



THINK REGIONALLY ACT LOCALLY

2026

DEEP
SOUTH
PLANNING
CONFERENCE

AUBURN,
ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 29 -
OCTOBER 1, 2026



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Message from the President

WAR EAGLE!



Welcome to Auburn, Alabama, and to the 2026 Deep South Planning Conference!

There is something truly special about gathering together, not simply to attend sessions or exchange ideas, but to reconnect with one another, celebrate our successes, and look ahead with renewed energy and purpose. This year's theme, "Think Regionally, Act Locally," serves as a reminder to broaden our lenses of approach and practice when addressing local planning challenges. Each of us brings unique experiences, perspectives, and talents to the Deep South planning community, and when gathered together, we create opportunities to learn from one another, inspire one another, and make meaningful differences for the communities we serve. Over the next three days, I encourage you all to make the most of every moment. Ask the tough questions. Share your most out-of-the-box ideas. Meet someone new. Take something valuable from every conversation and every session, and, just as importantly, share your personal knowledge and experience with those around you.

We are deeply grateful to our speakers, presenters, sponsors, volunteers, planning committee, and everyone whose hard work has made this conference possible. Most of all, we are grateful to you for being here and for the passion and commitment you bring to our profession and our community. May this conference leave you encouraged by the people you meet, inspired by the ideas you discover, and energized for the work that lies ahead.

Warm regards,

Phoenicia "Phoenix" Robinson

Phoenicia "Phoenix" Robinson

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**THINK REGIONALLY
ACT LOCALLY**

SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29, 2026**



12:00 PM

REGISTRATION OPENS

Prefunction Foyer



**1:00 PM -
2:00 PM**

AICP UNRAVELED

Dr. Jordan Yin, AICP || *Legacy Ballroom I*

ETHICS CASE OF THE YEAR (1 CM)

Bob Barber, FAICP || *Legacy Ballroom II*



2:00 PM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



2:15 PM

CONFERENCE GREETINGS

The Honorable Ron Anders, Jr. || *Auditorium*



**2:30 PM -
3:45 PM**

**OPENING KEYNOTE | THE REGIONAL RHYTHM: A
DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL PLANNING IN EAST
AND SOUTHEAST ALABAMA**

Scott Farmer, AICP; Eric Wright, AICP;
Phoenix Robinson || *Auditorium*



3:45 PM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



4:00 PM -
5:00 PM

FROM CAPITOL HILL TO CITY HALL: UNDERSTANDING THE FEDERAL FORCES SHAPING COMMUNITIES (1 CM)

Kerrie Keesee || *Legacy Ballroom II*

PLANNING FOR THE FLOOD: A REVIEW OF LOCAL POLICY, DESIGN AND REGULATORY SOLUTIONS TO FLASH, RIVERINE, AND COSTAL FLOODING (1 CM)

Jonathan Corona
Rosie Mafe, AICP || *Auditorium*

CITIES: Skylines COMPETITION

MENTORSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Calling All Student & Planner Teams!!

Sign up at the registration table to compete for a prize and the title of “Best City.”

Tuesday, Sept. 29 || 4:00 - 6:00 PM
CLA LAB (Haley 3233)



5:00 PM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



5:00 PM -
6:00 PM

ROOTS RUN DEEP: INTEGRATING URBAN FORESTRY PLANNING AND INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Caroline Ingram, AICP || *Auditorium*

CITIZEN ADVOCACY: OBSERVATIONS MY BIKE, DATA, AND ACTIONS (1 CM)

David Nuttall || *Legacy Ballroom II*



6:30 PM -
8:00 PM

TUESDAY EVE. RECEPTION

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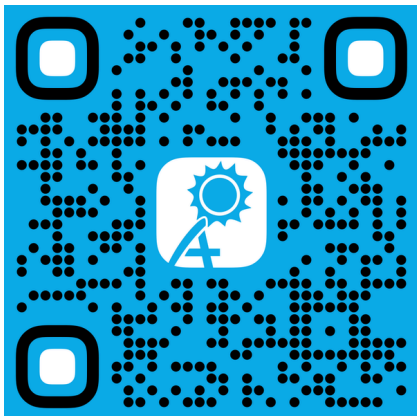
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COLLABORATION

EQUITY

SUSTAINABILITY



**THINK REGIONALLY
ACT LOCALLY**

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



7:00 AM

BREAKFAST & NETWORKING

Grand Ballroom



**8:00 AM -
9:00 AM**

FROM BLUEPRINT TO IMPACT: ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD'S BUSIEST AIRPORT (1 CM)

Kat Onore, AICP, Andrew Kohr, PLA, ASLA;
Jonathan Corona || *Legacy Ballroom*

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE: PROTECTING ALABAMA'S COST OF LIVING ADVANTAGE (1 CM)

Turkessa Coleman Lacey, MURP
Lady Kassama, AICP || *Oak Room*



**8:00 AM -
11:00 AM**

MOBILE WORKSHOP

WALKING IN STEP: PLANNING AND ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES (3 CM)

Thriving Communities
Mitch Carter || *Tuskegee, Alabama*



9:00 AM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



**9:15 AM -
10:15 AM**

**FROM VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION: THE
ROLE OF CATALYTIC PROJECTS IN
FUELING REDEVELOPMENT (1 CM)**

Andrew Kohr, PLA, ASLA; William Hargrove, PLA, ASLA;
Christopher Pike, CEcD, EDPF, CPM || *Legacy Ballroom*

ADOPTION IS NOT THE FINISH LINE (1 CM)

Corey Sosebee, AICP || *Oak Room*



10:15 AM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



**10:30 AM -
11:30 AM**

**FROM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT: A PLACE-BASED APPROACH TO
COMMUNITY PROSPERITY (1 CM)**

Bob Barber, FAICP; Alison Mouch, AICP;
Thomas Gregory, AICP || *Legacy Ballroom*

**POLITICAL ACTION: JACKSON'S
DOWNFALL AND SAVIOR (1 CM)**

Immanuel Wiggins || *Oak Room*



**11:30 AM -
1:30 PM**

**2026 DEEP SOUTH PLANNING CONFERENCE
CHAPTER AWARDS LUNCHEON (2 CM)**

Congratulations Award Recipients!
Grand Ballroom



**1:30 PM -
2:30 PM**

**POWERING LOCAL PROGRESS: ZONING, SOLAR,
AND EV POLICY FOR ALABAMA COMMUNITIES
(1 CM)**

John Dodd
Sheree Martin || *Auditorium*

**BUILDING BETTER CITIES THROUGH DATA:
A HUNTSVILLE MODEL FOR ALABAMA
COMMUNITIES (1 CM)**

Aliyah Riley, AICP || *Legacy Room*



2:00 PM -
5:00 PM

MOBILE WORKSHOP

ALABAMA EXTENSION: TALKING WITH LEE COUNTY EXTENSION, PARTNERS, TRAILS & INSIGHT TO OUR RESOURCES (3 CM)

Lee County Extension Office
Tara Barr || *Opelika, Alabama*



2:30 PM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



2:45 PM -
3:45 PM

FROM FLOOD COMPLAINTS TO FLOOD SOLUTIONS: DEVELOPING THE FOLEY-BON SECOUR STORMWATER PLAN FOR A GROWING COASTAL COMMUNITY (1 CM)

Nadine Armstrong, PhD, AICP
Jay Estes, AICP || *Legacy Ballroom*

NEW ZONING, SAME REGIONAL LESSONS - PINE LEVEL'S STORY (1 CM)

Broxton Sanders || *Oak Room*



3:45 PM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



4:00 PM -
5:00 PM

BREAKING BARRIERS: A DIALOGUE ON RESTRICTIONS LIMITING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION (1 CM)

Catherine Mercier-Baggett, AICP
Lady Kassama, AICP || *Oak Room*

THE PLANNER'S TOOLKIT - FIVE STEPS FOR DESIGNING THRIVING COMMUNITIES (1 CM)

Keith Cooke || *Legacy Room*



5:45 PM -
8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVE. RECEPTION

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706 N. Railroad Avenue
Opelika, AL 36801





**THINK REGIONALLY
ACT LOCALLY**

SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2026**

HAPPY NATIONAL PLANNING MONTH!



7:00 AM

BREAKFAST & NETWORKING

Grand Ballroom



**8:00 AM -
9:00 AM**

**THE POWER OF PLACE: PRESERVING LEGACY
WHILE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE (1 CM)**

Lauren Garrott, AICP
D'Angelos Svenkeson || *Legacy Room*

**AN OVERVIEW OF FLOOD CONTROL
SYSTEMS: HOW THEY ARE USED IN THE
NORTHERN GULF REGION AND THEIR
FUTURE GOING FORWARD (1 CM)**

Stephen Deal || *Oak Room*



**8:00 AM -
10:15 AM**

**ALABAMA & MISSISSIPPI STUDENT
PRESENTATION SLATE**

Alabama A&M | Auburn | Jackson State
Prefunction Foyer



**9:15 AM -
10:15 AM**

EMPATHY IN AN AI WORLD: KEEPING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT HUMAN WHILE EMBRACING INNOVATION (1 CM)

Kaitlin Davidson; Gerry Boquin, GISP;
Chris Conway || *Legacy Ballroom*

CONNECTING PLANNING EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: THE ALABAMA CITY YEAR MODEL (1 CM)

Dr. Binita Mahato, AICP || *Oak Room*



10:15 AM

BREAK/RESET

15-Minute Refresh || *Prefunction Foyer*



**10:30 AM -
11:30 AM**

CLOSING KEYNOTE | 21ST CENTURY ROAD TO HOUSING ACTIVATED (1 CM)

Jason Jordan; Staron Faucher, AICP;
David Robison, AICP || *Auditorium*



**11:30 AM -
12:30 PM**

CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETINGS

Alabama Chapter || *Legacy Ballroom*
Mississippi Chapter || *Oak Room*



12:45 AM

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS!

Departures

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



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