

What's Happening

for Community Leaders

May/June 2016

MAPA adds new housing program to list of available services for region

Add a new housing program to the list of the services MAPA offers. MAPA will now include owner-occupied rehabilitation among its programs and a new staff member is on board to implement it.

The program will focus more on rural and smaller communities but is available to assist more urban and suburban areas as well.

While housing programs are common areas of focus for economic development districts in Nebraska and Iowa, this is MAPA's first foray into housing. Addressing issues related to quality housing is a need that local communities have shared with MAPA staff.

Owner-occupied rehabilitation will include replacing key components of structures such as roofs, windows and heating and cooling systems, said Lynn Dittmer, Community and Economic Development Manager.



New MAPA housing program will focus on rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes in the five counties that MAPA represents.

Benefits of an owner-occupied rehabilitation work include: reduced monthly utility costs, improved energy performance, minimized ongoing maintenance for homeowners and preservation of housing units.

Preliminary plans are to secure funding from all available sources within the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to help repair eight houses per year, an anticipated expense of approximately \$200,000.



Chuck Karpf will manage MAPA's new housing program as the agency's Housing Coordinator. Karpf began working in development in the 1990s.

While the program will begin by assisting Nebraska homeowners, services will be available in the two Iowa counties MAPA represents: Pottawattamie and Mills.

Chuck Karpf will manage the housing program as MAPA's new Housing Coordinator. Karpf is the past Executive Director of both the Panhandle Area Development District in Scottsbluff and Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development Inc. He began working in rural development in the 1990s and also has 23 years of experience in the Nebraska banking industry.

"The nice thing about starting from scratch is the sky's the limit," said Karpf.

In the Panhandle, Karpf spearheaded a program that used local high school students to rehab and resell properties. This improved neighborhoods, property values, and developed future workforce.

Karpf will network with communities to assess their needs and assess the funding available. He will also be responsible for establishing the parameters of MAPA's owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program.

For more information about MAPA's housing program, contact Chuck Karpf, Housing Coordinator, at 402-444-6866, ext. 231 or ckarpf@mapacog.org.

Heartland 2050 Summer Summit Set for August 2nd at Creighton University's Harper Center

Mark your calendars for the Heartland 2050 Summer Summit which is set for Tuesday, August 2 at Creighton University's Harper Center from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker Jeff Speck is a world-renowned author of "Walkable City." He has shared his message through a TED Talk by the same name as well.



Mr. Speck provides an engaging conversation about ways cities can become more vibrant and improve the quality of life for their residents by making areas more accessible to pedestrians. He will highlight best practices on potential next steps Omaha and surrounding suburban and rural communities can take to grow as a vibrant region.

The summit will also include breakout sessions highlighting regional projects.

RSVP by Friday, July 22nd at tinyurl.com/summersummit2016. For more information regarding the Summit or Heartland 2050, contact Karna Loewenstein, Heartland 2050 Coordinator.

Event Reminder Heartland 2050 Summer Summit

Harper Center
Creighton University

Tuesday, August 2nd
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP at
tinyurl.com/summersummit2016

Heartland
2050

Omaha gets initial look at style of bus for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route at open houses

The public receives its first look at the potential style of bus which may be used on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route. To help people visualize the appearance of a BRT bus, Metro Transit brought a 60-foot articulated bus to Omaha for two open houses on June 15. The open houses included project updates and discussion about the configuration of the buses.

Attendees toured the demo bus and were asked to provide feedback on amenities they would like to see inside the buses which will be used as part of the BRT project. Some of the amenities include next stop mapping, stop request buttons and different types of handrails as well as the types of bike storage available.

Metro Transit is accepting feedback on bus and station amenities through Sunday, June 26. View the materials on display at the open houses at ometro.com.



Metro Transit brought in a demo BRT vehicle for its open houses that featured discussions about the configuration of the buses.

Little Steps Big Impact air quality program gets underway for 2016 with new ozone billboard

MAPA's Little Steps Big Impact ozone awareness and education program is underway just as the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan region experiences higher concentrations of ground-level ozone.

Following the guidelines outlined in a memorandum of understanding, MAPA will issue news releases to the media and post messages on social media channels declaring Ozone Action Days when the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts are in the moderate range. The Douglas County Health Department will issue news releases for public health alerts if the AQI forecasts rise higher than the moderate range.

In addition to a media campaign with commercials on radio and TV stations, a digital billboard at 44th and Dodge Streets in Omaha will provide updated information on the ground-level ozone forecast, alerting the public to current air quality conditions.



Grant funding opportunities available in 4th quarter of 2016

Don't forget to monitor upcoming deadlines for grant opportunities.

The charts show grant application deadlines in the fourth quarter of 2016 for both the States of Nebraska and Iowa.

For questions regarding grant opportunities, please contact Lynn Dittmer, Community and Economic Development Manager at 402-444-6866, ext. 230 for more information.

Iowa Grants	Application Deadline
Statewide Transportation	
Alternatives Program	October 1, 2016
Federal Recreational Trails	October 1, 2016
Vision Iowa (CAT)	October 15, 2016
Iowa West Foundation	October 15, 2016
Peter Kiewit Foundation	October 15, 2016
REAP - Conservation Education	November 1, 2016

Nebraska Grants	Application Deadline
Land and Water Conservation Fund	October 1, 2016
Peter Kiewit Foundation	October 15, 2016
Brownfields Assessment	Fall / Winter

Grants available for Nebraska Sesquicentennial celebrations

Nebraska communities are encouraged to apply to the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission for grants to support events celebrating the state's 150 years of statehood in 2017.

Funding will help support communities, organizations and others planning events, programs and projects in recognition and support of the Nebraska 150 Celebration.

Revenue from the sale of Nebraska 150 commemorative license plates funds the

non-competitive grant program.

Grant applications are available at www.ne150.org/grants and will be considered in the order they are received. Funding is limited. Grants, which may range in amounts from \$500 to \$5,000, are restricted to events and activities within the State of Nebraska.

Additional details and requirements of the program are outlined at www.ne150.org/grants.

Efforts to build Western IA regional trail system taking shape

Work accomplished by the Pottawattamie County Trails Association will soon be visible to the public. Phase I of trail construction, from the Council Bluffs city limits to Hwy L-34 along Hwy 191, will start this summer. The multi-use trail will be 10 foot wide concrete.

The Association formed in 2012 to develop a countywide trail system. It is made up of volunteer residents and started with help from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program with the support of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board. Public planning meetings were held in 2012 throughout Pottawattamie County to determine preferred routes and types of trails. The outcomes of this process can be found at pottcountyrails.com. Through this process came the idea to expand the countywide trail to the surrounding areas to create a regional trail system – similar to the Central Iowa Trails system (www.centraliowatrails.com).

The Association drafted the name Frontier Iowa Trails (FIT) and created a logo to be used to tie together a network of partnering trails. Partners could include neighboring county trails as well as neighboring states, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. As states partner together, they will be able to share the logo and include their state's name. For example, in Nebraska, it would be called "Frontier Nebraska Trails." The Association hopes to increase publicity and internet searches by having a uniform logo.

Currently, Frontier Iowa Trails is forming a regional committee to bring together representatives from the area to discuss their interest and vision for the development. The Association expects to reach out to the neighboring states later on this summer.



CALENDAR

July 2016

- July 4th – MAPA Offices Closed
Independence Day
- July 8th – RPA/Tech Committee
11 a.m.
- July 13th – Heartland 2050 Executive Committee
8 a.m.
Council of Officials
Uncle Buck's, Council Bluffs
11:15 a.m.
- July 20th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- July 22nd – NACo Annual Conference and
July 25th Exposition
Long Beach, CA
- July 22nd – Transportation Technical
Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- July 28th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

August 2016

- August 2nd – Heartland 2050
Summer Summit
Creighton Harper Center
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- August 17th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- August 19th – Transportation Technical
Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- August 25th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

Several students provide assistance to MAPA projects during 2016 internships



MADISON WOODRUM
Heartland 2050 Intern

Madi Woodrum received an Associate's Degree in Communication Studies this spring from Iowa Western Community College and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO).



FABIOLA ALIKPOKOU
Community and Economic Development Intern

Fabiola Alikpokou has Bachelors' degrees in International Studies and Political Science from UNO and is pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in Community and Regional Planning.



TRANG HOANG
Little Steps Big Impact Intern

Trang Hoang has a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Creighton University and is pursuing her Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health.



OWEN STUCKEY
Transportation and GIS Intern

Owen Stuckey has a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from UNL and is pursuing his Master's degree in Geography with a concentration in Geographic Information Science and Technology from UNO.

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