

# MAPA BY THE SOLUTION OF THE SO

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





#### LOOKING BACK

October 5, 2022

As we look back at the past year and ahead to the next, we reflect on MAPA's **impact** in serving and providing assistance to our member communities.

To help support economic development, MAPA staff secured more than \$13 million in funding for community development projects.

We continue to help our flood-ravaged communities regain their **resilience**. Staff have completed **111** acquisitions of flood-damaged properties in Pacific Junction and are working on additional buyouts in Pottawattamie County.

Through **collaboration** and **connections** with our partners we hosted, facilitated or presented at more than **21** workshops, summits, and other training sessions to inform and explore avenues for improving the quality of life in the region through equitable transportation options and economic development.

**Equity** remains at the forefront of our planning work. To reaffirm our commitment, we created an Equitable Development Scorecard, which can be used to assess projects and initiatives to determine if they meet the equity standards of the communities where they are planned.

We continue to collaborate with regional partners on projects such as the Highway 75 Corridor & Freight Strategy Study to find ways to viable alternatives for improving safety, accessibility, and mobility along this important corridor for transportation and commerce.

We look forward to the additional **progress** we will be able to achieve in serving our member communities with the infusion of funding expected from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

MAPA is honored to be your partner in moving our region forward to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life for all.



Mayor Doug Kindig
MAPA Board of Directors Chair



Councilmember Pete Festersen
MAPA Council of Officials President



I recently observed my first anniversary as Executive Director of MAPA and am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to lead our team in serving the Omaha-Council Bluffs region. I have spent the last year learning from our community members and partners about the value of MAPA's service and leadership on key issues around the region.

We've titled this year's report MAPA by the Numbers to try to quantify our team's work over the past year. While numbers can help tell the story of our collaborative work across the region, the impact of our efforts today help us chart a path towards an equitable, thriving future for all.

The release of the 2020 Census marked MAPA's decennial call to service to assist communities with redistricting of voting districts for 12 member communities. During the last year, MAPA continued to assist with the property buyouts in Pottawattamie County and Pacific Junction following the devastating 2019 floods that impacted communities across the region.

The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a tremendous opportunity for our member communities and MAPA as an agency. Our team and community leaders prioritized more than \$250 million in applications for federal transportation funding in the last year, resulting in \$58 million in new awards of regional transportation funding. Our team is working closely with partners around the region to take advantage of new programs and this legislation and to help implement projects in communities large and small.

I'm very excited about the team we are building to serve our members and to share the key projects and initiatives we have worked on over the last year. Members of the MAPA team will continue to connect with community leaders around the region over the next year to monitor and understand the local challenges that our members face. I look forward to working with all of you and learning more about how MAPA can assist you with infrastructure and community development needs.

Mideral Heljun

### RESILIENCE

As part of the services we offer, MAPA operates as an extension of the local staff of member communities to secure and administer funding for projects that **enhance economic development**, **resiliency**, **and quality of life**.

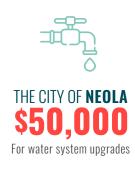
#### CARSON & MACEDONIA DTR PROJECTS

Downtown revitalization projects wrapped up this year in Macedonia and Carson, Iowa. Community Development Block Grant and C.I.T.I.E.S. funding secured by MAPA helped give facelifts to the communities' business districts through the construction of new building facades.

#### C.I.T.I.E.S. FUNDING

Pottawattamie County's Community Improvement to Increase Economic Stability (C.I.T.I.E.S.) program awarded grants to Neola and Avoca for infrastructure projects.











#### **PROPERTY BUYOUTS**

#### POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

Demolition is complete on eight homes acquired in the northeastern part of Pottawattamie County which were built in floodplains following funding secured from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Additional funding secured this year will allow the county to acquire and demolish 10 more homes built in floodplains.

#### **OAKLAND BUYOUTS**

Oakland completed demolitions on four homes built in the floodplain near the West Nishnabotna River. They were acquired with funding secured from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant program.

#### **BUYOUTS** IN FLOODPLAINS

#### **Pottawattamie County**



#### **Oakland County**



Homes demolished

#### PACIFIC JUNCTION UPDATE

Homes acquired with FEMA
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Acquisitions

103
Demolitions



Number of owners assisted with interim mortgage assistance



Homes with asbestos removed



Barrel Homes acquired with

lowa flood recovery fund

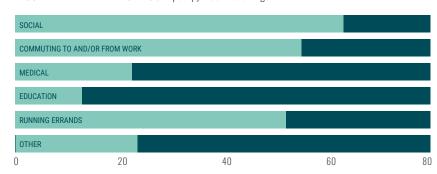




## RESPONDENTS 1,811 Survey responses

**2,163**Visitors to project website

#### I-80 TRIP PRIMARY PURPOSE | Sarpy I-80 Interchange PEL







#### SARPY COUNTY PEL STUDY

MAPA's Sarpy County Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is evaluating six alternatives for a possible new interchange along Interstate 80 in western Sarpy County.

The study, being developed in coordination with Sarpy County and the Cities of Papillion and Gretna, is designed to identify transportation improvements to alleviate congestion at the I-80 interchanges at Nebraska Highways 370 and 31 due to significant population growth and development.

The study area is centered along I-80 west of Pflug Road to Nebraska Highway 370 and a buffer approximately one-mile out from the interstate.





#### METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) contracted with MAPA to support its strategic planning for an upcoming update to the campus master plan. MCC wanted to explore growth and development patterns in the region to better understand the existing plans and projects that could impact their current and future campus locations and the locations of educational and training services.

#### MAPA provided:



Data analysis related to traffic safety, future growth and development and transit accessibility to campuses



Meeting facilitation with community leaders, Metro Transit and MCC leadership regarding potential community collaboration

MCC will be utilizing the work from this internal strategic plan to inform its next update to its Campus Master Plan in 2022. Nebraska's robotics industry will receive a boost. The U.S. Economic Development Administration announced recently the Heartland Robotics Cluster Coalition is one of 21 winners of the \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

The EDA initally awarded the Coalition \$500,000 to develop a collaborative plan, and the group will be awarded \$25 million in grants to accelerate Nebraska's leadership in the agricultural industry through robotic technologies and advanced manufacturing automation.

The Heartland Robotics Cluster Coalition is led by Invest Nebraska, in partnership with several regional partners, including MAPA.

The Build Back Better Regional Challenge is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.



#### **2022** ASSESSMENT

presented to MAPA board in July 2022

Key Strategic
Recommendations highlighted

23
Additional Efforts in Progress

Action item areas rated as Meeting Requirements

Action item areas rated
Above and Beyond

#### **2021** ASSESSMENT

Recommendations for work in following year

Action item areas rated Meeting Requirements

Action item areas rated Above and Beyond

#### **EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD**

Community leaders and stakeholders are increasingly looking for tools to help guide decisions throughout the region. The Equitable Development Scorecard is a tool they can use when considering projects for their communities.

The process reaffirms and encourages comprehensive collaboration takes place before a project is submitted to ensure the community and developer goals are aligned and the project is equitable.

Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Heartland 2050 Equity & Engagement Committee Outgoing Chair

Heartland 2050's Equity and Engagement Committee are working to finalize an Equitable Development Scorecard, which can be used to assess projects and initiatives to determine if they meet the community's standards for equity.



Review the scorecard:
tinyurl.com/EQScorecard











PRESENTATIONS FROM









EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## GULLABORATION











#### HEARTLAND **2050**

Through the lens of Heartland 2050, we collaborated on events which focused on improving equity in the work that we, and our community partners, do in transportation and long-range regional planning, in order to improve the vibrancy of communities.

For the first time in two years, we hosted events in person. Another change - new leadership of Heartland 2050's committees.

## Meet the New Heartland 2050 Committee Chairs



Keith Station, Chair Regional Planning Advisory Committee



Lynn Ditmer, Vice-Chair Regional Planning Advisory Committee



Ashley Rae Turner, Chair **Equity & Engagement Committee** 



Jeff Spiehs, Chair
Housing & Development
Committee



Derek Miller, Chair Infrastructure Committee



Mike McIntosh, Co-Chair Infrastructure Committee



Kyle Madsen, Chair Natural Resources Committee



#### **EQUITY LEARNING CAPSULE SERIES**

In partnership with Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce ConnectGO, this six-week capsule was the first in a series of learning opportunities in collaboration with Rail~Volution's ACT2 program. The group recently reviewed the federal Reconnecting Communities Grant and explored the potential for a grant application that could assist in healing and repairing some of the decades-old racism issues within the metro.



The experience has shaped the way I view programming at the Urban League of Nebraska... Transportation Equity, Affordable Housing, and Eliminating the Racial Wealth Gap (through education and employment programs) are now the three pillars of Urban League of Nebraska.





### TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL WORK SESSIONS

These two workshops took a deep dive into the nuts and bolts of transit-oriented development (TOD) to educate and encourage local developers and funders to participate in transit oriented development. These work sessions helped bring developers and lenders together with others like themselves in the trenches who have seen success in TOD.

#### COALITION BUILDING VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Presenters from around the country with experience in building coalitions around ballot measures were curated by Rail~volution. Because real change cannot happen in the region without additional investment, these workshops were designed to help roadmap a plan for future campaigns regarding public investment in transit.

#### MICROTRANSIT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

While bus and rail services might cover the core of transit trips, people often need to complete the first and last portion by other means. This is referred as the "first mile/ last mile" of the user's trip. This workshop was designed to assist Metro Transit in designing first mile/last mile solutions by studying best practices in microtransit from around the country.

## COLLABORATION

## GULLABORATION

In 2022, we returned to live events and offered a strong slate of activities.



#### BABY STEPS GIANT LEAPS IN PERSON SUMMIT

This half-day summit featuring keynote speaker Tamika Butler focused on equity, particularly in transportation planning, and round table conversations.

#### **KC TRIP**

Building on the success of the first section of Council Bluffs' FIRST AVE trail, city leaders are considering a possible streetcar addition to the project. Iowa West Foundation funded a trip to Kansas City for city and business leaders to study the RideKC Streetcar project. MAPA coordinated logistics for the trip which provided an opportunity for Council Bluffs leaders to meet with transit authorities and learn how they implemented the streetcar.







#### RECAST YOUR CITY IN PERSON WORKSHOP

This one-day workshop with keynote speaker Ilana Preuss, Founder & CEO of Recast Your City, focused on revitalizing small city downtowns or urban neighborhood centers. This partnership with NE APA provided an excellent forum to address the topic of shuttered downtowns and/or urban neighborhood centers and best practices for revitalization.







#### **HEARTLAND 2050 MINI-GRANT PROGRAM**

Each year MAPA earmarks a portion of its Surface Transportation Block Grant funding for the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program.

The Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant program funds projects that support local governments in Sarpy and Douglas Counties, and the urbanized

portion of Pottawattamie County in their efforts to create livable communities and help implement the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision.

Since its inception in 2018, the program has awarded a total of more than \$1.2 million for 12 projects.

\$1.2 MILLION AWARDED FOR 12 PROJECTS

Project Name	Sponsor	Federal Award	Year Awarded
City of Omaha 13th Street Corridor Walkability Study	City of Omaha	\$80,000	2018
Metro Transit Development Plan	Metro Transit	\$70,000	2018
First Avenue Transit Alternatives Analysis	City of Council Bluffs	\$80,000	2019
Central 24th Street Corridor Study	City of Omaha	\$100,000	2020
Southside Terrace - Indian Hills Neighborhood Multi-Modal Transportation Study	City of Omaha	\$96,000	2021
Neighborhood Expanded Access to Trails Study	PMRNRD	\$120,000	2021
Fort Crook Road Corridor Study	City of Bellevue	\$100,000	2022
Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan	City of Omaha	\$200,000	2022
Cornhusker Road - 36th Street to Fort Crook Road Corridor Study	City of Bellevue	\$100,000	2023
Western Sarpy Transportation Enhancement Plan	City of Gretna	\$100,000	2023
La Vista Bicycle & Pedestrian Mobility Plan	City of La Vista	\$80,000	2023
Beltline Trail to Field Club Trail Connection Study	City of Omaha	\$120,000	2023



#### BIKEWAY AND TRAIL UPDATES



#### **COUNCIL BLUFFS FIRST AVE TRAIL**

Phase One of the FIRST AVE Trail, which runs from 25th to 35th Streets one block south of Broadway in Council Bluffs, opened in January 2022.

FIRST AVE is an acronym which stands for "Furthering Interconnections, Revitalization, Streetscapes, Transportation and Aesthetics for a Vibrant Economy." Once Phase Two is complete the trail will extend 1.8 miles from 16th to 35th Streets and connect with other trails in Council Bluffs.

A possible streetcar project is being considered for the corridor as well.



#### WESTERN DOUGLAS COUNTY TRAIL

The second phase of the Western Douglas County Trail was completed this spring with the installation of a pedestrian bridge over railroad tracks to connect the trail from the DC West Schools to the Twin Rivers YMCA. Once the full trail is completed, it will connect the communities of Valley and Waterloo.



Counter data showed biking was up 140% on this corridor in the first six months since the Market-to-Midtown Bikeway opened in July 2021.



Scooter traffic has increased on the bikeway and use of the corridor is consistent across seven days a week. MAPA Strava Data shows the western portion of the corridor continues to see more use than the eastern portion, which indicates the bikeway is being used for transportation, not just recreational use.

Use of Heartland Bikeshare stations along the protected bike lane increased 69% since the pilot project started.



## GONNEGTON

HWY 75
PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT
ATTENDANCE

44 attendees for virtual meeting

121 attendees for in-person meeting



#### HWY 75 CORRIDOR & FREIGHT STRATEGY STUDY

In August 2021, MAPA began the Highway 75 Corridor & Freight Strategy Study, a high-level analysis to identify transportation alternatives that reduce truck traffic along the northern stretch of the highway, and also increase mobility, safety, accessibility, and neighborhood livability.

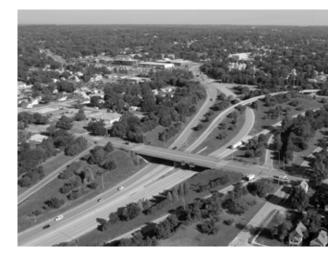
Highway 75, also known as 30th Street within the study area, is an important component of Omaha's transportation network that moves thousands of vehicles each day.

This includes passenger and commuter traffic and thousands of tons of freight which move in, out and through the metro area.

In 2019, the Nebraska Legislature approved funds for MAPA to conduct a study that will assess potential transportation and economic options in the study area.

Through extensive public involvement the study identified seven alternatives for reducing truck and traffic volumes along North 30th Street while increasing bicycle and pedestrian access. Four were determined to be feasible and are being evaluated further.

A final report with one recommended alternative is expected later this year.







#### FORT CROOK ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY

Funded through the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program, the Fort Crook Road Corridor Study is designed to assist the City of Bellevue in implementing its new, updated Fort Crook Road 2040 Plan. The plan, passed recently by the Bellevue City Council, is a transformative vision for the corridor which calls for Bus Rapid Transit, transit-oriented development and the creation of bike lanes and pedestrian trails to help increase density, walkability, and vibrancy.



#### WESTERN DOUGLAS COUNTY PLANNING COLLABORATIVE

The Western Douglas County Planning Collaborative is a partnership between MAPA, Douglas County, and the communities of Bennington, Valley and Waterloo, Nebraska.

Our communities, large and small, face common challenges. We can better meet them by working together across jurisdictional boundaries.

MAPA is uniquely positioned to facilitate this initiative.

Kent Holm,
Director of Douglas County Dept. of Environmental Services

The group was formed to discuss the planning challenges of these communities—particularly in response to catastrophic floods in 2019. Focused conversations have taken

place between mayors, city councilors, planning commissioners, and Douglas County Commissioners to identify potential resources and needs for the communities to plan for their current and future growth.

MAPA staff facilitated workshops on housing affordability in partnership with the City of Omaha and helped update plans for recreational trails in partnership with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District to leverage the unique natural resources within this area of the county.





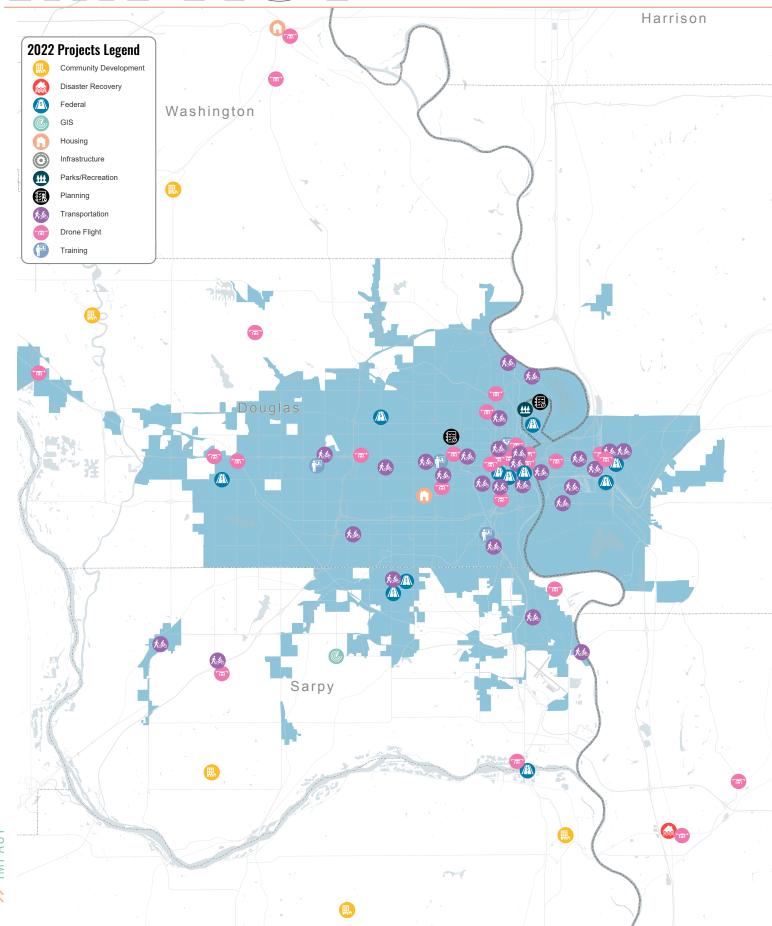
320 employers responded to the survey

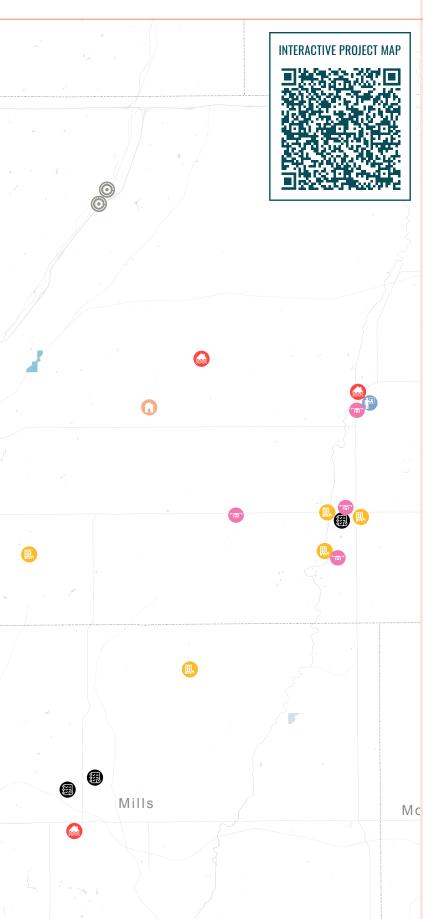
#### TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT SURVEY

The Travel Demand Management Survey is a tool that opens the door to developing leadership capacity for increased support of transit and multimodal investment within the corporate sector.

In total, 320 employers responded to the survey, representing almost 2,000 employees who work and go to school aggregated at all three locations. Analyzing the data collected to design incentive programs that offer multi-modal alternatives and tracking results will provide tangible documentation of progress and change.

## PAGI







#### REGIONAL PROJECT LIST



#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Organization Funding Plattsmouth CDBG Economic Development Loan RLF



#### **DISASTER RECOVERY**

Oakland HMGP & CDBG Property Buyouts
Pacific Junction HMGP & CDBG Property Buyouts
Pottawattamie County HMGP & CDBG Property Buyouts
West Nishnabotna Watershed - Disaster Resilience



#### **FEDERAL**

168th Street - West Center Road to Q Street City of Omaha 5310 CRRSAA Allocations
Applewood Creek Trail City of La Vista
Carter Lake Trail Project
Community Funding Projects (La Vista and North 24th St)
CRRSAA Buy-Back Funding (Nebraska)
East Beltway Project - Council Bluffs
Sarpy County I-80 Planning & Environmental Linkages Study
Signal Infrastructure City of Omaha
US Highway 34 Bike and Walking Trail Phase 2
Western Douglas County Trails Phases 1 & 2



#### GIS

Drone Image Library GOHub and Natural Resources Inventory



#### HOUSING

Blair Rural Workforce Housing Fund Dana Suites Adaptive Reuse Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund TOD Technical Assistance



#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Carter Lake CDBG Sewer Improvements Neola CITIES - Wastewater System Improvements Neola CITIES - Water Utility System Upgrades



#### PARKS/RECREATION

Glenwood Trail Neola Street



#### **PLANNING**

Carson Strategic Plan Update Carter Lake Comprehensive Plan EDA/Invest NE Build Back Better Regional Challenge - Heartland Robotics Mills County Hazard Mitigation Plan update Mills County M&P Levee Accreditation Study



#### **TRAINING**

Baby Steps Giant Leaps Summit
Broadband Summit - Across NE - MCC South Campus
Elected Officials training - MAPA & Oakland
Equity Capsules - TOD, Equity
Indy Learning Site Visit
Recast Your City - Ilana Preuss



#### DRONE FLIGHT

24th Street Corridor Study RAISE Grant



#### TRANSPORTATION

Bellevue Toll Bridge Study
City of Omaha Beltline Study (FY23)
ConnectGO Getting to Work Survey
Fort Crook Road Corridor Study
La Vista Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (FY23)
Neighborhood Expanded Access to Trails Study
Omaha Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan
Southside Terrace Indian Hills-Transportation Study
Western Sarpy Transportation Enhancement Plan WESTEP (FY23)



## IMPAGI

#### MAPA-NEF REVOLVING LOAN FUND

MAPA's partnership with the Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) on the Small and Micro Businesses Revolving Load Fund (RLF) resulted in more than

\$423,000

in financial support for five additional businesses.

Funded through the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the revolving loan fund helps locally owned start-up businesses and existing businesses in MAPA's six-county service area impacted by COVID-19 and seeking to expand.

**COMMUNITIES** 





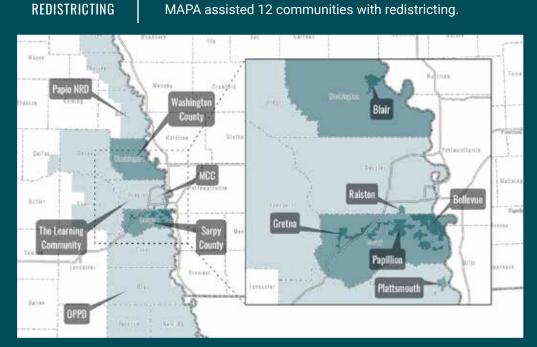


#### MAPA COMN DEVELOPME

\$726,237

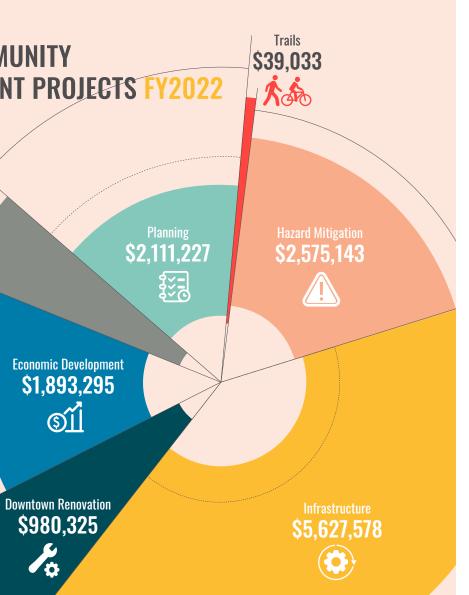
#### REDISTRICTING

The decennial census requires communities with population changes redraw the boundaries of their legislative districts. Following the release of the census in September 2021, MAPA assisted 12 communities with redistricting.

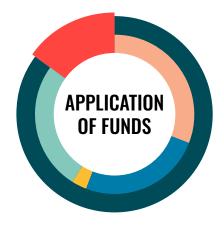




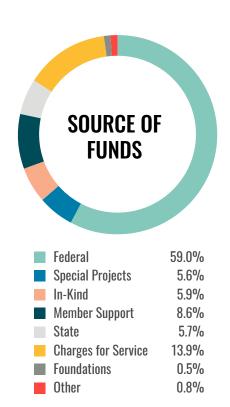
As part of its role as a **regional convener**, MAPA hosts and facilitates training and workshops on topics that **promote vibrancy and community development**. Through virtual and in-person events, MAPA hosted, facilitated or presented at **more than 21** training sessions, workshops, and summits in the past year.



#### **MAPA FUNDING FY2022**



■ Program Expenses	85%
Studies & Local Subcontracts	31%
Transportation	25%
Heartland 2050	3%
Regional Assistance	26%
- Administrative	15%





#### FY2022 MAPA STAFF



MICHAEL HELGERSON Executive Director



GRANT ANDERSON
Community & Economic Development Manager



**COURT BARBER**Transportation Planner & Local Projects Liaison



NATASHA BARRETT Accountant II



MICHAEL BLANK
Transportation Planner I



JIM BOERNER
Transportation Planner II



CHRISTINA BROWNELL
Director of Administration



**LINDSEY BUTTON**Transportation Planner I



RAFAEL CORRALES
Community & Economic
Development Assistant Planner I



JOSH CORRIGAN
GIS Coordinator



**SUE CUTSFORTH**Information Officer



MATTHEW EASH Director of Finance



**ISABELLE FLEMING**Communications & Outreach Intern



RACHEL GOETTSCH
Transportation Intern



TRAVIS HALM
Transportation Planner II



LAURA HEILMAN
Communications & Outreach Manager



**KEITH KENNEDY**Debris Monitor



CHARLES MITCHELL
Accountant |



**AMANDA MORALES**Fiscal Officer



**CARLOS MORALES**Transportation and Data Manager



RYAN OSSELL Community and Economic Development Associate Planner II



SHAWNNA SILVIUS
Economic Development Planner III



JULIE SMITH
Community Development Planner III



**OWEN STUCKEY**GIS Assistant



**JODI WOOLERY**Graphic Designer



**ELIZABETH ZELLER**Administrative Assistant

Employees who contributed to FY2022 programs but are no longer employed by MAPA.



