



American Planning Association  
Texas Chapter

# A Guide to Urban Planning in Texas Communities 2013





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## Preface

The Texas APA Short Course for Planning Commissioners and Local Officials is one of the oldest continuing annual Chapter training programs. The idea for the Short Course was brought to Texas from California by Bob Cornish, a Texas A&M University planning professor. Cornish chaired the first task force assigned to implement the program, and William Telford, a San Antonio consultant, served as Coordinator. A faculty of nine was gathered and the first Short Course was held November 21, 1971. Seven general sessions were held, concluding with five concurrent sessions.

From 1971 to 1998 the Short Course was administered by the Education Foundation. Since 1998 the program has been supported by the Chapter's Board of Directors and implemented by the Chapter's Executive Administrator. The training program has grown over the years to include a basic track for newly appointed commission members and an advance track with more specialized topics. The program has been renamed "Planning 101". Regional training workshops have been held since 1998 in various locations throughout the State in partnership with the Texas Association of Regional Councils in addition to the Chapter's annual conference. These regional workshops provide commissioners and planners an opportunity to attend training sessions closer to home.

The Guidebook is an outgrowth of the Short Course and includes a series of articles written by professional planners in the Texas Chapter. The information provides an opportunity for the reader to become more aware of the issues that Commissioners and elected officials face in carrying out their official duties as their community develops, and a resource to study. The authors are identified so that information can be shared and questions answered.

Previous page:  
Downtown Bryan, TX

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# Table of Contents

## Posted Chapters--October 2013

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Planning and Development Regulations</b>	<b>5</b>
David Gattis, FAICP, CFM		
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Ethics and the Planning Commissioner</b>	<b>27</b>
Carol Barrett, FAICP		
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Introduction to Subdivision Controls</b>	<b>77</b>
Craig Farmer, FAICP William S. Dahlstrom, AICP, Esq.		
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Zoning Regulations in Texas</b>	<b>137</b>
William Dahlstrom, JD, AICP		
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Annexation and the ETJ</b>	<b>159</b>
Ben Luckens, AICP		

## Upcoming Chapters

- Role of Appointed and Elected Officials**
- Meeting Procedures and Liability Issues**
- Sustainability Planning**
- Water Planning in Times of Drought and Plenty**
- Limits of Land Use Regulation in Texas**
- Funding Infrastructure—The Local-Pay-up-to-the-State Model**
- Economic Development Tools and Planning**
- Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution**
- Form Based and Hybrid Codes**
- Community Planning Efforts**



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