2012 ALAPA Awards

Richard L. Platt Career Achievement Award

In memory of Richard L. Platt, the former Director of Planning of Northport, Alabama, who provided outstanding contributions to the planning profession during his career.

Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association
2012 ALAPA Awards

William R. “Bill” Foisy

Nominated by:
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association
Bill Foisy established the 3C planning process and the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) literally from scratch for the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area in the mid-1970s after the region was “decertified” by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Under Mr. Foisy’s leadership, numerous transit Alternatives Analysis Plans were conducted including the Birmingham Regional Alternatives Analysis (2004) – the plan that developed the Birmingham area’s first comprehensive transit system plan. Other corridor specific alternatives analysis projects include the:
- In-Town Transit Partnership (ITP)
- The Mobility Matters I-65/US 31 HOV/Transit Analysis
- U.S. 280 Corridor Transit Plan
- U.S. 11 Southwest Corridor Plan
2012 ALAPA Award
Richard L. Platt Career Achievement Award

Managed the development of the Birmingham Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Plan, which received an award from the Alabama APA for the 1997 Outstanding Planning Project of the Year.

Recognizing the importance of providing local communities and neighborhoods with redevelopment plans that address the connection between land use and transportation, Bill Foisy’s leadership and direction resulted in the development of the Building Communities Program that received the APA 2010 Outstanding Planning Award for Project/Program/Tool and has meted multiple APA award winning plans.
Mr. Foisy established the region’s first rideshare program during the 1970s as a non-profit organization, a predecessor to the highly successful CommuteSmart/Rideshare program.

Mr. Foisy was instrumental in bringing the clean air program from the Jefferson County Department of Health to the RPCGB. In 2002, Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) was formed due to this transition.

Mr. Foisy served on the Board of Access Unlimited, the group instrumental in persuading the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority to include wheelchair lifts on its fixed-route buses, preceding the American Disabilities Act adopted by Congress. He was the driving force behind the creation of ClasTran carrying on the mission to provide transportation services to the disabled.

Mr. Foisy coordinated the design of the first publicly accessible park in the City of Birmingham, the Bessie Sears Estell Park.
A few of the awards received by Mr. Foisy throughout his career include:

- Golden Spike Award from the Birmingham Bicycle Club for the first Birmingham Bicycle Plan in the 1970s which included bike routes.

- American Society for Public Administration, Greater Birmingham Chapter, Administrator of the Year, 2007.

- Homer L. Jacobs Lay Award by the Alabama Rehabilitation Association.
Alabama Chapter of American Planning Association

• Bill Foisy chaired the Intern Scholarship Program for the Alabama Chapter of APA since the establishment of the Scholarship Program in 1995.

• Alabama Chapter of American Planning Association, Planner of the Year, 1998.
2012 ALAPA Award
Richard L. Platt Career Achievement Award

In retirement, Mr. Foisy is practicing a policing of “returnment” as a volunteer resource for the Red Lodge, Montana community through the application of planning principles learned in Birmingham.

He is a board member of the local trails association promoting safe and healthy pedestrian facilities, including design provisions of Montana DOT highway projects; Board member of the local Community Foundation promoting sustainable activities for local nonprofit organizations; and a Lions Club member promoting volunteer activities in support of local community needs.
Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association

2012 ALAPA Awards

William R. “Bill” Foisy

Nominated by:
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association