

What's Happening

for Community Leaders

January/February 2016

MAPA set to release new Traffic Reports for metro area in February

The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) prepares to release its bi-annual traffic reports for the metropolitan area.

Every two years, MAPA releases three reports: the Traffic Growth Report, the Top Intersections Report, and the Top Interchanges Report. The final reports and the Traffic Flow Map will be available in late February 2016.

MAPA completes these reports by compiling traffic count data from local governments, the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Iowa Department of Transportation. The Top Intersections and Top Interchanges reports total the counts at locations throughout the metro to identify and rank the intersections moving the highest traffic volumes.

The Traffic Growth Report aims to provide a snapshot of the geographic distribution of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in the region. Additionally, this report compares the current figures to previous versions of the report to identify trends within each area of the region.

The Traffic Growth Report estimates that total traffic growth was 1.8 percent from 2012 to 2014. Both Douglas and Sarpy County showed more than two percent growth during this period while Pottawattamie County experienced slightly more than one percent growth since 2012.

The Top Intersections Report shows the top intersection in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area is once again 90th and Dodge Streets in Omaha with an estimated 89,500 vehicles per day. The intersections at 72nd and Dodge Streets and 120th and L Streets in Omaha were the

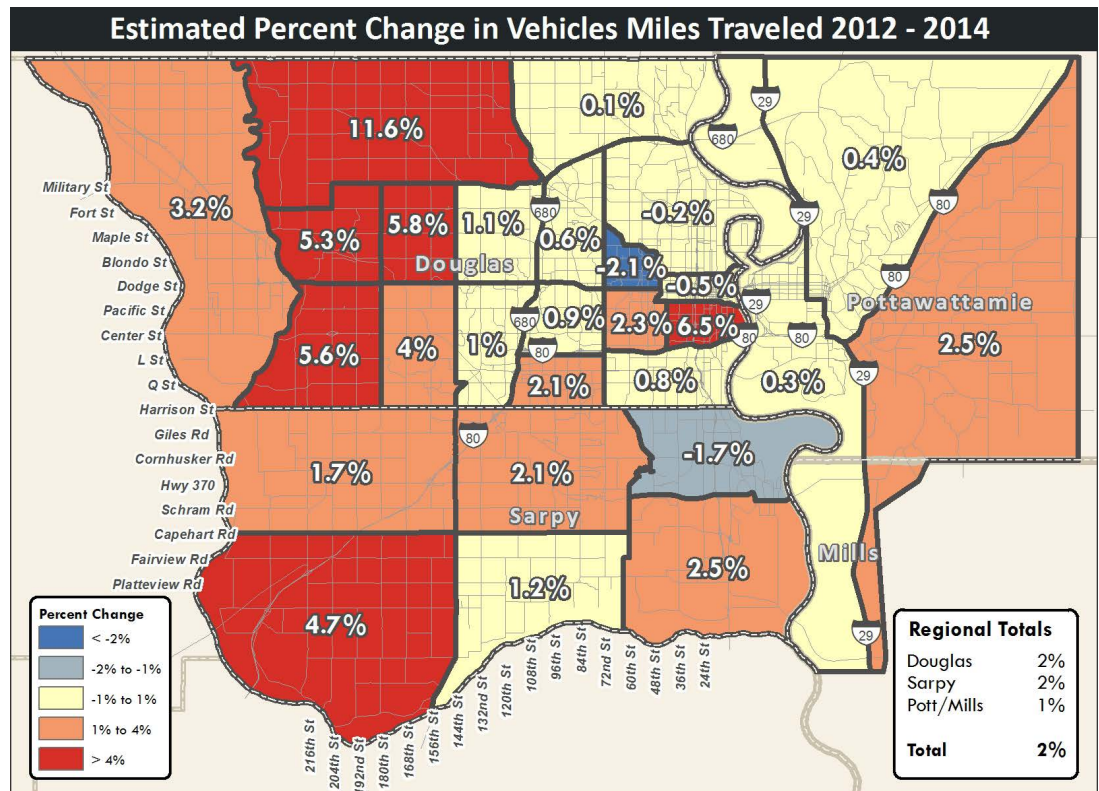
second and third highest intersections in the region as well.

The intersection at 36th Street and Highway 370 was the top intersection in Sarpy County and the intersection at the South Expressway and the Interstate 80 and Interstate 29 ramps was the top intersection in Pottawattamie County.

The Top Interchanges report once again shows that the Interstate 80 and Interstate 680 interchange has the highest traffic volume of any interchange in the MAPA region. The interchange with the second highest traffic volume is at I-680 and West Dodge Road followed by I-80 and 60th Street as third highest.

Once it's available, the Traffic Reports and Traffic Flow Map will be published under the Traffic Reports section of the MAPA website here: <http://mapacog.org/projects/traffic-reports/>.

For paper copies of Traffic Reports and the Traffic Flow Map, please contact MAPA offices at mapa@mapacog.org or call 402-444-6866.



Heartland 2050 Winter Summit to feature redevelopment and revitalization success stories

Join us for the Heartland 2050 Winter Summit and hear inspiring messages about successful projects in redevelopment and community revitalization from speakers with national recognition.

Dan Lofgren, Chair of Envision Utah and CEO of Cowboy Properties in Salt Lake City, and Margaret May of Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council in Kansas City will spotlight innovative and successful projects. Dan's unique perspective as a pioneer on redevelopment projects, affordable housing and mixed use development offers the region new possibilities.



Margaret leads community revitalization efforts in neighborhoods resulting in economic impact.

The summit will feature breakout sessions with local presenters to provide focus on urban, suburban and rural projects within the region.

Implementation Committees will showcase their progress as we continue to clarify the Heartland 2050 Vision.

The Heartland 2050 Winter Summit runs from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. February 24th at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 2825 Y Street, Omaha for this free conference.

Register by February 16, 2016 at <http://heartland2050.org/wintersummit/>

New website launches with new capabilities to better serve MAPA members and communities

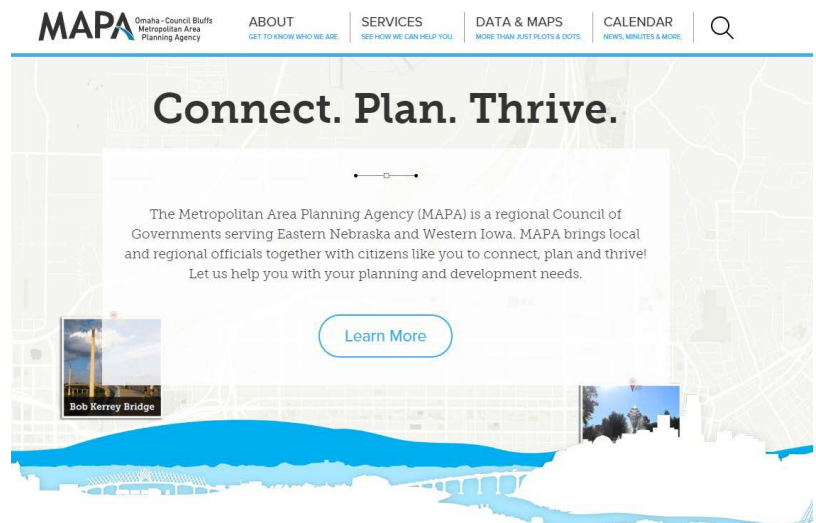
Perhaps you've noticed already, but MAPA's website, mapacog.org, has a new look and new capabilities.

With our new site, we're able to provide our members, communities and the public with better service through improved functionality.

Some of the mapacog.org enhancements include:

- Better search capabilities allowing users to find data and documents more easily based on keyword and acronyms
 - Ability to sort data, maps and events based on geography, publish date category or file type
 - Ability for users to view and download geographic data.

There is also a "Get Involved" page where users can complete a form to learn more about one of MAPA's projects, submit public comments on one of MAPA's plans or projects, schedule a speaker or receive assistance on a different topic involving the agency.



MAPA makes recommendations to NDOR for next round of Build Nebraska Act priority projects

How best to invest \$600 million in Nebraska highway improvement projects under the next cycle of the Build Nebraska Act (LB 84) is being determined by the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) after a series of regional public meetings in January. The next cycle will cover the second ten years, which begins in 2024.

The meetings focused on capital improvements such as projects which add new lanes or build new expressways or viaducts.

NDOR is updating and expanding its process for prioritizing projects to better consider economic impacts and include more input from stakeholders.

NDOR is scoring the projects being considered for the next cycle. Additional meetings will take place this spring to discuss specific projects. NDOR will announce the next round of Build Nebraska Act projects during the summer of 2016.

MAPA worked with local communities to submit a list of priority projects that are being studied as part of the Metro Area Travel Improvement Study that is being conducted with NDOR.

Build Nebraska Act Priority Projects

- Widen Highway 370 from I-80 to the Kennedy Freeway
- Reconstruct an interchange at US-6 (West Dodge Road) and 192nd Street
- Widen 72nd Street from I-80 to Hwy 370
- Widen Hwy 64 (Maple Road) from I-680 to 204th Street
- Widen US-275/Hwy 92 (West Center Road/Industrial Road) from 132nd Street to US-6
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) construction on 24th Street for 2nd phase of project
- Construct an expressway on Platteview Road from US-75 to 84th St.
- Construct an interchange on I-80 at 180th Street

Grant funding opportunities available in 2nd quarter of 2016

Just a reminder to our communities to watch for upcoming deadlines on grant opportunities. The charts on the right show the grant opportunities for both the States of Iowa and Nebraska with application deadlines in the second quarter of 2016.

Experienced grant writers on MAPA's staff are able to navigate the detailed procedures of grant applications. For our member communities, grant writing services are free of charge.

For any questions regarding projects which may benefit from extra funding assistance, please contact

Iowa Grants	Application Deadline
Peter Kiewit Foundation	April 15, 2016
Vision Iowa (CAT)	April 15, 2016
REAP - Historical Resources	May 15, 2016
REAP - Conservation Education	May 16, 2016
REAP - Roadside Vegetation	June 1, 2016
Iowa West Foundation	June 15, 2016

Nebraska Grants	Application Deadline
Peter Kiewit Foundation	April 15, 2016
CDBG - Planning	April 2016
CDBG - Downtown Revitalization	May 2016
CDBG - Tourism Development	May 2016
CDBG - Water/Wastewater	May 2016
CDBG - Housing Program	Spring 2016

Community and Economic Development Manager Lynn Dittmer at 402-444-6866, ext. 230 for more information.

Plans for Omaha's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) progress

Planning is on track for Nebraska's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Dodge Street will be home to BRT starting the fall of 2018. BRT is a high-performance limited-stop transit service offering a fast, streamlined customer experience by deploying a variety of time-saving features.

Metro Transit is designing the project to look, feel and operate like a rail line using specialized transit buses with a unique brand and identity. The BRT will run every 10 minutes between Westroads Mall and downtown. It will serve as the spine of the transit system in Omaha and connect with nearly every Metro route. This corridor links major employment, residential and educational centers.

The BRT will include approximately 25 upscale rail-like stations with near-level boarding and priority treatment over other vehicles. Station amenities include technology and signage displaying real-time arrival information and improved fare collection systems along with bicycle parking and landscaping. Construction of stations is expected to begin in 2017.

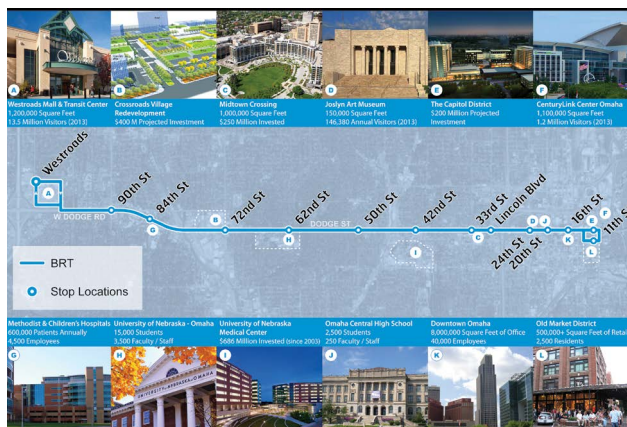
While the primary objective of the BRT is to improve mobility, it will also promote economic and infill development by fostering vibrant and livable

communities with public spaces around stations and expand access to employment and educational opportunities.

In 2014, Metro was awarded a highly competitive \$15 million Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant towards the BRT.

MAPA supported Metro's application for a TIGER grant actively through modeling work and formal correspondence with the Department of Transportation.

Since receiving the TIGER grant, the support of local partners such as MAPA, the City of Omaha, the Nebraska Department of Roads, the Federal Transit Administration, the philanthropic community and a dedicated stakeholder committee has assisted Metro in moving forward with this project.



CALENDAR

March 2016

- March 9th – Heartland 2050 Executive Committee 8 a.m.
- March 10th – Iowa State Spring School of Instruction 8 a.m.
- March 11th – RPA/Tech Committee 11 a.m.
- March 13th – Daylight Saving Time begins Set clocks ahead one hour
- March 16th – Coordinated Transit Committee 10:30 a.m.
- March 23rd – Finance Committee 8:30 a.m.
- March 25th – Transportation Technical Advisory Committee 10 a.m.
- March 31st – MAPA Board of Directors 1:30 p.m.

April 2016

- April 4th – 2016 NADO Washington Policy Conference Arlington, VA
- April 6th – RPA/Tech Committee 11 a.m.
- April 8th – Heartland 2050 Executive Committee 8:00 a.m.
- April 13th – Council of Officials TBD
- April 20th – Finance Committee 8:30 a.m.
- April 22nd – Coordinated Transit Committee 10:30 a.m.
- April 28th – Transportation Technical Advisory Committee 10 a.m.
- April 28th – MAPA Board of Directors 1:30 p.m.



New Assistant Transportation Planner joins MAPA staff

MAPA welcomes a new Assistant Transportation Planner to the agency. Court Barber began working at MAPA in mid-December 2015.

Prior to joining MAPA, Court spent the past three years as an intern for the City of LaVista's Community Development Department.

In addition to Nebraska, he has lived in several other states including Missouri, California and New Jersey.

Court earned a Bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Urban Studies from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

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MAPA is an EOE/DBE employer