



Department of Metropolitan Development

Indianapolis Receives National Planning Award for Best Practice

The American Planning Association has selected the City of Indianapolis' Regional Center Design Guidelines to receive the 2010 National Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice. The Best Practice award is given for a specific planning element or process that advances the role of planning.

The Regional Center, which is considered the "downtown" of Indianapolis, encompasses 6.5 square miles and offers residents a variety of options from arts and entertainment to municipal services. The design guidelines are a 'how-to' manual for maintaining and building upon the city's existing history of a well-designed Regional Center.

"The Regional Center Guidelines are a great example of what a set of design guidelines should look like and provide users," said Marie York, FAICP, 2010 National Planning Awards Jury Chair. "The guidelines are thorough and offer specific guidance so there is little doubt in understanding the city's desires for maintaining a well-designed urban space."

The design guidelines are the city's proactive efforts to ensure that the Regional Center will continue to offer residents a vital place to live, work and recreate while also promoting creativity, diversity and local heritage. The guidelines focus on and support five design principles:

- Mobility
- Health, safety, and opportunity
- Adaptability and sustainability
- Public realm
- Character and vitality

"We are honored to be recognized nationally for our hard work and dedication toward paving the way for an accessible, sustainable and inviting urban space in our city, said Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) Director Maury Plambeck. "I commend the entire DMD staff for this success."

The award for Indianapolis Regional Center Regional Guidelines will be presented at a special luncheon at APA's National Planning Conference in New Orleans on April 12, 2010. The plan guidelines also will be featured in an upcoming issue of Planning magazine, APA's flagship publication.



John Byrnes, Jeff York, Historic Preservation Administrator David Baker, Planning Administrator Mike Peoni, Tammara Tracy, Director of DMD Maury Plambeck, Bob Wilch and Dave DiMarzio (Not Pictured- Harold Rominger)