

# What's Happening

## for Community Leaders

September/October 2016

### Study considers options to expand transit services in Sarpy County

Three possible proposals for enhanced transit service in Sarpy County are being developed as part of the countywide transit study MAPA is conducting.

Sarpy County, the fastest-growing county in the State of Nebraska, and its municipalities are faced with the needs brought by increasing neighborhood development. This is fueled by a strong economy and the County's close proximity to major employment and entertainment centers. MAPA retained Olsson Associates to help it conduct the study and is working closely with public and private stakeholders from Sarpy County, Bellevue, Papillion, LaVista, Gretna, Springfield and Metro, Omaha's transit provider.

During the spring and summer months, the project team reviewed the existing transit operations in the County and identified the underserved and unserved transit markets. The study aims to identify strategies to improve existing services, target new services and identify a deployment schedule to meet the changing needs of Sarpy County residents.

The team refined alternatives based on many factors: transit goals, historical Metro ridership, performance, demand, peer communities, public input, key stakeholders, online surveys, Working Group discussions, service costs, and available funding scenarios. The initial transit service alternatives were presented to the Working Group in June 2016. They were refined and regrouped into proposals designed to meet the present and future transit service needs.

They include:

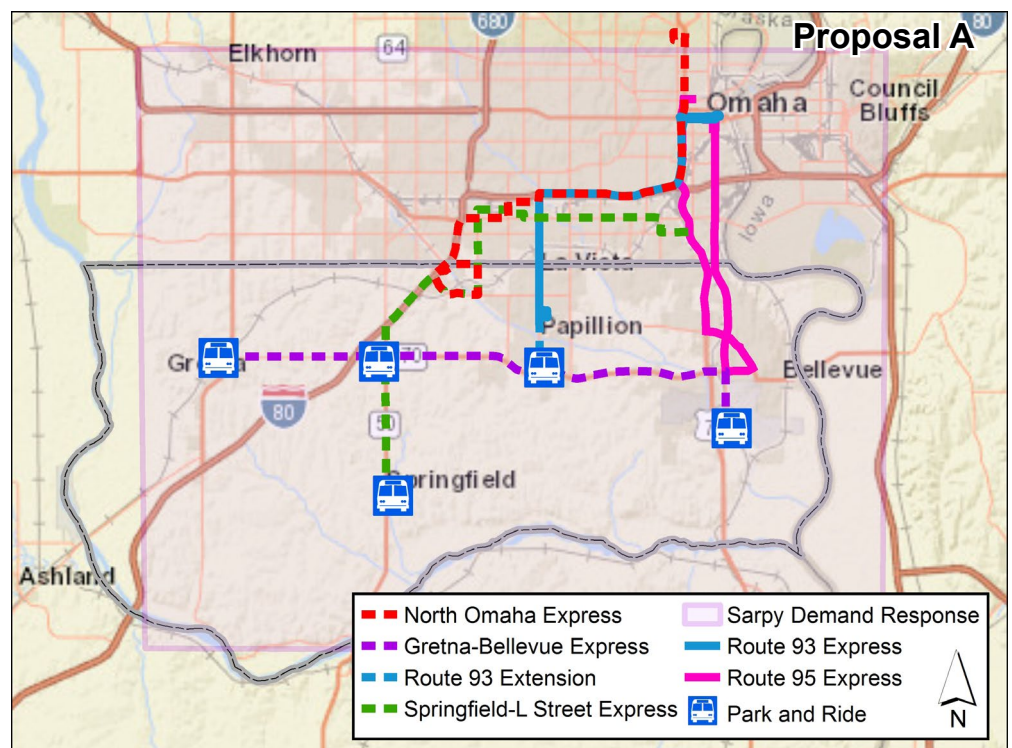
- **Proposal A:** Minimum Impact – Includes demand-response service and express routes primarily
- **Proposal B:** Low Density Network – Includes Proposal A plus fixed routes and flex routes
- **Proposal C:** Higher Density Network – Includes Proposal B plus high capacity route service

Fixed route transit involves vehicles which run along an established path at preset times. Express routes operate typically with fewer stops than fixed routes. Flex routes are a hybrid of fixed route transit and demand response transit.

The main routes cover a specific service area with a set of fixed stops and schedules but service routes are allowed to deviate from the route (usually by up to ¼ mile). Through this deviation passengers whose trips end outside the service area of the main route or who require accessible services such as paratransit services receive door-to-door service.

Public input will be gathered on the alternative proposals to develop a preferred service plan including operation and implementation plans and an estimated budget. Proposals will then be up to local officials to consider for funding and implementation.

Completion of the Sarpy County Transit Study is expected in early 2017.



## First “Broadly Speaking” event brings local artists and food together for interactive walk

An interactive art walk, which kicked off with a feast of foods grown locally, paved the way for Heartland 2050’s “Broadly Speaking with Zach Mannheimer” event on September 15.

The walk along Omaha’s South 10th Street corridor began at No More Empty Cups and ended at the Bancroft Street Market where people attending were able to enjoy meals from local food trucks and hear Zach Mannhemier’s presentation.

Along the route, artists from the Young Spirit Dancers and Upstream Drumming group, (make) shift dance collective and Fire Dancing Performers by Andrea Grove performed for participants.



The (make)shift dance collective performs for a group along the South 10th Street corridor interactive walk.

During his presentation, Mannheimer challenged the millennial audience to get active and become the leaders and make the changes they want to see in their communities.

Mannheimer is the founder of the Des Moines Social Club and the Vice-President of Creative Placemaking at Iowa Business Growth. He has played a key role in Des Moines’ recent downtown revitalization efforts.

Heartland 2050’s speaker series “Broadly Speaking” is made possible by funding from the Iowa West Foundation and Peter Kiewit Foundation.



Zach Mannheimer spoke at Heartland 2050’s “Broadly Speaking” event about how millennials must become active to make the changes they want to see in their communities.



The Young Spirit Dancers and Upstream Drumming group performed for participants as a part of the stroll down South 10th Street.

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## City of Oakland launches Revolving Housing Fund as a tool for new community infill development

Oakland now has a new tool to provide new infill development for housing in the community. The Oakland Revolving Housing Fund was created recently with financial support from the City of Oakland, Oakland Industrial Foundation and Iowa West Foundation’s C.I.T.I.E.S. Fund.

In this first round of development, the City procured two residential lots which had dilapidated buildings. They demolished the structures to build two single family homes. Construction of the first home was completed in September. MAPA, along with representatives from the City of Oakland, Pottawattamie County, the Oakland Industrial Foundation and Iowa West Foundation toured the first house after it was finished.

For the second home, construction will begin in the spring of 2017. The proceeds from the sale of both market rate homes go into the Oakland Revolving Housing Fund to finance additional infill development in the future.



The City of Oakland finished the first home as a part of the Oakland Revolving Housing Fund to help with infill development for housing in the community. A second home will be built in 2017.



## Mills County seeks public input for its Comprehensive Plan

Mills County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and is seeking input from the public. MAPA and JEO Consulting Group have partnered on the project with the County. The update will provide a vision and guide for the County for the next 20 to 30 years.

Through an open house and a series of focus groups with residents, the County seeks to gain information about what the

community wants for its public policies and goals regarding land use, economic development, utilities and facilities, housing, recreation and trails and other topics.

Draft goals and feedback from residents will be presented at a Community Advisory Committee meeting on November 10, 2016. The plan is expected to be completed by late spring 2017.

## Regional leaders take Salt Lake City public transportation trip

Leaders from the Greater Omaha Chamber, business and industry, city government, philanthropic organizations in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan region along with MAPA staff received a firsthand view of how long-term investments in regional collaboration and public transportation can build a prosperous city.

The 25-member group traveled to Salt Lake City and met with the leaders of Envision Utah, a regional plan started more than 20 years ago and known nationally for its culture of collaboration.

The group also experienced Salt Lake City's robust public transit system firsthand through extensive use during the trip and witnessed the economic benefits it helped bring to the region. The Utah Transit Authority runs the city's bus, streetcar and commuter rail lines along with vanpool services.

The regional collaboration and public transit success in Salt Lake City go to the heart of what Heartland 2050 aims to accomplish with the implementation phase of its Close the Gap initiative; an integrated approach to land use and transit which concentrates growth based on existing development.

The result is an effort which fills in the gaps to create vibrant neighborhoods and a more walkable, livable region.



## Heartland 2050 county meetings set for mid-November 2016

MAPA will take the Heartland 2050 project on the road in November. This series of meetings will seek public input in the surrounding counties that are outside of MAPA's transportation boundary but are part of the Heartland 2050 project. They include: Cass, Saunders and Washington Counties in Nebraska; Mills and Harrison Counties in Iowa.

Heartland 2050 is a regional effort that includes eight counties in the Council Bluffs-Omaha area. During the Action Planning process this past year, the Infrastructure Committee prioritized using the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and expanding it to a **regional transportation vision**.

The intent of the workshops is to gather

information on community goals for transportation, housing, natural resources and economic development in each county.

This feedback will help identify potential projects along roadways to include in the Regional Transportation Plan as well as provide valuable input on other topics that are part of the regional Heartland 2050 project.

For specific meeting information, go to [heartland2050.org](http://heartland2050.org)

### Meeting Dates & Locations:

November 14: Blair, NE  
November 15: Wahoo, NE  
November 16: Glenwood, IA  
November 17: Plattsmouth, NE  
November 18: Missouri Valley, IA

# CALENDAR

## November 2016

- Nov. 6th – Daylight Saving Time ends  
Set clocks back one hour
- Nov. 11th – Veterans Day  
MAPA Offices closed
- Nov. 16th – Coordinated Transit Committee  
10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 18th – RPA Policy/Tech Committee  
11 a.m.
- Nov. 24th – Thanksgiving Day  
MAPA Offices closed
- Nov. 25th – MAPA Offices closed
- Nov. 30th – Finance Committee  
8:30 a.m.  
ISAC, Iowa State Fall School of Instruction  
Des Moines, IA  
Nov. 30th – Dec. 2nd

## December 2016

- Dec. 2nd – Transportation Technical  
Advisory Committee  
10 a.m.
- Dec. 8th – MAPA Board of Directors  
1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13th – Appointed/Elected Officials  
Training  
UNO Community Engagement  
Center  
6 p.m.
- Dec. 14th – Coordinated Transit Committee  
10:30 a.m.  
NACO (Nebraska Association  
of County Officials Annual  
Conference  
Kearney, NE  
Dec. 14th – Dec. 16th
- Dec. 26th – Christmas Day Observed  
MAPA Offices closed
- Jan. 2nd – New Year's Day Observed  
MAPA Offices closed

# MAPA presents 2016 Regional Service and Citizenship Awards at Annual Meeting

MAPA's Council of Officials recognized the hard work of a county supervisor and a department of city planners who initiated a unique neighborhood revitalization program at its annual meeting October 5 in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Mills County Supervisor Ron Kohn received MAPA's 2016 Regional Citizenship Award while the City of Omaha Planning Department received the agency's Regional Service Award.

The Regional Citizenship Award honors an individual who recognized regional problems and initiated and supported policies which require shared regional effort, and contributed to the region's quality of life.

Kohn, a retired high school teacher, has served on the Mills County Board of Supervisors and MAPA Board of Directors since first elected in 2004. After two failed bond issues to build a new law enforcement center, Kohn helped organize a countywide group of residents to promote building a new jail by educating the public. He is a representative or alternate to more



Ron Kohn, Mills County Supervisor and MAPA Board Vice-Chair, receives the Regional Citizenship Award.

than 20 county committees and has overseen many projects completed without issuing bonds, including a courthouse expansion. Kohn's service also includes roles as MAPA Board Chairman and Vice-Chair, along with his dedicated presence on the Heartland 2050 Executive Committee.

The Regional Service Award is given to a group that has made a contribution to the metropolitan area to help it improve or grow. The City of Omaha Planning Department partnered with 25 organizations to create and implement a holistic neighborhood revitalization model in Prospect Village, a distressed, racially-mixed neighborhood in North Omaha. As a result of the broad spectrum of community partners' needs were met through new housing construction, existing housing rehabilitation, healthy home and energy-efficiency upgrades, establishment of community gardens, cultural fairs, neighborhood art projects, financial management training, parenting classes, gang prevention initiatives and formation of a viable neighborhood association.



The Omaha Planning Department receives the Regional Service Award for the Prospect Village Initiative.

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