

What's Happening

September/October 2015

for Community Leaders

Study to examine possible transit service options for Sarpy County

Getting around for those who live in Sarpy County can be difficult without access to a personal vehicle. For that reason MAPA and Sarpy County are conducting a needs assessment and feasibility study of transit services in the County.

Sarpy County does not have any countywide transit service currently. There are only two types of transit service offered within the County at this time. First, Metro Transit provides park and ride, express routes to specific locations within the Cities of Bellevue, Papillion and LaVista by contract. Secondly, those same cities provide special transit service for the elderly and those with disabilities.

The study will provide stakeholders with quantifiable data regarding demand for transit, the type of transit service that would best suit the needs of County residents, and recommendations for implementation.

Possible options for the type of transit service include demand response, flex routes, express routes, fixed routes and coordination of existing services.

Demand response allows passengers to request a ride from one location to another at a specific time.



Metro Transit added four new Park and Ride locations recently to the revamped express route in Bellevue, including one at the Lied Activity Center.

POSSIBLE TYPES OF TRANSIT



- Demand response
- Flex routes
- Express routes
- Fixed routes
- Coordination of existing services

While fixed route transit involves vehicles which run along an established path at preset times, express routes operate typically with fewer stops so commuters can reach their destinations more quickly.

Flex routes are a hybrid of fixed route transit and demand response transit. The main routes cover a specific service corridor with a set of fixed stops and schedules but service routes are allowed to deviate from the route (usually by up to ¼ mile). Through this deviation they are able to provide door-to-door service to passengers whose trips end outside the service area of the main route or who require accessible services such as paratransit services.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project was released in August 2015.

MAPA is currently in negotiations with a firm to conduct the study.

A project kick-off meeting should occur within the next several months. It is anticipated the study will be completed by September 2016.

Public reviews long-term alternatives for Phase II of Platteview Road Corridor Study

More than 250 people attended MAPA's public meeting August 31st to see results so far of Phase II of the Platteview Road Corridor Study. Phase II focuses on the four feasible, longer-term alternatives for the corridor. MAPA staff and project consultants discussed the alternatives with residents, answered their questions and listened to their concerns about the options available.

MAPA, along with Sarpy County, identified Platteview Road for a corridor study because of the relocation of U.S. Highway 34, which included a new Missouri River bridge crossing. These elements created a direct connection from I-29 to Platteview Road, and opened up a new east-west connection between I-29 and I-80 in the southern portion of the Omaha metropolitan area.

The study is analyzing transportation and land use options for the corridor and examining potential future growth trends which could lead to increased development in the area served by Platteview Road. Results of additional land use scenarios are expected yet this fall.

The joint meeting with Sarpy County also provided the public an opportunity to view updated land use plans for the County's Comprehensive Plan update, plans to expand bicycle and pedestrians trails, as well as plans in the 180th to 192nd Street corridor.



Members of the public review possible long-term alternatives for the Platteview Road Corridor at MAPA's public meeting on August 31st.

MAPA seeks public input on 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) survey

MAPA is developing its 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP assesses the region's current transportation system and creates a vision which assists in guiding future decisions toward the goal of a safe, efficient transportation system to meet the region's current and future needs.

The 2050 LRTP will assess the needs of the eight counties in the MAPA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). These counties include: Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Saunders Counties in Nebraska; Harrison, Pottawattamie and Mills Counties in Iowa.

To assist in its assessment of the current transportation system and current and future needs, MAPA has a survey available. The survey asks participants to rate the convenience of traveling within the MAPA Region, along with comfort and safety, and to rank their preferences and concerns for transportation priorities.

Take the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCW26XL>. For a paper copy of the survey, contact MAPA at 402-444-6866.

2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

Share your thoughts on
traveling in the MAPA region at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCW26XL>

Economic Development Tools White Paper compares assistance available in Nebraska and Iowa

MAPA
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Connect. Plan. Thrive.

Economic Development Tools for Municipalities

September 2015

Is your municipality looking for some assistance with economic development but is not sure what tools are available? A new white paper created and published by MAPA may provide some help.

The "Economic Development Tools for Municipalities" analyzes significant economic development programs available to cities and villages in Nebraska and compares them with those in the State

of Iowa. These programs include: tax increment financing, taxation/special assessments, improvement districts, impact fees, revolving loan funds, tax credits and incentives, and economic development grants.

In September, MAPA presented the white paper before the Urban Affairs Committee of the Nebraska Legislature chaired by State Senator Sue Crawford, District 45, Bellevue.

A copy of the "Economic Development Tools for Municipalities" report is available on the home page of the MAPA website, www.mapacog.org. A paper copy is available by contacting MAPA offices at 402-444-6866.

Public Works Director named to Top Ten Leaders list

Each year the American Public Works Association (APWA) releases its list of Top Ten Public Works Leaders and this time a familiar name in the MAPA region is on it.

Council Bluffs Public Works Director Greg Reeder is among those chosen as the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of 2015. The list of recipients and their accompanying profiles are published in the August 2015 *Public Works* magazine article, "Words to Lead By."

The award recognizes outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. Candidates must have a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience to be nominated. The Top Ten Public Works Leaders are selected by a panel of judges.

Public Works Director for the City of Council Bluffs since 1986, Reeder oversees a department of 120 employees and a budget of \$16 million along with a \$15 million dollar capital improvement program. The award recognizes Reeder's greatest accomplishment as his constant presence during the 2011 Missouri River

flood directing the department's flood-fighting activities. During that time, the river was above flood stage for 100 days, making it the longest duration flood event in U.S. history.

So what's his advice to the next generation of leaders? Reeder told *Public Works* magazine "it's imperative to recognize changes in the challenges faced and respond with solutions that may be a little, or a lot, different than what was done previously."

Since 1960, 550 men and women have received the Top Ten Public Works Leaders award from the APWA.



Council Bluffs Public Works Director Greg Reeder

MAPA to participate in Smart Energy Expo in November

Energy, water, housing and transportation issues which affect everyday life are the topics of the Smart Energy Expo taking place Sunday, November 15th, in Omaha.

MAPA is participating in the event along with speakers from the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance, the Nebraska Energy Office, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Omaha Public Power District, the Omaha Stormwater Program and the U.S. Green Building Council Flatwater Chapter.

The goal of the Smart Energy Expo is to provide information to homeowners which will help them create healthier and more sustainable homes. It runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Millard Lumber Warehouse at 12900 I Street, Omaha.

For more information on the Smart Energy Expo and the Green Home Tour on November 14th, visit the website at:

<http://www.greenomahacoalition.org/event/green-home-tour-smart-energy-expo/>.



**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 15
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

Millard Lumber
Warehouse
12900 I Street,
Omaha

See innovative products and smart technology that will make your home healthier and more comfortable.

The Expo features speakers from The Nebraska Community Energy Alliance, The Nebraska Energy Office, The Nebraska Environmental Trust, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, OPPD, Omaha Stormwater Program and the USGBC.

CALENDAR

November 2015

- Nov. 1st – Daylight Saving Time ends
Set clocks back one hour
- Nov. 11th – Heartland 2050 Executive Committee
8 a.m.

MAPA Offices Closed
Veterans' Day
- Nov. 18th – Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.

RPA/Tech Committee
11 a.m.

ISAC Iowa State Fall School of Instruction (Nov. 18-20)
- Nov. 26th – MAPA Offices Closed
Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27th – MAPA Offices Closed

December 2015

- Dec. 2nd – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.

Elected Officials Training
Oakland, IA
6 p.m.
- Dec. 4th – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Dec. 9th – NACO (Nebraska Association
Dec. 11th of County Officials)
Kearney, NE
- Dec. 10th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16th – Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 25th – MAPA Offices Closed
Christmas Day
- Jan. 1st – MAPA Offices Closed
New Year's Day



Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

2222 Cuming St., Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4328
Phone: 402.444.6866 email: mapa@mapacog.org

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MAPA presents 2015 Regional Service, Citizenship and Merit Awards

MAPA recognized leaders in regional planning, collaboration and community and economic development for their hard work at its Council of Officials annual meeting on October 7th.

Omaha business executive Dana Bradford received MAPA's 2015 Regional Citizenship Award while MAPA awarded its 2015 Regional Service Award to the Nebraska Enterprise Fund. Retired Nebraska State Senator Paul Hartnett of Bellevue received the agency's Award of Merit.

Hartnett, who served in the Nebraska legislature for 20 years and served as Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, played a key role in getting two major highway projects for the metro area.

"Dr. Hartnett worked with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) to secure state support for the Kennedy Freeway project which had stalled. His leadership also brought about the new Highway 34 Bridge which connects Sarpy County to Interstate 29 and Mills County," said Greg Youell, MAPA Executive Director.



Retired Nebraska State Senator Paul Hartnett, recipient of the MAPA Award of Merit.

Bradford is the Executive Chairman of Waitt Brands, Inc. and

serves on the boards of numerous organizations including the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA). He served as Co-Chair for the Heartland 2050 Regional Visioning process and was instrumental in guiding the project.



Dana Bradford, CEO of Waitt Brands, recipient of the Regional Citizenship Award.

The Nebraska Enterprise Fund (N.E.F.) is a non-profit certified Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) working to encourage and equip small businesses and entrepreneurs in the metro area.



Jim Reiff, Executive Director of the Nebraska Enterprise Fund, receives the Regional Service Award.

Sixteen percent of N.E.F.'s lending has been to viable Hispanic businesses and 26 percent has been to African-American-owned businesses.



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