

What's Happening

For Community Leaders

March/ April 2018

Block Talks part of Omaha's 13th Street walkability study

Signs are visible of the work underway on the City of Omaha's 13th Street Revitalization Project. MAPA will play a role by assisting with some of the public outreach related to different aspects of the project.

MAPA's Heartland 2050 regional vision project hosted three "Block Talks" during April to help residents assess the walkability of their neighborhoods and offer suggestions on changes they would like to see made to the physical environment to improve access for pedestrians. The Block Talks are part of the ongoing revitalization of 13th Street, which includes a walkability study conducted by the City of Omaha.



Participants in a Block Talk in Downtown Omaha evaluate the sidewalks and built environment for walkability.

The City of Omaha received a \$100,000 Heartland 2050 mini-grant for the 13th Street Walkability Study. The Walkability Study will analyze different methods to slow down traffic and determine how to better utilize existing right-of-way to accommodate all users including automobiles, transit, bicycles and on-street parking.

The Heartland 2050 mini-grant from federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, in conjunction with a \$25,000 investment from the City of Omaha, will support the work and momentum of 13th Street and offer viable options to increase the corridor's economic vitality.



These participants in the Downtown Omaha Block Talk headed north along 13th Street to review the established environment for walking.

The "Block Talks" provided attendees the opportunity to walk a designated route within the area and evaluate pathways that either increase or decrease opportunities for walking.

The "Block Talks" spanned across different sectors of 13th Street's targeted project area - Downtown, Dahlman and Deer Park neighborhoods. The "Block Talks" took place on April 18, 20 and 27. MAPA received specific training to lead these mobile workshops along with local staff.

All "Block Talk" sessions began with a short 20 minute presentation and overview of the project, followed by a walk around the area, and concluded with action planning to create short and long term priorities in order to improve the walkability of the area.

More input for the 13th Street Corridor Walkability Study will be gathered through a series of stakeholder committee meetings being scheduled for May, June and July 2018 along with two open houses for the public to attend.

MAPA receives three American Planning Association awards

MAPA captures recognition from the Nebraska chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), winning three awards. MAPA received the APA's Planning Agency Award, the Transportation Plan Award and the Urban Design Award.

The Planning Agency Award was given to MAPA for being an organization that is "a public sector planning agency that continually produces programs of exceptional work that has elevated awareness about planning."

All the work put into creating the Omaha Metropolitan Area Online Bike Map achieved the Transportation Plan award. The online Metro Area Bike Map was developed alongside Live Well Omaha and RDG. Judges said this project demonstrates efforts to increase transportation choices for all populations, reducing dependence on private automobiles and helping to ease congestion.

The City of Gretna Downtown Revitalization Plan and Design Guidelines, created with JEO Consulting Group, MAPA and Steven Jensen Consulting, won the

Urban Design Award. This award is given to initiatives that highlight the effort to create a sense of place, whether a street, public space, neighborhood or campus.

"It is a great honor to have our projects and agency recognized by the American Planning Association," said Greg Youell, MAPA Executive Director. "These awards reinforce that as an agency we are on the right track in our efforts to connect with our communities in the Omaha metropolitan region to help them grow and thrive."



Bike rack usage on Metro Transit buses continues to grow

New data from Metro Transit shows that its Bike and Bus initiative is skyrocketing in popularity.

Since bike racks were added to Metro buses in 2008, the usage by riders has continued to grow year over year. In 2017, Metro recorded nearly 45,000 bus and bike trips.

Bike racks provide bicyclists an easy option when commuting on public transit. Metro installed bike racks to create multiple transportation options, helping riders travel further, faster.

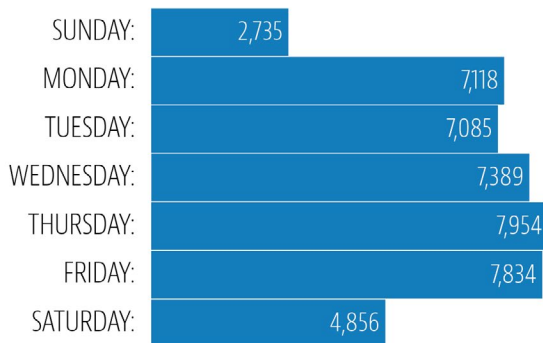
The graph at the top right shows the number of riders using bike racks every day of the week in 2017. The graph at the bottom right represents the busiest day of the week during each year since bike racks were installed.



2017 BIKE RACK USAGE

MORE PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING TO BIKE AND BUS.

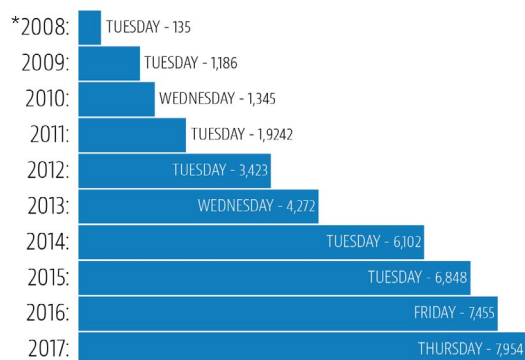
THIS GRAPH REPRESENTS THE NUMBER OF RIDERS USING THE BIKE RACKS ON METRO TRANSIT BUSES EACH DAY OF THE WEEK DURING 2017.



BIKE RACK USAGE

MORE PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING TO BIKE AND BUS.

THIS GRAPH REPRESENTS THE BUSIEST DAY OF THE WEEK FOR BIKE RACK USAGE ON METRO TRANSIT BUSES SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN 2008.



*2008: OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Summit focuses on building leaders

Leadership is key to successful collaboration and successful leadership builds many leaders not just a select few. Those were among the key messages from Paul Schmitz, keynote speaker at the Heartland 2050 Winter Summit: The Power of Collaboration.

Schmitz, CEO of Leading Inside Out, said leadership is an action many can take, not a position few can hold. "It's an active responsibility. It's owning the results."

Schmitz said the most successful leadership is asset-based, inclusive and equitable by including people most affected by the problems and

solutions, collaborative based on trust, involves continuous learning and has integrity.

Heartland 2050 and the United Way of the Midlands are co-hosting **"Everyone Prospers: The Path to Equity," on June 6 at the University of Nebraska Omaha.** Keynote speaker Michael McAfee, President of PolicyLink, will unveil the update to the Regional Equitable Growth Profile. First released in 2014, the profile revealed \$4 billion more would have been part of the Omaha metro area's economy if all disparities in income, employment and education gaps were closed.



Paul Schmitz discusses how to build leadership and collaboration at the Heartland 2050 Winter Summit on March 22.

Transit investment study gets underway

MAPA launches a study designed to determine the costs and benefits from increased investments in transit projects throughout the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area, specifically a built-out regional transit system.

Economic Development Research Group is conducting the Transit Return on Investment (ROI) Assessment for MAPA.

The study will get underway this spring and the goal for completion is the summer of 2018.

A stakeholder group will review the economic role transit plays currently in the MAPA region and how investments can build a

business case for enhanced transit in the region.

Project partners include the Federal Transit Administration, Omaha Public Power District, City of Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center, East Campus Realty (Mutual of Omaha), Metro Transit, CHI Health, First National Bank and the Kiewit Corporation.



CALENDAR

May 2018

- May 5th – Cinco de Mayo
- May 13th – Mother's Day
- May 15th – Primary Election (NE)
- May 16th – Coordinated Transit 10:30 a.m.
RPA 11 a.m.
- May 18th – Bike to Work Day
- May 19th – Armed Forces Day
- May 23rd – Finance Committee 8:30 a.m.
- May 25th – Transportation 10 a.m.
- May 28th – Memorial Day
MAPA offices closed
- May 31st – MAPA Board of Directors 1:30 p.m.

June 2018

- June 5th – Primary Election (IA)
- June 6th – Everyone Prospers: The Path to Equity
- June 13th – RPA-18 11 a.m.
- June 17th – Father's Day
- June 20th – Finance Committee 8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit 10:30 a.m.
- June 21st – Summer begins
- June 22nd – Transportation 10 a.m.
- June 28th – MAPA Board of Directors 1:30 p.m.

MAPA employee retires after 12 1/2 years of service

We want to wish a hearty congratulations to MAPA Administrative Assistant, Patti McCoy.

After 12 ½ years of service, Patti retired from MAPA on April 6. Patti was a crucial member of the entire MAPA team.

We cannot thank her enough for her hard work, positive attitude and kindness. She will be missed dearly.

We wish you a happy retirement.

Congratulations, Patti!



Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

2222 Cuming St., Omaha, NE 68102-4328

P: 402.444.6866 F: 402.951.6517

Email: mapa@mapacog.org

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