was formed in 2010 to plan how the City can achieve a platinum designation from the League of American Bicyclists by 2016.

Bicycle Ridership and Bicycle Rack Counts

In 2010, Planning staff expanded the bicycle count program with the help of dedicated volunteers. Bicycle counts were conducted at 31 intersections in April, late September, and early October. Those conducting the counts recorded the number of bicyclists entering the intersection and the gender of the bicyclists. Staff and volunteers logged 190 hours of count data. A better understanding of bicycle and pedestrian volumes will help the City to identify trends and allocate resources more effectively. Additionally, the City's counts will contribute to a national effort known as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project. Planning staff has regularly performed bike rack usage counts at downtown bike rack locations since the spring of 2009. A report based on these bicycle ridership and bicycle rack counting efforts will be available in the spring of 2011. The analysis from this report will establish baseline bicycle use in order to track trends in bicycling.

Bicycle Friendly Community and Bicycle Friendly Business Designations

Planning staff's 2010 application to the League of American Bicyclists resulted in Bloomington's designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the silver level. This marks the first time the City has improved its ranking since obtaining bronze distinction in 2003. Staff also submitted for the first time an application for City Hall to be designated as a bicycle friendly business. The League of American Bicyclists awarded a silver designation to City Hall because of support and incentives offered to employees such as showers, lockers, covered bike parking, and gift certificates to those who ride to work 12 days/month. These noteworthy designations acknowledge the dedication and ongoing efforts of City staff to improve active transportation options for citizens. They also directly correlate to Bloomington's commitment to livability, sustainability, and wellness for citizens and visitors alike.

Bloomington Platinum Bicycling Task Force

On May 12, 2010, the Bloomington Common Council created the Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force to assess Bloomington's strengths and weaknesses in regard to bicycling, and to plan how the City can achieve a platinum Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists by 2016. Planning staff provides support to the Task Force and is guiding them through a year-long process to develop a report detailing how Bloomington can achieve this ambitious goal. The Planning Department also created a team made up of personnel from numerous City Departments, "Team Platinum". Team Platinum's charge is to determine how to implement measures that come out of the Platinum Bicycling Task Force. A final report by the Task Force is expected in the fall of 2011. More information is available on the Task Force's website: http://bloomington.in.gov/Bloomington_Platinum_Biking_Task_Force.

Transportation Planning (Cont.)

Bloomington Bikes Week

Every year Planning staff partners with Parks and Recreation to promote, organize, and encourage participation in Bloomington Bikes Week events. Bloomington Bikes Week is held in May and is part of a national effort to encourage people to try bicycling as a means of transportation. Events include bicycle education classes for children and adults and incentives for people to bike to work or to their place of worship.

Bike Light Campaign

In June, staff from the Planning, Police, and Parks & Recreation Departments as well as Bloomington Bicycle Club volunteers partnered to give away over 60 free front and rear lights to bicyclists riding at night without them. Cyclists were educated on bicycle safety and rules of the road while the lights were installed on the bikes. The lights were purchased from local bike shops with the generous support of the Bloomington Bicycle Club.

State Road 37 Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility and Location Analysis

Planning staff submitted a competitive proposal for a senior engineering capstone class from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to analyze bicycle and pedestrian crossing options across State Road 37. The study evaluated State Road 37 crossing locations and provided recommendations on the options that proved to have the highest cost-benefit ratio and best alternative for bicyclists and pedestrians. The study area included the railroad underpass just south of W. 3rd St. to the railroad crossing just north of Whitehall Crossing Blvd. The study was initiated in 2009 and completed in April 2010. It is available for download on the Planning Documents Clearinghouse (<http://bloomington.in.gov/clearinghouse>).



Planning staff installed front and rear lights to the bikes of cyclists riding at night without them.



Metropolitan Planning Organization



The BMCMPPO awarded Highway Safety Improvement Program funds to the City of Bloomington and Monroe County to upgrade signs to meet new federal standards for readability and retro-reflectivity.

The City of Bloomington Planning Department serves as the administrative body for the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMCMPPO). The BMCMPPO coordinates transportation planning activities in a 57 square mile area which includes Bloomington, Ellettsville, and parts of Monroe County. The BMCMPPO transportation planning process unfolds through numerous long range and short range initiatives. The BMCMPPO must foster interagency coordination through various committees and regularly update several core documents to meet the requirements set forth by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

2010 Activities and Accomplishments

Committee Support

Pursuant to the Operational Bylaws, the Planning Department provides staff support to the BMCMPPO. As a regional planning body, the BMCMPPO is the conduit through which coordination of various transportation organizations occurs. Planning staff is responsible for dissemination of information, packet production and distribution, and ensuring that the Committees are well supported. Staff supports this coordination through the following committees:

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee approves all projects, plans, and policies of the MPO and is comprised of elected and appointed officials representing the local public agencies and stakeholders. Planning staff coordinated and facilitated seven meetings of the Policy Committee in 2010.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical review and recommendations on projects, plans, and policies and is comprised of staff members representing local public agencies and stakeholders. Planning staff coordinated and facilitated nine meetings of the TAC in 2010.

Citizens Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) provides citizen input and recommendations on projects, plans, and policies and is comprised of interested citizens. Planning staff coordinated and facilitated nine meetings of the CAC in 2010.

Planning Initiatives

As required by Federal legislation, the BMCMPPO must carry out the transportation planning process through numerous long range and short range planning initiatives. The BMCMPPO undertook a number of transportation planning initiatives during 2010, as detailed below.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (Cont.)

Transportation Improvement Program [FY 2010-2013]

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-term capital improvement plan that identifies road, bicycle/pedestrian, and transit projects that will use federal funding within the next four fiscal years. The TIP includes projects from all local public agencies as well as the Indiana Department of Transportation. Eligible projects can generally be funded with up to 80% of federal funds. The BMCMPPO programmed over \$90 million worth of local projects in the TIP between fiscal years 2010 and 2013. The TIP was amended five times in 2010. Funding was allocated to such projects as the Atwater and Henderson Street intersection improvement and the Jackson Creek Trail, and to operational costs for Bloomington Transit and Rural Transit.

Unified Planning Work Program [FY 2011-2012]

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annually updated document that identifies the planning activities of the BMCMPPO, including the responsibilities of the BMCMPPO staff and any studies or educational efforts to be undertaken during the fiscal year. A federal planning grant funds 80% of the annual UPWP budget. The UPWP for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 was adopted in June 2010 and has a budget totaling \$666,280. These funds helped the Planning Department foster intergovernmental coordination, manage the daily operations of the BMCMPPO, and develop and maintain core documents. It also helped fund special studies like Bloomington Transit's Grimes Lane Operations Facility Study. Planning staff produces quarterly progress reports on work accomplished as outlined in the UPWP. These reports are provided to INDOT, in order to receive reimbursements, and to the committees of the BMCMPPO.

2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Re-adoption

The 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the long term planning document that the BMCMPPO must develop and maintain. The LRTP was set to expire in early 2011, and staff led an effort to re-adopt the existing document. This will allow the BMCMPPO to procure funding, gather data, and engage the public in a complete overhaul of the LRTP. To this end, a Task Force made up of representatives from each of the BMCMPPO committees was created to help steer the update of the next LRTP. The BMCMPPO is committed to adopting a new LRTP by the end of 2013.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force

The Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program provides grant funding for projects that provide safe ways for children to walk and bike to school. Grant awards are made by the State for infrastructure improvements and educational programs. The BMCMPPO partnered with Bloomington Hospital to facilitate the Monroe County SRTS Task Force. The biggest accomplishment of the Task Force in 2010 was organizing International Walk to School Day in October at seven schools in Monroe County. This event encourages students and parents to try active transportation options to get to school. The hope is the experience is enjoyable enough to become routine and provide long-term environmental, health, and economic benefits to students, parents, and the community.



BMCMPPO staff partnered with Bloomington Hospital to facilitate that Monroe County Safe Route to School Task Force.



Metropolitan Planning Organization (Cont.)



The results of the East 10th Street Mobility Study were presented to the public in March 2010.

Public Participation Plan Amendment

Staff initiated a process to update the BMCMPPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) in 2010. The impetus for this amendment was an identified need to allow the BMCMPPO to make administrative modifications to documents, primarily the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The new process would allow the BMCMPPO Director and Policy Committee chair to approve fairly inconsequential changes to existing projects and documents without presenting it the Committee. The amendment is expected to be adopted in 2011.

Crash Reports

Every year the BMCMPPO is expected to develop a crash report which analyzes accident data from law enforcement agencies. The BMCMPPO produced two crash reports for both calendar years 2008 and 2009 which will help keep the production of the 2010 Crash Report on schedule for 2011. The Crash Reports can be used to help inform policy makers on where improvements can be made to maximize safety. The crash reports are available on the BMCMPPO's Clearinghouse webpage: http://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=5547

Highway Safety Improvement Program

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) provides funding to improve the transportation network at locations that experience safety problems. The Indiana Department of Transportation annually allocates approximately \$175,000 in HSIP funding for the BMCMPPO to program. The BMCMPPO amended its HSIP guidelines in 2010 to expand the list of eligible projects to include low-cost, system-wide programmatic projects which have demonstrated safety benefits and are cost effective (i.e. new guardrails, traffic signal upgrades, etc.). As a result, the BMCMPPO was able to award HSIP funds in 2010 to both the City of Bloomington and Monroe County to upgrade warning, regulatory, and guide signs to meet new federal standards for readability and retro-reflectivity.

The 10th Street Mobility Study

The 10th Street Mobility Study was a joint effort of Indiana University, the City of Bloomington, and the BMCMPPO to evaluate current and future transportation conditions for all modes of travel along the 10th Street corridor. The study made recommendations for improvements that would address mobility issues along this major thoroughfare. The study was completed in 2010 after public workshops and presentations were made. More information about the study is available online at: http://bloomington.in.gov/10th_Street_Mobility_Study

2010 PLANNING DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Special Projects



PRESENTATIONS & COMMUNITY EDUCATION
UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Special Projects



The “Learn to Ride” class teaches basic bicycling skills and important safety lessons to children.

Presentations and Community Education

Planning Department staff worked throughout the year to educate and inform the community about City Planning projects and initiatives. Staff members are frequently invited to make presentations in classrooms and at conferences.

MPO Conference Presentation

Raymond Hess and Josh Desmond were part of a panel discussion on Complete Streets at the Annual MPO Conference held in September in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The presentation focused on how three different MPOs across the State are implementing Complete Streets policies.

Indiana University Guest Lectures

Tom Micuda, Josh Desmond, Scott Robinson, and Raymond Hess all visited Indiana University classes throughout the year to discuss city planning with students. Staff guest-lectured in classes at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Kelley School of Business.

Learn to Ride

Raymond Hess taught a “Learn to Ride” bicycle class to twenty children in May 2010. The three hour class teaches basic bicycling skills and important safety lessons to children ages 4 through 10.

Traffic Skills 101 Bicycle Safety Class

Raymond Hess conducted a Traffic Skills 101 class to six adult students in August 2010. The class is a rigorous nine-hour curriculum produced by the League of American Bicyclists which teaches rules of the road, hazard avoidance, vehicular cycling principles, and other safety practices for cycling.

American Planning Association - OKI Regional Planning Conference

Josh Desmond spoke at the OKI (Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana) Regional Planning Conference of the American Planning Association in October 2010 in Indianapolis. He was part of a panel discussion on Active Community Living, highlighting the efforts of the City of Bloomington to keep its citizens active and healthy through bicycle and pedestrian programs and investments.

Complete Streets Testimony

Raymond Hess testified before the Indiana Legislature’s Committee on Roads and Transportation in January 2010 on House Bill No. 1182, which would have established statewide Complete Streets legislation.

Road School

Raymond Hess and Josh Desmond gave a presentation about the BMCMPPO’s Complete Streets Policy at Purdue Road School in March 2010 in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Special Projects (Cont.)

American Planning Association - IN Chapter Spring Conference

Scott Robinson and Josh Desmond accepted the “Outstanding Project 2010” award from the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association in March 2010 for the BMCMPPO Complete Streets Policy.

Bloomington Bicycle Club's Annual Reception

Raymond Hess gave a presentation on “Bicycle Safety” at the Bloomington Bicycle Club’s Annual Reception in March 2010. The presentation focused on the common causes of bicycle crashes and how they can be avoided.

Safe Routes to School Statewide Workshop

Raymond Hess gave a presentation on the success of the Monroe County Safe Routes to School Task Force at a statewide workshop in Indianapolis on August 30, 2010. The workshop was organized by the Health by Design Coalition to start a statewide Safe Routes to School Partnership and to help localities learn from one another on best practices throughout the State.

Healthy Community Workshop

Raymond Hess was a featured panelist at the Healthy Community Workshop in Evansville on October 19, 2010. He, along with other presenters including national expert Mark Fenton, spoke about various initiatives to encourage active transportation.

Citizens' Academy

Tom Micuda was a guest speaker at the Citizens’ Academy, a course administered through the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department to encourage civic involvement.

Biofiltration Tour

Linda Thompson partnered with Monroe County government to conduct a presentation and tour of local biofiltration basins, commonly called rain gardens. The all-day class described what a rain garden is, how they function, and how someone may create their own. The class included introductory information regarding the water cycle, watersheds and drainage problems, recommended native plants, and how to build your own rain garden.

Green Building Tour

Linda Thompson worked with the Environmental Commission and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Indiana Chapter South Central Branch to organize and conduct a “green building” teaching tour. The tour highlighted local green building efforts which illustrated various ways to improve energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in buildings to homeowners and builders. Profits were given to the local branch of the USGBC, with additional funds given to Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network (SIREN) to sponsor their energy-saving initiatives.



Green Building Tour attendees examine photovoltaic panels on the roof of Middle Way House

Special Projects (Cont.)



The Planning Post Newsletter is published three times a year.

Aurora High School Environmental Planning Lecture

Linda Thompson presented an invited lecture to the students of Aurora High School focused on what an Environmental Planner does on the job. The interactive lecture described how urban land use is planned, what tools are used, and the impact cities have on the environment. The description also included the many sub-disciplines within planning.

Planning Post Newsletter

The Planning Department continued to produce the Planning Post in 2010. The newsletter, which is produced three times a year, recaps the Department’s latest projects, discusses recent development approvals, and provides information on City Planning in general. The free newsletter is distributed to over 100 subscribers via online distribution. In addition to saving paper and postage, the digital format allows readers to link from information presented in the newsletter to other related documents on the internet. Thus, the reader is able to easily find more in-depth background information on every article.

Unified Development Ordinance Floodplain Standards Update

FEMA finalized their update to the flood insurance maps for Bloomington and adopted them on December 17. In order for Bloomington’s UDO standards to remain valid, they had to be updated to reference the new maps. This change in the floodplain maps also resulted in many additional calls from the public inquiring about their property and base flood boundaries.

2010 PLANNING DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2011 Goals



2011 DEPARTMENT GOALS



2011 Department Goals

In addition to the on-going duties and activities described previously, the Planning Department intends to take on a wide variety of special projects during 2011. The following list provides an overview of some key goals for the Department.

Growth Policies Plan Update

The Planning Department will initiate the process to update the Growth Policies Plan (GPP) in 2011. The GPP update will be a multi-year project. Tasks to be undertaken in 2011 include background data collection, meetings with Plan Commissioners and City Departments, and starting a community visioning process.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

MPO staff began the process of creating a new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in fall 2010. Like the GPP, this will be a multi-year project that goes beyond 2011. Anticipated milestones include on-going meetings with the LRTP Task Force, peer community research, data collection, and community visioning.

Expanded Downtown TIF Master Plan

An expansion of the Downtown TIF district to include 48 additional acres of land northwest of City Hall was completed in 2010. The next step is to develop a Master Plan, which will provide a vision and guidance for the redevelopment of this key area of downtown Bloomington. Goals for 2011 include: 1) issuing an RFQ for consultant services, selecting a consultant to perform the work, securing 12 acres in the TIF currently owned by Indiana University, and initiating early master planning efforts. This project is a partnership with multiple City departments and will also go beyond 2011.

Platinum Biking Task Force Report

In 2010, the City Council passed a resolution directing the City to become a Platinum-rated Bicycle Friendly Community by 2016 as designated by the League of American Bicyclists. To that end, the City Council's resolution directed the formation of a task force designed to make recommendations on how this goal can be accomplished. The task force began their meetings in 2010 and will conclude the process with a report to the Council during fall 2011. Planning staff is providing support for the task force and will be heavily involved in the creation and implementation of this report.

2011 Department Goals (Cont.)

UDO Amendment: Green Development Incentives

The UDO already contains incentives designed to increase the amount of sustainable development in Bloomington. Although the amount of sustainable development practices has increased, the ordinance incentives haven't proven to be effective. Goals for this update include: 1) reviewing green building ordinances nationally, 2) drafting the proposal and seeking input, and 3) going through the Plan Commission/City Council review process to adopt the amendments. Staff anticipates adoption of amendments by the 4th quarter of 2011.

UDO Amendment: Urban Agriculture

The UDO was amended in 2009 to allow both urban agriculture as well as community gardens. However, techniques for encouraging and regulating urban farming activities are evolving. The Planning Department would like to update the urban agriculture provisions in the UDO to address emerging trends. Steps in this update process include: 1) reviewing local urban agriculture ordinances as well as programs nationally, 2) drafting the proposal and seeking input, and 3) going through the Plan Commission/City Council review process to adopt the amendments. Staff anticipates adoption of amendments by the 3rd quarter of 2011.

Switchyard Master Plan

Although this project will be led by the Parks Department, Planning staff will be heavily involved in several components of the study. In addition to creating a parks plan for the City's acreage, the plan will address elements that pertain to Planning Department activities. These include: 1) redevelopment of key surrounding sites, particularly along Morton Street and Walnut Street, 2) multimodal connections to the new park space, and 3) possible affordable housing opportunities near the new park space.

Complete Annual Billboard Inventory

The Department completes an inventory of all existing billboards within the City's planning jurisdiction on an annual basis. This allows the City to track the gradual removal of these structures over time. The 2011 inventory update will be completed early in the year.

Complete Annual Scenic and Gateway Sign Corridor Video Inventory

Another signage inventory that the Department maintains is a video that documents existing signage along scenic and gateway corridors throughout Bloomington. This inventory provides a baseline for tracking signage changes, which is especially helpful in enforcement cases regarding illegally installed signage. The 2011 video update will be completed early in the year.



2011 Department Goals (Cont.)

Revise Public Hearing Filing Fees

Filing fees are required for all petitions filed with the Planning Department for public hearings, such as with the Plan Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. It has been nearly twenty years since these filing fees have been updated. Planning Staff will work with the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals to adopt a revised fee structure that better reflects the modern cost of processing these petitions.

Successfully Complete MPO Certification Process

The Bloomington/Monroe County MPO is required to function according to standards provided by Federal law, working in cooperation with local partners as well as the Indiana Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration. Every four years the MPO must go through a certification process that documents the organization, function, programs, and results of the MPO. This process ensures that all MPO operations are consistent with Federal mandates. The MPO will complete its required certification in 2011.

MPO Annual Documents

The MPO will complete its required annual documents by the end of the Fiscal Year (June 30). This includes the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO will also complete the 2010 Crash Report, providing important data that influences the implementation of safety projects within the MPO area. In addition, the MPO will make updates to its Public Participation Plan to enable more efficient TIP amendments.

Professional Development

Planning Department staff will continue to develop their skills and knowledge through a variety of professional development opportunities throughout 2011. Staff will attend the American Planning Association national conference in Boston, the APA-Indiana Chapter spring and fall conferences, the Annual MPO Conference in Indianapolis, Purdue Road School, and a variety of in-house “webinar” training courses.