

OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020 – 29

WHEREAS, recent demonstrations and protests have been held in the MAPA region and nationwide in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, which have highlighted the issues of racism and disparities; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that systemic racism is part of our shared history, which has played a significant role in the growth and development in the metropolitan area and has led to effects such as redlining, segregation, economic inequality, long term disinvestment, and disparities in access and services, which continue to reverberate in the region; and

WHEREAS, an Equitable Region is defined by the MAPA Equity and Engagement Committee as a region in which all residents -- regardless of race/ethnicity, nativity, neighborhood, age, gender, or other characteristics -- can fully participate in the region's economic vitality, contribute to its readiness for the future, and connect to its assets and resources; and

WHEREAS, MAPA's work has included a number of activities to address historically disadvantaged populations, including the Heartland 2050 (H2050) Vision, which calls for building a growth model driven by equity - just and fair inclusion into a society in which everyone has access to participate and prosper - and the need for substantial reinvestment in existing neighborhoods and cities; the H2050 Equity and Engagement committee and its work, including the Heartland Equitable Growth Profile; the Close the Gap Plan for improved access to employment and education through connected transportation corridors; as well as robust Environmental Justice and Title VI evaluation of regional investments; and

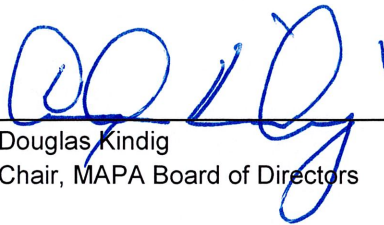
WHEREAS, it is recognized that injustice, racism and grave inequities persist and threaten our region's future vitality, and that it is necessary to do more with greater intensity and focus to realize the goal of expanding true opportunity to all residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Directors of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency reaffirms the agency's commitment to a more equitable and just region. Furthermore, this commitment will be translated into action by MAPA through continuing and strengthening the following actions:

1. Ensure that equity is a regional goal and that progress toward this goal is measured in MAPA's planning work.
2. Commit to listen to those affected and marginalized to learn how MAPA can help.
3. Include robust representation from communities of color in MAPA boards, committees and stakeholder groups
4. Improve the employment, training, advancement, support and success of people of color by recruiting a diverse staff that reflects the region we serve
5. Review policies and programs to ensure equitable funding toward disinvested communities that will close disparities in our region and put all residents on a path toward reaching their full potential.
6. Address the needs of African-American and other historically disadvantaged populations in the transportation planning and project selection process through Environmental Justice analysis, public engagement, and other activities.
7. Target priority community development and economic development investments in Racially or Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAP/ECAP).

8. Review MAPA's work and progress in addressing these issues through conducting an organizational equity assessment to be conducted annually at the end of each fiscal year.

PASSED this 25th day of June, 2020



Douglas Kindig
Chair, MAPA Board of Directors