

What's Happening

For Community Leaders

November/December 2017

US Highway 34/75 Bike and Walking Trail approved

In a project that is a prime example of regional collaboration and cooperation, bicyclists and pedestrians will have a trail in the coming years which allows them to travel between Sarpy and Cass Counties safely.

Construction of phase one of the US Highway 34/75 Bike and Walking Trail is slated for early 2018. The trail will establish a much-needed connection over the Platte River from Plattsmouth to Bellevue, Nebraska.



The timing of obtaining approval for the trail this fall was crucial. The Highway 75 Bridge over the Platte River is under construction and once the project is completed the roadway becomes a freeway, making it illegal for bicyclists and pedestrians to use.

“Gaining approval to move forward with adding a side path to the bridge was a big win. Eventually trails will connect on either side, creating great opportunities

for walking and biking, so a safe crossing on this bridge is critical,” said Julie Harris, Executive Director of the Nebraska Bicycle Alliance. “The chance to fix bridges like this comes once a generation, so we had to get this right while we had the chance.”

During phase one, MAPA and the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will split the costs of construction and placement of the girders to support the bike and walking trail.

The financing of phase one of the project includes unique aspects. To keep the project progressing, it will remain a State project with NDOT funding 100 percent of the costs, approximately \$1.4 million. MAPA’s 50 percent share (\$700,000) of phase one costs will be contributed in federal funding from MAPA’s Surface Transportation Block Grant Program toward a separate state project on US-6 at Schramm Park in Sarpy County.

Phase two is estimated to cost approximately \$2 million and includes construction, operation and maintenance of the trail deck, rails and fencing and immediate right of way to complete the bike and walking trail.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) is expected to apply to MAPA as part of MAPA’s FY2019 Call for Projects to secure federal funding, which would cover 80 percent of costs for phase two. The remaining 20 percent local portion, \$400,000 approximately, would be paid by the remaining project partners.

PHASE TWO

\$1,600,000

80% of funding secured by MAPA

The local partners will provide portions of the 20% match- \$400,000.



Iowa launches childhood health campaign: 5-2-1-0

The Iowa Public Department of Health is launching “5210 – Healthy Choice Count,” a childhood health campaign.



The goal of this initiative is to help children live healthier lives by reiterating the importance of good habits. 5-2-1-0 will provide consistent messaging and programming addressing childhood obesity by focusing on sharing its message across multiple areas – including childcare, healthcare, schools, out-of-school and the work place.

5-2-1-0 is a childhood obesity prevention program recognized nationally, which targets children ages 0 to 18, and focuses on the importance of four simple daily health habits:

- 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables;
- 2 hours or less of screen time (television, computer, video games, phones, etc.);
- 1 hour or more of physical activity; and
- 0 sugar-sweetened beverages.

The Iowa Department of Public Health is working with several communities across the state, including Malvern, to implement strategies around 5-2-1-0. The statewide 5210 campaign will include toolkits, social media, advertising, website content and community commitments. Each community is receiving \$18,000 for projects to improve access to a healthy environment. MAPA is assisting the City of Malvern with its implementation of the 5-2-1-0 initiative.

West Broadway reconstruction project enters phase two

West Broadway is one of Council Bluffs’ main corridors for local residents, businesses and commuters. This connection between adjacent neighborhoods, downtown Omaha and downtown Council Bluffs enters phase two of a reconstruction project soon. The goal is to maintain Council Bluffs as a desirable destination to live, work and play. Segment one from 35th to 32nd Streets is completed and open fully to traffic.

Major improvements include: drainage enhancements, pavement and sidewalk replacement, modifications to aesthetics and increased pedestrian safety and access. Segment two construction work begins in April 2018, targeting 35th to 28th Streets.

Improvements on segment two will include detours. Avenue A will be converted into a two-way street from 16th Street to 35th Street to facilitate easier transportation routes during reconstruction. Existing parking will remain on both sides of Avenue A.

Local West Broadway traffic can access all businesses through existing driveways or through designated alternate routes. Through traffic is urged to utilize selected detours for the area: those traveling westbound should use Avenue A, while those traveling eastbound should take 2nd Avenue.

For more information on the West Broadway reconstruction project, go to www.WBReconstruction.com.



MAPA staffer retiring after 44 years

We'd like to say a BIG thank you, and wish a hearty congratulations to our coworker, Gary Young! After 44 years, Gary is retiring from MAPA. His last day is Jan. 2.

Gary has been a crucial part of our team as a member of the Transportation and Data Department. In his retirement, Gary may be working part-time as a

shuttle driver for a local hotel. He plans to continue refereeing soccer and basketball games, learn how to play the guitar and audit a culinary class so he'll be ready to use the remodeled kitchen in his home once it is finished.

Congratulations, Gary! We will miss you!



1977



Gary, 2001



2017

Game helps teach development decisions



MAPA brought the game RUFopoly to the Citizens Academy on Oct. 19 to help teach players about making development decisions that impact land.

Players move along a path on the edge of a city and make choices on

how to complete scenarios as they go.

The Citizens Academy is designed to educate participants on the many activities local governments perform and give them tools to participate in a meaningful way.

CALENDAR

January 2018

- Jan. 1st – New Year's Day
MAPA Offices closed
- Jan. 3rd – Nebraska Legislature
Convenes
- Jan. 8th – Iowa Legislature Convenes
- Jan. 10th – Heartland 2050
Executive Committee
8 a.m.
RPA-18
11 a.m.
- Jan. 15th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
MAPA Offices closed
- Jan. 17th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
Council of Officials
- Jan. 19th – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Jan. 25th – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.

February 2018

- Feb. 14th – Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.
RPA-18
11 a.m.
- Feb. 16th – Transportation
10 a.m.
- Feb. 19th – Presidents' Day
MAPA Offices closed
- Feb. 21st – Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 22nd – MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26th – League of Nebraska
Feb. 27th Municipalities Midwinter
Conference
Lincoln, NE

Season's Greetings



Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

2222 Cuming St., Omaha, NE 68102-4328

P: 402.444.6866 F: 402.951.6517

Email: mapa@mapacog.org

MAPA is an EOE/DBE employer



The preparation of this publication is financed through planning grants from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation through Iowa DOT and the Nebraska Dept. of Roads as provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration and through local funds from member jurisdictions. The views and opinions MAPA expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.