

What's Happening

For Community Leaders

July/August 2018

City of Blair submits BUILD application for South Bypass

The City of Blair is looking to address congestion on Washington Street, the city's main downtown street, with a south bypass for truck traffic.

MAPA assisted Blair with the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program application to help fund this project. This program replaced the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.



Heavy truck traffic can be seen on Blair's Washington Street. The Blair South Bypass would help divert truck traffic from downtown, making it more accessible for local drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

The Blair South Bypass would help reduce congestion, improve safety by reducing highway crash rates in downtown Blair, improve through-traffic and truck traffic efficiency and provide more pedestrian and bicycle connectivity with a new trail along the bypass. This project would also promote opportunities for redevelopment along Washington Street. The current presence of truck traffic disrupts the connectivity and sense of place a downtown district should have. With the heavy truck traffic, it's difficult for the downtown area to be inviting and accessible for those driving

cars, walking or cycling. By diverting this traffic, Blair will be able to control the character of Washington Street, which will create more economic development opportunities.

The Blair South Bypass has been a priority project for the community and has been discussed formally since 1994. It has been identified in the 2001 Blair Bypass Study, 2004 Long Range Transportation Plan, and the City's 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

This project is an existing federal-aid project programmed currently in the FY 2018-2023 State Transportation Improvement Program. Funding would come from the City of Blair, Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant and the BUILD grant.

Currently, the Draft Environmental Assessment is under review, and construction is set to begin in early FY 2020.

The application for the BUILD grant was submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation on July 19.

Awards will be announced later this year.

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Blair Area Chamber of Commerce
- Blair Community Schools
- Cargill
- City of Missouri Valley, Iowa
- Corbion
- Evonik
- Gateway Development Corporation
- Memorial Community Hospital and Health System
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- MAPA
- Sterling Transportation Services, Inc.
- U.S. Senator Deb Fischer
- Washington County, Nebraska

Heartland 2050 restructures itself as part of MAPA

Heartland 2050 has a new home; it now reports to the MAPA Board. This change will stabilize its funding and allow it to make recommendations to the board. Previously, Heartland 2050 operated independently of the MAPA governance structure.

The Heartland 2050 Executive Committee was restructured and is now the Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC). RPAC includes city and county representatives, implementation committee chairs, representatives from utilities and the Chamber of Commerce, and at-large members.

RPAC and Heartland 2050 sub-committees will prioritize focus areas for the next three years and identify potential opportunities for collaborative work that advance the Vision's Guiding Principles.

RPAC meetings will be held every two months on the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. For more information, visit heartland2050.org.



The Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee met for the first time on August 3. The committee has replaced the Executive Committee as part of Heartland 2050's restructuring.

IEDA funds to support three Pottawattamie County projects

Community Development Block Grant Funded Projects

Awarded in July 2018

Wastewater System Improvement Project



- Awarded \$196,000 from CDBG
- Awarded \$195,000 from Iowa West Foundation
- Awarded \$132,040 from other local funds

Hancock, Iowa

Downtown Revitalization Project



- Awarded \$500,000 from CDBG (split with Macedonia)
- Awarded \$480,325 from Iowa West Foundation (split with Macedonia)
- Awarded \$100,853 from other local funds (split with Macedonia)

Carson, Iowa

Downtown Revitalization Project



- Awarded \$500,000 from CDBG (split with Carson)
- Awarded \$480,325 from Iowa West Foundation (split with Carson)
- Awarded \$100,853 from other local funds (split with Carson)

Macedonia, Iowa

MAPA secured and will administer \$696,000 of Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) funds for three community development projects in Pottawattamie County.

Funds awarded to Hancock will improve the lift station, collection system, lagoon structure and piping of the wastewater system.

Pottawattamie County was awarded \$500,000 in a joint effort with Carson and Macedonia for downtown revitalization projects including the rehabilitation of 12 building facades to enhance both downtowns.

MAPA assists Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund with funds

The Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund (CBHTF) retained MAPA to administer affordable housing projects. In the past, CBHTF has funded projects including single-family and multi-family housing rehabilitation and new construction.

In 2018, CBHTF awarded funding to seven community organizations including: MICAH House, Connections Area Agency on Aging, New Visions Homeless Services, Habitat for Humanity, Vocational Development Center (VODEC), Municipal Housing

Agency and NeighborWorks Home Solutions.

Projects include renovations of a women's shelter, barrier removal for elderly homeowners, new flooring, construction of a single-family home, bathroom renovations and down payment assistance.

Organizations wanting to be considered for funding must meet the State Housing Trust Fund Program requirements and meet one or more of CBHTF's objectives. For more information about the Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund, go to cbhtf.org.

MAPA tours new USSTRATCOM facility

Phase II is underway for the U.S. Strategic Command's new Command and Control Facility at Offutt Air Force Base.

The transition to the installation of the Information Technology Infrastructure is happening as the physical construction of the building continues.

Members of MAPA's Council of Officials and MAPA staff toured the new facility in mid-July.

From this new facility, USSTRATCOM will conduct strategic planning and warfighting operations, provide global situational awareness to the National Command Authorities and combatant commands and aid the president's nuclear response decision-making process.

When finished, there will be more than 650 miles of cable inside the facility, enough to create a direct link between Omaha and Dallas.



Photos courtesy of USSTRATCOM Public Affairs



Walnut Mayor Gene Larsen, City Council Members Trace Frahm, Dennis Hullinger and Linda Booth, and former City Clerk Terri Abel cut the ribbon at the Downtown Walnut event celebrating the downtown revitalization. MAPA assisted Walnut with this project.

CALENDAR

September 2018

- Sept. 3rd – Labor Day
MAPA offices closed
- Sept. 12th – RPA-18
11 a.m.

Iowa League of Cities
Annual Conference
Council Bluffs, IA
(Sept. 12-14)
- Sept. 19th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.

Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.

League of Nebraska
Municipalities Lincoln, NE
Annual Conference
(Sept. 19-20)
- Sept. 21st – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Sept. 27th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

October 2018

- Oct. 3rd – MAPA Annual Meeting
6 p.m.
Mid-America Center
- Oct. 5th – Heartland 2050 Regional
Planning Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- Oct. 8th – Columbus Day
MAPA offices closed
- Oct. 10th – RPA-18
11 a.m.
- Oct. 17th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.

Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 19th – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Oct. 25th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

MAPA thanks communications and transportation interns



MAPA extends a special thank you to its Communications and Transportation interns who provided invaluable assistance this summer.

Andrew Schnitker started in June and will continue his internship during his senior year at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

ANDREW
SCHNITKER

He will graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and Media Communication.

While working at MAPA, Andrew serves as the Vice President of Creative Services for UNO's Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and the Creative Director for MaverickPR, UNO's student-run public relations firm.

Marie Wagner began working at MAPA in May after finishing her junior year as an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her internship was through the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC).

She will graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

While working at MAPA, Marie was a member of the Concrete Canoe team and a member of the marching band at UNL.

Most recently, Marie won the Best Paper Award from MATC for her time at MAPA.



MARIE
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