



**OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY**

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha | (402) 444-6866

Training Room - Lower Level

**HEARTLAND 2050 REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (H2050 RPAC)**

Heartland 2050 is a community driven initiative pulling in stakeholders from across the region to think big and work towards a common vision for our six county region anchored by the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, April 1, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**ATTENDEES:** Wayne Brown, Fred Conley, Meridith Dillon, Lynn Dittmer, César Garcia, Leland Jacobson, Michael Jensen, Nancy Pridal, Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Jeff Beiermann, Chris Shewchuk, Keith Station, Mark Stursma, Ashley Rae Turner, Michaela Valentin

**GUESTS:** Alana Schriver, Hank Robinson, Lauren Martin, Eva Roberts

**MAPA STAFF:** Mike Helgersen, Karna Loewenstein, Laura Heilman, Sue Cutsforth, Carlos Morales, Grant Anderson

- A.** Welcome and Introductions – Chair Nancy Pridal, Lamp Rynearson
- B.** Omaha Refugee Task Force (ORTF) - Keith Station, City of Omaha; Alana Schriver, ORTF Memberr
  - a. Alana Schriver presented information and resources about refugees in our region, including highlighting specific transportation-related needs and concerns.
  - b. Local resources can be found at: <https://omaharefugees.com/>
- C.** Metro Community College Strategic Plan Support - Hank Robinson, MCC; Carlos Morales, MAPA
  - a. MCC enlisted MAPA to support the development of their strategic plan.
  - b. MCC would like to think comprehensively about site planning, facilities and transportation needs for each campus and for the system as a whole.
- D.** Western Douglas County Collaborative - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA
  - a. MAPA was asked to convene a group of stakeholders from communities in western Douglas County to discuss common needs and concerns and potential ways partners could work together.
  - b. An initial meeting was held in Bennington on February 23.
  - c. We heard from participants that it would be beneficial to collaborate, specifically around aligning future projects (including trails), communication between entities, and how to support continued growth and development in the area.
  - d. A survey has been sent to all participants to determine how best to move forward.
  - e. MAPA will continue to convene and support this group as desired, and hopes to use this as a model for future work in smaller communities.
- E.** H2050 Strategic Thinking - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA
  - a. Attendees worked in small groups to answer the question “If [Heartland 2050] really ramped up for the next two years what could we do that would be the most useful?”
  - b. Answers will be summarized and inform strategic planning efforts for Heartland 2050.

**HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



**F. Additional Business**

**a. Committee Updates**

**i. Equity and Engagement**

1. The committee continues to work on the Principles of Equitable Development scorecard and is focusing on implementation and use of the scorecard.
2. The group heard from Joo Hee Pomplun at the last meeting; Joo Hee is the Executive Director of the Alliance, the creator of the original scorecard.

**ii. Natural Resources**

1. Kyle Madsen, with the CSU Center for Management of Military Lands, is the new committee vice chair and will move into the chair position starting in July. He presented updates on the work of each of the subcommittee.

**iii. Housing and Development**

1. Jeff Spiehs, with Lamp Rynearson, is the new committee vice chair and will move into the chair position starting in July.
2. Last month the committee heard about the Streck Workforce Housing project and provided input to inform planning of this year's Heartland 2050 Summit.

**iv. Infrastructure**

1. Derek Miller, with the City of Omaha, will be the new committee chair and Mike McIntosh, with Lamp Rynearson, will be the new committee vice chair.
2. The Infrastructure Committee will meet next Wednesday, April 6.

**b. Broadband Event Summary - Laura Heilman, MAPA**

- i. MAPA partnered with the Nebraska Regional Officials Council to present a statewide Broadband Workshop to help communities understand issues around broadband connectivity and access, and how to advocate for the spending of broadband-related funding (including ARPA & Infrastructure Bill funds).
- ii. The event was held Monday, March 21 with both in-person and virtual options in 13 locations across Nebraska.
- iii. Find event materials at [www.nrocne.com](http://www.nrocne.com)

**c. RPAC County and City Representatives for FY23 - Laura Heilman, MAPA**

- i. RPAC members will be asked to update their membership information via a short survey. Members should expect an email in April.

**d. H2050 Summit June 29, 2022 - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA**

- i. The Heartland 2050 Summit will be held on June 29, 2022.
- ii. The MAPA Board has approved Tamika Butler as our keynote speaker. Tamika is an Omaha native with a broad range of experience who has been getting national attention for her presentations and workshops around transportation, planning and equity.

**e. Community Updates**

**G. Adjourn**

**Future Meetings & Events:**

H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – June 3, 2022  
Heartland 2050 Summit - June 29, 2022

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