Christy Wiseman’s notes from the APA Legislative Committee conference call on March 27:

- there could be layoffs for planners (both public with budgets tightening and private with projects drying up)
- budget passing may be an issue for 1/2 time water bill FTE
- outstanding policy bills may all die depending on how the court interprets the 120- consecutive day law for the legislative session (over 400 bills currently outstanding)- if so that work would be lost
- APA needs to work with CCI and CML on how to help local governments
- I clarified that state departments are not "shut down" as someone said on the call; most departments are functional but working remotely for the time being
- discussion of HB 1351 about affordable housing codes/inclusionary zoning regs not interfering with state ban on rent control, have to give developers choice - APA could move to support (CML put forward), APA currently monitoring but not officially supporting
  - will discuss that bill and Bill 190 (Chris Hansen's bill) at next meeting
  - keep an eye on HB 1318 - standards for recording plats and bill 1151 about transportation
- how planners are working around working from home - issues? development review can be hard to do remotely, face time important, construction inspection via pictures for now
  - planners have a lot of face time in the community
  - a lot of attitudes and org structures will change after this
  - some community members are embracing planning for the future right now; opportunity to make more people aware of the importance of planning
  - equity a concern though: language, low-income, internet access, older adults - can we reach them through online engagement?
- this will start a conversation about municipal finance at the state level
  - showing the importance of what planners do will be critically important - we work with communities to plan for the future
  - reliance on sales tax is a major barrier to effective regional planning and regional cooperation
- partnership with public health sector: could be an opportunity to create more healthy communities as that’s a huge focus right now
  - Adams County convening task force on how to spend CDBG dollars on COVID-19 response
  - highlighting access to green space - equity issue for people who don’t have easy access to places to recreate
  - housing is related to public health outcomes; could lead to more support for affordable housing and adequate shelter
  - could be an opportunity to engage with students and youth on planning
- this crisis may fuel NIMBYism and arguments against density
• MF housing has been designed with integrated community amenities/spaces; could be an issue - who’s responsible for cleaning it? shared kitchens and gyms?
• coworking spaces not likely to recover well from this; industry could die
  • Single family detached rental market may become more attractive
• computer access issues: how many people rely on public spaces (e.g., libraries) for internet access? also an issue for school children
  • municipal broadband may see more support
• planners are used to dealing with wicked problems
• next call April 10