

UTAH PLANNER

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

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TIPPE MORLAN OUTGOING MESSAGE

Over the past two years, it has been such an honor to serve our community of professionals as the APA Utah Chapter President with such an amazing and supportive team of volunteer leaders behind me. I have loved being visible and present in this role, especially as a woman, as an Asian American, as a first generation American (on my mom's side), as a graduate from a non-accredited planning undergraduate program, and as a Utah planner. Visibility and representation matters for the future of our profession, especially if we want to encourage and foster more people to join the field, whether they choose to work in the public, private, or nonprofit sector as community planners. And I am so grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve you all as a colleague, advocate, and friend over the past two years.

Read the full message at [this link](#)



JASON BOAL, NEW APAUT PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear APA Utah Members and Friends,

As I step into the role of President of APA Utah, I am honored to serve during this pivotal time. The State of Utah is rapidly evolving, and the challenges we face—from the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing variability in our climate, and housing affordability—underscore the importance of thoughtful planning. I see the mission of APA Utah as: **APA Utah must educate, promote, pioneer, and influence.** These pillars will guide our efforts as we support our members and advance the field of planning in Utah.

Read the full message at [this link](#).



"Ring in the New Year" - Utah Bell Trivia

1. What bell was carried by pioneers to Salt Lake Valley from Illinois and is now run hourly as a symbol of religious freedom and is heard on KSL Radio?
2. What famous bell made a stop in Salt Lake and Ogden, Utah where it was greeted by thousands of residents and Utah's first governor, Heber Wells?
3. What bell was gifted to the American Fork camps of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and was placed atop American Fork's City Hall?
4. What is the name of a popular hiking trail located at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon that provides overlooks of Salt Lake City, the Lone Peak Wilderness and the Wasatch Mountains?

Answers on pg. 5

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BRIAN CARVER SWITCHIN IT UP

The Chapter would like to extend its congratulations to Brian Carver, the Board's representative to Western Planner Resources, on his new role as Lead Planner at J-U-B Engineers, Inc. in Utah. After 15 years of dedicated service as the Community Development Director at the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) in Logan, this marks an exciting new chapter for Brian, who has spent his entire career in the public sector.

During his time at BRAG, Brian led regional planning initiatives focused on housing, economic development, and natural resource management. Under his leadership, planning services expanded from a small team of two staff members in 2007 to a robust team of nine full- and part-time planners and technical staff. This team provided vital technical assistance to rural communities in areas such as land use planning, transportation and transit planning for seniors and adults with disabilities, as well as support in economic development, asset management, and fundraising. Now, Brian is excited to apply the skills and insights he gained at BRAG to meet the unique needs of communities across Utah. He shares that the most rewarding aspect of his work is helping local governments and residents solve problems.

Although Brian will continue working from Logan, he will now be based out of the J-U-B Engineers office instead of the historic BRAG building. He deeply values the support of northern Utah's network of local planners, which has been instrumental in his professional growth. Brian expresses his appreciation for the BRAG staff and will surely miss them. He is enthusiastic about continuing his work to help build stronger communities throughout Utah.



DANIEL RITTER: WINNER OF THE GEORGE SMEATH PLANNING STUDENT AWARD

Spotlight on Daniel Ritter: Winner of the George Smeath Planning Student Award

Daniel Ritter had the typical, indirect path to Urban Planning. He was born in Ohio and spent six years in Washington, D.C. for school and the start of his career. Daniel's early career in public policy and nonprofit work sparked an interest in transportation planning. Inspired by his experiences, he set his sights on graduate schools out West and was ultimately drawn to the University of Utah's renowned planning program.

Winning the George Smeath Planning Student Award

The George Smeath Planning Student Award is a prestigious honor given to a student who has demonstrated exceptional overall performance throughout their studies. Daniel, who was nominated for the award by his professors, didn't even know he was nominated until he won the award.

A Passion for Urban Planning at the U

During his time at the University of Utah, Daniel did not just focus on his studies—he also took an active role in campus life. As Vice President of the Urbanists student group, he helped the club gain greater traction on campus and in the community.

He also worked alongside Dr. Andy Hong on important research regarding sidewalk conditions and pedestrian safety.

For his capstone project, Daniel collaborated with Sweet Streets Salt Lake City, conducting a quantitative analysis of Salt Lake City's bicycle facilities and accessibility, with a focus on how comfortable and safe it is for people to reach common destinations.

From the U to Washington, D.C.

After graduating this year, Daniel returned to Washington, D.C., where he now works at Foursquare ITP, focusing on data analysis for multi-modal transportation planning. His role allows him to continue shaping the future of transportation and urban mobility.

Why Daniel Loved Studying in Utah

Daniel's time in Utah was more than just an academic experience—it was an opportunity to learn and grow in a rapidly evolving state. He spoke highly of Utah's dynamic urban environment, where planners are encouraged to innovate. Daniel spoke with gratitude towards the many planners who were willing to provide information, host tours, and provide projects for him and other students.

We wish Daniel all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing the positive impact he will undoubtedly have in the field of urban planning!



SKILLS TO PRIORITIZE AS A PLANNER

JASON BOAL, APA UT PRESIDENT

Over ten years ago, as a graduate student at the University of Idaho, I worked on a thesis titled “Do we practice what is preached? Exploring the relationship between skills identified by planning theorists and skills used by practicing planners, including an in-depth look at the factors that may influence those skills.” This paper had two main purposes: first, to determine whether the skills practicing planners possess align with those identified by planning theorists, and second, to highlight the attributes (community and personal) that influence the skills planners deem important, possess, use, and seek to improve. Based on my research, I found the top three skills that planners deemed most important were: 1) the ability to work well with others, 2) problem-solving, and 3) a willingness to learn. More than a decade after that research, I have come to better appreciate the wisdom of the planners who assisted in the study. I firmly believe that not only are these the skills we as planners must possess to be successful, but they are also the skills that bring success in any facet of life.

[Read The Full Article Here!](#)



Congratulations to Our New AICP Members!

We are thrilled to congratulate the APA Utah members who successfully passed the AICP exam during the last cycle! This achievement reflects your hard work, dedication, and commitment to advancing the planning profession. Welcome to the ranks of certified planners—we’re excited to see the incredible contributions you’ll continue to make to our communities.

Well done!

Sincerely,
APA UT

- Mark Forsythe, City of West Jordan
- Aaron Johnson, Terracon Consultants
- Tayler Jensen, City of West Jordan
- Sophie Bellina
- Erik Fronberg, Salt Lake City
- Cory Shurtleff, City of Moab
- Brian Carver, JUB engineers
- Katherine Bussell, Lehi City
- Megan Jensen, City of West Jordan



APA UT 2024 Winter Glow Gathering

Recap: APA UT Winter Glow Gathering

This past December, we hosted our first annual holiday event, the APA UT Winter Glow Gathering at Luminaria, and it was a fantastic success! We had a wonderful turnout, with families and members coming together to enjoy the festive atmosphere. The warming tent and hot chocolate station provided a cozy space to connect and socialize. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we're excited to continue hosting family-friendly networking events like this in the years to come!



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR UTAH PLANNERS

JAN - FEB 2025

Events & Announcements: <https://apautah.org/events/>

- AICP training (see below announcement)
- Call For Sessions: Open now until Feb 16, 2025,

Form: <https://forms.gle/EVExyu6fxrv7sEZQ7>

- Planning Connections: First Monday Roundtable for Planning Commissioners first meeting is Feb 3 at noon. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/oSvh1ZsTdr46bxd1A>
- USU & APA UT Planning Lecture: Planning as Strategic Design with Siqui Zhu
- Save the Date: APA UT and ULCT Legislative Update, Mar 26, 2025 11:30AM-1:00 PM
- APA UT Spring Conference, May 7-9 in Logan Utah. Early bird registration is open and will close on Feb 28. <https://apautah.org/events/2025-apa-utah-spring-conference/>

UPCOMING

EVENTS



AICP STUDY SESSIONS

Dear Utah Chapter members, and others,

The first session for the Utah Chapter-APA, AICP Examination Study Sessions for the Spring 2025 examination period will be held on **Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM via Zoom**. The purpose of each study session is for attendees to understand the AICP examination, to prepare all attendees for the examination, to learn together and share study experiences and information, and to support an individual study schedule. We will chart our Spring 2025 session schedule at the first session. Everyone is welcome to attend, and it's free.

The Zoom meeting link for all Spring 2025 sessions is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/96405431034?pwd=m0lza6dYfqaKg5ina2cZsjyLLjKQkC.1>

Meeting ID: 964 0543 1034

Passcode: 026389

PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

Exciting News for APA Utah Members!

We are thrilled to announce that APA Utah will once again participate in the Planning Webcast Series! This fantastic resource offers members access to insightful training sessions led by experts from across the country.

The live webcasts are held every Friday from 1:00–2:30 PM ET, and recordings are also available on demand for added flexibility. Don't miss these upcoming sessions:

- **Jan 23:** SCD 4th Annual Climate Symposium
- **Jan 31:** Planning and Zoning for Child Care
- **Feb 14:** Introduction to AI & Ethics in County Planning
- **Feb 21:** Mapping the Food Landscape: Using Healthy Food Walk Audits to Assess Local Food Systems
- **April 18:** Beyond the Rainbow Crosswalk: LGBTQ+ Preservation
- **April 18:** Web Skills & Platforms for Planners

Visit the Planning Webcast Series homepage for more details and to explore additional training opportunities.

Take advantage of this excellent resource to grow your skills and stay informed on important planning topics!



“Ring in the New Year” - Utah Bell Trivia (Answers)

1. Nauvoo Bell, <https://utahhistoricalmarkers.org/c/slc/nauvoo-bell-tower-relief-society-memorial/>
2. Liberty Bell, <https://www.deseret.com/2015/7/10/20568139/the-liberty-bell-in-salt-lake-city-100-years-ago/>
3. Historic City Hall Bell, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=149989>
4. Bell Canyon Granite Trail Hike, <https://www.visitsaltlake.com/listing/bell-canyon-granite-trail-hike/65946/>