



**COME
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MAY**

**Planning in an Age of Disaster
16th Annual Regional Assembly
Regional Plan Association ◊ May 5th**

8:00 am to 2:30 pm

The Waldorf-Astoria 301 Park Avenue, New York City

Keynote Address

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer
Attorney General, New York State

Luncheon Address

Robert R. Kiley
*Transportation Consultant, Former Commissioner and
Chair, Transport for London*

Chairman, Regional Assembly

Peter W. Herman
Partner, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Regional <sup>NJ
NY</sup>Plan Association



Introduction

Nearly five years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region has proven its resilience with a robust economic recovery and a booming housing market. Underneath this vein of optimism, however, is a fear that events beyond our control—both natural and man-made—could derail this progress at any moment.

Even before 9/11, scientists and environmentalists were warning of far-reaching impacts of climate change and security planners were becoming alarmed by increasing global instability. Recent events, such as the August 2003 blackout and the Katrina disaster, have reinforced the need to be prepared and ready with contingency plans for the risks we face today and will increasingly face in the future.

But what does “being prepared” mean? With multiple risks and an infinite number of potential scenarios, it is an enormous challenge to develop strategies and allocate resources on a rational basis. Too often, we focus solely on the latest incident until we are faced with a new disaster. In the military, strategists talk about the danger of generals “fighting the last war.” Before we can determine what measures are needed, we need to know the relative risks of different disasters that threaten our residents and economy. We also need to weigh the tradeoffs between security and the free flow of people, ideas and goods that are at the heart of our global advantage.

RPA’s 2006 Regional Assembly will lay the foundation for a strategic assessment of these issues and their potential solutions. This focus on the risks that confront us will help establish the necessary steps to insure resiliency in our economy, redundancy of our infrastructure, and equity for our communities.

This discussion is critical as we prepare to face this new environment by building a strong constituency of knowledgeable professionals and citizens. The Assembly will serve as a public forum where national and regional leaders will discuss the implications of a reinvigorated agenda for disaster and security preparedness. Its goal is to facilitate a dialogue and connect the sometimes disparate interests that impede comprehensive solutions.

Sound disaster planning will only be attainable if the right steps are taken at the right scale. Coordinating infrastructure redundancy, economic resiliency and social justice will allow us to secure our homes and workplaces and insure our readiness to overcome the foreseeable risks.

8:00 am → Registration and Breakfast

8:45 am → Welcome

Robert D. Yaro

President, Regional Plan Association

9:00 am → Keynote Address

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer

Attorney General, New York State

9:30 am → Plenary Panel

Moderator: Barbara Faga, FASLA

Chair of the Board, EDAW

Panelists:

Anthony R. Coscia

Chairman, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi

Nassau County Executive

Gregory Thomas

Director, Program for School Preparedness and Planning, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University

The Honorable Anthony D. Weiner

U.S. House of Representatives (D-NY)

11:00 am → Workshop Sessions

Event Schedule

12:30 pm → Luncheon Address

Robert R. Kiley

Transportation Consultant, Former Commissioner and Chair, Transport for London

Workshops

Design for Disaster

How can we design our cities in ways that will make them more resilient to disaster? In a mature metropolitan region, what changes can we actually make to the urban pattern we have inherited? This panel will explore the relationship between urban design and disaster preparedness at several scales and from several perspectives. At the scale of the city, the Katrina experience in New Orleans has raised questions as to whether development should be directed away from entire segments of the city which are too difficult to protect

from future events. At the scale of the district, the need to deliver services or to evacuate at-risk populations begs questions of the relationship between land use and transportation infrastructure: to what extent is “transit-oriented development” also “disaster-oriented development”? At the scale of individual locations, the design details of buildings and streets not only affect the quality of our experience as city dwellers, but the ability to defend against terrorist attacks.

Moderator:

Robert Lane

Director of Regional Design Programs, Regional Plan Association

Panelists:

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, ASCADP

Co-Chair AIA/NYNV Disaster Preparedness Task Force

Raymond Gastil

Director, Manhattan Office, Department of City Planning, New York City

Guy Nordenson

Principal, Guy Nordenson and Associates Structural Engineers LLP

Angela O'Byrne, AIA

Past President, AIA New Orleans

Coastal Hazards: The Next Perfect Storm

Hurricanes, nor'easters, and their associated floodwaters are a fact of life in the tri-state region. The severity of these storms is commonly measured by the frequency of their arrivals: once a year, once every ten years or once every hundred years. But arrive they will, and with mounting economic costs. Regional storms and flooding have caused over \$1.5 billion in property and crop damage within the last ten years. The New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region is vulnerable to such coastal hazards in part because public policies, such as zoning and hazard insurance, have subsidized

large populations which live within or near coastal areas. This panel will explore the environmental risks, economic costs, and increasing social vulnerability within our coastal areas. Critical to the discussion will be whether the current coastal management regime – a patchwork of federal, state and local government agencies – can contend with the increased vulnerabilities associated with climate change. Can those agencies, along with their private sector partners, move towards sustainable approaches that rely on a balance of hard and soft solutions?

Moderator:

Dr. William Solecki

Professor and Chairperson, Department of Geography, Hunter College, City University of New York

Panelists:

Dr. Malcolm Bowman

Professor of Physical Oceanography, State University of New York at Stony Brook and Distinguished Service Professor, Marine Sciences Research Center

Angela Licata

Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Planning and Assessment, New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Dr. Ken Mitchell

Professor of Geography, Rutgers University

Timothy D. Searchinger

Senior Attorney, Environmental Defense

Protecting the Most Vulnerable

As Hurricane Katrina made painfully clear, the poor, the sick and the elderly are most likely to fare the worst in natural or man-made disasters. Disasters can also exacerbate existing fissures along racial, economic and geographic lines. They open a window into the lives of residents across these spectrums, and expose how settlement patterns and service delivery systems may compound regional inequities. From risk vulnerability to disaster relief to recovery and rebuilding, questions of how resources are allocated and who makes

these decisions are at the heart of insuring that our neediest get the services they require. The region has its own unique challenges, including its population density, its reliance on an extensive public transit network, its network of islands, rivers and estuaries, and its status as a world city. This workshop will explore who is most vulnerable in the tri-state region, and how we make sure that security, contingency plans and mitigation measures adequately protect these citizens.

Moderator:

Carl Anthony

Deputy Director, Community Resource and Development Unit, Ford Foundation

Panelists:

Jonathan Barnett

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, Consultant, Bring New Orleans Back Commission

The Honorable Richard L. Brodsky

New York State Assembly (D – Westchester)

Christopher Kui

Executive Director, Asian Americans for Equality

Gregory Thomas

Director, Program for School Preparedness and Planning, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University

The Fear Factor: How Disaster Affects Our Lives and Ambitions

As philosophers from Albert Camus to Bruce Springsteen have observed, fear is a powerful thing. It forms in each of us as a reaction to perceived and real threats. And it can be debilitating, reducing our ability to respond logically and effectively to threatening situations. In the face of horrific events, people often respond with bravery and even heroism, bringing out the best in humanity. And yet the aftermath of violent assaults of man or nature can generate our worst fears of harm to ourselves and our families. The emotion is felt by each of us, separately, but then manifests in collective action that may range from poorly-considered public policy to mass hysteria.

Moderator:

Thomas G. Dallessio AICP/PP

Vice President and NJ Director, Regional Plan Association

Panelists:

Kathryn Bedard

Author, Compassion and Courage in the Aftermath of Traumatic Loss: Stones in My Heart Forever

David Knowlton

President and CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Anton Nelessen

Principal, ANA Associates

Eldar Shafir

Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Department of Psychology, Princeton University

This panel will investigate the meaning of fear in disaster and security planning. To what degree is it a legitimate concern, as opposed to a distortion? Are there techniques that we should be using to mitigate fear in the public realm? Experts in urban design, psychology and mental and public health, will talk about the manifestations of fear in the public realm, how it affects individual and collective decision-making processes, and what we can do about it. Are we securing the future for our children and grandchildren based on our best understanding the challenges we face today, or are we building a world based on our own insecurities?



Preventing a Northeast Energy Disaster

Certain systems that are critical to supporting the tri-state region's most basic functions and activities are subject to factors beyond the region's control. The northeast energy supply is a case in point. The crippling blackout of August 2003 was caused by various factors in Ohio and the Great Lakes. The spike in gasoline prices last fall was initiated by Hurricane Katrina, over 1,000 miles to the south. These events demonstrate the possible implications of disasters that affect both the supply and the transmission of energy to the Northeast. This panel will consider the challenge of electricity demand,

reliability and sustainability as a jumping off point for examining how disaster and response planning can (and sometimes must) take place at the level of the mega-region. We will examine lessons learned from the 2003 blackout, and recent steps taken to increase reliability and coordination. The panel will also examine the generation choices that are being made now in the Northeast and explore conservation options that should be part of a comprehensive energy plan.

Moderator:

Petra Todorovich

Senior Planner, Regional Plan Association

Panelists:

Terry Agriss

Vice President of Energy Management, ConEdison

Ashok Gupta

Senior Energy Economist, Natural Resources Defense Council

Gil Quiniones

Senior Vice President of Energy and Telecommunications, New York City Economic Development Corporation

Richard Sergej

President and CEO, North American Electric Reliability Council

Keeping the Region Moving Safely

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and especially after the attacks on transit systems in Madrid in March 2004 and in London in July 2005, transportation agencies in the tri-state region have been preparing for the possibility of similar events here. Their actions are especially important because any long-term interruption of service can have disastrous economic impacts and can shake the confidence of citizens in the ability of our public institutions to protect them. Meanwhile, they must carry out their charge while inviting travel-

ers to continue to use the transportation systems. What steps are the agencies taking to ensure that our complex transportation network is made and kept secure with an emphasis on deterrence and detection, response and redundancy?

Moderator:

Robert E. Paaswell

Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering and Director, University Transportation Research Center

Panelists:

Joseph Bober

Chief of Police, New Jersey Transit

John Paczkowski

Director, Office of Emergency Management, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Lewis Schiliro

Director of Inter-agency Preparedness, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Jeffrey Zupan

Senior Fellow, Transportation, Regional Plan Association

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Regional Plan Association (RPA) is an independent, not-for-profit regional planning organization that improves the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the 31-county New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region through research, planning, and advocacy. For more than 80 years, RPA has been shaping transportation systems, protecting open spaces, and promoting better community design for the region's continued growth. We anticipate the challenges the region will face in the years to come, and we mobilize the region's civic, business, and government sectors to take action.

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If you were a registered attendee at the RPA 2005 Regional Assembly you are a member and may **deduct \$20** from your registration total. This discount must be taken at the time of registration and applies to individuals only.

Fees

		Member Discount
Early Registration before April 21	\$125	\$105
Late Registration April 21 through the day of the event	\$150	\$130

Please use **one (1)** form per attendee. Photocopy this form to register additional attendees. Additional, printable copies of this form are available at <http://www.rpa.org>.

Your registration includes a one year membership in RPA at the Member (\$50) level.

Breakfast and luncheon are included in the registration fee. Conference materials will be distributed to all attendees.

Friday, May 5, 2006

8:00 am to 2:30 pm

The Waldorf-Astoria

301 Park Avenue
New York City

The Waldorf-Astoria is accessible for the physically disabled.

If you have any further questions or wish to register by phone, please contact Amanda Jones at 212 253-2727, x317, or email amanda@rpa.org.

Refund upon Cancellation

To receive a refund, your cancellation must be sent by written notice or email and received prior to April 21, 2006. Absolutely no refunds will be made to cancellations requested after that date.

Substitutions are welcome.

Confirmation

Confirmations will be emailed, or mailed if no email address is available.

Registration Form

Also available online at <http://www.rpa.org>
Fax this form with your credit card
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Please Choose
One Workshop



- Design for Disaster**
- Coastal Hazards: The Next Perfect Storm**
- Protecting the Most Vulnerable**
- The Fear Factor: How Disaster Preparedness Affects Our Lives and Ambitions**
- Preventing a Northeast Energy Disaster**
- Keeping the Region Moving Safely**

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