MEMORANDUM

To: CCAPA Board of Directors
From: Collette Morse, AICP
       AICP Commissioner, Region VI
Date: February 25, 2007
Subject: AICP Representative Report

Certification Maintenance
This is undoubtedly the hot topic of the day for all AICP members. Since last summer, the AICP Commission has used every opportunity at retreat and leadership meetings to focus on Certification Maintenance.

The Commission began their work last summer at the Orcas Island retreat by reviewing a wide range of data related to professional maintenance programs. This included a review of the programs and credits required for AIA, the Royal Town Planning Institute, and several other professional organizations. In addition, the Commission reviewed the existing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program, and the results of the 2005 AICP member Continuing Education Survey. At the conclusion of the retreat, the Commission asked AICP staff to develop a draft program that the Commission would review at the Fall Leadership Meetings in Fort Worth.

At Fort Worth, the Commission rolled up their sleeves for a four-work session to pour of the details and develop a draft program. The draft program was made available to the AICP membership in December 2006 for 30-day review/comment period via Interact.

Over 1,400 comments were received in the 30 days, and staff compiled them for the Commission to review at the Winter Retreat in New Orleans at the end of January 2007. The comments were classified into 22 categories:

- Cost (Too Much)
- 48 Credit Hours/2 Years (Too Much)
- Time Issues/Other Personal or Professional Logistical Burdens
- Educational Offerings/Opportunities (Topical Relevance, Availability)
- Counting Courses from Other Organizations or APA Chapters
- Geographic Bias/Smaller Community Bias or Issues
- 50% APA Requirement
- APA Registered Provider Requirements
- Too Much Emphasis on APA Conferences
- Self-Study/Distance Learning Component
- APA Profit Generation/Non-Competition
- Will/May Drop AICP
- Proposal or CM Too Bureaucratic/Rigid
- Waiver/Exemption Concerns (Inc. Retired, New Planners)
- Counting University Courses
- AICP Not Comparable to Other Organizations with CM
- Teaching Not Counting
- Bias Toward One Sector (Public, Private, etc)
- Counting Volunteer Activities
- Conflicts/Cooperation with Other Professions
- Mentoring Not Counting
- Other Issues

The Commission spent time at two work sessions in New Orleans revising the draft program to respond to the concerns raised. Staff revised the program and the Commission held a conference call on February 6th to ensure that the substantive comments had been responded to.

Notification of the revised Certification Maintenance Program was made through the February 21, 2007 Interact. The Commission is once again seeking comments through March 21, 2007. Comments can be made by emailing AICP-CM@planning.org or by participating in a virtual town hall meeting at ecommunities.planning.org. Instructions on how to participate in the virtual town hall are spelled out in Interact.

What's Next?
A decision on the Certification Maintenance program is expected at the AICP Commission meeting on April 13, 2007 @ 10:00 AM in Philadelphia.
Community Assistance Program (CAP)

2007
At this year's conference in Philadelphia, the Commission will be holding a Community Planning Workshop on Saturday, April 14 from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. This pro bono collaborative planning activity focuses on the Sharswood neighborhood, just a mile from the Center City area. Largely blighted and economically depressed, Sharswood has hundreds of vacant lots comprising many blocks of undeveloped land. The workshop will address the needs of neighborhood residents concerned about development pressures and the preservation of low- to moderate-income housing. The intent is to propose creative yet realistic redevelopment options with strong prospects for implementation.

2006
Last year, CAP or Planning Assistance Teams (PAT) provided assistance to three communities:
1. San Antonio, Texas
2. Mandeville, Louisiana
3. Henderson Point, Mississippi

Both Mandeville and Henderson Point were impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Attachments
1. CAP Program (from APA Website)
2. Planning Assistance Teams in Katrina-Affected Communities (from APA Website)
3. Volunteer Planning Team Assists City of Mandeville (from APA Website)
4. Volunteer Planning Team Assists Henderson Point, Mississippi (from APA Website)
Certification Maintenance – Draft Program
Report on certification maintenance

As previously reported, the AICP Commission is considering requiring certification maintenance through continuing education starting in January 2009. The Commission received more than 1,400 comments in response to the first draft proposal for a certification maintenance program released in early December. Overall, members expressed strong support for some form of certification maintenance. The revised program will post the reply to many of the concerns that were raised during the first comment period.

Please review the certification maintenance program and submit your comments to AICP-comment@americanplanning.org no later than Wednesday, March 11. You may also participate in a virtual town hall meeting by logging onto www.interact.planning.org using your AICP ID. The Commission is expected to vote on including certification maintenance at its next meeting in April.

- A Groundhog Day budget

As it has in previous years, the Bush administration proposed a budget that cuts or eliminates funding for many transit, housing, environmental protection, and infrastructure programs that are important to good planning for vital communities. In this month's Dorrance Policy Watch, APA Executive Director Paul Farmer, FAICP, discusses the proposed FHWA budget's immediate and long-term ramifications for local communities.

- Reserve conference hotel rooms

Reduced rates for Philadelphia conference housing are available. Contact "Welcome Philadelphia" and make your reservations online or by fax or mail no later than March 16.
Certification Maintenance — Recommended Program

Letter from AICP President Sue Schwartz, FAICP, and AICP President-Elect Graham Billingsley, AICP

On behalf of the AICP Commission, we extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who took the time to submit remarks concerning the proposed Certification Maintenance program. About 1,400 comments were received in response to the first draft of the program proposal, which was issued to AICP members in December 2006.

Those comments were analyzed and thoroughly considered when the second draft of the program proposal was created. Members generally expressed strong support for some type of certification maintenance requirement for certified professional planners. However, many members are concerned about some of the details of the proposed program. This second draft of the program responds to many of those concerns.

We have heard strong concerns about affordability and access to continuing education opportunities. We took this concern seriously in our program development and made changes for this second round principally because of these sorts of concerns. This has been a concern of the Commission for several years and led to the development of products such as audio conferences, CD-ROM packages, etc., to try and address those needs. There are several dozen offerings now, and we will continue with these and the development of online courses. From initial discussions with chapters, divisions, and sections, as well as the academic community, we anticipate offerings in these media to grow.

Many of the proposed requirements of the Certification Maintenance program are based on the existing voluntary Continuing Professional Development program. Examples include the requirement that 40 credits be obtained over two years and the requirement that at least half of the credits be provided by APA or sources sponsored or endorsed by APA, or sources accredited through the PAB program. The existing voluntary program has been easy to use, and the users have not had difficulty reaching their requirements.

Although we did receive significant input, we don’t feel we are yet quite done. We want additional input on the latest proposal. To make that easier for all AICP members, so participation would not be limited by geography or the ability to attend the national conference, we have created a virtual town hall meeting. Visit ecommunities.planning.org to comment on this important program. Please note that you will need your APA log-in information to access this link. You may also submit comments via e-mail to AICP-CM@planning.org by Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

We will again consider your comments before we take action on Certification Maintenance in April prior to the conference. Please read this program description in full, and let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Sue Schwartz, FAICP
AICP President

Graham Billingsley, AICP
AICP President-Elect

1.0 Program Description

1.1 Certification Maintenance (CM) Requirements for Certified Planners

Within each two-year period, AICP certified planners will be required to engage in at least 40 credits of eligible professional development activities; up to 10 credits of these 40 credits may be self-directed study. Each two-year period begins on January 1.

No minimum number of credits need be logged per year so long as 40 qualifying credits are logged in
during each two-year reporting period.

A four-month grace period, beyond the two-year reporting cycle, may be used to complete the Certification Maintenance credit requirements. Any credits used in a grace period cannot be double counted towards the next reporting cycle. A maximum of 20 excess credits can be carried over to the next reporting cycle. Self-directed study credits will not qualify for carry-over credits.

1.2 Achieving CM Credit Requirements
Forty eligible credits will be reported in a two-year period and will be achieved in the following way:

- All 40 credits may be earned from APA, APA-sponsored and APA-endorsed sources, or from PAB graduate courses.
- At least 30 credits (75 percent) of the eligible credits will come from registered providers, of which at least 20 credits (50 percent) will come from APA, APA-sponsored programs, APA-endorsed programs, or PAB graduate degree courses.
- A maximum of 10 credits (25 percent) may be self-directed study credits or credits from unregistered providers. These credits cannot be carried over to the next two-year reporting cycle.

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<th>40 Credits (the total needed every 2 years)</th>
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<tr>
<td>At least 30 of 40 Credits from Registered Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 20 of 40 Credits from APA, APA-Endorsed, APA-Sponsored, or PAB graduate courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 10 credits from Self Guided Study or from Unregistered Providers</td>
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- Volunteer, unpaid planning instruction may qualify for the self-guided study portion of the program. Certification Maintenance credit may be earned only once for teaching a particular course or seminar or for presenting a professional paper. The amount of credit equals the length of the presentation in hours plus one hour for preparation.
- Qualifying credits that satisfy the continuing education needs of another professional association can be counted for both Certification Maintenance and the other association’s continuing education requirements.
- 1.5 of the APA, APA-sponsored, or APA-endorsed programs or PAB graduate degree course credits will be on the topic of ethics. These credits cannot be carried over to the next reporting cycle.
- 1.5 credits will be on the topic of current planning law; these credits may be earned from any registered provider. These credits cannot be carried over to the next two-year reporting cycle.

1.3 Non-Qualifying CM Activities

- Time spent in business meetings of APA leadership, whether at the national, chapter, or division levels, will not be eligible for CM credits.
- Time spent in mentoring activity will not be eligible for CM credits.
- Time spent in volunteer activities will not be eligible for CM credits.
- Teaching for a salary, fee, or honorarium will not be eligible for CM credits.

1.4 Online Logs
Credits will be reported by each qualifying AICP member in the CM online logging system. The CM logging system will be launched in January 2008. Eligible credits gained under the current CPD system on or after April 13, 2007, will be carried over into the CM logging system.

If CM credit requirements have not been satisfied by the end of the four-month grace period, the online CM logging system will no longer be accessible. At this point, an AICP member must maintain external log details in order to support future CM credit claims.

If AICP Certification Maintenance requirements are not met within four years, an AICP member will

AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
www.planning.org/ethics/conduct.html

Why Are These Non-Qualifying
2.0 Requirements for Course or Provider Registration

Educational providers will be required to register with APA/AICP in order to become qualified professional development providers. This means that the providers and all their eligible educational offerings will be reviewed and, upon approval, will be entered into the online directory of approved credits that all members may access. These courses will also be entered into the APA/AICP online educational calendar so that all members may become aware of these approved programs.

Members claiming CM credits from unregistered providers may apply these credits under the 25 percent self-directed study provision, 10 credits over the two year period.

After their content has been reviewed, there will be a registration fee for educational providers. If educational providers offer their training for free, they can qualify for registration without paying a fee to APA/AICP. However, free conferences with an overall attendance of more than 500 participants will need to pay the APA/AICP registration fee to address some of the administrative costs.

3.0 Exemptions and Waivers

3.1 Retired Members

Retired members, as defined by APA, will be exempt from Certification Maintenance requirements.

3.2 Special Exemptions

Special exemptions may be granted for personal or hardship reasons. Documentation may be required for individuals seeking CM inactive membership status. While various circumstances may qualify, the following list is representative of those in which a temporary inactive membership status may be granted:

1. Parental leave. An inactive membership status of six months may be granted for the birth or adoption of a child.
2. Military service leave. An inactive membership status may be granted to members on active duty who are deployed overseas for either Temporary Duty (TDY) or Permanent Change of Station (PCS), or to members of the Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard who have been mobilized or deployed.
3. Health. An inactive membership status may be granted for reasons of ill health.
4. Care leave. An inactive membership status may be granted to members who need to stay at home to care for another person.
5. Foreign residency. An inactive membership status may be granted to members living outside of the U.S. for up to one year.
6. Other reasons for inactive membership status will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3.3 Inactive Membership

AICP members will not be required to pay AICP dues during the period in which their membership is inactive. However, during this period, AICP membership will be inactivated and the AICP credential cannot be used. Members with inactive membership status must remain members of APA and will be required to pay APA dues; they must also abide by the AICP Code of Ethics. Inactive members must reinstate AICP membership within four years and pay 20 percent of back dues owed since beginning inactive membership status. Anyone who has been an inactive member for more than four years will be required to retake the AICP exam and reenter the Institute following new member procedures.

3.4 Waivers

Most Certification Maintenance requirements may be waived for unemployed members during the period of unemployment. However, AICP and APA memberships must be paid and active, although they may be paid at the reduced unemployed rate. Unemployed members may continue to use the AICP credential so long as they obtain at least 25 percent of the required CM credits; this may be done through less expensive training such as self-directed study activities.

Planners practicing outside the U.S. will be exempt from the 50 percent APA, APA-sponsored, or APA-endorsed program requirement, but will still be required to maintain certification through professional..
development. AICP members who belong to another planning organization with a rigorous, APA-approved credential program and who must uphold Certification Maintenance for two organizations, will be able to satisfy AICP requirements through the host country's requirements so long as 40 credits are maintained over a two-year period.

Planners practicing part time will be required to meet the full obligations of Certification Maintenance, unless granted inactive membership status.

4.0 Definitions

4.1 APA Programs. APA offers many educational programs throughout the year. These programs focus on the professional development of practicing planners and qualify for Certification Maintenance credits. Such APA programs include, but are not limited to, APA chapter conferences and programs (including sections), APA division training programs, the APA National Planning Conference (sessions, workshops, symposia, mobile workshops), PTS Workshops, AICP Symposia, APA and AICP audio conferences, APA National Independent Study (e.g. APA audio tapes, CD-ROMs, or online courses), Tuesdays at APA, and APA's L'Enfant Lecture.

4.2 APA-Sponsored Programs. APA-sponsored programs are those to which APA or its components (AICP, APA chapters, or APA divisions) have significantly contributed by developing content or by providing significant financial or in-kind support.

4.3 APA-Endorsed Programs. APA-endorsed programs are those that APA or the responsible official in one of its components (AICP, APA chapters, or divisions) have reviewed and approved. Financial support or a contribution to the content of the program is not necessary for an endorsed program.

4.4 CM Credit. One CM credit is equivalent to one contact hour of training. In the case of self-directed reading, two hours of reading are equivalent to one CM credit.

4.5 Qualifying CM Courses. Qualifying CM credits must be activities or courses that are:

1. designed to meet a specific planning-related training objective,
2. led by one or more experts on the subject,
3. offered by organizations that:
   a. provide some form of documentation, i.e. transcript, workbook, certificate, summary, course syllabus, etc.
   b. are considered eligible providers by APA, AICP, APA chapters, or APA divisions.
4. designed to teach subject matter at a level beyond an entry-level planning job.

4.6 PAB Graduate Degree Courses. PAB graduate degree courses include those offered by PAB-accredited graduate programs but do not include PAB undergraduate degree courses or any courses offered through extension programs, professional development centers of accredited universities, or similar entities. Such entities are invited to apply through one of the other qualifying mechanisms.

4.7 Registered Provider. A registered provider is a provider of continuing education that has been approved for providing qualifying CM courses.

4.8 Retired Member. The current definition of a "retired" member is this: "You must have been an APA or AICP member continuously for 10 or more years, be 65 or older, and completely retired."

4.9 Self-Directed Study. Self-directed study is defined as education received through unregistered providers or from time spent reading books or articles or listening to audio tapes of books that support professional development. Two hours of reading time will qualify for one credit.
Significant Changes in This Second Draft of the Certification Maintenance Program

This revised Certification Maintenance program description responds to many of the comments that were submitted after the release of the first draft. These are some of the significant changes:

- The credit requirement was lowered from 48 credits to 40 credits in two years.
- The 10 self-directed study credits provision was maintained and broadened to include unregistered providers.
- PAB graduate degree courses were added to the list of course offerings that would satisfy the 50 percent rule (the most restrictive CM criterion).
- The definition of registered provider was broadened to include APA-sponsored and APA-endorsed programs.

Some of the feedback we have received indicates concern about the need to register professional development offerings. The reason for requiring registration of professional development offerings is to assure quality of programs. A registration fee is being required in order to support the new administrative expenses that AICP will incur by introducing Certification Maintenance without raising membership dues specifically to support the CM program. This is consistent with other professional certifying and licensing bodies such as AIA and the state bar associations.

Information about registration fees to educational providers will be provided in future months.

How Do I Comment on This Second Draft of the Certification Maintenance Program?

This is the final comment period before the AICP Commission will take action on the proposal to institute new Certification Maintenance standards. The AICP Commission encourages your feedback. Please send your comments to AICP-CM@planning.org. You may also join a virtual town hall meeting by visiting communities.planning.org. Please note that you will need your APA log-in information to access this link. All comments must be received by Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in order to be considered by the AICP Commission.

What’s Next?

Once again, your comments will be forwarded to the AICP Commission for review and consideration. A decision on the Certification Maintenance program is expected at the AICP Commission meeting on April 13, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, 1201 Market St.

As Certification Maintenance is implemented, the Commission will be monitoring the issues that arise and making adjustments where necessary. In addition, a major evaluation of the program will take place at the end of five years.

Minimum Credit Requirements of Other Organizations

- **Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)**
  18 hours per year

- **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTP)**
  50 hours per 2 years

- **Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)**
  60 points per 2 years

- **American Institute of Architects (AIA)**
18 hours per year

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Various: e.g., Kansas, 30 hours per 2 years

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
120 hours per 3 years

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Community Assistance Program (CAP)
AICP Community Assistance Program

Addressing issues of social equity in planning and development is a priority of the American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners. One principle of the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct states that certified planners shall aspire to "seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration." Yet another principle is that certified planners should aspire to "contribute time and effort to groups lacking in adequate planning resources and to voluntary professional activities."

To help all planners reach these goals, the American Institute of Certified Planners created the Community Assistance Program (CAP) to address social equity issues through the provision of pro bono planning services to communities in need.

How CAP Began

Spurred to action following the Los Angeles riots, the APA Executive Board established the first "Community Planning Team" initiative in 1995. This resulted in a very successful pro bono workshop assisting an economically struggling community in North Carolina. Since the 2001 APA National Planning Conference in New Orleans, AICP has sponsored one-day community planning team "charrettes" — now known as Community Planning Workshops — at each National Planning Conference. AICP developed another service of CAP, known as Planning Assistance Teams (PAT) beginning in 2003.

CAP addresses social equity in planning through two methods: the Community Planning Workshop and the Planning Assistance Team. In each method, AICP invites its member planners from across the country to advance sound planning practices in communities typically lacking sufficient resources. Such communities are further identified as possessing a planning challenge that would especially benefit from an impartial team of volunteer professional planners whose expertise would afford new insight.

Sharing and Collaboration

Professional planners participating in CAP share their planning expertise with communities in a number of ways. For example, communities may ask planners to evaluate existing plans, particularly in light of changing realities or demographics. In these cases planners analyze neighborhood, regional, or issue-specific plans and develop suggestions for improvement. Other communities may need planners with specific technical skills to help solve an unanticipated circumstance. In still other cases, planners are asked formulate a vision and then articulate specific recommendations for a redevelopment site in collaboration with the local community.

One of the strongest aspects of CAP is the significance it places on collaboration with local planners and residents to address social equity issues in planning. For example, Community Planning Workshops have consistently engaged dozens of local community members in conjunction with National Planning Conferences since 2001. Such community involvement increases the effectiveness and appropriateness of the planning assistance given to local communities. Furthermore, it is another principle stated in the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to which certified planners aspire: "We shall give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them. Participation should be broad enough to include those who lack formal organization or influence."

Following the Community Planning Workshop or Planning Assistance Team visit, the host communities (often in conjunction with the local planning department or other entity) are charged with consolidating the recommendations from professional planners and local residents. Frequently this takes the form of a Final Report which contains specific actions to turn the original vision into reality. AICP strongly recommends that such reports receive the attention of local officials as they decide policy and budgetary priorities.

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Planning Assistance Teams in Katrina-Affected Communities

As a part of APA's response to Hurricane Katrina, AICP will sponsor Planning Assistance Teams (PATs) that will address the planning challenges in Gulf Coast communities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Volunteer for a Planning Assistance Team on the Gulf Coast. Click on a link below:

- Begin by reading about the PAT process
- Complete your online resume and enter it into the Volunteer Planner Bank
- Read about Planning Assistance Teams
- Donate to Katrina relief through the Planning Foundation of APA
- Read about APA's comprehensive response to the Gulf hurricanes
- Volunteer Planning Team Assists City of Mandeville
- Volunteer Planning Team to Assist Henderson Point, Mississippi
Volunteer Planning Team Assists City of Mandeville

A five-member volunteer planning team visited Mandeville, Louisiana, at the request of the city’s planning department to offer assistance with post-hurricane recovery planning work. The team worked with the city’s planners March 5 through 10.

APA’s Planning Assistance Team was made up of expert planners who volunteered their time to help Mandeville continue its post-hurricane recovery and establish the foundation for guiding future development within the city. The team’s priorities for the weeklong visit included satisfying the increasing demand for a variety of housing and complying with FEMA flood standards while maintaining the historic context of old Mandeville.

The team released a 60-page report of its findings the week after its visit.

Click here to read the team's report (PDF)

News Coverage

"Local woman helps Louisiana town," Ocean County Observer

"People who make a difference: Brick employee Tara Paxton," Community Connection

"APA presents its final report to Mandeville," Slidell Sentry-News

"Team urges city to expand trailhead," The Times Picayune (New Orleans)

"Experts want Mandeville to grow gracefully," The Times Picayune (New Orleans)

"Planners here to help Mandeville rebuild," Slidell Sentry-News

"Municipal planner from Brick headed to Louisiana to help victims of Katrina," Asbury Park Press

"Mandeville hosts storm-recovery pros," The Times Picayune (New Orleans)

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Volunteer Planning Team Assists Henderson Point, Mississippi

A five-member APA Planning Assistance Team worked in Henderson Point, Mississippi, September 13-19, 2006, to assist with post-hurricane recovery planning. The volunteer team worked on identifying building concepts for the new Henderson Point Town Center, as well as facilitating a town hall meeting on September 16.

Hurricane Katrina demolished every structure in Henderson Point, which had a population of 812 according to the 2000 Census. A survey from July 2006 found that only 28 homes were left standing, eight of which were occupied, and 28 FEMA trailers were located on residential properties. The volunteer team learned that only one business was left standing, and the fire station was destroyed.

The planning assistance team was requested by APA’s Mississippi Chapter and Harrison County. The team’s proposals will be incorporated into a long-range community plan for Henderson Point, which is being developed through collaboration between Ohio State University and Harrison County.

Team members include:

- Tim Chow, AICP, Sierra City, California (Team Leader)
- Fleming El-Amin, II, AICP, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
- David Boyd, FAICP, Madison, Wisconsin
- Angela Brooks, AICP, Chicago, Illinois
- Randy Gross, Washington, D.C.

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