

# Transportation Profile | 2050 LRTP

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# Transportation Inventory

## Roadways in the MAPA Region

The network of streets, highways, and bridges represents the primary form of transportation in the MAPA TMA. From residential streets to interstate freeways, it is utilized daily by the vast majority of residents in the metro area to get from point A to point B. In recent decades, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to construct and maintain the system that exists today. Ensuring that the roadway system continues to be safe and provides a high-degree mobility for residents and businesses is critical to the region's future.

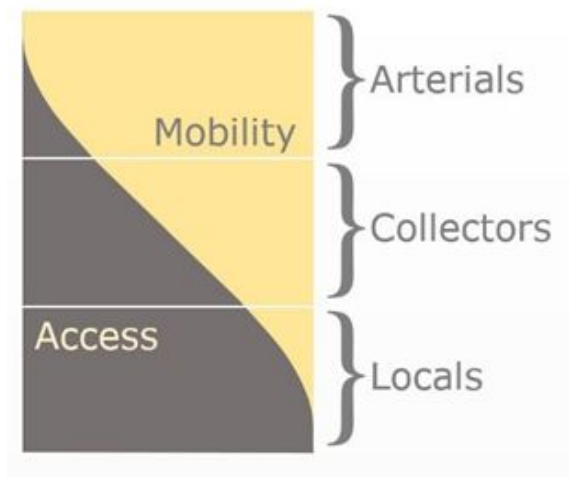
The MAPA LRTP provides the metro area with a roadmap for anticipated transportation improvements. While the 30-year planning timeframe inherently carries with it a high level of uncertainty, it is nonetheless important to periodically assess the region's transportation system and evaluate long range plans and goals. Traffic levels have grown rapidly in recent decades in the MAPA region; however, traffic growth slowed for several years following the economic recession of 2008. Since that time traffic growth has slowly begun to increase as population and employment continue to increase. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing had significant impacts in reducing traffic on the region's roadways for weeks. However, at this time it is unclear whether there will be long-term impacts of the precautions being taken to slow the spread of the virus as communities plan for reopening businesses, schools and other venues.

In many communities throughout the region, the roadway system in the metro area has not kept pace with new, suburban growth. Improvements to the roadway system lag behind the current extent of residential, commercial and retail development. A tension exists between investing in these traditional infrastructure needs while ensuring that adequate resources exist to maintain the transportation system of today and of the future. This section will list these current needs, as well as likely future needs to provide an effective transportation system.



## Federal Functional Classification

The functionality of a street is related to traffic mobility and land access. Higher level facilities such as freeways and expressways have lower access which allow for higher speeds and capacities. Conversely, lower level facilities such as local streets and minor collectors allow for greater access, but have reduced mobility due to lower speeds and capacities. This relationship can be seen in the diagram to the right,



The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) groups roadways into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide. In order to be eligible for federal-aid funding, a roadway must be classified as a Major Collector or higher in the functionally classified road network. Tables B1 and B2 list the number of center-line and lane miles, and miles by each federal functional classification in the MAPA TMA. Figure B1 (next page) illustrates the functional classification of roadways in the MAPA TMA.

Table B1: Centerline Miles of Roadway by Functional Classification

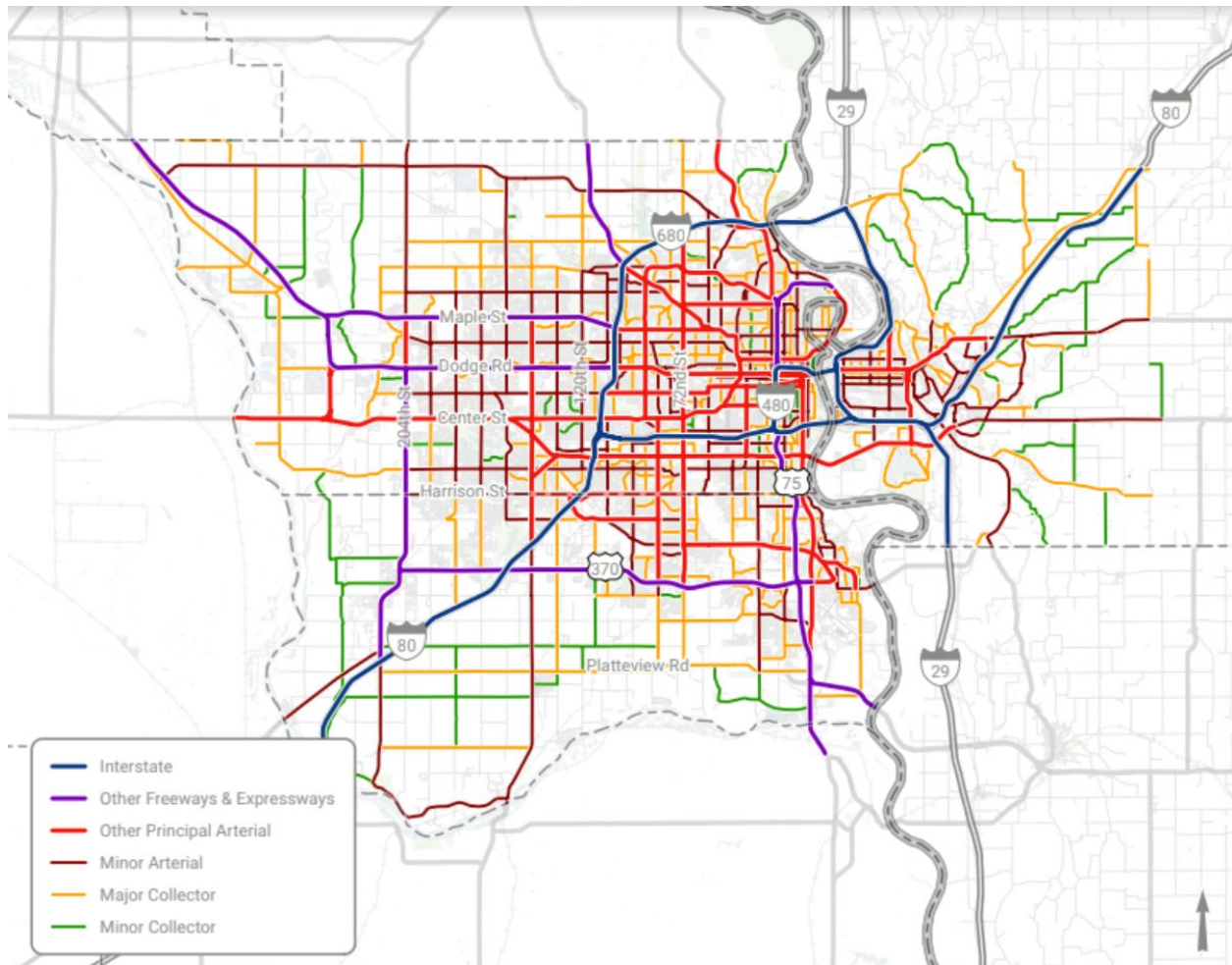
	Interstate (PAI)	Other Principal Arterial (OPA)	Minor Arterial (MA)	Collector	Local (LOC)	Total
Douglas	35	204	222	279	2,442	3,182
Sarpy	17	63	62	158	1,020	1,320
Pottawattamie (MPO)	38	18	72	146	605	879
MAPA TMA Total	90	286	356	583	4,067	5,381

Table B2: Lane Miles of Roadway in by Function Classification

	Interstate (PAI)	Other Principal Arterial (OPA)	Minor Arterial (MA)	Collector	Local (LOC)	Total
Douglas	182	795	624	587	4,882	7,070
Sarpy	81	246	162	325	2,040	2,855
Pottawattamie (MPO)	154	67	162	292	1,198	1,872
MAPA TMA Total	418	1,108	949	1,203	8,120	11,798



Figure B1: Functional Classification of Roadways in the MAPA TMA





## System Preservation in the Metro Travel Improvement Study

The Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) provided an inventory of the existing transportation network in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area. The forecasting of bridge and pavement needs in MTIS was limited to the National Highway System (NHS) and MAPA priority corridor network in the figure below. This network comprises the major highway and arterial corridors in the region and over 50% of the region's total VMT.

Figure B2: Metro Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) Network

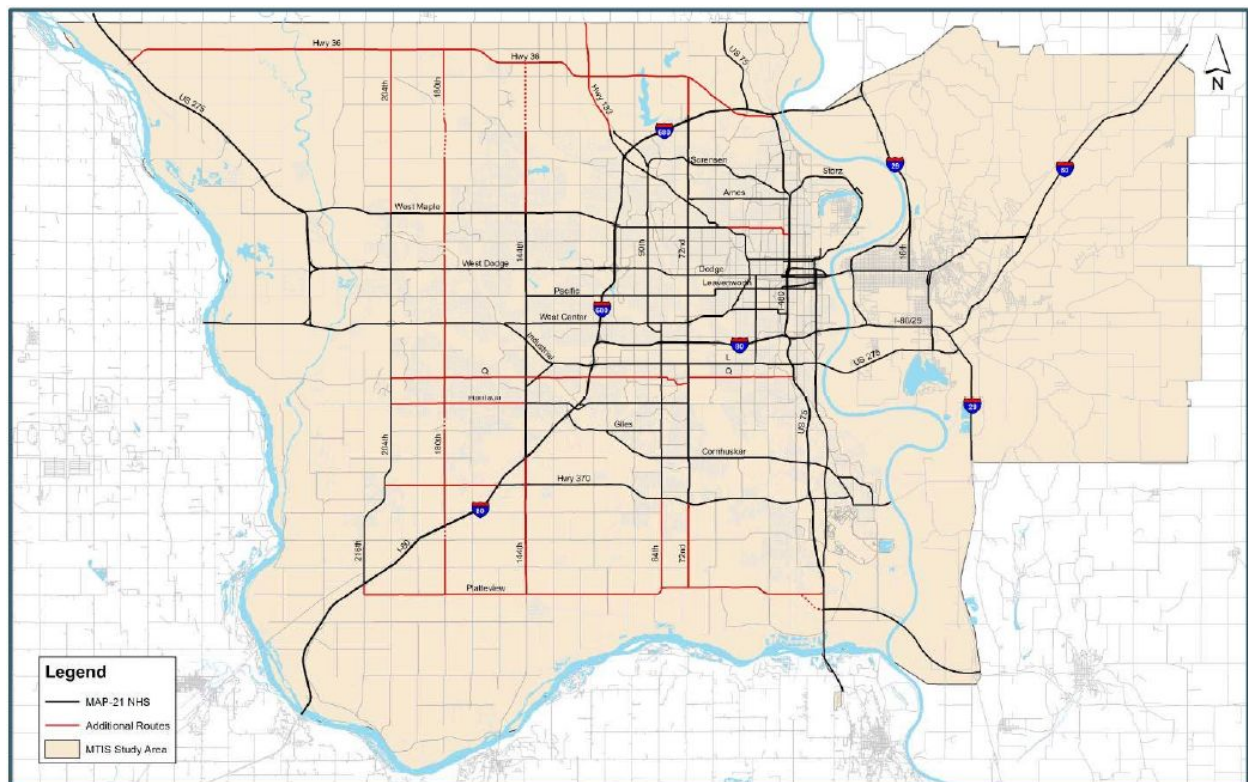


Table B3: MTIS Study Area Pavement Inventory

Functional Class	Nebraska Portion		Iowa Portion		Total	
	Segment Miles	Lane Miles	Segment Miles	Lane Miles	Segment Miles	Lane-Miles
Interstate	90.9	275.7	80.0	167.4	170.9	443.1
Freeway	79.3	174.8	0.0	0.0	79.3	174.8
State Highway	268.4	543.6	29.5	69.0	297.9	612.6
Local Roads	326.0	515.0	1.8	3.6	327.8	518.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>764.6</i>	<i>1509.1</i>	<i>111.3</i>	<i>240.0</i>	<i>875.9</i>	<i>1749.1</i>

### Pavement Condition

Current pavement conditions in the study area are shown below. Interstates and Freeways are the only functional classes of roadways within the study area that currently meet the performance target of 84% “good” or better condition. Pavements deteriorate over time due to traffic loads, severe weather, and other factors. Without preventative maintenance or rehabilitation pavements will deteriorate over time to a point where they are no longer serviceable and require reconstruction. No functional class of pavements is expected to meet the 84% “good” or better condition target beyond 2015 except the Freeway class. After 2033, no study area roadways are expected to be in “good” or better condition unless pavement treatments are applied.

Pavement condition indices calculated as a combination of surface and structural distresses (i.e., rutting and faulting) were applied as primary pavement performance measures for the MTIS study area as follows:

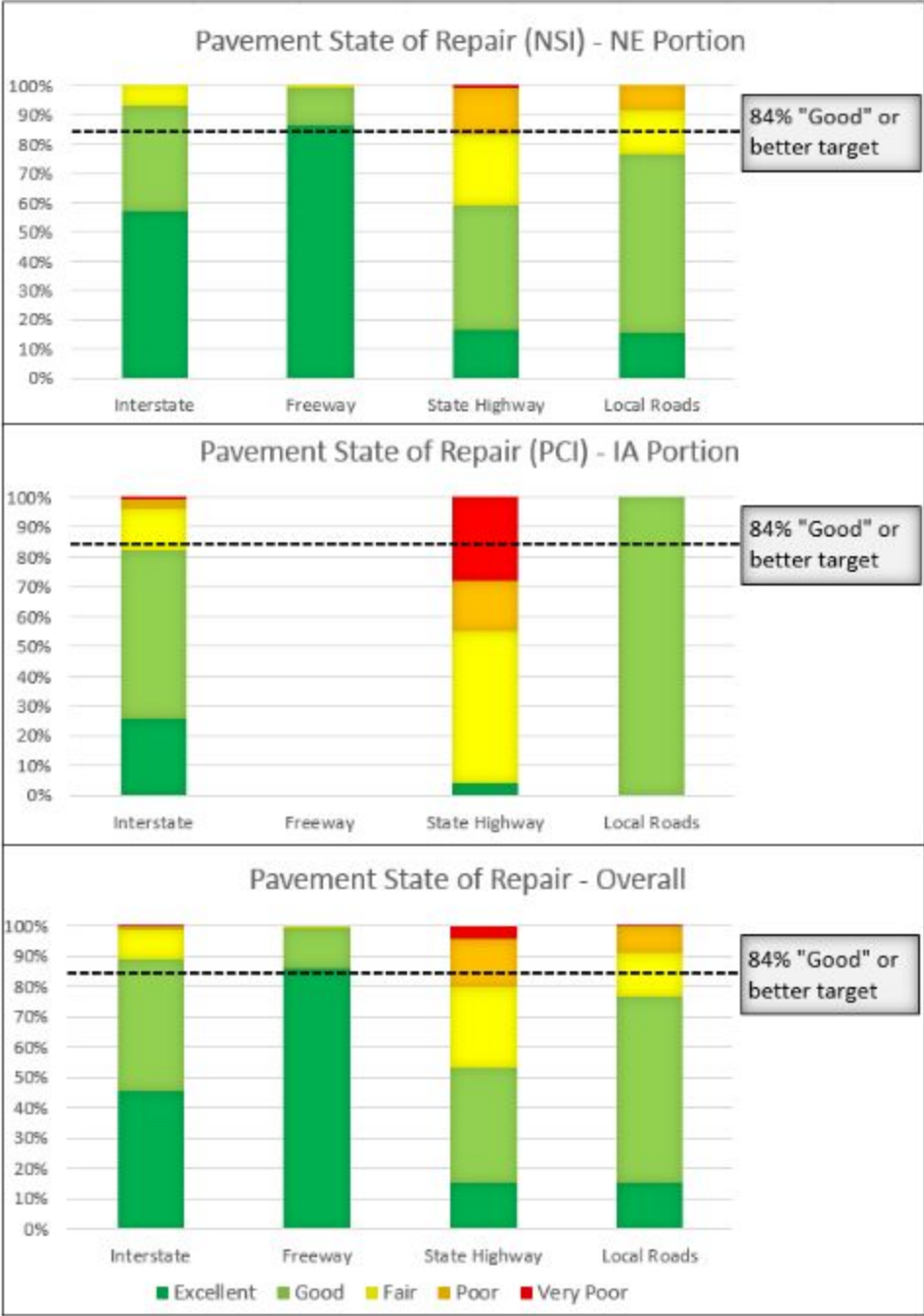
- The Nebraska Serviceability Index (NSI) was applied for pavements within the Nebraska region; and
- The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) was used for pavements within the Iowa region.

Both NSI and PCI are measured on a 0-100 scale with higher values indicating better pavement condition. In addition to NSI/PCI, the International Roughness Index (IRI) was applied as required under MAP-21 as a measure of pavement surface quality. Higher IRI values indicate higher pavement roughness and thus reduced ride quality.





Figure B3: Pavement Condition Ratings by State, Metro Travel Improvement Study



## Bridge Condition

There are nearly 1,000 bridges in the MAPA TMA. Of these, 325, or one-quarter, are currently classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. A report by the U.S. DOT to Congress describes these terms as follows: "Structural deficiencies are characterized by deteriorated conditions of significant bridge elements and reduced load carrying capacity. Functional obsolescence is a function of the geometrics of the bridge not meeting current design standards. Neither type of deficiency indicates that the bridge is unsafe." In other words, these are bridges in need of improvement and can result in congestion or pose inconveniences to large vehicles such as trucks, school buses or emergency vehicles that are forced to take lengthy detours. National Bridge Inventory data no longer directly identifies functionally obsolete bridges, and so the figures in Table B4 below reflect the most recent data from 2016.

The majority—three quarters—of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges are located off the state highway system on municipal and county roads, which typically carry lower traffic volumes. 19 percent of bridges in Douglas County fall into this category as do 27 percent of bridges in the MAPA TMA portion of Pottawattamie County. The Sarpy County portion of the MAPA TMA has the highest rate of obsolete or deficient bridges at 28 percent. Pottawattamie County also has the highest number of bridges per capita within the metro area. Table B4 provides the bridge conditions by county.

Table B4: Bridge Status in the MAPA Region by County

	Count	# of Structurally Deficient	# of Functionally Obsolete	Percent Deficient or Functionally Obsolete
Douglas	502	22	75	19%
Sarpy	185	25	27	28%
Pottawattamie	566	99	54	27%
MAPA Total	1,253	146	156	24%

Source: FHWA NBI, 2019

A total of 393 bridges located within the MTIS study area were included in the analysis. Study area bridges are on average 23 years old. The analysis of the bridge conditions shows that 76% of bridges in the MTIS study area are in good condition, 20% in fair condition, and the remaining 4% are in poor condition. By 2040, study area bridges are expected to deteriorate from the current level of 4% structurally deficient to 30% structurally deficient without further investment



in bridge preservation and rehabilitation. The Metropolitan Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) evaluated the overall condition of each bridge, the condition ratings of their main components (deck, superstructure, and substructure) were analyzed. In Iowa, part of the bridge component ratings mostly lie in the range of 5-7, while in Nebraska, the components are in better condition, with ratings between 6 and 8 Figure B4. Condition ratings of Iowa structures were anticipated to increase dramatically early in the planning period as aging structures are replaced through the Council Bluffs Interstate System (CBIS) project. Forecasted bridge conditions

Figure B4: MTIS Bridges, Bridge Component Condition by State



### Traffic Trends in the MAPA Region

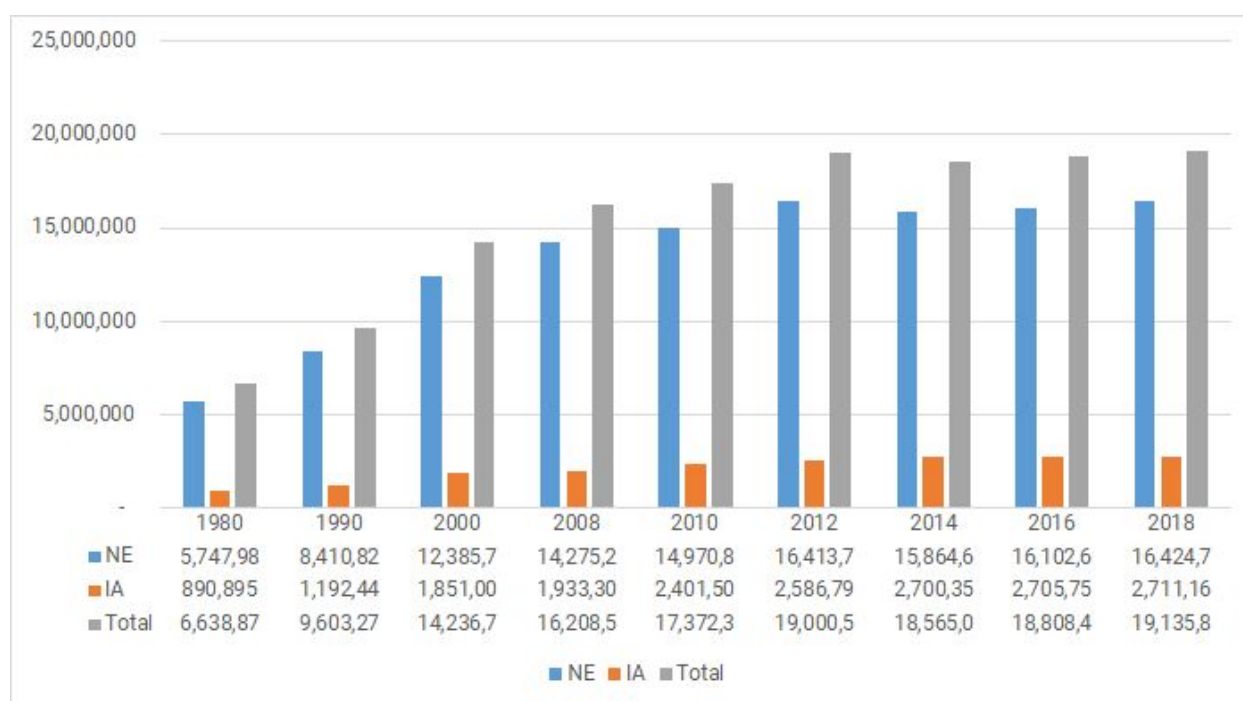
A look at current traffic trends help to gauge where the MAPA region is heading and how the transportation system is likely to perform over the coming 25 years. It also offers an opportunity to the region to step back and consider what steps will be necessary to meet future transportation needs. Travel data and trends are vital to setting goals, choosing appropriate action steps, and tracking the region's progress toward attaining those goals. More information



about traffic trends in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Region can be found in [MAPA's Traffic Growth Report](#).

Traffic levels grew rapidly over recent decades in the MAPA region. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is a common statistic used to measure traffic levels, which is calculated by multiplying the length of a road segment by the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) collected through traffic counts. According to MAPA Traffic Growth Reports, VMT in the MAPA TMA has experienced an increase of more than two and one-half times in the past 40 years. In 1980, the daily VMT was approximately 6.6 million VMT per day, but in 2018 this amount had grown to over 19 million VMT. While traffic growth has increased overall, most of the regional traffic growth has been driven by development activity in Douglas and Sarpy counties. VMT flattened as the national and regional economies weathered economic recovery following the 2008 recession, and in recent years VMT has begun to increase since 2016. Figure B5 illustrates this growth for both the Nebraska and Iowa portions of the TMA, as well as the regional total.

Figure B5: Vehicle Miles Travelled in the MAPA Region, MAPA Traffic Growth Reports

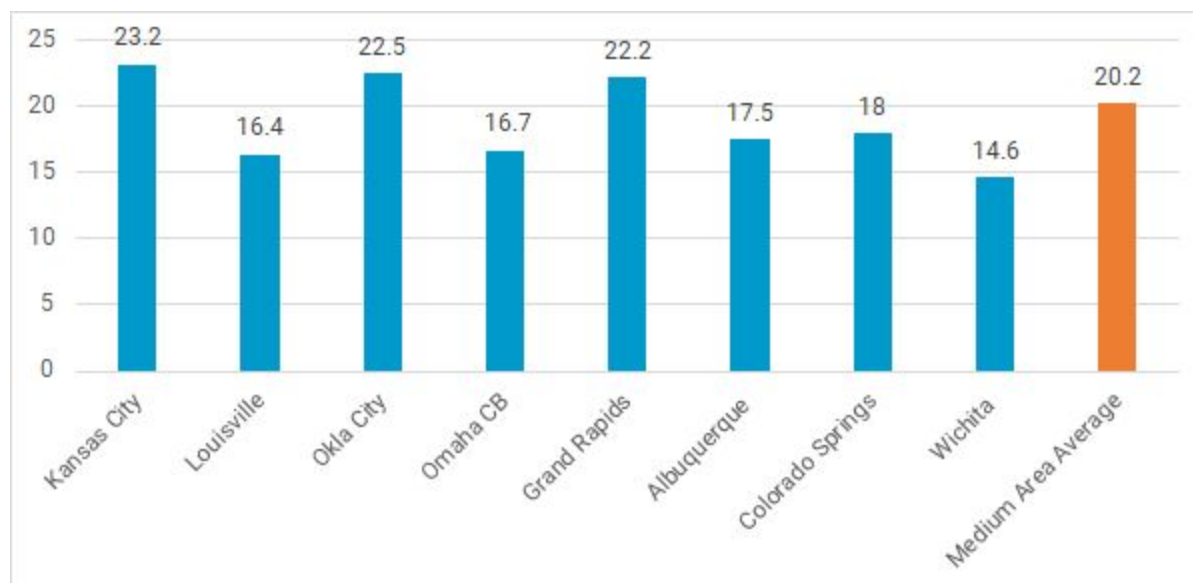


Historically residents in the MAPA TMA drive less than residents of most other medium-sized areas (Figure B6) The Texas Transportation Institute's Urban Mobility Report also lists Omaha as having among the lowest per capita VMTs in the nation for mid-sized metro areas. This is largely the result of a contiguous and relatively dense urban form and a smaller freeway system than most of MAPA's peer regions. Keeping per capita VMT low, and further reducing it has been identified as a regional goal by groups such as Omaha by Design, which aim to promote



active modes of transportation and coordination of transportation with land use. Notably, VMT reduction has been identified by the City of Omaha's Vision Zero Task Force as a key strategy to reducing severe and fatal crashes of vulnerable roadway users.

Figure B6: Per Capita VMT in Peer Region Urban Areas, 2019 Urban Mobility Report



### Congestion in the MAPA Region

Congestion has grown significantly in the MAPA region over the past 25 years. The Texas Transportation Institute's annual Urban Mobility Study (which was last completed in 2019) provides a comprehensive look at traffic and congestion across the nation's metro areas. While it is a macroscopic congestion measure that does not necessarily take into account all local factors affecting congestion, it nevertheless provides a reasonable and consistent source of data that can be tracked and compared over time.

Figure B7 shows the TTI study's estimated hours of delay per traveler in the greater Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area between 1982 and 2011. This study's figures show a seven-fold increase in delay associated with congestion, growing from three annual hours per person in 1982 to 38 hours in 2017. Figure B8 compares the MAPA region's delay to other similar metro areas. Note that the peer regions have a broad range of average delay. The 32 annual person hours estimated for the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area is below the average for MAPA's peer regions.



Figure B7: Urban Mobility Report, Annual Hours of Delay per Commuter, 1982-2017

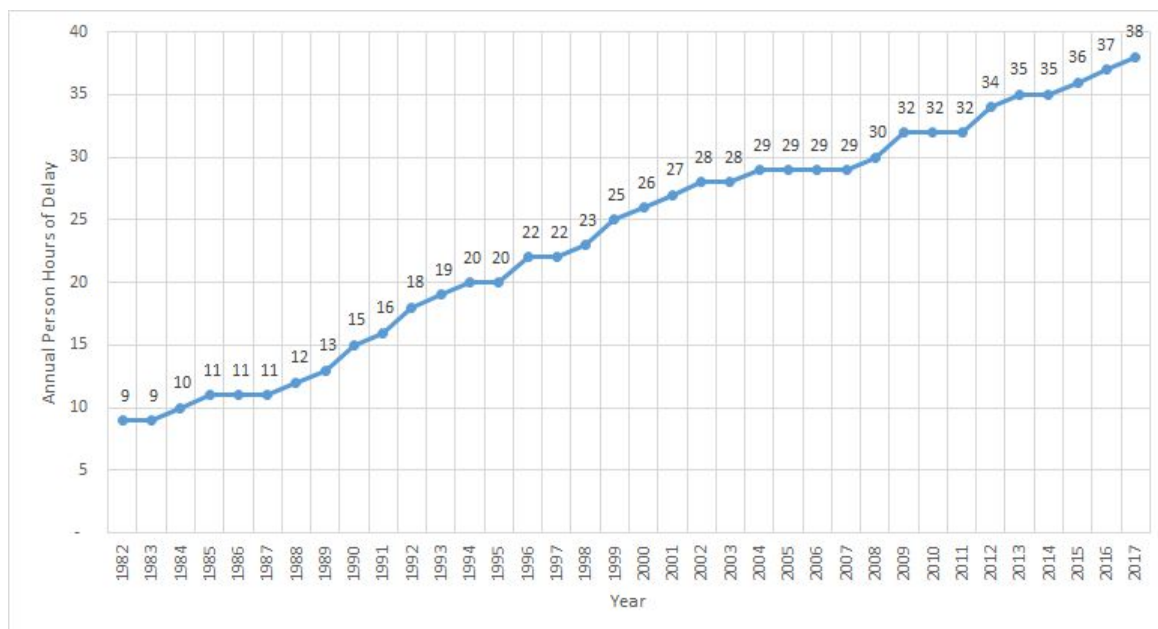
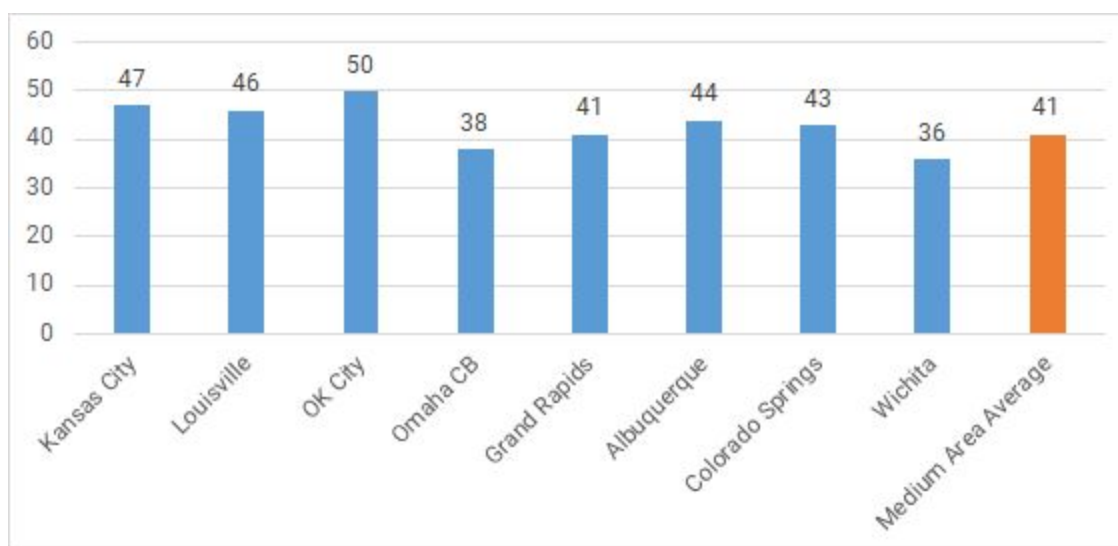


Figure B8: Annual Person Hours of Delay in Peer Regions, Urban Mobility Report (2017)



A Reliability Index is a measure of how much variability there is on the travel time along a corridor. As part of the Metro Travel Improvement Study (MTIS), reliability was estimated using INRIX travel time data. Since that study was completed, MAPA was closely coordinated with its State DOT partners in setting regional targets for travel and freight reliability. MAPA utilizes the Probe Data Analytics (PDA) suite of tools to understand and monitor congestion trends in the region. Figures B9 and B10 show the reliability





of interstate and non-interstate corridors in the MAPA region, respectively. A value of “1.0” on this chart means that there is very little recurring congestion along a roadway. However, our analysis of this data shows that significant delays can be expected in the western portions of the Omaha metropolitan area as commuters utilize arterial roadways to funnel traffic onto major expressway and freeway corridors like the West Dodge Expressway and I-80/I-680. These issues, when coupled with unreliable intersection operations and non-recurring congestion like crashes, lead to breakdowns in traffic flow and unreliable conditions. Unreliable conditions can have a significant impact on the movement of goods via truck as well. Figure B11 illustrates the level of truck travel time reliability, denoting the impacts that recurring congestion have on the reliability of freight traffic in the region—particularly on the heavily trafficked I-80 and I-680 corridors. Managing traffic levels and VMT of non-freight traffic is an important strategy to mitigate the impacts of auto traffic on the movement of goods from, to and through the region.

Figure B9: Level of Travel Time Reliability, Interstate Corridors, 2019

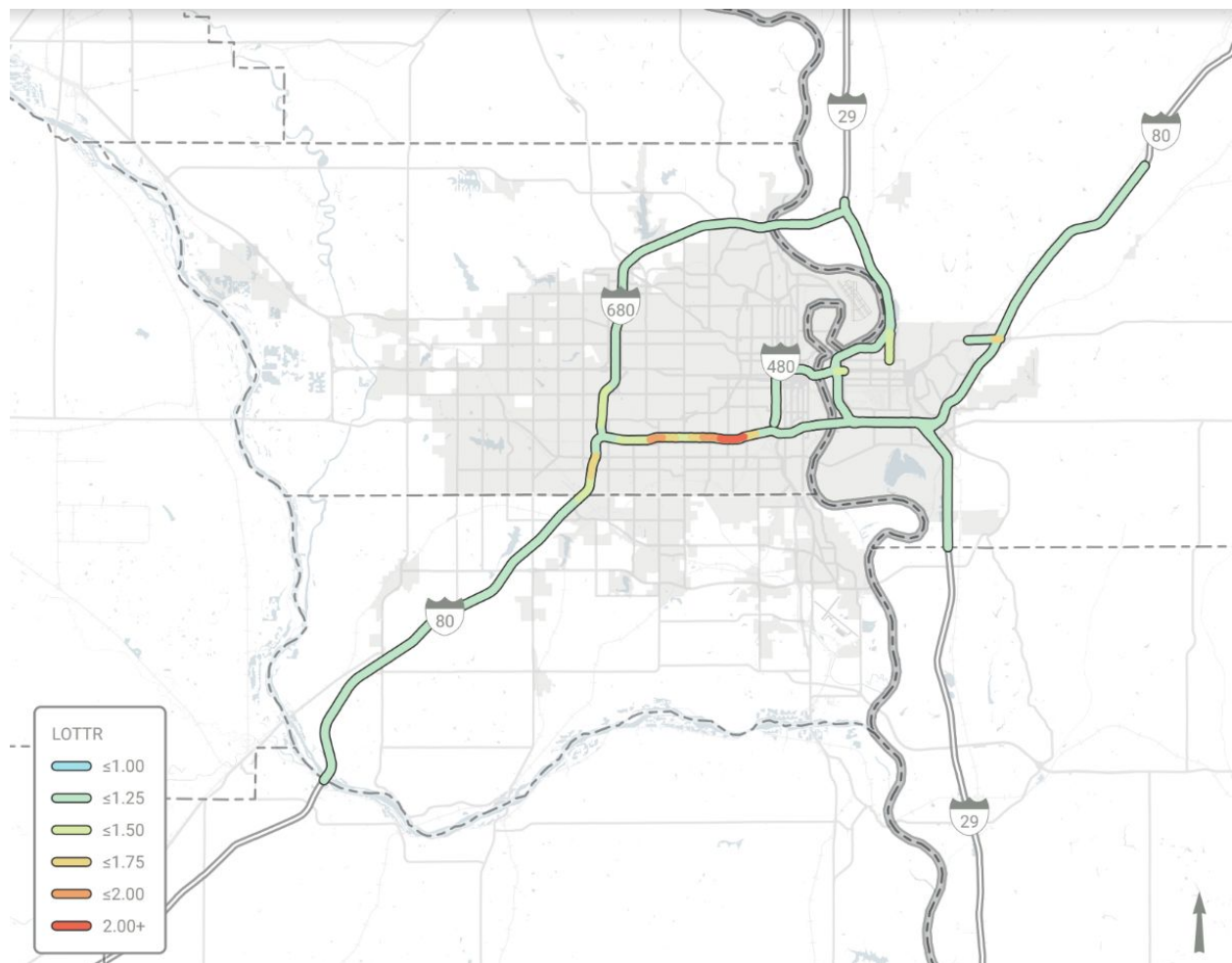


Figure B10: Level of Travel Time Reliability, Non-Interstate NHS Corridors, 2019

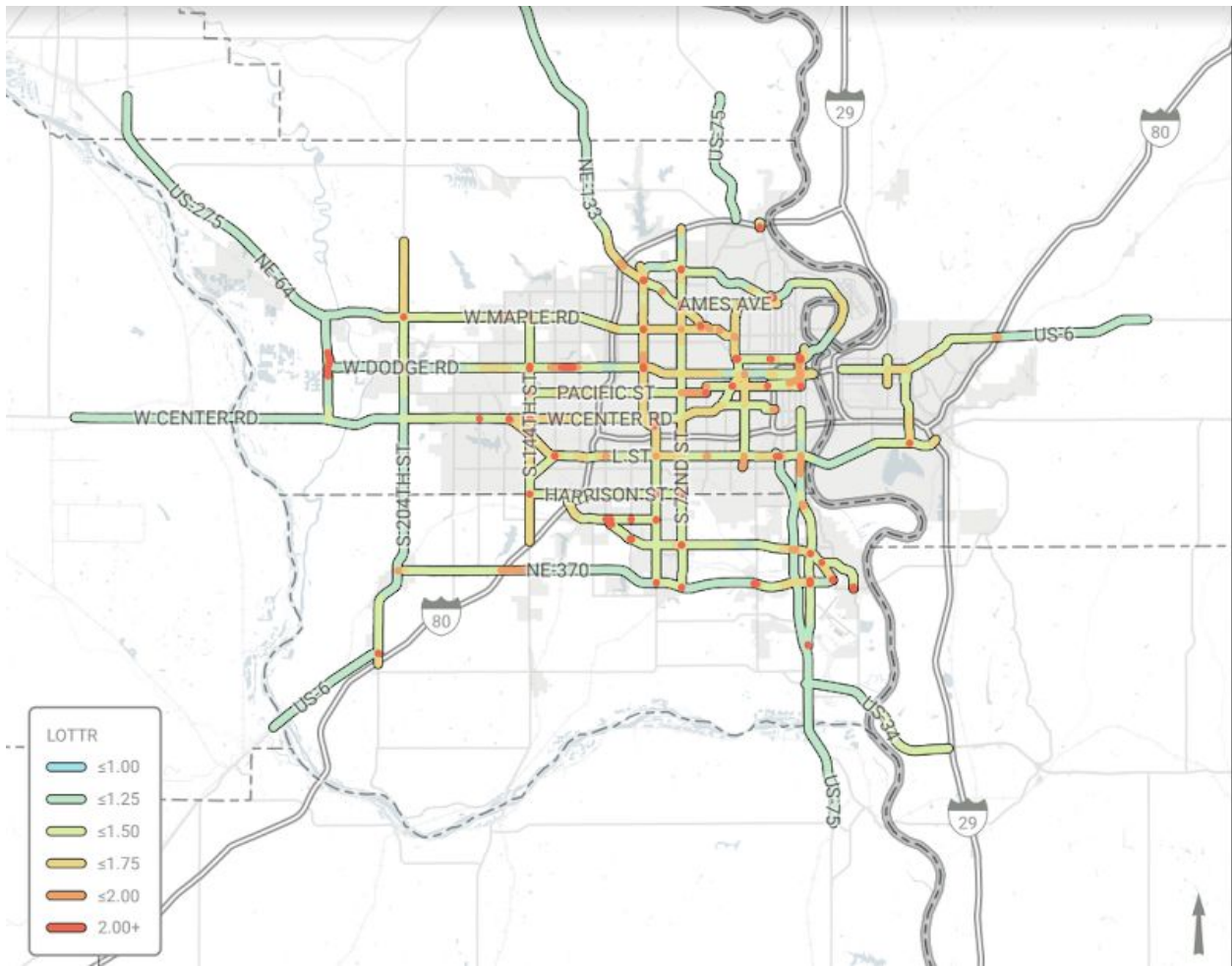
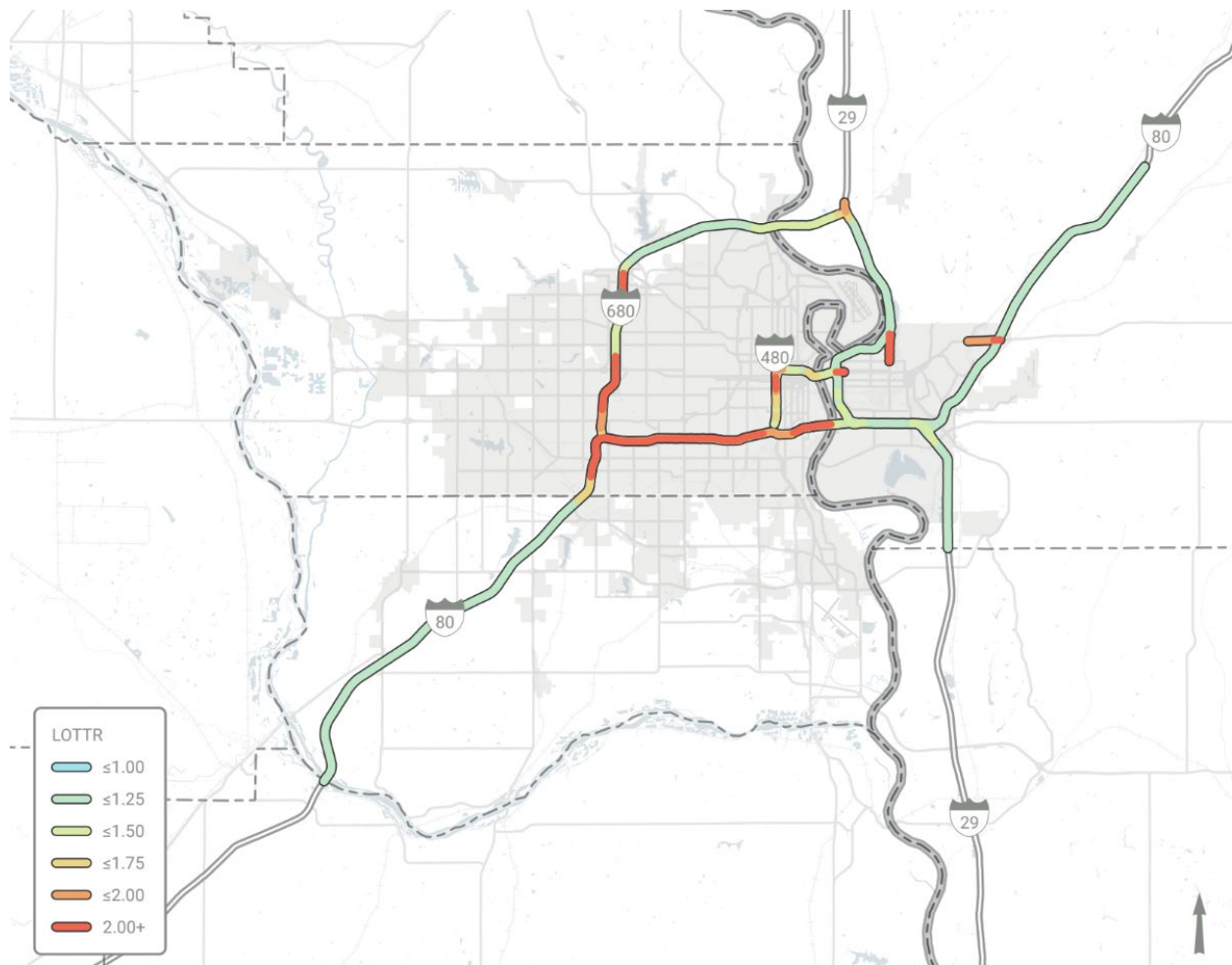


Figure B11: Level of Truck Travel Time Reliability, 2019



## Traffic Growth

Traffic volumes are expected to grow significantly by 2040 at various locations throughout the MTIS study area. Fully-developed urban portions of the metro area will not see the same levels of traffic growth as the still developing suburban / rural fringes of the study area. The traffic growth ratio map represents how much additional traffic each study roadway is expected to carry in 2040 compared to today. For example, I-80 west of Gretna could carry 1.6 - 2.0 times the amount of traffic it carries today. These projections are reflected in the 2040 traffic operations analysis. Figure B12 shows the overall traffic growth ratios between 2010 and 2040 based on MAPA's Travel Demand Model Forecasts and Figure B13 summarizes the existing and future operations of MTIS corridors based on functional classification.



Figure B12: Anticipated Traffic Growth, 2010 -

2040

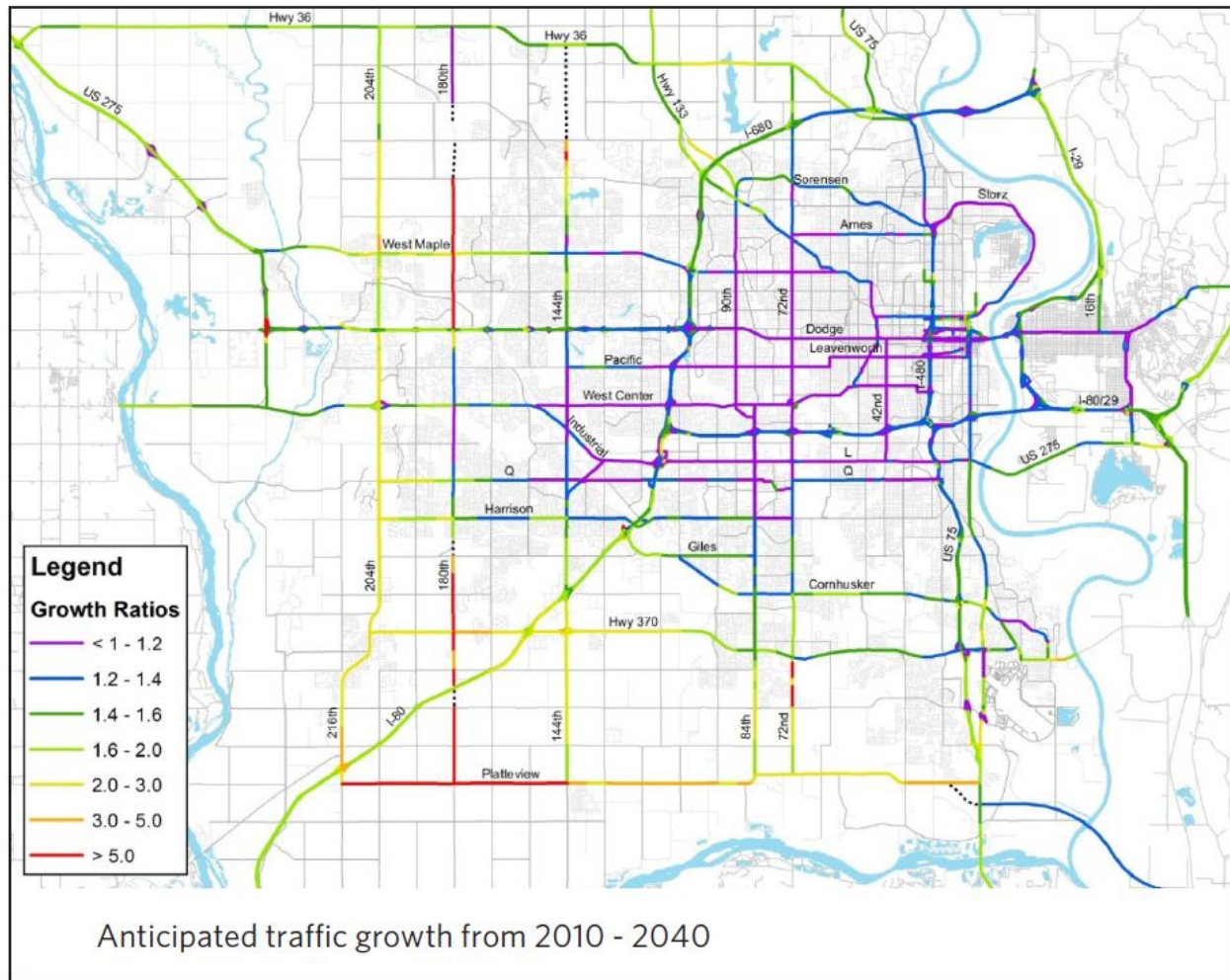
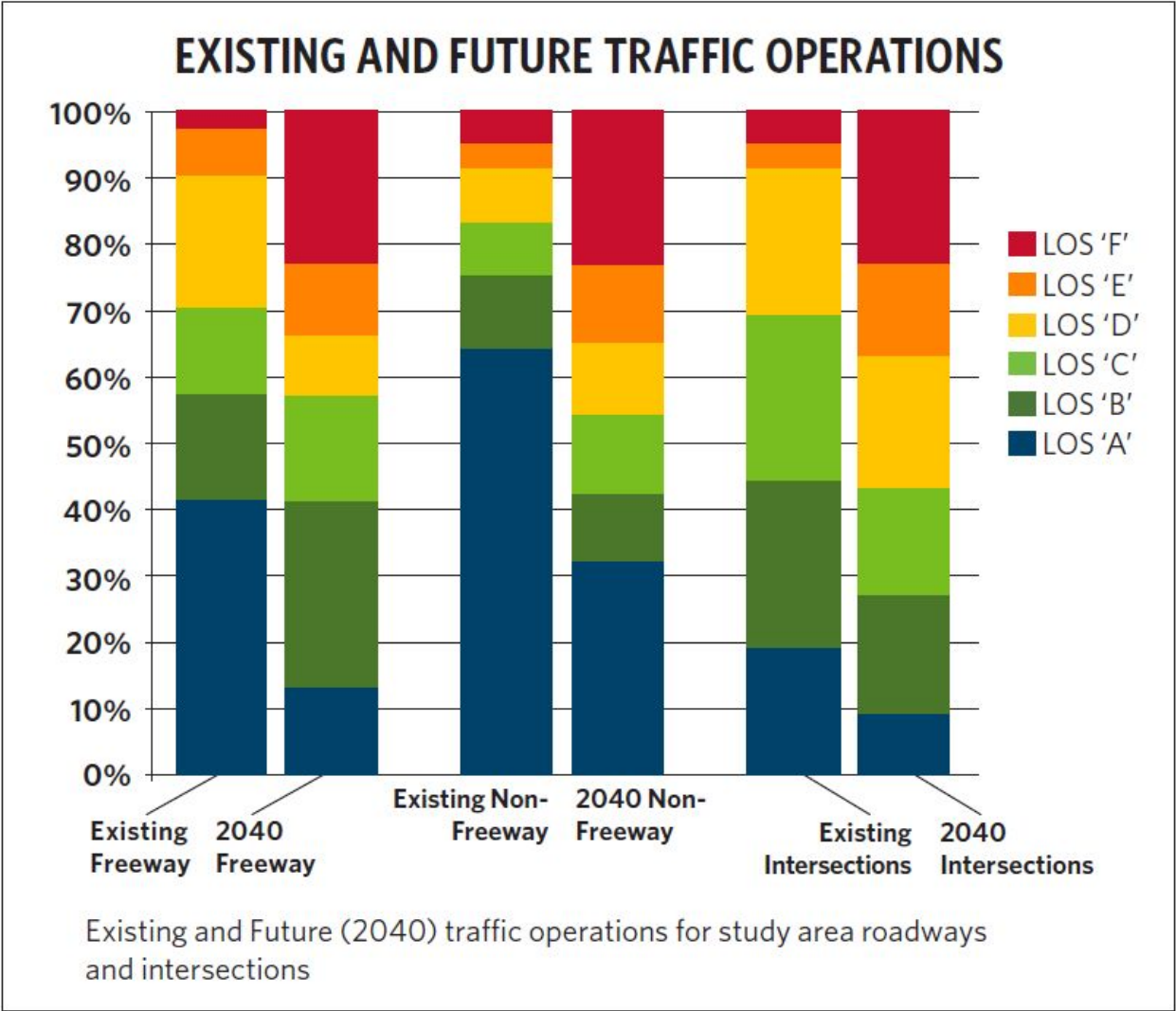




Figure B13: Existing and Future Traffic Operations for MTIS Area Roadways





## Public Transportation

Public transit includes a diverse array of publicly owned and operated transportation options including:

- Buses, including Bus Rapid Transit
- Streetcars
- Trolleys
- Light Rail
- Commuter Rail
- Heavy Rail

These options provide affordable and environmentally-friendly transportation alternative for many commuters. For some members of the community, including many seniors, students, individuals with disabilities and the economically disadvantaged person, transit can be the only viable means of transportation.

## Transit Facilities and Service

Metro operates both fixed route and paratransit service within the City of Omaha. Fixed route service includes local, express/commuter, and circulator service. Metro operates service directly

within the Omaha city limits and provides service to five adjacent municipal jurisdictions through private contracts. These include Ralston, LaVista, Papillion, Bellevue and Council Bluffs. Combined, Metro fixed route buses serve 100 square miles or approximately 85% of the City of Omaha. The service area includes approximately 580,000 people. Metro implemented significant system changes to its routes on May 31, 2015.

Prior to the 2015 system changes there had not been a significant modification in routing and schedules for almost 20 years. In the period there were numerous changes in the paths selected routes travel and to timetables, however, these were incremental and route specific. Changes implemented in 2015 focused on adding service to high ridership routes that represented the core of the system. Service enhancement were to provide more 15-minute service to the best performing routes, not just during the peak travel times, but also during midday periods to create an all-purpose transportation option. The improvement in weekend ridership and performance following the service changes shows the importance of offering service beyond commute to work purposes.

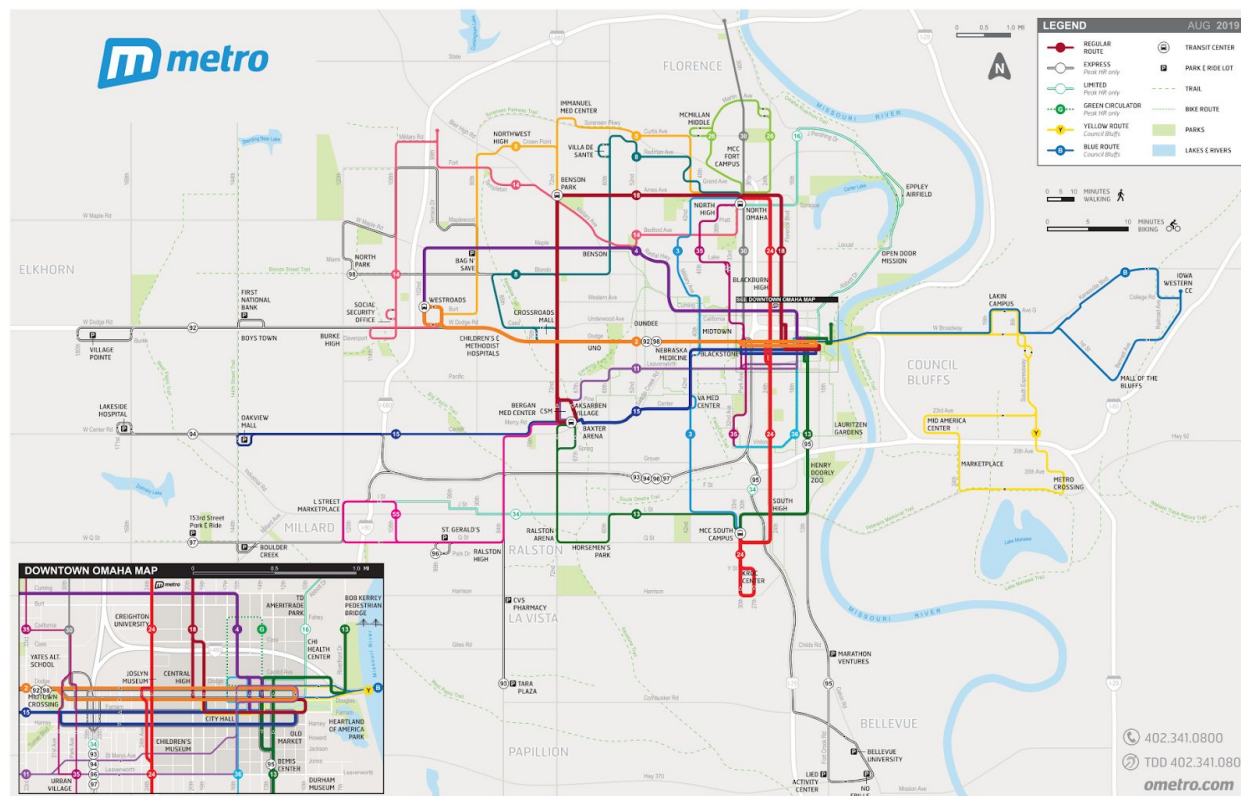


Table B5: Inventory of Transit Providers in the Region

Transit Agency	Location	Days of Operation	Hours
<b>Metro Transit</b>	Omaha	M,T,W,Th,F,S,S	5am-11p m
<b>Moby</b>	Omaha	M,T,W,Th,F,S,S	5am-11p m
<b>SWITA</b>	Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby	M,T,W,Th,F,S,S	6am-5p m
<b>Bellevue</b>	Bellevue city limits	M,T,W,Th,F	7am-3p m
<b>LaVista / Ralston</b>	La Vista and Ralston city limits	M, T, W, Th, F	7am-4:30pm
<b>Papillion</b>	Papillion city limits	M, T, W, Th, F	7am-4p m
<b>Council Bluffs</b>	Council Bluffs city limits	M,T,W,Th,F,S	5:15am-11:30pm
<b>Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging</b>	Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Dodge, Washington	M, T, W, Th, F	8am-5p m
<b>Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging</b>	Omaha, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Dodge, Washington, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Paige, Shelby	M, T, W, Th, F	8am-5p m



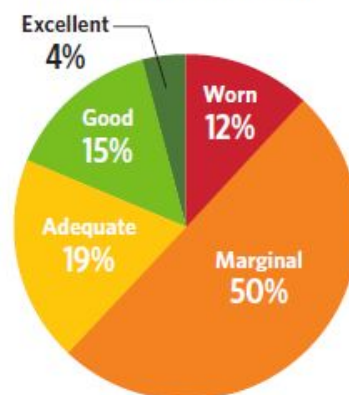
Figure B14: Metro Transit Route Map, August 2019



## Transit Infrastructure Condition

Metro is responsible for the operation of fixed route bus and paratransit service within the Omaha metropolitan area. Paratransit provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use the regular, fixed route transit service. Facilities make up the largest portion of Metro's assets. During the MTIS, 83% of Metro's facilities were estimated to be in the "marginal" or "worn" condition, indicating that these assets are near or past their useful life. Vehicles are Metro's second largest asset category, consisting of both revenue vehicles (buses and vans) and non-revenue vehicles. Approximately 49% of Metro's vehicles were in the "marginal" or "worn" condition. The average age of Metro's bus fleet is 7.8 years with many buses in need of replacement during the MTIS study. The condition ratings for all transit assets combined are shown below.

## OVERALL TRANSIT ASSET CONDITION RATINGS



Federal Transit Authority condition rating for all transit assets (facilities, stations, systems, and vehicles)



Metro's FY2019 Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP) anticipated that, with the investment included in the FY2020 TIP, significant progress would be made towards maintaining a state of good repair of Metro's Rolling Stock. Notably, the FY2018 baseline for Metro's performance targets noted that 10.53% of their rolling stock for fixed route service had exceeded its useful life, while 0% of paratransit vehicles had exceeded the same benchmark. With key investments made possible by competitive Sec 5339 awards and investments in new, alternative fuel vehicles that replace existing rolling stock, it was anticipated that all rolling stock (including support vehicles) would be in a state of good repair. While this rapid progress is important, it also demonstrates the crucial need to develop sustainable revenue streams to maintain this progress into the long-term—recognizing the \$1.7 billion gap forecasted for transit operations and maintenance and capital expenditures through the MTIS. Similarly, key investments are being made in transit facilities through the City of Omaha, including improvements to the Westroads Transit Center to accommodate the ORBT service and ongoing upgrades to Metro's main transit facility and administrative offices through Section 5339 funding.

### **Key Transit Service Findings Findings - Metro Transit Development Plan (TDP)**

Key findings of the existing conditions analysis in the Metro Transit Transit Development Plan (TDP) include:

- The existing conditions report identified Transit Supportive Areas (TSAs) for metropolitan areas of Omaha's size are defined as areas with at least four households or five jobs per acre. Within the urbanized area of the Omaha- Council Bluffs metropolitan region, 66 percent of the transit supportive areas are covered by Metro's service. Within the city of Omaha, 81 percent of transit supportive areas have access to Metro's services. While most residents and employees within TSAs have walk access to Metro service, only 28 percent of people and 38 percent of jobs in the metro area have walk access to 15-minute service, which is defined as high-frequency service.
- Development of a density that could support transit is being located outside, and in many cases, well outside Metro's service area. These higher density development nodes create a service challenge because the area between them is typically lower density residential or commercial development that generates little ridership, which negatively impacts productivity of routes serving the higher density nodes. The distributed nodal development pattern connected using transit is less efficient because the lower density areas generate little activity, however, represent much of the mileage.
- Frequency generates use. Analysis of ridership on routes where frequency was added (to enhance service from 30 minute frequency to 15 minute) resulted in ridership increases that outpaced the expected based on typical elasticity estimates. Over the period since 2015, system-wide ridership has declined (approximately 11 percent), however, use of new 15-minute service routes increased in the period (Route 2, Route 18, Route 4, Route 15).



- Funding allocated to Metro's services on a per capita basis is much lower than metro areas Omaha generally aspires to be like – Minneapolis, Denver or Kansas City. Funding for transit in Omaha is more comparable to metro areas such as Tulsa, OK or Albuquerque, NM. Table B6 documents funding levels for a range of similar and aspirational metro areas.

Table B6: Funding vs Ridership

Type	City	Operational Transit Funding per Capita	Annual Ridership per Capita	Funding Difference with Omaha	Ridership Difference with Omaha
Aspirational Cities	Denver	\$279.19	41.3	\$241.59	36.2
	Minneapolis	\$142.62	30.9	\$105.03	25.8
	Salt Lake City	\$366.94	44.1	\$329.34	39.0
	Kansas City	\$60.26	8.9	\$22.66	3.8
Aspirational Peer Systems	Des Moines	\$62.95	10.2	\$25.35	5.1
	Grand Rapids	\$77.11	19.3	\$39.51	14.1
	Indianapolis	\$47.38	6.1	\$9.78	1.0
Similar Peer Systems	Dayton	\$102.46	12.5	\$64.86	7.4
	Tulsa	\$29.13	4.5	(\$8.47)	- 0.6
	Albuquerque	\$70.03	14.2	\$32.43	9.1
	Knoxville	\$35.00	4.9	(\$2.60)	- 0.2
	Colorado Springs	\$37.45	6.1	(\$0.15)	1.0
	<b>Omaha</b>	<b>\$37.60</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: National Transit Database, 2017. Funding and Ridership per Capita based on Urbanized Area. Denver, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City have light rail systems. Kansas City has a separate transit authority for its streetcar, not included in these statistics.

National bus transit ridership declined seven percent between 2014 and 2017 for urban areas between 200,000 and one million, while ridership declined by 11 percent in Omaha. Ridership in Omaha declined more than the national average, as shown in table B7.





Table B7: Fixed Route Performance Trends, 2014-2017

	2014	2017	Percent Change	Percent Change UAZs 200,000 - 1 Million
Unlinked Trips	4,043,610	3,589,795	-11%	-7%
Operating Expense	\$24,699,703	\$25,141,261	2%	14%
Total Fixed Route Revenue*	\$4,336,495	\$4,067,008	-6%	3%
Operating Expense to Revenue Ratio**	5.70	6.18	8%	10%
Average Expense Recovery Ratio***	0.18	0.16	-11%	-9%
Expenses per Passenger Trip	\$6.11	\$7.00	15%	22%
Revenue per Passenger Trip	\$1.07	\$1.13	6%	11%

Source: Metro. \* Includes the contract fares from Council Bluffs, Bellevue, Ralston, La Vista, Papillion and others, minus reimbursements.

\*\* Operating Expenses divided by Total Fixed Route Revenue.

\*\*\* Total Fixed Route Revenue divided by Operating Expenses.

Urbanized Areas with populations of 50,000 to 1,000,000. National Transit Summary -  
2014: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/2014%20NTST%20Storylines.pdf>  
2017: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/ntd/130638/2017-national-transit-summaries-and-trends.pdf>

Overall, the service change increased revenue miles and hours by five and four percent. It lowered the expenses per revenue mile and revenue hour. Due to the decline in ridership, performance measures such as the number of passengers per mile and passengers per hour declined, as shown in Table B8. The decline in ridership and performance is in line with national trends. Among other factors, a decline in gas prices, lower unemployment, and an increase in TNC ridership decreased ridership nationwide since 2014.

Table B8: Revenue Mile and Revenue Hour Performance, 2014-2017

	2014	2017	Percent Change
Revenue Miles	3,864,817	4,064,066	5%
Revenue Hours	280,426	290,348	4%
Operating Expenses per Revenue Mile	\$6.39	\$6.18	-3%
Expenses per Revenue Hour	\$88.08	\$86.59	-2%
Passengers per Mile	1.04	0.88	-15%
Passengers per Hour	14.36	12.36	-14%

Source: Metro.

The 2015 service changes added Routes 4, 13, and 15 to the routes offering 15-minute service during peak hours, in addition to Routes 2 and 18. Routes 2 and 18 increased its frequencies to 15 minutes during the day time, while 30-minute service





was extended to Route 4 during the day time. The alignment of these routes changed minimally. Route 2 and 18 no longer loop around Crossroads Mall, Route 13 no longer serves Crossroads, and Route 15 now terminates at Oakview Mall instead of Lakeside Hospital.

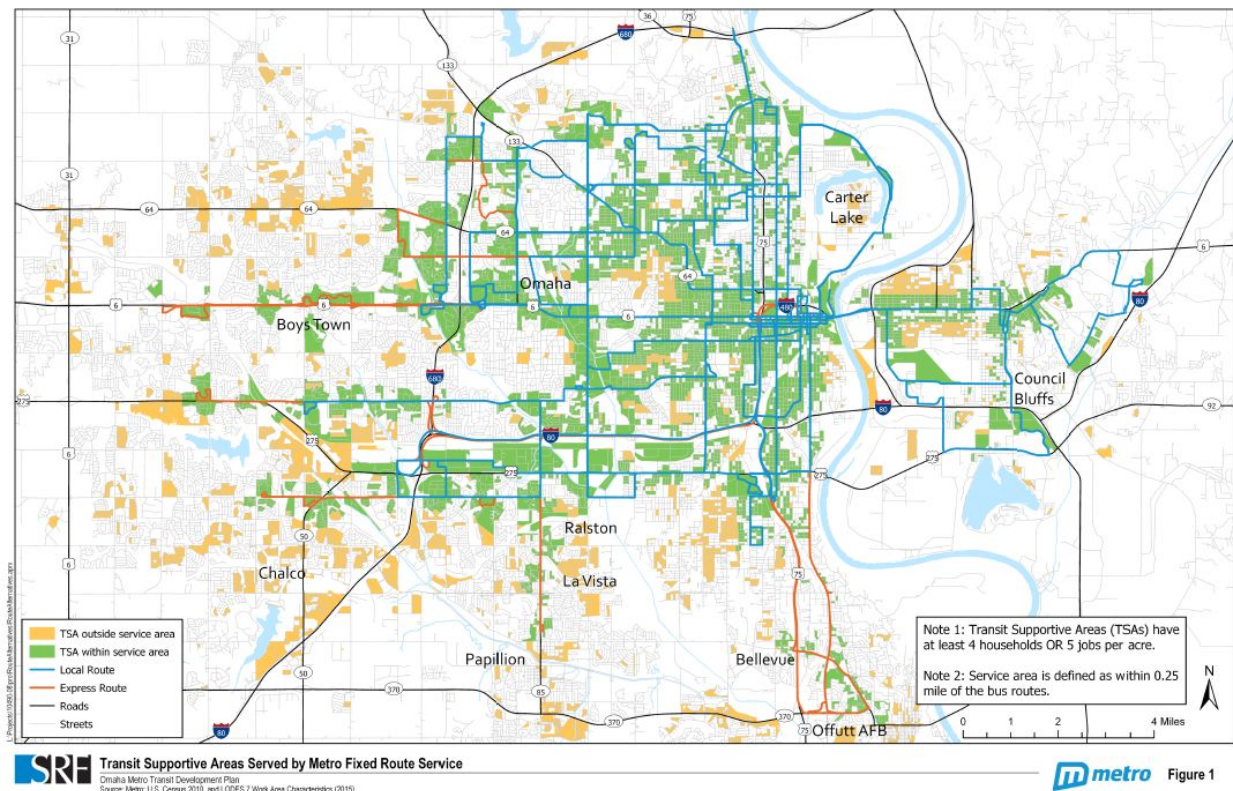
Table B9: Access to 15-Minute Frequent Service, One-Half Mile, 2014 & 2017

	2014	2017	Change
Population	124,983	157,241	25.8%
Jobs	133,446	153,745	15.2%
Percent of TSAs within Service Area	29.9%	36.4%	+6.5%
Percent of Service Area	18.9%	24.4%	+5.5%

Source: Metro; U.S. Census 2010 Population and LODES 7 Work Area Characteristics (2015).

Accessibility to frequent transit is essential to make spontaneous trips. Table B9 shows the increase in population, jobs, TSAs, and the Metro service area served within half a mile of frequent, 15-minute transit during peak hours. Transit supportive areas have at least four households or five jobs per acre. All indicators show expanded transit access is now available to more people and jobs.

Figure B15: Transit Supportive Areas Served by Metro Fixed Route Service



Transit Supportive Areas (TSAs) for metropolitan areas of Omaha's size are defined



as areas with at least four households or five jobs per acre. Figure B13 shows the transit supportive areas served by Metro's fixed route service and those that fall outside the service area. Within the urbanized area of the Omaha – Council Bluffs metropolitan region, 66 percent of the transit supportive areas are covered by Metro's service.

Within the city of Omaha, 81 percent of transit supportive areas have access to Metro's bus service. Most of the TSAs not served by Metro currently are on the periphery of the system, with long distances between them, making these areas inefficient to serve.

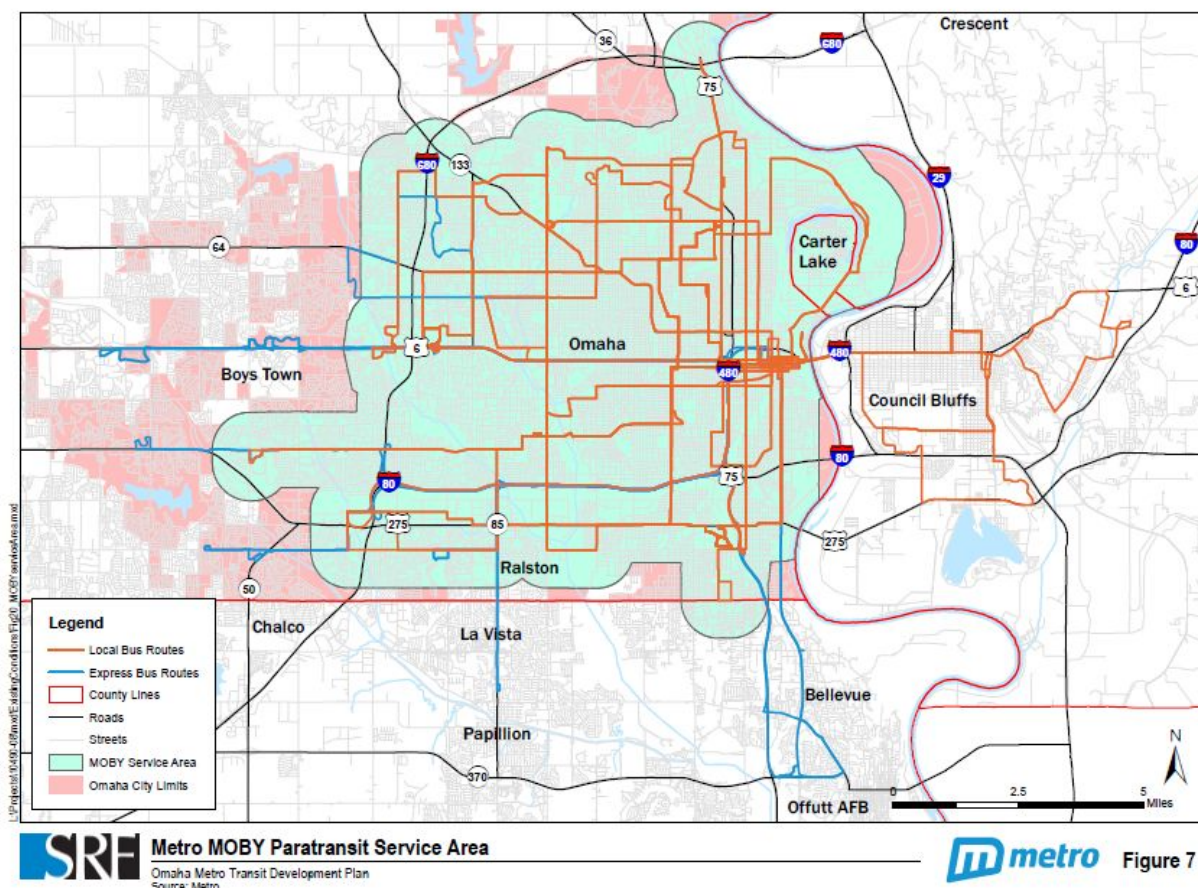
### **Paratransit**

The Americans with Disabilities Act has several guidelines for paratransit services. The following guidelines will be used to ensure that MOBY, the ADA program, is meeting the requirements of the ADA and, second, that it is being operated effectively with regard to productivity, financial performance, and customer Satisfaction.

ADA service must be provided to all areas within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of a local fixed route, but is not required to be provided in an area outside the boundaries of the jurisdiction if it does not have authority to operate in that area. ADA service must be provided for all days and hours that local fixed route bus service is provided. Figure B16 shows the MOBY service area.



Figure B16: Metro MOBY Paratransit Service Area



## Intercity Bus Transit

### Existing Service

The University of Nebraska Engineering School operates a commuter shuttle, that is open to the public, between the Omaha and Lincoln campuses with two additional stops at the University of Nebraska Medical College and off exit 439 on I-80. The N-E Ride goes between Lincoln and Omaha four times a day starting at 8am and ending at 5:45, there is no cost for the service.

Currently there are four private intercity bus companies operating between Omaha and Lincoln as part of longer, national intercity routes. These are Burlington Trailways, Express Arrow, Navigator Express, and Windstar/Megabus. The four companies offer a variety of trip times, costs, and pickup and drop off locations. Burlington Trailways and Express Arrow operate out of the Interline Bus Terminal in downtown Omaha. Navigator Express is an intercity airport shuttle



primarily operating out of Eppley Airfield. Windstar/Megabus operates out of Crossroads Mall in Omaha. None of these services provide stops in the Iowa portion of the MAPA region.

### Planned Service

In the summer of 2020, the Nebraska Department of Transportation released a study on the feasibility of intercity bus transportation between Lincoln and Omaha. About 13,540 Lincoln residents and 10,177 Omaha residents commute to the other city each weekday. Based on these commutes an estimated ridership of 250 trips from Lincoln to Omaha and 200 trips from Omaha to Lincoln could be generated.

Recommended routes from the study include:

#### **Red Route – I-80 Express Lincoln to Omaha Eastbound**

This route would provide 15 daily one-way trips from 4:30 a.m. until midday, then return service to stops in reverse order beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a final departure at 9:30 p.m.

- Innovation Campus
- UNL Student Union
- Gold's StarTran Hub
- Gateway Mall Park and Ride
- 84th and Cornhusker Park and Ride
- Ashland – SAC Museum
- Metro Aksarben Transit Center
- UNL Engineering School (PKI)
- UNMC – 42nd and Dewey
- 24th and Douglas
- 14th and Douglas
- Amtrak/Intercity Bus Station
- Eppley Airport

#### **Black Route – I-80 Express Omaha to Lincoln Westbound**

This route is designed to transport Omaha residents to Lincoln destinations. Like the Red Route, it would begin service at 4:30 a.m., continue until midday, then switch to return service at 1:30 p.m.

- Eppley Airport
- Amtrak/Intercity Bus Station
- 24th and Dodge
- UNMC – 42nd and Dewey
- UNO – 70th and Dodge
- Westroads Mall Park and Ride
- La Vista Park and Ride Exit 442
- Nebraska Crossing Mall
- Gold's StarTran Hub
- State Capitol Office Building
- UNL Student Union
- Innovation Campus

#### **Gold Route – U.S. Highway 6**

The Gold Route provides service to communities along the U.S. Highway 6 corridor beginning at 7:00 a.m. in Omaha and 7:30 a.m. in Lincoln, ending at 7:00 p.m. and 6:52 p.m. respectively.





- Amtrak/Intercity Bus Station
- 24th and Dodge
- 40th and Dodge
- UNMC – 42nd and Dewey
- Veterans Hospital in Omaha
- UNL Engineering School (PKI)
- Aksarben Transit Center
- Walmart Super Center (Gretna)
- Nebraska Crossing Mall
- Ashland
- Greenwood
- Waverly
- Lincoln Bus Depot
- Walmart Super Center (East Lincoln)
- Innovation Campus
- UNL Student Union
- Gold's StarTran Hub

## Ridesharing

MAPA operates a regional trip matching platform known as Metro Rideshare. This platform allows users to sign up and enter their trip origin, destination, preferred modes, and gender and smoking preferences to match with others in the region looking to make a similar trip. Several large area employers have adopted this platform and use it to manage parking demand and promote active commuting options.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation offers a subsidized vanpool program through Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Vanpools are arranged through employers for employees to commute to and from work in and each vanpool is set up to best suit the needs of the riders.

## Safety and Transportation Security

Safety performance refers to the frequency and severity of crashes and is an important performance measure for any transportation system. Crash frequency is influenced by policies regarding driver licensing; traffic laws (for example, mandatory seat belt usage); the quality of law enforcement; the characteristics of the roadway network; and the usage of the network by vehicles, pedestrians, transit, and bicycles. Another important contributor to crash outcomes is the design quality and maintenance of the roadway infrastructure. The MTIS Study Team used screening criteria as a method for identifying locations within the study area with the greatest potential for safety improvement. The identified locations were further studied in Phase 2 of MTIS and incorporated into the final Phase 3 recommendations.

## Strategic Highway Corridor Network

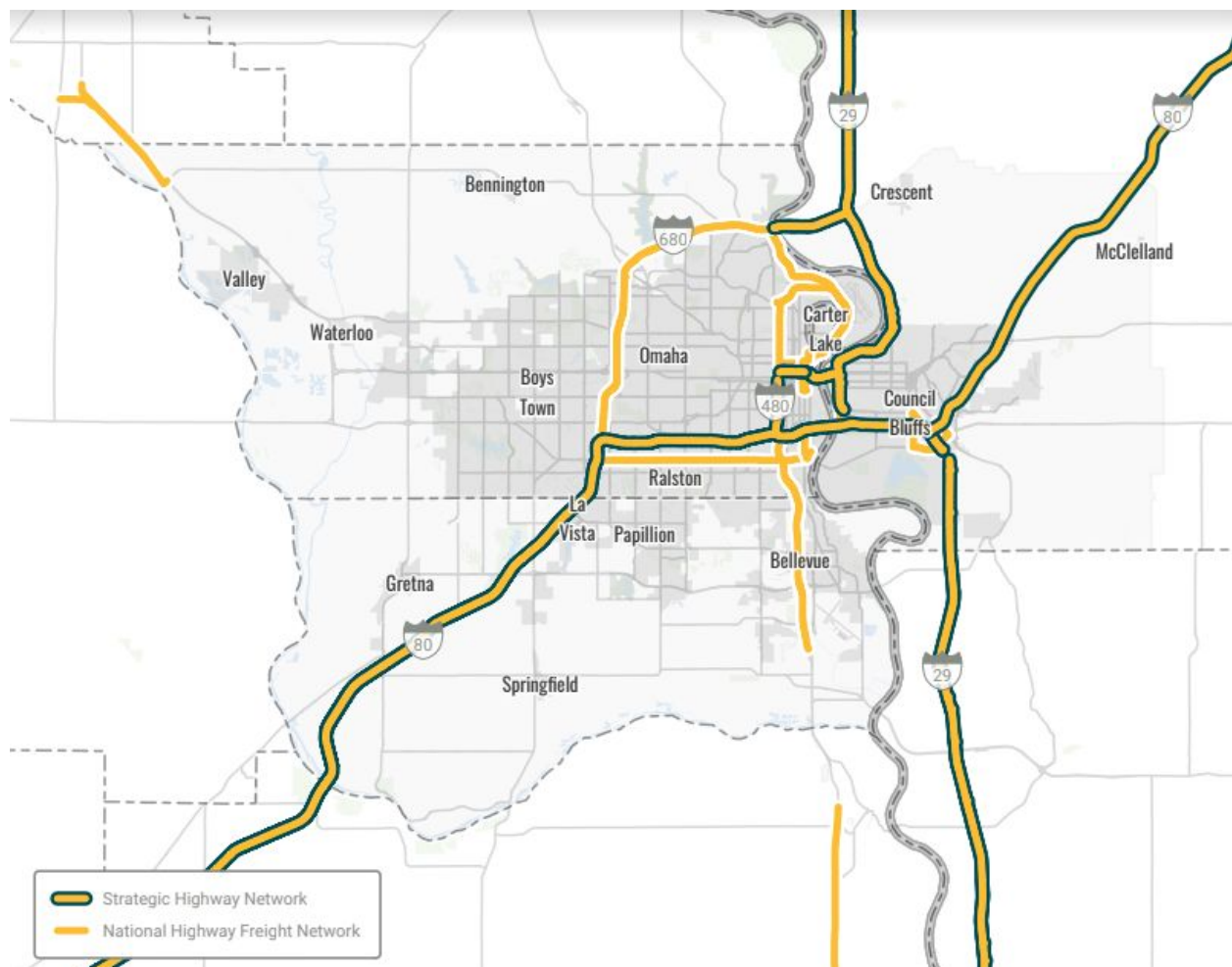
The Strategic Highway Corridor Network (STRAHNET) is a subset of the National Highway System. These roadways, both on and off the interstate system, are important to the United States strategic defense policy and which provide defense access, continuity, and emergency capabilities for peace and war time movement of personnel, materials, and equipment. (CFR §470.107.a.3) These corridors are shown in figure B17. Although these road networks are the responsibility of the state DOTs, activities which MAPA supports, such as improving Traffic Incident Management, help to support the viability of these critical networks.



## National Freight Highway Network

The National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) was established as part of the FAST Act to prioritize Federal resources and establish policies which improve performance on the highway portions of the freight transportation system. The NHFN is made up of four classifications, which allow for designation of critical highway networks (Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS)), the remainder of the interstate system (Other Non-PHFS Interstate Highways), and state-defined Critical urban and Rural Freight Corridors (CRFC/CUFC). These networks provide for efficient and safe transportation of goods both through the MAPA region, as well as to and from intermodal facilities located within the TMA. More detailed information on the movement of freight and intermodal locations can be found in subsequent sections of this Appendix.

Figure B17: Strategic Highway and National Highway Freight Networks





## Heavy Transportation

Freight movement throughout the United States is a driving force of the national economy. The crossroads of Interstate 29 and Interstate 80 creates an ideal situation for the movement of freight into and out of the MAPA TMA via truck. Omaha's Eppley Airfield serves as a major hub for airborne freight. Union Pacific Railroad and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad both have Class I lines that cross the MAPA region. The navigable portions of the Missouri River can serve as a major highway for barge traffic to carry freight north and south. Freight traffic should not be considered in terms of a single mode of transportation. Currently, the MAPA TMA has two intermodal facilities for transferring train freight into truck freight. Two recent studies have also explored the potential for additional intermodal sites within the MAPA region.

The FHWA utilizes Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) to project freight growth by mode for the entire US as well as for individual states. Additionally, the analysis shows the origin and final destination for freight traffic by state. This serves as the basis for freight data and projections in the MAPA TMA as there is currently no local or regional data source from which to extrapolate trends. It is therefore assumed that the freight characteristics of the MAPA TMA will mirror the characteristics of the states of Iowa and Nebraska.

The majority of freight transported in Nebraska and Iowa is via highway truck traffic. The MAPA TMA is thought to reflect this same trend of transport. Pipelines and other means make up less than 0.5% of the total transported materials. Goods transported by rail make up almost 9% of the total tonnage transferred. All other modes constitute the total tonnage transported by the United States Postal Service (USPS) or other courier service, water transport, and unidentifiable intermodal transport. Figure B18 shows the estimates of freight movement in 2007 while Figure B19 shows the estimated future freight movement in 2040.

Figure B18: Freight Analysis Framework Estimates for Iowa & Nebraska, 2007

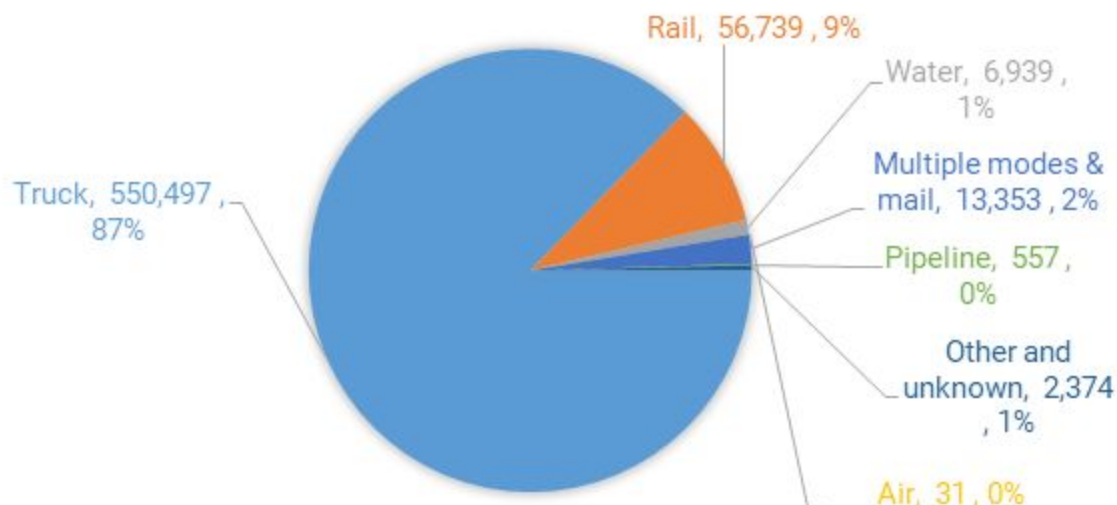
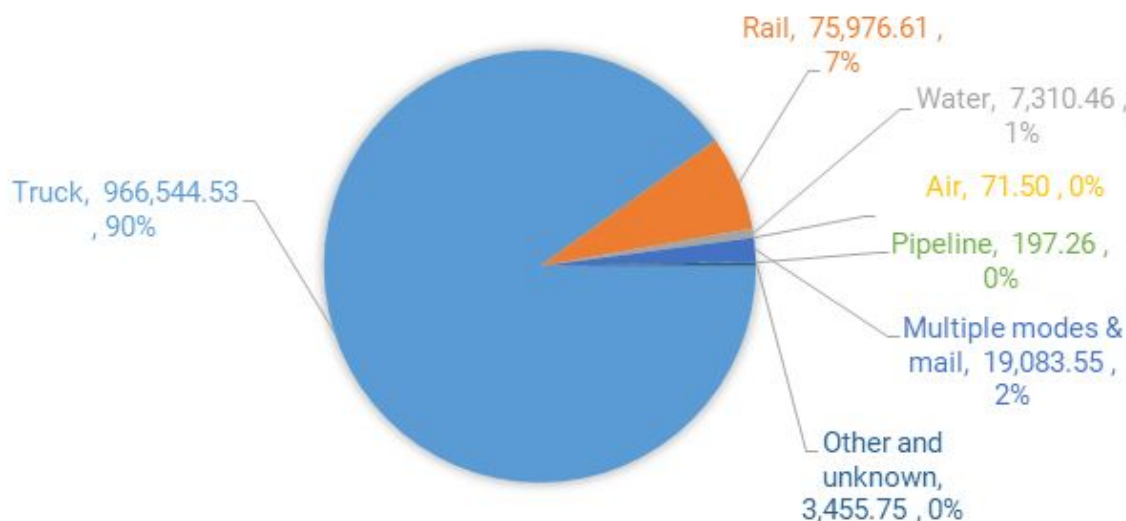


Figure B19: Freight Analysis Framework Projections for Iowa & Nebraska, 2040



### Highway Freight

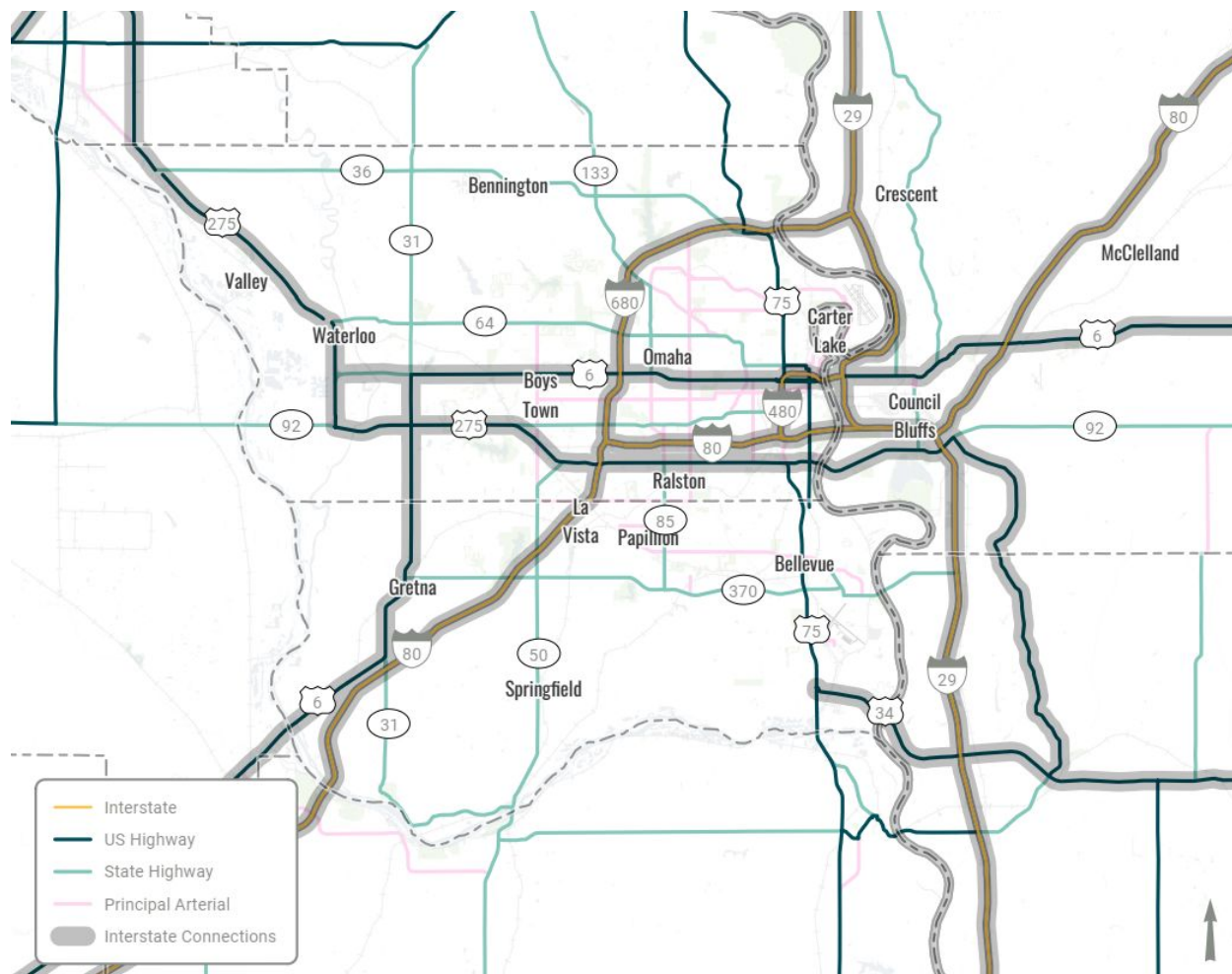
In addition to Interstates 29 and 80, there are three US Highways in the region that provide additional connectivity for interstate traffic. US-6 (concurrent crossing with I-480) and US-75 provide connectivity across the Missouri River for the MAPA TMA and US-75 allows for north/south traffic on the Nebraska side of the river. The new US 34 bridge that connects Mills and Sarpy Counties is expected to serve as an important freight connection between Iowa and Nebraska. This connection provides additional connectivity between US 75, Interstate 29, and may provide an alternative East-West route through the Omaha-Metro if improvements along the Platteview corridor are made. Further intrastate connectivity in the region is provided by the Iowa and Nebraska state highway systems. Iowa 92 and 192 along with Nebraska 36, 50, 64, and 370 provide major secondary facilities for freight traffic in the region.

Figure B20 shows the connectivity of the highway system in the MAPA region.

The data collected via the 2007 FHWA Freight Analysis projects that freight traffic via highway will grow by 75.6% in Nebraska and Iowa by 2040. According to this analysis, in 2007, 64% of all freight tonnage was transported via the highway system. 2040 projections show that 90.1% of freight tonnage will be transported via trucks.



Figure B20: Interstate Connectivity in the MAPA Region



While the percentage increase compared to other modes of transport is only 2%, the 98% increasing in freight traffic will cause a great deal of strain on local infrastructure. The total freight movement via truck is projected to increase by 98%. The total value for this movement is expected to increase by 114% from 2002 to 2040.

### Pipelines in the MAPA Region

Pipelines are the second largest mover of freight materials in Iowa and Nebraska. Pipelines in the MAPA TMA generally transport crude petroleum products (gasoline and ethylene), natural gas, or a slurry mix such as pulverized coal. Omaha is a secondary junction center for pipelines throughout the United States. Regionally, there are three products pipelines that transport gasoline and ethylene, two natural gas pipelines, and one crude oil pipeline. These pipelines are listed below with a general description of the goods they are used to transport:

C30- Minneapolis/St. Paul to Midland Basin Pipeline (products)

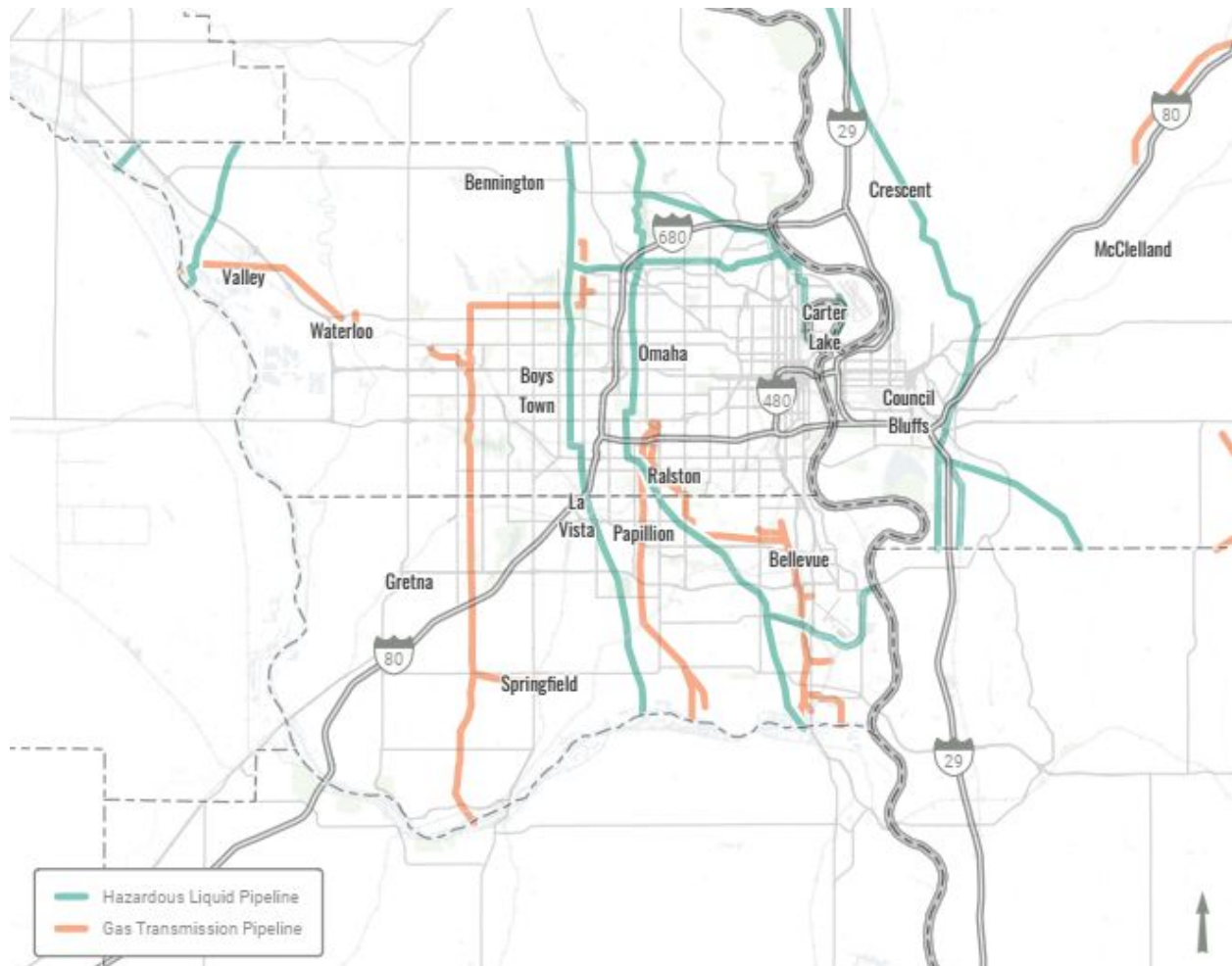
C31- Minneapolis/St. Paul to Tulsa Pipeline (products)



- C33- Omaha to Chicago Pipeline (products)
- C18- Winnipeg to Omaha Pipeline (natural gas)
- C43- Hugoton (KS) to Detroit Pipeline (natural gas)
- C18- Guernsey (WY) to Chicago (crude oil)

A detailed map of the alignments of pipelines inside the TMA is shown in Figure B21. Locations are approximated in order to ensure their security.

Figure B21: Approximate Location of Pipelines in the MAPA Region



Pipelines require a great deal of initial investment capital in order to facilitate construction. Over time, maintenance costs are generally lower than other large scale freight modes such as trucking or rail.

However, despite some of these advantages, the overall tonnage of goods transported by pipeline is actually expected to decrease by 2040 with the current rate at 557 tons going to 197.26 tons in 2040 based on data from the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF). Within the FAF



according to the FHWA Freight Analysis Framework Data 3 pipeline freight is the only mode which sees an overall decrease in tonnage over the planning horizon, while truck and rail-related freight show major increases (as shown in Figures B18 and B19).

### **Rail Freight Overview**

In 2002, rail accounted for 15% of the total tonnage shipped during the year. FHWA projections for 2040 show that rail will only account for 7% of tonnage shipped. While rail is projected to comprise a smaller share of total freight traffic, the overall tonnage is projected to increase 33% from 2007 to 2040.

There are two Class I railroads in the MAPA TMA. Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad both have lines that cross the MAPA TMA. Union Pacific is also headquartered in Omaha. Intermodal rail facilities are located on both sides of the Missouri River. A detailed look at rail freight statistics by carload for Nebraska and Iowa are located in Table B10. (One carload is assumed to be 18 tons per carload.) Additionally, a view of the MAPA TMA rail network can be seen in Figure B22.





Figure B22: Railway Network in the MAPA Region

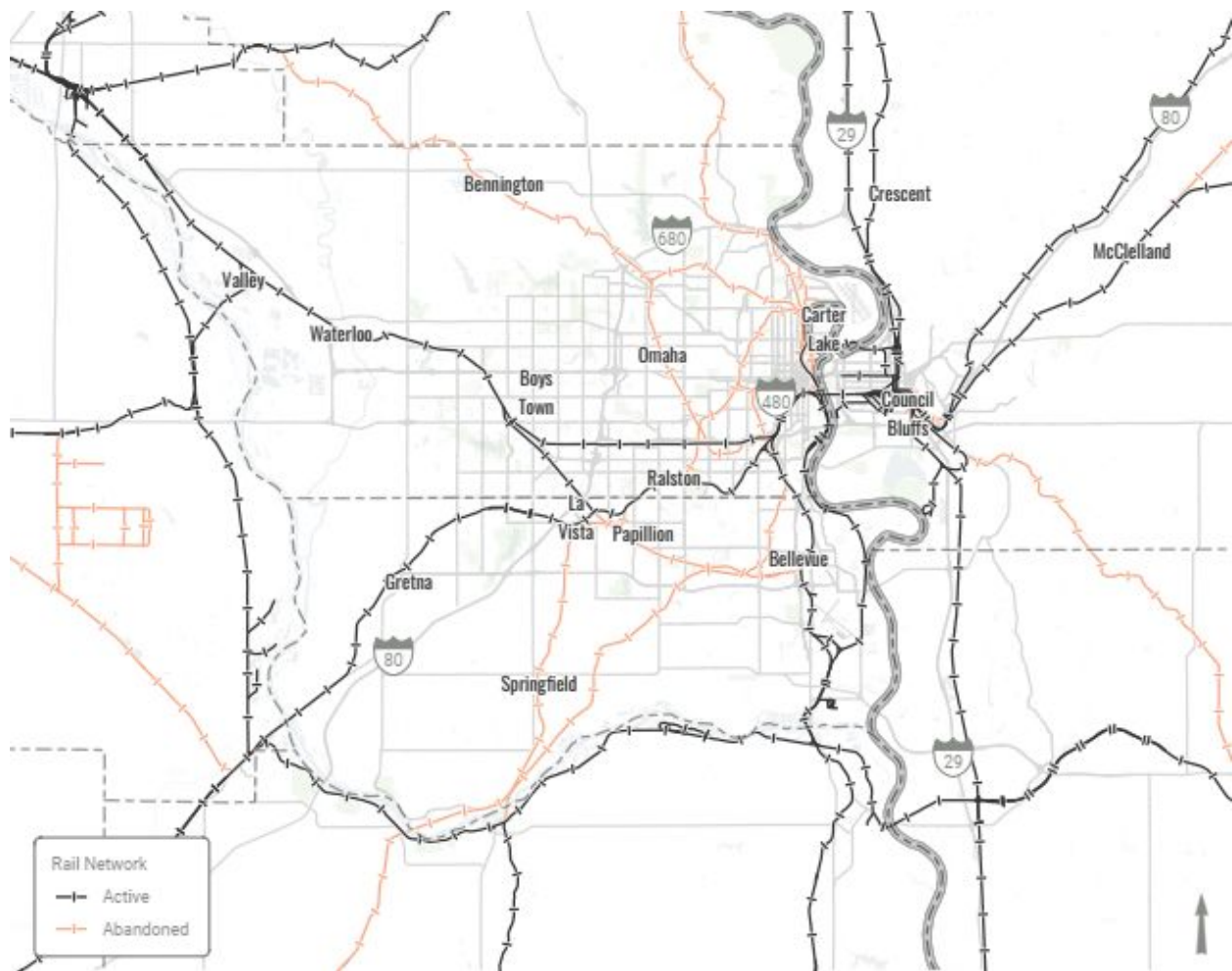


Table B10: Railway Freight Statistics for Iowa & Nebraska, 2014

Product	Carloads Terminated 2014		Carloads Originated 2014	
	Nebraska	Iowa	Nebraska	Iowa
Coal and Cement	15,417,000	20,017,000	n/a	5,731,000
Chemicals	2,311,000	4,520,000	5,447,000	397,000
Primary Metal Products	802,000	n/a	n/a	934,000
Food Products	814,000	3,144,000	7,060,000	19,192,000
Scrap Paper or Metal	n/a	979,000	166,000	n/a
Farm Products	1,654,000	3,193,000	712,489,000	7,945,000
All Other	2,325,000	3,536,000	603,000	3,071,000
Gravel, Crushed Stone, Sand	n/a	n/a	1,262,000	n/a

Source: American Association of Railroads, 2015

### Water Freight Overview

Water freight transportation in the MAPA TMA takes place on the Missouri River. In recent decades, low water levels have caused barge traffic on the Missouri River to decline. Several factors have led to the decline of barge traffic on the Missouri River. While the Mississippi River has a system of locks in order to support barge traffic, the Missouri River does not. The Missouri River also has a narrower channel than the Mississippi, resulting in higher flow speeds. These higher speeds cause greater resistance and greater fuel consumption on upstream traffic making it less efficient to operate on this waterway.

In order to deal with the low water levels and fast currents of the Missouri, shallow draft Missouri River tugs were designed and built. These tugs can navigate the channel much more efficiently and effectively than their Mississippi River counterparts. However, due to the decrease in overall traffic on the Missouri River, the vast majority of the Missouri River specific tugs were shipped to South America. There is currently one Missouri River specific tug that operates in the United States.

The agricultural profile of the region has also changed. Farmers in Nebraska and Iowa are producing more corn and soybeans than wheat in past years. This change in production further damaged the water freight in the region due to the availability of local corn and soybean processing facilities. It is not cost effective to ship corn or soybeans downriver to processing facilities when they are available locally.

The availability of rail transport is also a contributing factor to the decline of water freight in the region. There are two intermodal facilities that can facilitate land transport of freight at lower prices and faster speeds than water travel can provide.

### Port Locations in the MAPA Region

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers designates two ports located on the Omaha side of the Missouri River. These facilities include:



- Lafarge Corp. (located at 1106 Ida, Omaha, NE 68112) (Port has not been recently utilized)
- Kinder Morgan Inc. (located at 6801 No. 9th St., Omaha, NE 68112)
  - Square Feet: 35 acres
  - Barge Volume: Average about 2 barges per year
  - Historically it handled 25-30 barges per year, however since water levels on the Missouri have dramatically decreased due to drought, little barge traffic is handled
  - The facility also uses rail and truck to move product
  - Product mainly arrives by rail (90-95%) 100% of outgoing product is by truck
  - While this facility handles various freight transport options, it is not considered an Intermodal Freight Facility
  - Major products handled: steel, fertilizer, salt

After discussions with managers of these ports, it is clear that barge traffic is very limited to nonexistent. The main methods of transporting freight in the MAPA TMA is via truck, pipe, air, and rail facilities.

Information from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers indicates two barge/port facilities are located on the Council Bluffs side of the Missouri River. These facilities are commercial property:

- Cargill (located at 2401 So. 37th St, Council Bluffs, IA 51501)
- Warren Distribution (located 2850 River Road, Council Bluffs, IA 51501)

Contact with these facilities indicates that they are not currently in operation for any commercial barge/port purposes.

While port and barge facilities in the area presently have limited use, water levels on the Missouri River are rising after drought conditions for nearly the past ten years. With this increase in water levels there is a possibility that barge traffic could increase as the Missouri River will be more accessible.

### **Intermodal Freight Facilities in the MAPA Region**

There are two Intermodal Freight Facilities in the MAPA TMA which are shown in Figure B23: Iowa Interstate Railroad Intermodal Freight Facility (2722 South Avenue P.O. Box 1737 Council Bluffs, IA 51501)\*

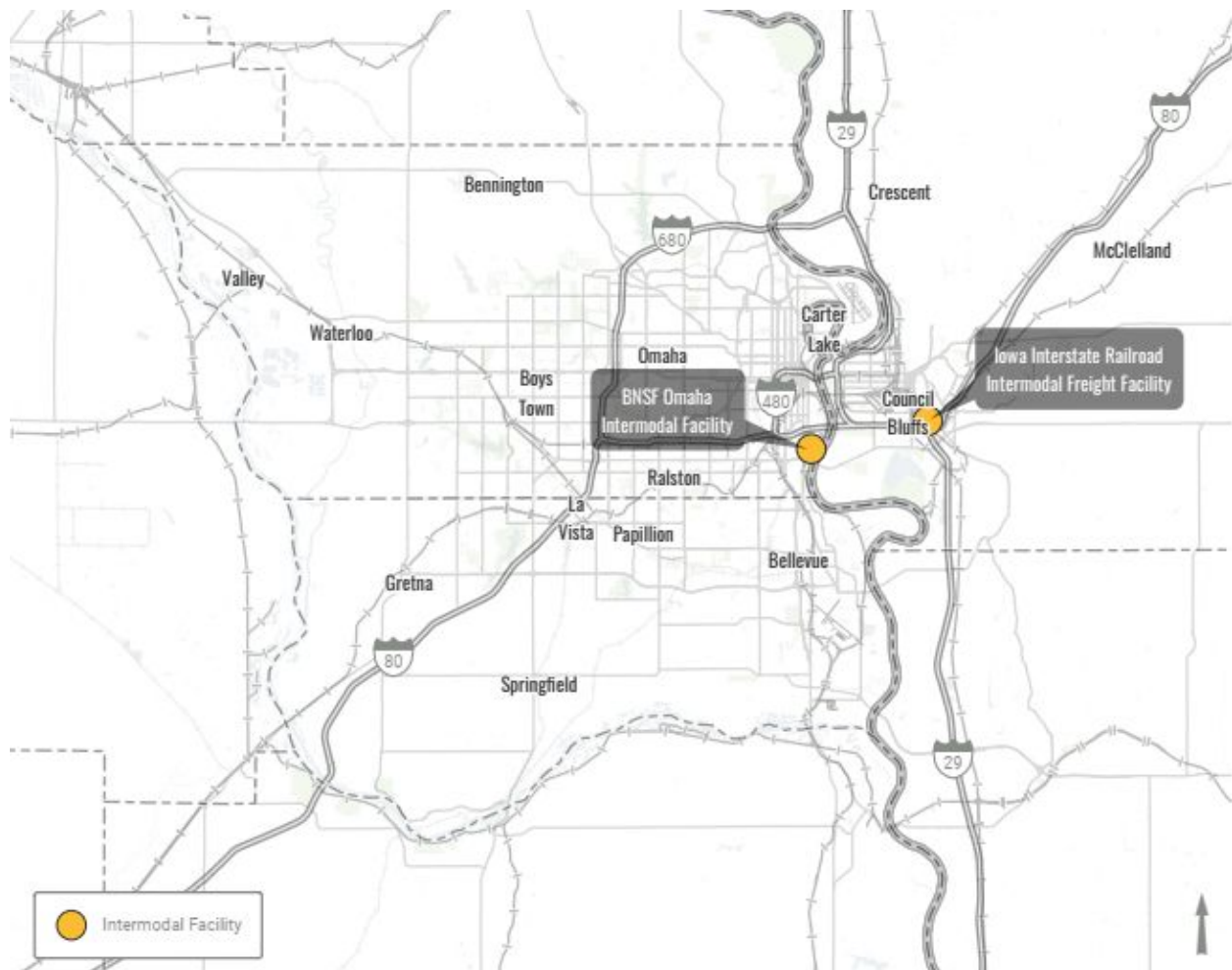
- Operator/Owner: Iowa Interstate Railroad
- Operation start date: 1984
- Square feet: Did not disclose
- Major materials handled: Freight of all kinds: frozen meat, canned goods, animal feed, etc.
- Traffic numbers: 115,000 lifts/year
- Capacity: 500 units
- Area to expand: Did not disclose



**BNSF Omaha Intermodal Freight Facility (4370 Gibson Road, Omaha, NE 68107)\***

- Operator/Owner: Burlington Northern Santa Fe
- Operation start date: September 1987
- Facility Land Occupancy: 30 acres
- Major materials handled: Major intermodal carriers
- Traffic numbers: 10,500 lifts/year
- Capacity: The facility can accommodate volumes significantly higher than current levels
- Area to expand facility: The facility can handle additional volume on its current footprint

Figure B23: Intermodal Freight Facilities in the MAPA Region



**Aviation in the MAPA Region**

There are five airport facilities located inside the limits of the MAPA TMA (see Figure B24). Three of these facilities are public airports, one is a private facility and the fifth is operated by the United States Air Force.



The vast majority of civilian traffic in the MAPA TMA flows through Omaha's Eppley Airfield. Eppley is the sole commercial airport with regular commercial service in the region. Eppley Airfield is operated by the Omaha Airport Authority (OAA). Eppley Airfield offers domestic service to the Nation's major hubs where passengers can connect to destinations across the globe. The City of Omaha's other public airport is the Millard Airport. This single-strip, general aviation facility is also under the control of the OAA.

The region's third public airport is located east of Council Bluffs, IA. The Council Bluffs Municipal Airport is a dual-strip general aviation facility and is operated by the Council Bluffs Airport Authority.

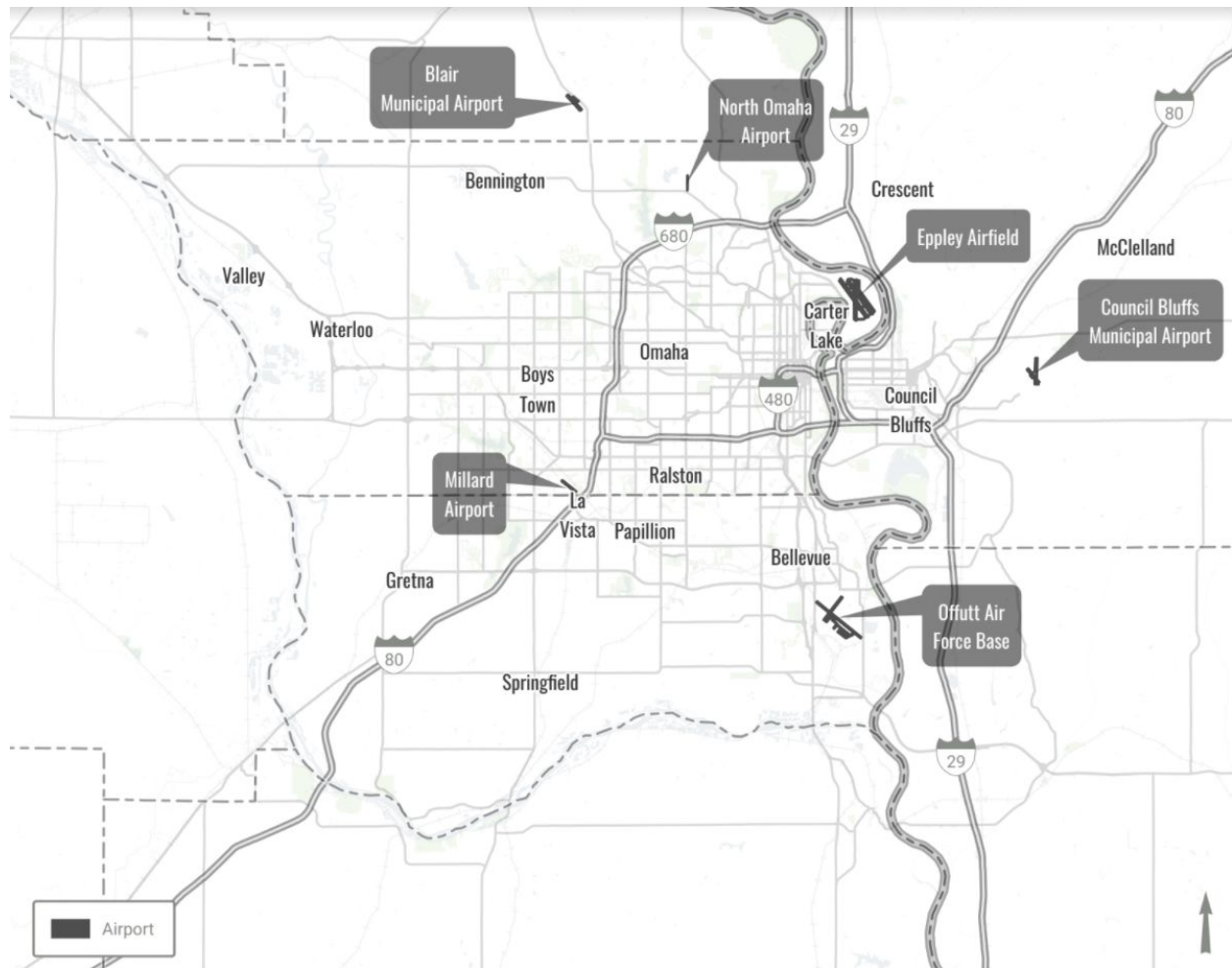
The North Omaha Airport is a privately owned, public use airport located north of Interstate 680 on 72nd Street. Users pay a fee for operation of the airport. The North Omaha Airport is also the home base for the Omaha Police Department's helicopter fleet.

The United States Air Force operates Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. In the past, Offutt was the home of Strategic Air Command or SAC. Currently, Offutt Air Force Base is the home of United States Strategic Command or USSTRATCOM and the 55th Wing of the United States Air Force. There are currently around 10,000 military and federal employees stationed at Offutt in various capacities.





Figure B24: Airports in the MAPA Region



### *Eppley Airfield Airport Operations*

Eppley Airfield is located north of downtown Omaha. This 2,650 acre facility is classified as a Medium Hub Commercial Service Airport by the Federal Aviation Administration and currently serves nine commercial carriers:

- American Airlines
- Alaska Airlines
- Allegiant Air
- Delta Air Lines
- Frontier Airlines
- Southwest Airlines
- United Airlines



Eppley Airfield operates two concourses with 20 available gates for commercial traffic. Although the number of flights has been on the decline in recent years, the overall number of enplanements and deplanements has risen during recent years.

As shown in Figure B25, the general trend for passenger traffic was generally up over the past five years while declining slightly from 2018 to 2019.

Eppley Airfield also serves various corporate, charter, and general aviation operations. Eppley Airfield's flight statistics are shown in Figures B26 and B27. Based on the data shown for passengers, it would seem that Eppley Airfield users have become more efficient over the past five years. The number of flights into and out of Eppley during this time period has continued to fall while the total passenger enplanements/deplanements have remained increased (see Figure B25). This shows that the aircraft that do enter and depart Eppley Airfield are generally larger and are operating with higher passenger volumes than they had in the past. It can be assumed that Air Taxi operations are operating at similar levels in terms of capacity due to the correlated decline in that category over the past five years.

Figure B25: Enplanements and Deplanements at Eppley Airfield

### Passenger Enplanements and Deplanements, 2015-2019

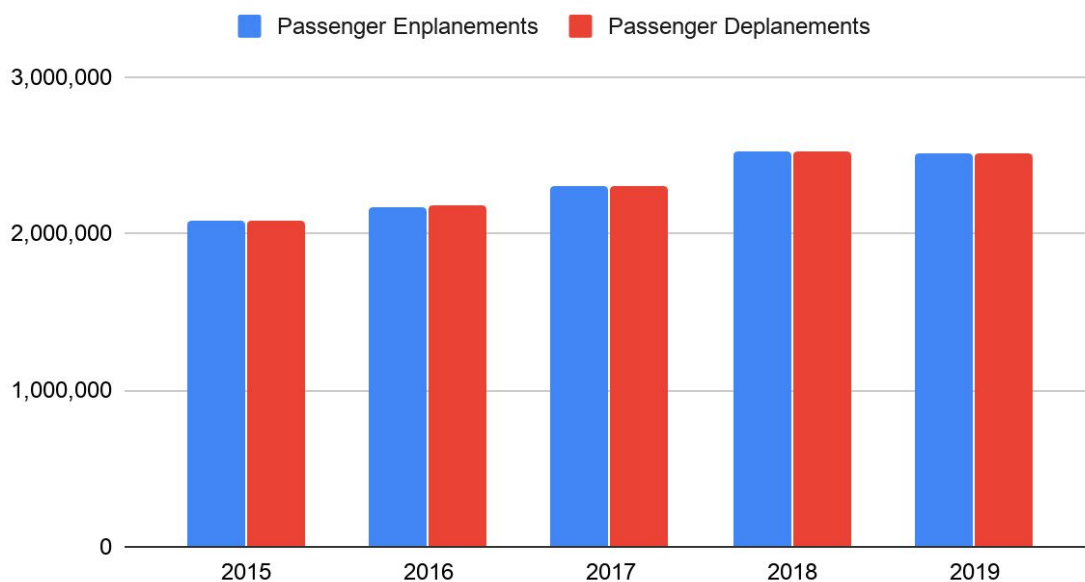
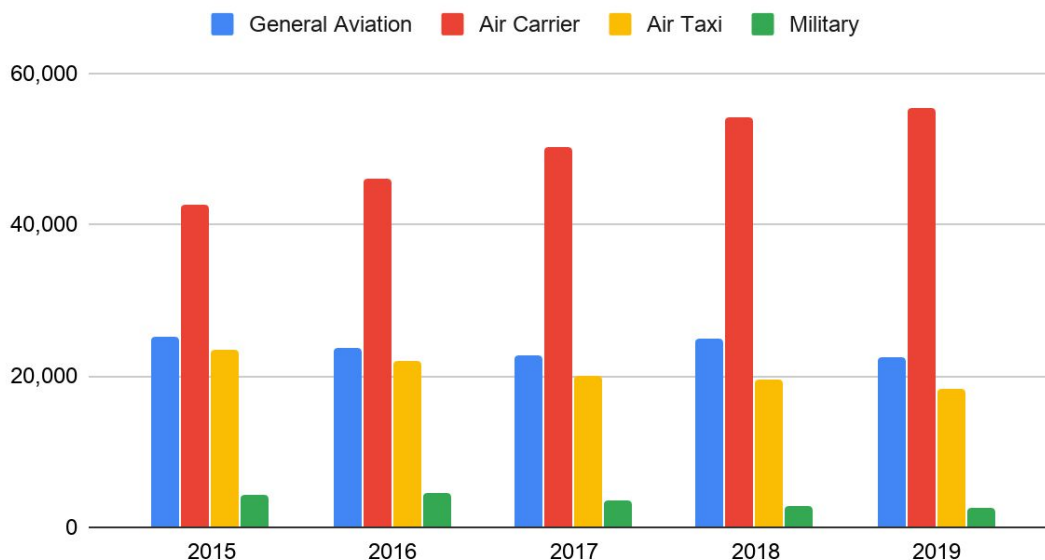


Figure B26: General Airport Operations at Eppley Airfield

### Airport Operations, 2015-2019



#### Overview of Air Cargo

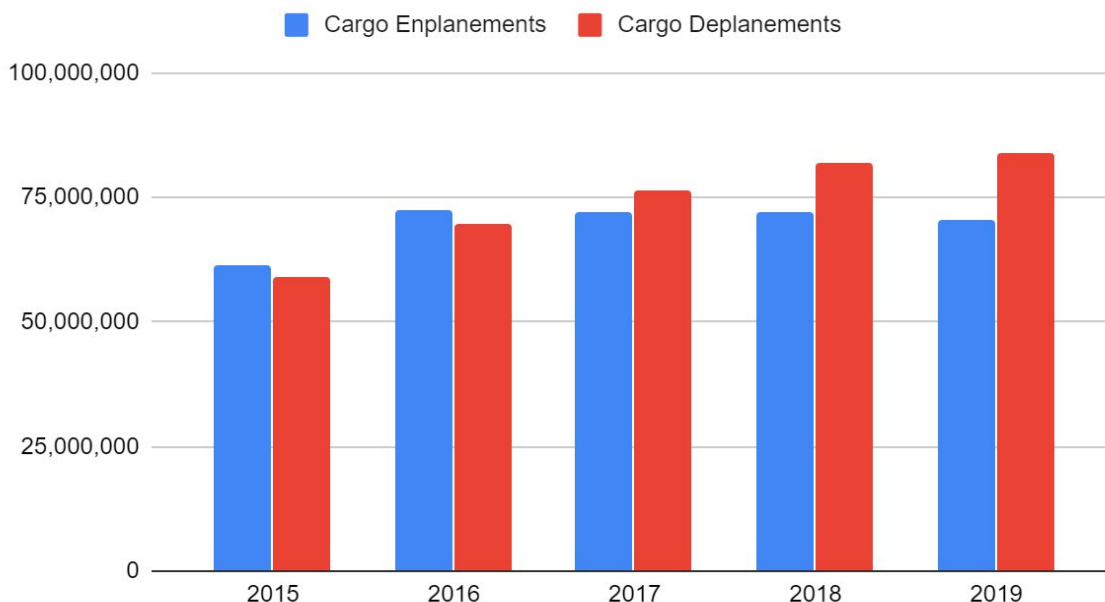
Eppley Airport (OMA) is the only air cargo facility in the MAPA TMA. According to the official airport website, the Eppley facilities cover 2,650 acres of land and there are 368,000 sq. ft. in the building. Additionally, there are six runways at Eppley Airfield. OMA currently has eight freight carriers and accommodated over 154 million pounds of cargo and mail in 2019. Air cargo in the MAPA TMA flows out of Omaha's Eppley Airfield.

Total air cargo and mail numbers increased from 2015 to 2019. These trends are illustrated in Figure B27.



Figure B27: Eppley Airfield Freight Statistics

## Cargo Enplanements and Deplanements, 2015-2019



### Millard Airport (MLE) Overview

The Millard Airport is a general aviation facility located northwest of the intersection of Interstate 80 and Harrison Street. Millard Airport does not have a control tower and traffic relies on control service from Eppley Airfield.

The Millard Airport is operated by the Omaha Airport Authority. Millard has one lighted runway that is 3,801 feet long by 75 feet wide.

The runway was resurfaced in 2014 and the operations spaces will be renovated in 2015. OAA will continue to maintain the facility as per federal regulations. The latest data available for traffic at Millard was compiled in 2012, which showed 14,900 annual operations.

### Council Bluffs Airport (CBF) Overview

The Council Bluffs Airport is a general aviation facility located 4 miles east of Council Bluffs, Iowa. This facility is owned and operated by the Council Bluffs Airport Authority. Council Bluffs Airport has two runways in operation. Renovations and expansions are as follows:

- 18/36 is a 5,500 feet by 100 feet concrete facility
- Expanded in 2005 14/32 3,650 feet by 60 feet concrete runway
  - Completely reconstructed in 2008
- 4 corporate hangers



- Completed in 2012
- Instrument Landing System (ILS)
  - Completed in 2012
- New itinerant apron
  - Completed in 2010
- Road Access to the airport

The Council Bluffs Airport is designated in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) as the reliever airport for Eppley Airfield. The emergency rescue organization LifeNet operates a rescue helicopter out of Council Bluffs Airport. Traffic statistics for the Council Bluffs Airport compiled in 2008 show an average of 106 departures and arrivals take place per day.

Council Bluffs Airport is also home to a full service fixed base operator with a certified flight school. The Council Bluffs Airport Authority has an active public-private development plan to facilitate investment in additional aircraft storage hangars and businesses in the airport area.

Figure B28: Aerial Photograph of the Council Bluffs Airport



#### *North Omaha Airport (3NO) Overview*

The North Omaha Airport is a privately owned facility located on the northeast corner of the junction of 72nd Street and Bennington Road. There is one runway located at this facility. Runway 17/35 is a 2,480 feet by 40 feet concrete facility in good condition. The North Omaha Airport also has tie down space and hangar space for rent. There is an overnight parking fee at this airport and the facility is closed to aircraft 8,000 lbs or larger.

North Omaha is also the base of operations for the Omaha Police Department's helicopter.





Traffic statistics for the North Omaha Airport show that on average 39 departures and arrivals take place per day; statistics were updated in 2008.

Figure B29: Aerial Photograph of the North Omaha Airport

