

What's Happening

for Community Leaders

September/October 2015

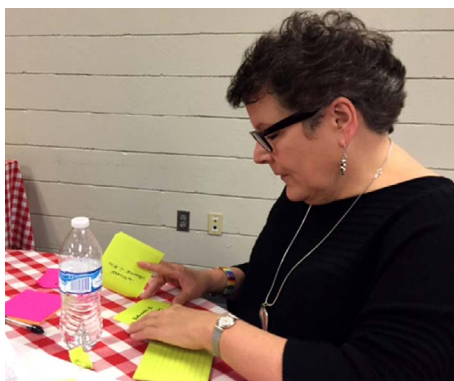
Heartland 2050 World Café focuses on providing opportunities for all

Imagine a training room transformed into a quaint sidewalk café, complete with checkered tablecloths and a gourmet coffee cart. That was the scene greeting Heartland 2050 Executive Committee members at their November meeting. The stage was set for a World Café on the Heartland 2050 Equitable Growth Profile of the Omaha-Council Bluffs region.

The "World Café" is a structured conversational process intended to facilitate open and intimate discussion, and link ideas within a larger group to access the "collective intelligence" or collective wisdom in the room. Participants move between a series of tables where they continue the discussion in response to a set of questions, which are predetermined and focused on specific goals.

Using the World Café format three rounds of questions focused on the following critical issues supported by data from the profile:

1. Shifting demographics within the region indicate increases in population will be fueled by people of color.
2. Within the region a wide disparity by race exists in poverty levels, educational opportunities and attainment, and earning power.
3. Lost economic opportunity due to racial disparity could impact the region's economic viability seriously.



Julie Reilly, Executive Director of Omaha by Design, participates in the World Café at the November meeting.

Committee members also suggested future strategies. They include a central idea incorporating a more robust transportation network that provides better access to educational and job opportunities for racially concentrated areas of poverty. The 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan is incorporating feedback from the Executive Committee in its planning processes. This conversation will be continued into 2016 as the Implementation

Committees develop strategies and action steps.

Other topics the Heartland 2050 Executive Committee is addressing include:

- Project role for philanthropic community
- Business community involvement
- Opportunity for cultural and racial awareness
- Opportunity to update human resources practices
- Opportunity to build capacity of adult education
- Youth education and guidance

Equity, Inclusivity, Efficiency and Local Control Regional Benefit are the guiding principles of Heartland 2050. To bring a presentation to your organization on the Equitable Growth Regional Profile contact Jeff Spiehs, Community Engagement Coordinator, via email: jspiehs@mapacog.org or by phone: 402-444-6866, ext. 214.

The Heartland 2050 Equity and Engagement Committee partnered with PolicyLink and the University of Southern California Program for Environmental and Regional Equity to produce this profile. Access the entire profile at: <http://heartland2050.org/equityprofile/>

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Heartland 2050 Winter Summit. The summit is set for 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. February 24, 2016 at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 2825 Y Street, Omaha.

Heartland 2050

February 24

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Salvation Army Kroc Center

THE FIRST 5

2015-2020

Executive Director named as a Midlands Business Journal 2015 “40 Under 40” award recipient

MAPA is proud to announce Executive Director Greg Youell is one of the Midlands Business Journal’s 2015 40 Under 40 Winners.

Through its 40 Under 40 Awards program the Midlands Business Journal recognizes 40 entrepreneurs, executives and professional men and women from Greater Omaha, Sarpy County and Council Bluffs.

Tiffany Brazda, Assistant News Editor of the Midlands Business Journal, said the 40 Under 40 Award is meant to honor young business leaders in the Greater Omaha community. Brazda said the Midlands Business Journal’s criteria used for picking award recipients includes “those who have excelled in their careers through successful projects, those who have climbed up the ranks quickly or entrepreneurs who have built businesses from the ground up, into flourishing endeavors.”

This recognition for Greg comes as no surprise to MAPA Board of Directors Chair Ron Kohn.

“In the brief time that Greg has been Executive Director at

MAPA, he has shown outstanding leadership,” Kohn said. “He has familiarized himself and his staff with other regional projects and seeks out community leaders in the MAPA region actively, offering MAPA’s professional services for the benefit of small and large communities. Greg has a deeply held belief in the future of the MAPA region and how the MAPA agency can support the growth of all communities.”



Midlands Business Journal began its annual 40 Under 40 Awards 14 years ago. Brazda said each year the MJB receives approximately 150 nominations for the awards. Recipients are chosen by the publication’s senior staff members.

Greg and the other 2015 award recipients were recognized at a breakfast awards ceremony at the Embassy Suites-LaVista on December 11.

Work begins on 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process with public outreach

What are the transportation needs of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area for the next 35 years? MAPA is conducting initial outreach efforts to the community with the goal of answering that very question with the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The 2050 LRTP takes a comprehensive approach to addressing transportation in the area. It incorporates elements from the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision as well as the studies MAPA has completed during the past five years. The plans, projections, and proposed solutions aim to increase the quality of life for area residents.

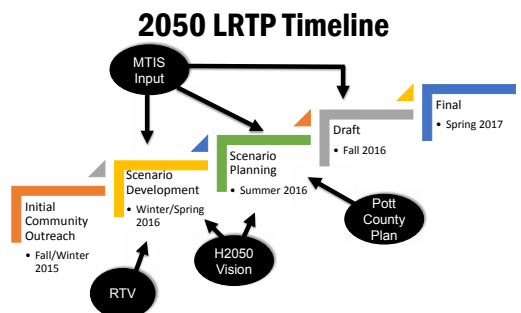
The diagram to the right helps illustrate MAPA’s planning process and opportunities for public involvement.

This fall staff members are conducting preliminary community outreach. MAPA is asking the public to participate in a survey about long range transportation needs. The survey is available in

both English and Spanish at <http://mapacog.org/calendar/news/take-our-transportation-survey/>. It will be available through mid-January 2016.

In Spring 2016 MAPA will begin developing the elements of the 2050 LRTP based on the public feedback received through the survey along with data from the Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) underway now and the Regional Transit Vision (RTV) developed with Metro Transit in 2014.

This part of the planning process is expected to continue through Summer 2016 with a draft of the 2050 LRTP being released in the Fall of 2016.



Passage of five year funding bill highlights efforts to boost transportation systems in the region

Federal and State efforts to boost transportation in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area and the funding for it are moving forward. On December 4, President Obama signed the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act into law.

The five-year transportation bill is the first long-term transportation funding bill passed by Congress in 10 years. Prior to passage of FAST, Congress had passed 36 short-term extensions for transportation funding, according to statistics released by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. Preliminary figures on how much funding will be allocated to metropolitan areas are encouraging and include yearly increases. The bill includes millions of dollars for bike and pedestrian projects as well.

On the state level, Nebraska Department of Roads Director Kyle Schneeweis launched an Innovation Task Force for Transportation this fall which will focus on ways that the public and private sectors can work together, provide opportunities to use new technologies and discuss how transportation investments can help Nebraska economically.

Another tool in the works is a comprehensive study of Nebraska’s state and local roads system by the Legislature’s Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. This study will focus on determining the needs of the state highway system and county and municipal roads, bridge conditions and the current restrictions on and sustainability of funding dedicated to those areas.

Grant funding opportunities available in early 2016

Be sure to take advantage of all opportunities to apply for funding for your community. On the charts to the right you will find grant opportunities for the States of Nebraska and Iowa with application deadlines in the first quarter of 2016.

Each funding opportunity may have different submission dates and criteria for evaluation. Therefore, it is important to evaluate which opportunity would benefit your community and take the proper steps to make sure your community submits a quality application.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency has experienced grant writers who understand the intricacies of grant applications and provide grant writing services free of charge to our member communities.

If you have any questions or your city has

Iowa Grants	Application Deadline
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	January 2, 2016
CDBG - Water/Sewer	January 8, 2016
CDBG - Housing	January 15, 2016
Peter Kiewit Foundation	January 15, 2016
Vision Iowa (CAT)	January 15, 2016
CDBG - Community Facilities & Services	January 22, 2016
CDBG - Downtown Revitalization	February 5, 2016
Iowa West Foundation	February 15, 2016
Keep Iowa Beautiful - Paint Iowa	February 19, 2016
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy	February 1, 2016
DNR Derelict Building Program	February 26, 2016
Land and Water Conservation Fund	March 2016
Keep Iowa Beautiful - Build with Bags	March 30, 2016

Nebraska Grants	Application Deadline
Transportation Alternatives Program	January 2016
Peter Kiewit Foundation	January 15, 2016
Deconstruction Grants Program	February 15, 2016
Source Water Protection Grants Program	March 2016

a project that would benefit from extra funding assistance, please contact our Community and Economic Development Manager, Lynn Dittmer at (402) 444-6866 ext. 230 for more information.

Iowa DOT completes its RPA-18 planning review

On November 2, the Iowa Department of Transportation conducted its Planning Review of Regional Planning Affiliation 18 (RPA-18). This type of review takes place every six years and is an opportunity for Iowa DOT to track progress on the transportation planning process taking place within each RPA region.

The Iowa Department of Transportation has designated 18 Regional Planning Affiliations (RPAs) that coordinate regional transportation planning outside the metropolitan areas. MAPA serves as the administrator for RPA-18 and provides professional and planning services for communities within Harrison, Mills, Shelby, and the non-urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County in Southwest Iowa.

MAPA received a favorable review. Major topics of planning review included the development of the next Long Range Transportation Plan, RPA-18's public participation process, and civil rights requirements for all RPAs.

In its final report of the meeting, the Iowa DOT commended MAPA and RPA-18 for

embracing innovative public participation strategies as part of the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision.

Additionally, Iowa DOT recommended that RPA-18 update its Public Participation Plan to match the detailed strategies and outreach activities identified for the MAPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Iowa DOT also encouraged RPA-18 to continue developing its new project selection process for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, an annual listing of significant transportation projects in the region.

MAPA will discuss the final report and Iowa DOT recommendations with the Policy and Technical Committees of RPA-18 during the next several months.

These committees are comprised of representatives from each county (Harrison, Mills, Pottawattamie and Shelby), each city with a population greater than 5,000 (currently the cities of Harlan and Glenwood) and other key transportation stakeholders from the area.

CALENDAR

January 2016

- Jan. 1st – MAPA Offices Closed
New Year's Day
- Jan. 8th – RPA/Tech Committee
11 a.m.
- Jan. 13th – Heartland 2050 Executive Committee
8:00 a.m.
- Council of Officials
Lo Sole Mio
11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 18th – MAPA Offices Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
- Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 22nd – Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- Jan. 28th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

February 2016

- Feb. 7th – National Conference of Regions (NARC)
Feb. 9th Washington D.C.
- Feb. 15th – MAPA Offices Closed
Presidents' Day
- Feb. 17th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
- Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 19th – Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- Feb. 20th – NaCo Legislative Conference
Feb. 24th Washington D.C.
- Feb. 24th – Heartland 2050 Winter Summit
Kroc Center
Omaha
- Feb. 25th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.



Back row: Grant Anderson, Karna Loewenstein, Jeff Spiehs, Josh Corrigan, Michael Helgersen, Gary Young, Matt Roth
 Middle row: Annie Pigaga, Michael Felschow, Greg Youell, Melissa Engel, Natasha Barrett
 Front row: Lynn Dittmer, Sue Cutsforth, Amanda Morales, Megan Walker, Patti McCoy, Christina Brownell

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
 2222 Cuming St., Omaha, NE 68102-4328
 P: 402.444.6866 F: 402.951.6517
 Email: mapa@mapacog.org

MAPA is an EOE/DBE employer