

What's Happening

For Community Leaders

November/December 2018

Coordinated Transit Committee Chair expands mission

After years of adhering strictly to making recommendations for federal transit funding priorities for transit and paratransit services, MAPA's Coordinated Transit Committee (CTC) expanded its mission this year to grow transportation access. The shift in focus is due in large part to the efforts of CTC Chair, Lisa Picker, of Heartland Family Service.



Through her extraordinary leadership Picker has led, expanded and increased the committee's efforts and effectiveness. That expansion includes broadening the scope of the CTC to advocate for transportation access for seniors, the disabled, and those without transportation, and to focus on educating individuals who could influence funding for transportation.

"With this in mind, a subcommittee was created to look at how to best help people become aware of challenges faced by seniors, the disabled and those individuals of lower income levels," Picker said.

"As a culture that is used to getting in cars and driving to where we need to go, it can be helpful to look at things from someone else's point of view that may not have that advantage and the struggles that are faced in daily activities without transportation."

Picker's position with Heartland Family Service may help drive that ability to look at transportation needs differently. In her eight years with the agency, she has served six of them as director of the Ways to Work program.

Started in June 2010, the Ways to Work program is an asset building program that works with credit-challenged parents for the opportunity for a small, low-interest automotive loan.

"This allows the participants the opportunity to experience independence in getting to and from where they need to go while also allowing them to build new positive credit history for themselves," Picker said. "It's a chance for families to develop a sense of consistency, because the factor of 'How do I get there?' has been taken out of the equation."

In addition to guiding Coordinated Transit Committee members into a new role, Picker helped the committee navigate a potentially difficult and divisive discussion on how to prioritize and split funding between municipalities and non-profit agencies, and arrived at a solution participants accepted.

For her hard work and accomplishments in leading the CTC, MAPA awarded Lisa Picker its 2018 Regional Citizenship Award. The award is given to an individual who recognizes that regional problems transcend county boundaries and has contributed to the regional quality of life.



Left to right: Former Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders, MAPA Executive Director Greg Youell, CTC Chair and award recipient Lisa Picker, and La Vista Mayor Doug Kindig pose at the MAPA Annual Meeting.

Deadlines nearing for 2019 economic development funding

Be sure to take advantage of all opportunities to apply for funding for your community. On the chart to the right you will find various community development opportunities for the States of Nebraska and Iowa with first quarter application deadlines.

MAPA has experienced grant writers who understand the intricacies of grant applications and provide many grant writing services free of charge to our member communities.

If you have questions or your city has a project that would benefit from extra funding assistance, contact Community and Economic Development Manager, Don Gross at (402) 444-6866 ext. 230.

Grants	Application Deadline
CDBG - Water/Sewer (IA)	January 1, 2019
Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (NE)	January 15, 2019
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund (IA & NE)	January 15, 2019
RPA-18 Transportation Alternatives Program (IA)	January 18, 2019
Let's Play Community Construction (IA & NE)	Mid-January 2019
Brownfields Multipurpose (IA & NE)	January 31, 2019
Brownfields Assessment (IA & NE)	January 31, 2019
Brownfields Cleanup (IA & NE)	January 31, 2019
Iowa Foundation for Parks & Recreation (IA)	February 1, 2019
Healthy Watersheds Consortium (IA & NE)	February 4, 2019
Environmental Justice Small Grants (IA & NE)	February 15, 2019
Paint Iowa Beautiful (IA)	February 15, 2019
Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (IA & NE)	February 25, 2019
Land and Water Conservation Fund (IA)	March 15, 2019
Build with Bags (IA)	March 30, 2019

New targets for highway system performance measures set

MAPA's Board of Directors adopted Iowa and Nebraska Departments of Transportation targets for performance measures for the National Highway System's pavement and bridges (PM2) in the MAPA Transportation Management Area (TMA) along with performance measures for system reliability and freight (PM3).

The current federal transportation funding law known as the FAST Act, and its predecessor MAP-21, require the development of asset management plans with national performance measures for these areas and

require Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), such as MAPA, to set four-year targets.

The National Highway System is the Interstate Highway System plus additional roads important to the nation's economy, defense and mobility.

PM2 targets evaluate the percentage of Interstate System pavements and bridges in good, fair and poor condition.

PM3 assesses system reliability for Interstate and Non-Interstate Travel Time and Freight Reliability.

MAPA receives Iowa APA chapter Planning Pioneers Award

MAPA's work in planning is recognized by the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Iowa APA chapter presented MAPA with its Planning Pioneers Award in October at its annual conference held in Council Bluffs. The award nomination notes MAPA's 50 years of service as a regional planning agency and the increasing importance of regions to address issues impacting local economic prosperity and quality of life.

The nomination states "Regions transcend traditional local boundaries, becoming the place where industries, labor markets, housing systems and communities operate. MAPA has successfully adapted to these changes by focusing on its core roles of regional planning, transportation planning, planning technical assistance to members, and engagement."

We are very grateful for this recognition and remain committed to serving the communities in our region.



Left to right: MAPA Transportation planner Travis Halm, Community and Economic Development planner Matt Roth and Executive Director Greg Youell accept an award from the Iowa APA chapter.

A salute to outgoing Board members

We want to say a big “Thank you” to three members of MAPA’s Board of Directors who are leaving after several years of service.

Board Chair Rita Sanders finished her second term as Bellevue, Nebraska mayor on Dec. 10. First elected in 2010, Sanders provided boundless energy in her support for MAPA during her eight years on the board.

Pottawattamie County Supervisor Tom Hanafan served as Board Vice

Chair during his most recent term on the MAPA Board of Directors. Previously, he represented the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, during his 25 years as mayor.

Sarpy County Commissioner Gary Mixan served from January 2016 to December 2018 and for a period of about 18 months in 2009 and 2010 when he was mayor of Bellevue.

We wish you the best in your future endeavors!



Left to right: Tom Hanafan, Rita Sanders and Gary Mixan attended their final MAPA Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 6. We're grateful for their many years of service in leading MAPA.

Heartland B-cycle expands network

MAPA and Metro Transit staff and board members participated in a ceremonial checkout of bikes at the new Heartland B-cycle station installed Nov. 21 outside MAPA and Metro offices. This station is part of a more than 30 station expansion in the bike sharing network serving the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. MAPA staff secured the federal funding for the expansion.



CALENDAR

January 2019

- Jan. 1st – New Year’s Day
MAPA offices closed
- Jan. 9th – Nebraska Legislature convenes
RPA-18
11 a.m.
- Jan. 14th – Iowa Legislature convenes
- Jan. 16th – Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 21st – Martin Luther King Day
MAPA offices closed
- Jan. 23rd – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 25th – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Jan. 31st – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

February 2019

- Feb. 1st – Heartland 2050 Regional
Planning Advisory Committee
10 a.m.
- Feb. 5th – Chinese New Year
- Feb. 10th – NARC Conference of Regions
Feb. 13th Washington D.C.
- Feb. 13th – RPA-18
11 a.m.
- Feb. 18th – Presidents’ Day
MAPA offices closed
- Feb. 20th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 22nd – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Feb. 25th – League of NE Municipalities
Feb. 26th Midwinter Conference
- Feb. 28th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

Season's Greetings



The staff photo was captured with a drone outside of the Creighton University School of Dentistry, one of the newest buildings on Creighton's campus. GIS Technician Owen Stuckey is trained and certified to operate a drone, which is a service provided by MAPA.

Back row: Trevor Harlow, Emily Sneller, Katie Preister, Megan Walker, Josh Corrigan, Court Barber, Don Gross, Greg Youell, Travis Halm

Middle row: Natasha Barrett, Christina Brownell, Melissa Engel, Sue Cutsforth, Karna Loewenstein, Annie Pigaga, Mike Helgerson, Jeff Spiehs, Matt Roth

Front row: Owen Stuckey (drone photographer); *Not Pictured: Grant Anderson, Amanda Morales*

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