

# MOVING FORWARD



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Public comment sought on Heartland 2050 Equitable Development Scorecard

READ ARTICLE >>



MAPA Vice Chair elected NARC Senior Vice President

READ ARTICLE >>



MAPA C&O Manager to retire August 1

READ ARTICLE >>



USDOT launches Safe Streets for All grant program

READ ARTICLE >>



Carter Lake updating City's Comprehensive Plan

READ ARTICLE >>



New C&O Intern joins MAPA

READ ARTICLE >>



## Heartland 2050 Summit speaker challenges audience

Be the kind of ancestors that create communities that make people feel they belong. That message from Tamika Butler, a national expert on transportation equity and social justice, came in the form of a thought-provoking challenge to guests at the Heartland 2050 Summit: “Baby Steps Giant Leaps” on June 29.

Butler, a Bellevue native and the keynote speaker for the Heartland 2050 Summit, challenged the audience to recognize racism in the world of planning and within organizations and make institutional changes which make future generations feel they belong.

“True inclusion is the shifting of power,” said Butler. “The communities we work with already have power. We have to figure out how to work with them in a way that allows them to realize their power.”

Butler emphasized that planners need to listen to the people in the communities where they work.

“We have to start going into communities and asking what people want.”

Tamika Butler

“We have to start going into communities and asking what people want.”

Butler’s message resonated with the “Heartland 2050 Babies” video introduced at the summit. The “Heartland 2050 Babies” are children born in 2020 to real Heartland 2050 families. (View the video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-bAmYZLeCDM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-bAmYZLeCDM).) Most people out-

continued on page 4



## Public comment sought on Heartland 2050 Equitable Development Scorecard

MAPA's Heartland 2050 Equity & Engagement Committee is working to finalize an Equitable Development Scorecard it developed for the region and it wants your feedback.

The scorecard can be used to assess projects and initiatives to determine if they meet the community's standards for equity.

For more information and to complete the survey about the Equitable Development Scorecard, go to [heartland2050.org/equity-engagement](http://heartland2050.org/equity-engagement).

**Attend one of two virtual meetings on July 13 from 11:00 a.m. - Noon or 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

For the virtual meeting from 11 a.m.-Noon:  
**[Join using this link.](#)**

For the virtual meeting from Virtual meeting from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.:  
**[Join using this link.](#)**

After receiving all feedback, MAPA plans to publish the Heartland 2050 Equitable Development Scorecard with a guide for usage and scoring.



## MAPA C&O Manager to retire August 1

After seven years with MAPA, and a career that has spanned more than 43 years overall, Communications & Outreach Manager, Karna Loewenstein will retire from MAPA on Aug. 1.



Loewenstein began working at MAPA in January 2015 as the Heartland 2050 Coordinator and is a major contributor to the success of the implementation of the Heartland 2050 regional vision.

Under her leadership, Heartland 2050 began hosting annual summits on regional topics such as transportation and housing, speakers' series, and learning site visits to cities working to transform their transportation networks to build community vibrancy and equity learning capsules..

In September 2019, Loewenstein became manager of the newly-formed Communications & Outreach department. With her team, she updated MAPA and Heartland 2050 branding and the agency's approach to putting documents together.

"My work at MAPA has given me the opportunity to have a second career dedicated to the world of planning," said Loewenstein. "Helping shape our region's future has been fascinating and leaving has been a difficult decision. I will continue to follow the work closely."

Prior to working at MAPA, Loewenstein spent the majority of her career in higher education. She was employed most recently at Iowa Western Community College as the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Quality Improvement Program Liaison.

We will miss you, Karna, and wish you a happy retirement!

## MAPA Vice Chair elected NARC Senior Vice President

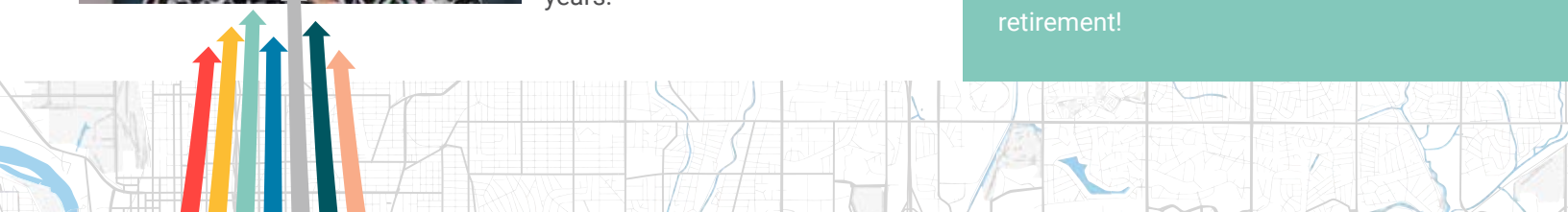
Congratulations to Mills County Supervisor and MAPA Vice Chair Carol Vinton!

Supervisor Vinton was elected Senior Vice President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). NARC serves as the national voice for regions like the MAPA region by advocating



for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities issues.

Vinton has served on the NARC Board of Directors for several years.





## USDOT launches Safe Streets for All grant program

To address the dramatic rise in traffic deaths and serious injuries in crashes, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is launching a competitive grant program that will provide \$5 billion during the next five years to improve traffic safety.

The program known as "Safe Streets and Roads for All" (SS4A) will provide grants that support local communities in the development of safety action plans, and the implementation of projects which reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the local road network.

"Safe Streets and Roads for All" is meant to support the USDOT's ambitious long-term goal of reaching zero deaths and serious injuries on the nation's highways, road and streets.

**From 2016 to 2020 the MAPA region experienced a higher rate of non-motorist fatalities than either the Nebraska or Iowa state averages.** These fatalities had a disproportionately high impact on disadvantaged communities.



MAPA plans to submit an application for an Action Planning grant by Sept. 15, 2022. This funding will help establish a Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan for our region.

If successful, this initiative will work to build a local coalition of champions, experts, community members and leaders to advocate for regional safety efforts.

Email MAPA at [safestreets@mapacog.org](mailto:safestreets@mapacog.org) and visit our website for more information, future updates, and opportunities to get involved.



## Carter Lake updating City's Comprehensive Plan

Carter Lake wants feedback from residents along with property and business owners as it updates the City's comprehensive plan - a tool that is intended to help further the economic prosperity of Carter Lake and encourage future growth.

The comprehensive plan will provide the basis for future decisions on regulations, funding and land use. MAPA is assisting Carter Lake with its comprehensive plan update.

Residents can share their opinions through an online survey through Aug. 14 at: [tinyurl.com/CarterLakeCompPlan](https://tinyurl.com/CarterLakeCompPlan). They are encouraged to attend a public meeting on Aug. 15 from 4-7 p.m. at Carter Lake City Hall located at 950 East Locust Street.

**The meeting is a public open house.** Attendees are welcome to come at any time during the meeting time period to ask questions and provide feedback.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
UPDATE 2022**

## MAPA Board approves FY2023-FY2028 Transportation Improvement Program

MAPA's Board of Directors approved the FY2023-FY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at its monthly meeting June 23.

The FY2023-FY2028 TIP represents an investment in 33 new regional projects totaling \$58,106,030. The Project Selection Committee considered more than \$250 million in applications.

The TIP, a six-year document updated annually, documents the progress toward projects that include federal transportation funding. It includes projects such as highway maintenance and expansion, bicycle and pedestrian trail work, Metro Transit projects and aviation projects.

The TIP also includes updates to projects in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region led by the Nebraska Department of Transportation and the Iowa Department of Transportation during the next four years.

*continued from Heartland 2050 Summit speaker challenges audience provides insights*

side planning have difficulty visualizing changes 10 to 20 years into the future. The Heartland 2050 Babies video can help bring these years to life.



As the region approaches 2050 and these future adults are building their careers and making plans to put down roots, will there be enough opportunity to keep them here? Will this be a welcoming place for all, where diversity in thought is encouraged?

To build diversity and inclusion, and create places people want to live, Butler said organizations need to tackle racism in and around their work. She said most people think of racism as the shark in the ocean. She encouraged people to think of racism as the water in the oceans that surrounds everything and she posed a challenge to all: "What are we going to do about this water?"

Tamika Butler graduated from Bellevue West High School and Creighton University. She earned her law degree from Stanford University and is a



doctoral student in urban planning at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. She has a diverse background in law, community organizing and non-profit leadership.

## New C&O Intern joins MAPA

Isabelle Fleming started as MAPA's Communications & Outreach Intern on May 31. She is a rising senior at Creighton University working toward majors in Art History and Economics and a minor in Dance.

Isabelle will graduate in May of 2023 and while she has no set plans yet, she is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Urban Planning or possibly attending school abroad.

Isabelle is from Kansas City, Missouri, and has one older sister. She is a member of Creighton's Dance Company and also has a passion for cross-cultural exchange. She studied abroad in Bologna, Italy, in the Fall of 2021 and has many close friends who are international students. Currently, she is learning Italian in hopes of returning to Italy soon!

Isabelle also loves spending time reading, making art and exploring Omaha's music and food scenes.



Welcome to MAPA, Isabelle!

# CALENDAR

## JULY 2022

- 13** **RPA-18\***  
11:00 a.m.
- 20** **Finance Committee**  
8:30 a.m.  
**Coordinated Transit**  
10:00 a.m.
- 22** **Transportation Committee**  
10:00 a.m.
- 28** **MAPA Board of Directors**  
1:30 p.m.

## AUGUST 2022

- 05** **Regional Planning (Heartland 2050 RPAC)**  
10:00 a.m.
- 17** **Finance Committee**  
8:30 a.m.
- 19** **Transportation Committee**  
10:00 a.m.
- 25** **MAPA Board of Directors**  
1:30 p.m.

*\* meeting may be virtual  
Meetings at MAPA unless otherwise noted*



The preparation of this publication is financed through planning grants from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation through Iowa DOT and the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation as provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration and through local funds from member jurisdictions. The views and opinions MAPA expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

