

H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, June 7, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: MAPA Offices, Omaha, NE – Training Room

Members in Attendance:

Kyle Anderson – Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Archie Carpenter – University of Nebraska Medical Center
David Fanslau – Omaha Planning Department
Chris Gibbons – City of Council Bluffs
Shelley Henderson – FIRST
Leland Jacobson – City of Bellevue
Steve Jensen – Jensen Consulting
Dr. Dan Kinney – Iowa Western Community College (arrived at 10:09 a.m.)
Ron Kohn – City of Glenwood, IA
Othello Meadows – Seventy-Five North
Thomas (Drew) Parks – Nebraska Department of Transportation
Dr. Adi Pour – Douglas County Health Department (arrived at 11:02 a.m.)
Nancy Pridal (Chairperson) – Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Inc.
Vicki Quaites-Ferris – Empowerment Network (arrived at 10:17 a.m.)
Earl Redrick – HUD (Non-Voting) (arrived at 10:50 a.m.)
Zach Reinhardt – Burlington Capital
Curt Simon – Metro Transit Authority
Gayle Sturdivant – City of Omaha Public Works
Laurie Zagurski – Omaha Public Power District

Members Absent:

Troy Anderson – City of Omaha
Jamie Berglund – SPARK CDI
Jaylene Eilenstine – Metro Omaha Builders Association
Dave Forrest – City of Ralston
Bruce Fountain – Sarpy County
Cesar Garcia – DLR Group
Brandon Garrett – City of Council Bluffs
Dan Giittinger – City of Gretna
Patrick Leahy – Natural Resources Committee
Marta Londono – Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation
Mark Norman – Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Stephen Osberg – Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Chris Rodgers – Douglas County Commissioner
Connie Spellman – Heartland 2050
Rod Storm – City of Blair
Mark Stursma – City of Papillion
Ryan Sullivan – Washington County
Carol Vinton – Mills County
Matt Wyant – Pottawattamie County

Guest: None.

MAPA Staff: Christina Brownell, Don Gross, Trevor Harlow, Karna Loewenstein, Greg Youell

I. Welcome / Introductions –

Chair Pridal called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcomed the committee, and introductions were made.

II. April Meeting Minutes – (Action)

No changes or corrections.

H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Anderson, SECOND by Reinhardt to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2019 meeting of the Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. LB492 – Presented by Curt Simon (Information)

Mr. Simon presented to the committee an update on LB492 that would allow for the creation of a regional transit authority. Surrounding communities would be able to opt in to this via a vote of their governing body. The transit authority board would be comprised of 7 elected seats that would be filled during the general election.

IV. Choice Neighborhoods Grant – Presented by David Fanslau and Othello Meadows (Information)

Mr. Meadows and Mr. Fanslau presented to the committee an update on the Choice Neighborhoods Grant. This project was selected for a HUD grant of \$25M for redevelopment around North 30th Street in Omaha. This project has been led by the City of Omaha, 75 North, and the Omaha Housing Authority and will focus on a complete and connected neighborhood. The full amount of this grant in addition to \$157M must be spent by September 2025.

[\(Click here to see the Conceptual Site Plan Design\)](#)

V. Regional Efforts – (Information)

a. MAPA's Role - Presented by Don Gross

Mr. Gross provided an update to the Committee on MAPA's role in the region in the areas of community development and types of services that the agency provides to the communities.

i. Planning Assistance –

- Comprehensive and Strategic Planning
- Housing Study Financing; Housing Projects
- General Community Assistance

ii. Technical support to communities –

- Housing Studies, Workforce Housing, Housing Rehabilitation & Redevelopment
- Community Improvements to Increase Economic Stability (CITIES) Grants

iii. Technical support to nonprofits –

- Lead Reduction Grants
- Local foods efforts
- Grant administration

iv. Disaster Recover

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); property acquisition/buyouts
- Housing Rehab/Replacement
- Public Facilities

v. What are we missing?

- Identify untapped resources, ex. Omaha Land Bank
- MAPA and Chamber collaboration to increase contractor capacity; use of federal resources; utilize trade programs (Ex. ACE Program)

b. Heartland 2050 Ongoing Activities –

i. Mini Grant Program (N 24 Street) Update - Presented by Greg Youell

The mini-grant program utilizes set-aside transportation funds to fund Heartland 2050 projects in the MPO Region (\$250k in Nebraska and \$80k in Iowa). The next call for projects will be in December 2019. One goal for this project is to identify other revenue sources to allow the program to expand geographically. The 24th Street Corridor Study includes a series of projects aimed at improving the bike/ped environment. The mini-grant study will complete a housing market

H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting Minutes

assessment of current housing conditions and identify opportunities for infill development and transportation connections. The lead consultant for this project is Vireo.

- ii. Nodes and Corridors Goals - Presented by Greg Youell
Mr. Youell provided an update to the Committee on the Nodes and Corridors Goals of Heartland 2050 project including a review of the H2050 visioning process and identification of challenges and opportunities (people, places and resources). Mr. Gibbons recommended that Heartland 2050 and MAPA coordinate meetings with city planners in the region to discuss and examine codes and zoning regulations. Ms. Quaites-Ferris recommended reviewing the North-South corridor and identifying the next phase of the BRT. Mr. Youell stated that he would like for the committee to hear an update from Metro Transit on the Transit Development Plan (TDP) that includes some updates on the North-South corridor. Another recommendation from Mr. Jensen to hear an update on the TDP from Metro.
- iii. Housing sub-committee - Presented by Zack Reinhardt
Mr. Reinhardt provided an updated on the Housing sub-committee ongoing activities:
 - Work with The New BLK on the development of communication strategies and materials
 - Re-development of the housing narrative and reframing housing issues from a data viewpoint to narrative/storytelling viewpoint. (Story of You, Story of Us & the Story of Now)
 - Next steps: regulatory flexibility for missing middle housing, ex. ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units); focus on effective infill and affordability

VI. Action Plan Refresh - Presented by Karna Loewenstein

Ms. Loewenstein provided a brief update on the Heartland 2050 Action Plan Refresh. Staff is working with The New BLK on this refresh.

VII. Updates

- a. Heartland 2050 Committee Updates
 - Dr. Adi Pour provided an update on Community Health Improvement Plans and the shift from individual community plans to regional plans and approaches, these plans will also focus strongly on mental health.
 - Vicki Quaites-Ferris provided an update on equity and engagement committee efforts including an upcoming landscape project presentation and the development of an equitable development scorecard.
 - Dr. Dan Kinney provided an update on the efforts of the education committee including information on Future Ready Iowa, a scholarship program for occupational trade programs.
- b. MAPA - Due to time restraints the items below were tabled for the next meeting.
 - i. Studies / Plans
 - ii. Council Bluffs Mobility Taskforce - Greg Youell and Karna Loewenstein

VIII. Adjourn –

Chair Pridal adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting will be held on Friday, August 3, 2019 at MAPA in the Downstairs Training Room.