

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 Ryneerson & 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, “verification” 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 3rd 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.