

MOVING FORWARD



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Mike's Holiday Message

As we wrap up a year of progress and recovery, we reflect on the work we were able to accomplish and the work that lies ahead in helping communities in our region grow and thrive.

While our communities encountered new challenges with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the same challenges simply became more apparent. Limited affordable housing, gaps in broadband service and other infrastructure needs are challenges that MAPA staff continue to work on with our members daily.

Despite these issues, the transformative levels of funding allocated in recent federal legislation present new opportunities to put forward projects and secure much needed funding for them. Our team is here to assist with those efforts.

Find out more about the work we are doing together with our communities in our **2021 Annual Report**.

MAPA's staff and I look forward to working with you all in the new year on your priorities and partnering on key investments to help your communities thrive.



Wishing you and your families all a safe and happy holiday season.

Michael Helgner



Highway 75 Corridor & Freight Strategy Study

MAPA is conducting a Corridor and Freight Strategy study for a portion of U.S. Highway 75 in North Omaha. It hosted its first public meeting for the study on Dec. 14.

The study will begin to address the need for an improved connection between the North Freeway, the Storz Express-



way and Interstate 680, while reducing current impacts of the current Highway 75 alignment along 30th Street.

Residents, businesses and the greater Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area have an opportunity to identify transportation alternatives that meet a variety of needs including mobility, safety, accessibility, the movement of freight, economics and livability.

From now until December 28, the public can participate in self-guided activities on the study website: (mapacog.org/highway75) to provide feedback on the transportation and neighborhood goals and vision of the Highway 75 study area. In addition they will be able to identify constraints for pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles, public transit and freight and define community strengths and opportunities.

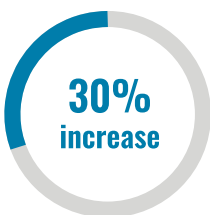
Infrastructure bill to increase MAPA funding

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law in November is expected to bring significant increases in the amount of federal funding MAPA receives to program for regional transportation projects.

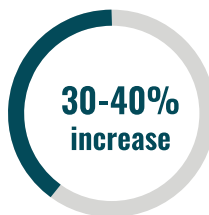
The IIJA includes significant public investment in transportation networks (including public transit), broadband and public works projects, allocating an estimated \$1.2 trillion across 10 years, with \$500 billion in new spending during the next five years.

Here are the estimates for increases in MAPA's funding:

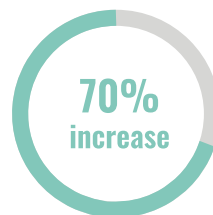
IIJA Funding Increase Estimates



Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding
Highway, bridge, bicycle & pedestrian improvement and capital transit projects



Metropolitan Planning & FTA 5303 Funding



Transportation Alternatives Program
Trails, safe routes to school, non-driver access to public transportation and mobility projects

MAPA estimates the IIJA will bring a 30% increase overall in Surface Transportation Block Grant funding (e.g. highway, bridge, bicycle & pedestrian improvement and transit capital projects), a 70% increase in funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (e.g. trails, safe routes to school, non-driver access to public transportation and mobility projects) and a 30% to 40% increase in MAPA's Metropolitan Planning and Federal Transit Administration 5303 Metropolitan Planning funding.

MAPA in the News

Redistricting, broadband access and passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by Congress, are just a few of the stories that have put MAPA in the news lately.

In case you missed it - here are links to a few of those stories:

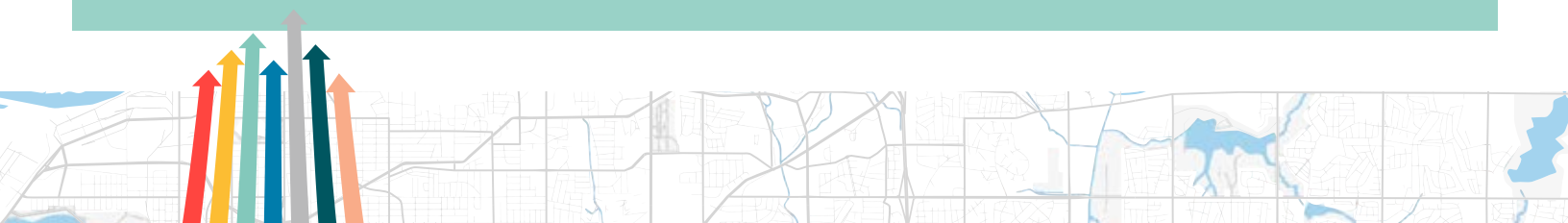
WOWT-North Omaha Speed Test

KETV-Infrastructure Bill Game Changer

Regional Projects Map shows MAPA's vast work

MAPA's office may be in Omaha, but we serve the entire six-county region and have multiple projects in each county. Our Regional Projects Map shows all the projects we have been working on this past year.

Take a look: [MAPA Regional Projects Map](#)



Pott. Co. Housing Trust Fund accepting proposals

Now through January 14, 2022, the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund is accepting proposals for grant requests for housing-related projects eligible for assistance under the State Housing Trust Fund program.

Proposals must meet one of the following objectives: **rental housing**, including rehabilitation, new construction, emergency housing, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing; **homeownership assistance**, including direct assistance, rehabilitation and new construction; and **education of potential renters and owners**, including general maintenance information.

Submit applications to the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund by **1 p.m. on January 14, 2022**.

Priority will be given to proposals assisting households at or below 30% of the median family income. All activities must benefit households at or below 80% of median fam-

ily income. Each successful applicant will be required to meet with the Housing Trust Fund Board to review the application form and determine whether the project is eligible under the Housing Trust Fund Program requirements.

For further information and an application, contact Donald Gross, MAPA Community & Economic Development Manager, at dgross@mapacog.org or **402-444-6866, ext. 3230**.



MAPA welcomes new Transportation & Data Manager

Meet Carlos Morales, MAPA's new Transportation & Data Manager.



Many people may remember Carlos from his tenure with the City of Omaha when he served as the Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator from late 2010 until 2015. Most recently, he was a Senior Transportation Planner in the Mobility Division of the City of Santa Monica, California.

Carlos earned a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Environmental Studies from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of California Los Angeles.

Biking, hiking and walking are some of his hobbies along with a passion for brewing his own beer.

MAPA requests feedback through Annual Membership Survey

MAPA is requesting feedback to gauge the effectiveness of its services. By taking the Annual Membership Survey, you can help MAPA determine which services to grow or change as well as any services MAPA should introduce to its members. Your feedback on behalf of your jurisdiction or organization will be important factors as MAPA looks at budgets and plans for the future.

The deadline to complete the survey is **January 14, 2022**.

Take the survey here: surveymonkey.com/r/9637RQH

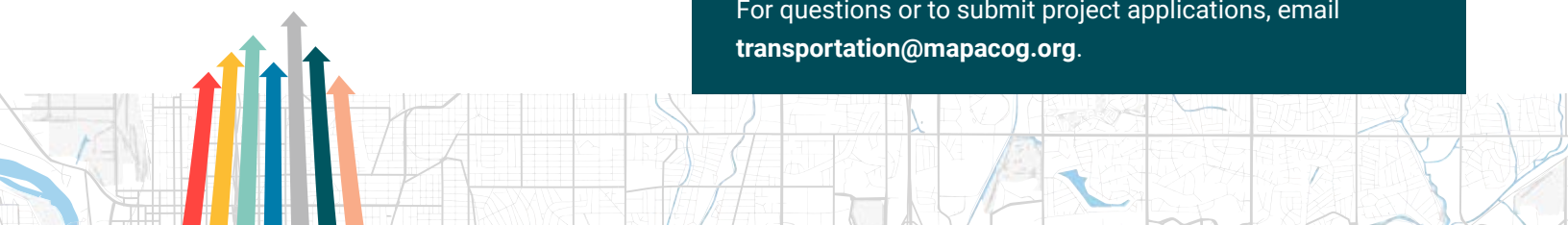
MAPA Calls for FY2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects

MAPA is calling for projects for a variety of funding programs such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Douglas and Sarpy counties in Nebraska as well as Pottawattamie, Mills, Harrison and Shelby counties in Iowa are eligible for funding.

Project applications for the FY2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding cycle should be submitted **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, January 7, 2022**.

For more program information visit: tinyurl.com/FY23CallforProjects

For questions or to submit project applications, email transportation@mapacog.org.



CALENDAR

JANUARY 2022

- 17** **Martin Luther King Day**
MAPA Offices Closed
- 19** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit
10:00 a.m.
- 21** **Transportation Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 27** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2022

- 04** **Regional Planning (Heartland 2050 RPAC)**
10:00 a.m.
- 16** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
- 18** **Transportation Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 24** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

Joyful Wishes

FROM THE MAPA STAFF



Back Row: Laura Heilaman, Matt Eash, Mike Helgerson, Owen Stuckey, Elizabeth Zeller, Travis Halm, Josh Corrigan, Jim Boerner, Don Gross, Ryan Ossell
Front Row: Ruthie McKee, Grant Anderson, Karna Loewenstein, Carol Vinton, Jodi Woolery, Christina Brownell, Shawna Silvius, Natasha Barrett, Sue Cutsforth, Rachel Goettsch, Amanda Morales *Not Pictured:* Bridgette Smith, Court Barber, Rafael Corrales, & Carlos Morales

