

MOVING FORWARD



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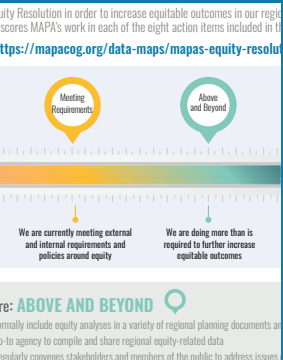
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MAPA's New Executive Director takes the helm

MAPA has a new executive director and he is wasting no time in setting the course for the agency. Since being promoted in late July, Mike Helgerson has made it his focus to keep the agency growing and make sure it becomes more innovative, responsive and accountable to members.

"Our staff and funding are shared resources for the region, so I want to make sure we are focused on the issues that matter most to our members."

Mike Helgerson
Executive Director

"Our staff and funding are shared resources for the region, so I want to make sure we are focused on the issues that matter most to our members," said Helgerson.

In particular, Helgerson wants to grow MAPA's housing and infrastructure programs for communities, implement the goals of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan through the ConnectGO partnership, strengthen MAPA's existing

partnerships and identify new opportunities to align efforts with other partners throughout the region.

Another goal on the horizon involves refining internal processes to better track the agency's impact and deliver services to members more efficiently. Helgerson, a MAPA employee since 2013, served for the past four-and-a-half years as MAPA's Transportation and Data Manager. He succeeded Greg Youell as executive director, who left the agency for a position with Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

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Bike-Pedestrian Connections

Connections in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro bike and pedestrian network are growing.

MAPA is working with regional partners to increase community connections through the addition of trails and bike lanes.



Platte River Bridge Side Path

Phase one, which included the installation of girders for a side path along the Platte River Bridge on Interstate 75, is complete. This project will create a connection between Sarpy and Cass Counties for bicyclists and pedestrians.



Council Bluffs 1st Avenue Trail

Construction is underway on a multi-use trail on a former railroad corridor one block south of West Broadway in Council Bluffs. This project represents an opportunity to link Downtown Council Bluffs with Downtown Omaha.



24th & 30th St. Road Diets

Road diets reduced portions of South 24th Street and North 30th Street in Omaha to three lanes and added bike lanes to improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety while increasing mobility and access along the corridors.



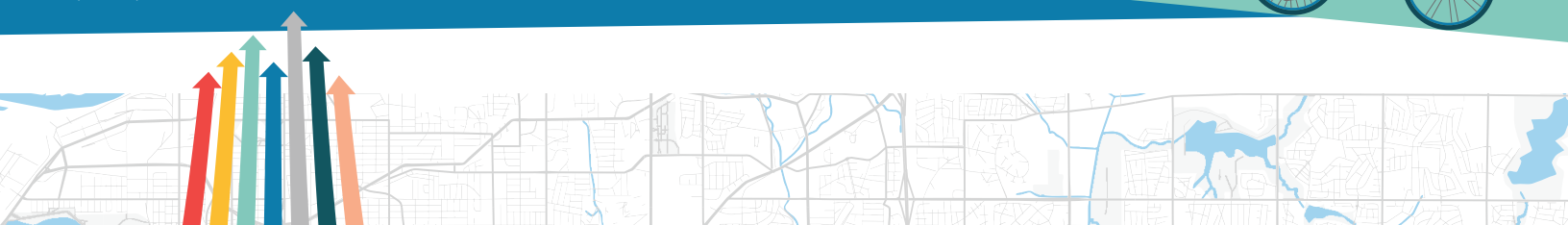
Market to Midtown Bikeway

The Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area's first protected bike lane, the Market to Midtown Bikeway, opened for use in July. The bikeway on Harney Street contains flexible barriers to separate bicyclists from vehicle traffic.

The Market to Midtown Bikeway project is a partnership between the City of Omaha, Bike Walk Nebraska and Metro Smart Cities of which MAPA is a partner.



Photo captured by MAPA's drone program.



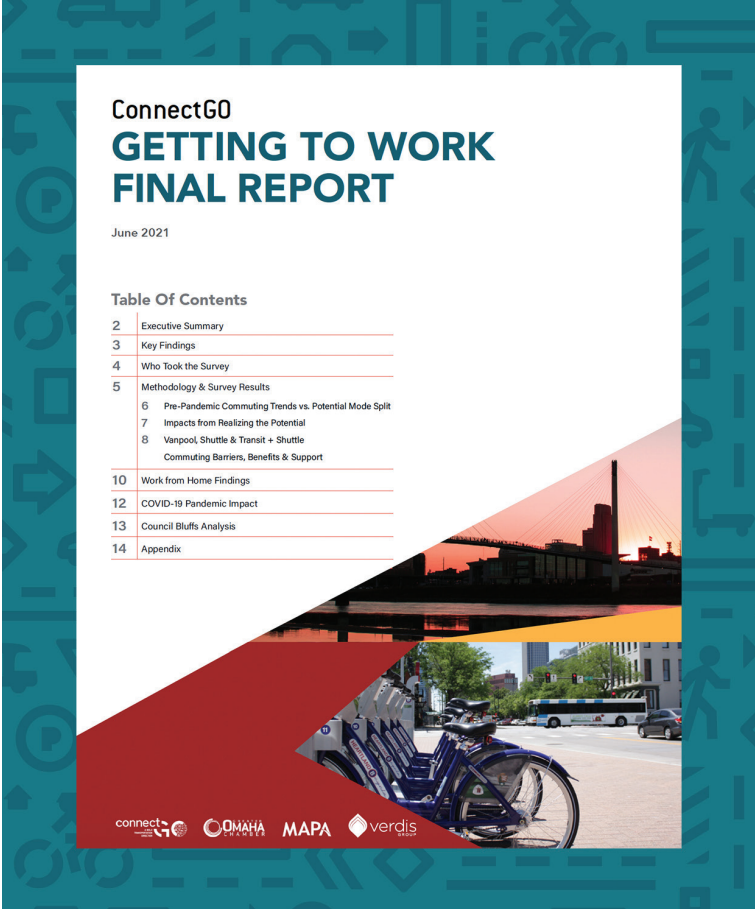
ConnectGO Getting to Work Report

Employees want choices in how they get to work. That is among the findings in the ConnectGO Getting to Work Report which represented nearly 16,000 employees in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

The [ConnectGO Getting to Work Report](#) is a partnership between the Greater Omaha Chamber and MAPA with services provided by Verdis Group.

The report shares data on how employees got to work before the pandemic, how they are getting to work during the pandemic and how they would prefer to get to work in the future if they had options such as transit, bicycling, walking or carpooling.

The results show employers surveyed could reduce pre-pandemic trips where employees drive alone to active transportation and working from home if they provided supportive resources and programs.



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As Transportation and Data Manager, Helgerson led a team of transportation planning professionals and was responsible for several critical projects at MAPA. These include the launch of the Regional Development Report, which leverages building permit data from local governments to track regional growth and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, which implements the priorities of the Metro Travel Improvement Study with ongoing ConnectGO planning efforts. Helgerson is also leading a MAPA study planning a new Interstate 80 interchange in Sarpy County near 192nd Street.

During his first year as the executive director, Helgerson would like the agency to complete the property buyouts in Pottawattamie and Mills Counties resulting from the 2019 floods, work

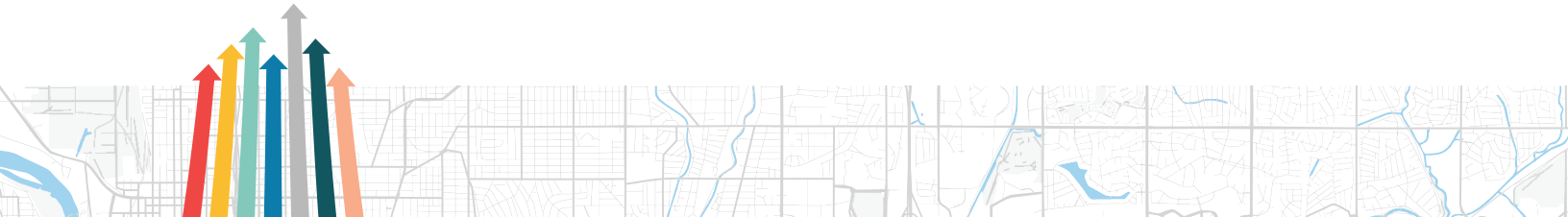
with community leaders to plan out the next steps in their recovery, implement the recommendations from MAPA's Equity Assessment and award new funding to communities through regional programs in line with MAPA's 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

"There is a lot of change and growth occurring in the region as communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and move toward building a more equitable future for all."

Mike Helgerson
Executive Director

"I am very excited for this opportunity. There is a lot of change and growth occurring in the region as communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and move toward building a more equitable future for all," said Helgerson.

"I look forward to learning more about ways MAPA can assist communities in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region and moving our work forward through regional leadership and collaboration."



Equity Assessment

In June 2020, the MAPA Board of Directors adopted an [Equity Resolution](#) in order to **increase equitable outcomes** in our region through MAPA's work. This resolution reaffirms the agency's **commitment to an equitable and just region**, and **ensures that the issues of disparities, justice and racism are at the forefront** as we work to do more with greater intensity and focus to realize **the goal of expanding true opportunity to all residents**.

MAPA's [Equity Assessment](#) is a direct outcome of the resolution, and scores MAPA's work in each of the eight action items included in the resolution. The first annual assessment was presented to the Board of Directors in July 2021.

MAPA EQUITY ASSESSMENT 2021

In June 2020, the MAPA Board of Directors adopted an Equity Resolution in order to increase equitable outcomes in our region through MAPA's work. This assessment is a direct outcome of the resolution, and scores MAPA's work in each of the eight action items included in the resolution.

MAPA Board of Directors Equity Resolution: <https://mapaseq.org/data-maps/maps-equity-resolution/>

| Category | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| Failing | There are serious problems that need to be addressed. |
| Work in Progress | We are currently working to meet either external or internal equity requirements. |
| Meeting Requirements | We are currently meeting external and internal equity requirements. |
| Above and Beyond | We are doing more than is required to further increase equitable outcomes. |
| Exemplary | Our work could be used as a model for other communities or organizations. |

Score: ABOVE AND BEYOND

Go formally include equity analyses in a variety of regional planning documents and funding decisions

- Go to equity to example and share regional equity-related data
- Regularly convene stakeholders and members of the public to address issues of equity
- Maintain high level of regional outreach, partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Opportunity to include equity metrics and analyses in additional documents, reports and processes

Recommendations for work in the next year:

- Recommend a set of regional equity metrics to track, for approval by the MAPA Board - CSD/PAIR team
- Continue work on an Equity Dashboard to share data for community use - CSD/PAIR team
- Prepare for a 2022 update to the **Regional Equitable Growth Profile** report - CSD/Heartland 2050
- Investigate ways to track use of the profile and its data - CSD/Heartland 2050
- Showcase equitable best practices in MAPA and Heartland 2050 efforts & events - CSD/Heartland 2050
- Host an Equity Learning capsule to sign MAPA's equity work with our strategic partners - CSD/Heartland 2050
- Deploy the **Principles of Equitable Development** for community use - CSD/Heartland 2050
- Identify additional regional equity efforts MAPA should be involved in - Public Engagement staff

Score: MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Public Participation Plan and Civil Rights Plan outline robust engagement policies for MAPA's work

- Ongoing regional engagement and representation through MAPA and Heartland 2050 Committees
- Consistent use of a wide variety of platforms to share information and engage with the public

Recommendations for work in the next year:

- Create a plan to strengthen ties in South Omaha and with the Spanish-speaking community - CSD/Public Engagement
- Develop a process for the translation of materials - CSD/Public Engagement
- Work with communities to expand specialty transit options through the Coordinated Transit Plan process - Transportation
- Improve coordination between MAPA departments for public participation efforts - CSD
- Analyze options to increase Heartland 2050 Committee member engagement - Heartland 2050

Presented to the MAPA Board of Directors: July 2021

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 06 Labor Day**
MAPA Offices Closed
 - 08 RPA-18 - Canceled**
11:00 a.m.
 - 15 Finance Committee***
8:30 a.m.
 - 17 Transportation Committee***
10:00 a.m.
 - 22 IA League of Cities Annual Conference (Waterloo, IA)**
Sept. 22-24
 - 25 MAPA Board of Directors***
1:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 2021

- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Regional Planning* (Heartland 2050 RPAC) 10:00 a.m. |
| 06 | MAPA Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m. |
| 11 | Indigenous People's Day <i>MAPA Offices Closed</i> |
| 13 | RPA-18* 11:00 a.m. |
| 16 | NADO Annual Training Conference Oct. 16-19 |
| 20 | Finance Committee* 8:30 a.m. Coordinated Transit* 10:30 a.m. |
| 22 | Transportation Committee* 10:00 a.m. |
| 28 | MAPA Board of Directors* 1:30 p.m. |

** meeting may be virtual*



U.S. Department of Transportation
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