



OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY  
2222 Cuming Street, Omaha  
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HEARTLAND 2050 REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(H2050 RPAC)

AGENDA – February 1, 2019

This meeting of the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Committee will be conducted in compliance with the Nebraska Statutes of the Open Meeting Act. For reference, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the Board Room.

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. December Meeting Minutes – (ACTION)
- III. Updates
  - a. MAPA Update – Council of Officials Survey Summary
- IV. Regional Vision (Heartland 2050)
  - a. Nodes and Corridors – Discussion
  - b. Implementation Committees
    - i. Housing and Development
    - ii. Natural Resources
    - iii. Infrastructure – Smart Cities
    - iv. Equity and Engagement
  - c. Heartland 2050 Mini-Grants Status
    - i. 13<sup>th</sup> Street Project
    - ii. Transit Development Study
- V. Data and Mapping
- VI. Grant Opportunities
- VII. Community Reports
  - a. NRD - Storm Water Management Plan
  - b. Sarpy County Sewer Project
  - c. City of Omaha - Scooters
  - d. Blair Workforce Housing Project
- VIII. Adjourn

## H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, December 7, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** MAPA Offices, Omaha, NE – Training Room

### **Members in Attendance:**

Chair: Nancy Pridal, Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
Archie Carpenter – University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Dave Forrest – City of Ralston  
Bruce Fountain – Sarpy County  
Leland Jacobson – City of Bellevue  
Steve Jensen – Jensen Consulting  
Dr. Dan Kinney – Iowa Western Community College  
Ron Kohn – City of Glenwood, IA  
Mark Norman – Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
Thomas (Drew) Parks – Nebraska Department of Transportation  
Zach Reinhardt – Burlington Capital  
Curt Simon – Metro Transit Authority  
Connie Spellman  
Laurie Zagurski – Omaha Public Power District

### **Members Absent:**

Troy Anderson – City of Omaha  
Kyle Anderson – Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
Jamie Berglund – SPARK CDI  
Ann Birch – City of La Vista  
Jaylene Eilenstine – Metro Omaha Builders Association  
David Fanslau – Omaha Planning Dept  
Brandon Garrett – City of Council Bluffs  
Cesar Garcia – DLR Group  
Dan Giittinger – City of Gretna  
Shelley Henderson – FIRST  
Marta Londono – Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation  
Patrick Leahy – Papio-MO River NRD  
Donna Lynam – Sarpy County  
Othello Meadows – Seventy-Five North  
Stephen Osberg – Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
Dr. Adi Pour – Douglas County Health Department  
Vicki Quaites-Ferris – Empowerment Network  
Earl Redrick – HUD (Non-Voting Member)  
Rod Storm – City of Blair  
Mark Stursma – City of Papillion  
Matt Wyant – Pottawattamie County  
Chris Rodgers – Douglas County Commissioner  
Ryan Sullivan – Washington County  
Carol Vinton – Mills County

**Guest:** None.

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**MAPA Staff:** Court Barber, Christina Brownell, Josh Corrigan, Don Gross, Travis Halm, Trevor Harlow, Karna Loewenstein, Jeff Spiehs, Megan Walker, Greg Youell

### I. Welcome / Introductions –

Chair Pridal called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed the committee, and introductions were made.

### II. October Meeting Minutes – (Action)

MOTION by Zagurski, SECOND by Reinhardt to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2018 meeting of the Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

AYES: Carpenter, Forrest, Fountain, Jacobson, Jensen, Kinney, Kohn, Norman, Parks, Pridal, Reinhardt, Simon, Spellman, Zagurski

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

### III. Updates – (Information)

- a. Pittsburgh Learning Site Visit – Presented by Karna Loewenstein, Heartland 2050 Coordinator (MAPA)  
Ms. Loewenstein gave an update on the recent learning site visit to Pittsburgh for the Rail-Volution Conference and gave a summary of the delegations activities, workshops, and mobile tours while on the ground. Ms. Loewenstein presented to the committee some action steps that were developed from this site visit including creating a conversation with transit users; encouraging creative collaboration between Metro Transit and Heartland B-Cycle; and to help build a legislative agenda by working with the Greater Omaha Chamber. Other members of the delegation shared their experiences and key takeaways.
- b. Speaker Series Event – 11/1/18 – Presented by Jeff Spiehs, Community Relations Manager (MAPA)  
Mr. Spiehs gave a brief summary of the most recent Heartland 2050 Speaker Series (hosted in partnership with AARP Nebraska and Iowa) on November 1 at The Venue at the Highlander H2050. Guest Speaker Danielle Arigoni, Director of Livable Communities at AARP, spoke about policies and age friendly communities. Representatives of AARP Iowa spoke about tactical urbanism and the “Better Block” project in Des Moines. There was a presentation and discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units. A portion of the event provided a spotlight on local grassroots neighborhood based grantees from Omaha. In addition, MAPA’s Coordinated Transit Committee provided a panel discussion on issues related to para-transit needs in our Region and the resources that are available. As a follow up to this, MAPA, AARP and Locust are providing a webinar on Wednesday, December 17 from 1:00 – 2:30 focused on equitable transit oriented development and making the case for housing affordability.
- c. Local Foods Hub – MAPA – Presented by Karna Loewenstein, Heartland 2050 Coordinator (MAPA)  
Ms. Loewenstein provided an update on the Local Foods Hub. In October, MAPA asked for a recommendation from the Committee and the MAPA Board of Directors that the agency submit their interest in housing the individual to run and coordinate the Local Foods Hub project. MAPA still intends to present to the SWAG Committee (Local Foods Hub group) when they are ready to proceed with that.

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### IV. Regional Vision (Heartland 2050) – (Information)

- a. Action Plan Refresh/Priorities – Discussion  
Chair Pridal recapped efforts towards the Action Plan Refresh at the previous RPAC meeting. Those recommendations were then reviewed by each individual committee for Natural Resources; Infrastructure and Housing. Ms. Loewenstein presented the updated goals and strategies to the group. Work will continue on the Action Plan Refresh. Each Implementation Committee chair presented briefly on the next steps.
- d. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) – Presented by Greg Youell, Executive Director (MAPA)  
Mr. Youell updated the Committee on the LRTP and CEDS plan. The current focus is to sync up the strategies and goals for these plans throughout the region. Mr. Youell clarified the difference between MAPA's LRTP and The Greater Omaha Chamber's Unified Transportation Plan. One major difference is the LRTP must be fiscally constrained whereas the Unified Transportation Plan does not have that requirement. Mr. Youell stressed the importance of this coordinated effort and the Chamber's convening power and having the support of the leaders in the private sector and local business community.

### V. Data and Mapping – Presented by Josh Corrigan, GIS Coordinator (MAPA) – (Information)

- a. Natural Resources Inventory –  
This is a regional effort to satisfy the need for unified environmental data. The initial efforts for this project was started by Connie Spellman and Heartland 2050 and identified what data was available and how to share the information. Since then, staff has been working to put that data into an online GIS system and organize it in a way that it's easily accessible to anyone seeking that information in the region. Next steps are to coordinate with local GIS teams and get the website up and running. This data would be publically available. Chair Pridal noted that this would be a beneficial resource from a development standpoint when looking at a new project. Special thanks was given to Ms. Connie Spellman for her efforts in starting this project.
- b. MAPA 2050 Forecast –  
Staff has been working to change the way that land-use data in our region is viewed and stored. Staff has been working to ensure accuracy of the information by using readily available parcel data such as household density, agricultural density etc. This has allowed the team to analyze the information by time and see the change in parcels over time. This information is used along with interpretive techniques to try and get a better idea of future growth/change in the region. Staff has worked with the state data centers in both Iowa and Nebraska to come up with totals for each region that will be used in the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Mr. Corrigan clarified that this is only for the Transportation Management Area (Douglas, Sarpy and a portion of Pottawattamie County). One challenge has been finding ways to understand where the development is happening. There are generally two types of development in the region: Greenfield Development and In-Fill Development. There is currently no source of information for that data so staff used a USDA map of crop-land images to determine which areas are agricultural or developed. This information along with data from local partners is put into one unified system and determine whether or not an area is appropriate for development. These are then categorized into different housing and employment types. Mr. Corrigan presented three future scenario maps to the committee.

### VI. Grant Opportunities – Presented by Court Barber, Transportation Planner (MAPA) – (Information)

- a. H2050 Mini Grants –  
Mr. Barber updated the Committee on the Heartland 2050 Mini Grant program. The MAPA Board of Directors recently approved a Call for Projects for the H2050 Mini Grants. The H2050 Mini Grant program is a set aside

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from our larger pool of transportation funds that comes from the Federal government. MAPA sets aside \$330,000 each year for this program (\$250k in Nebraska and \$80k in Iowa). These funds are used for projects that will help move towards the goals established by the Heartland 2050 committee. Applications for this new round of funding will be accepted through January 18, 2019. Funding will be available in FY2020. Areas of eligibility would be Douglas County, Sarpy County and the urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County (primarily Council Bluffs). Mr. Barber stated that projects must be transportation related. There was some discussion around the types of projects that would be eligible. Mr. Youell stated that if there is question around a projects eligibility for this particular funding that they should meet with MAPA staff prior to submitting an application. Ms. Loewenstein stated that they are looking for members of RPAC to sit on the project review committee for the H2050 Mini Grants.

### **VII. Community Reports – Dr. Dan Kinney, President (Iowa Western Community College) – (Information)**

Ms. Karna Loewenstein asked Dr. Kinney to share briefly share with the Committee on the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium (MOEC). This group is comprised of 15 schools districts, 2 community colleges and the University of Nebraska – Omaha. The group has agreed on metrics to measure success and are now discussing how they will share those data elements. One of the goals is to work together on the same initiatives, for example the completion of FAFSA. The group has found that there are many young people that would qualify for Federal financial aid that would help them pursue higher education, yet they never complete the form. The group is working to encourage processes that will educate parents about FAFSA, allowing more students to pursue a higher education. Dr. Kinney shared specifics around a process called, “evidence” that initially was started to address fraud in the FAFSA application process and would select 20% of all FAFSA applications for review. They are now reviewing up to 48% of applications for this review process making it more challenging for many students to complete the application process. The group has also focused on other initiatives including a focus on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading and a “Be Kind” initiative to combat bullying.

Ms. Loewenstein explained to the Committee how we will collect data for our ‘Community Reports’ going forward. The hope is that we will be able to allow time at our meetings to hear updates from our members on what is going on in their communities.

### **VIII. Adjourn –**

Chair Pridal adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting will be held on Friday, February 1, 2018 at MAPA in the Downstairs Training Room.