

MOVING FORWARD



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Mike's Holiday Message

As we all collectively brace for winter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year for our agency. I'm writing to you at the end of a busy year for the MAPA team. There are a few new faces around the office, retirements over the last year, and team members in new leadership roles to help guide the work of our agency.

There have been new partnerships, new challenges and new opportunities on which we have worked alongside our members. Our team has been meeting with and introducing ourselves to our members and partners as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out if the time is right for a conversation with us about your community in the new year.

MAPA staff have continued to work with partners to deliver high-quality training opportunities to our members and partners on a variety of topics—some old and some new. There are also many new programs and opportunities at the state and federal level that are being tracked by our staff. As your communities look ahead to the future, we'd love to partner with your staff to keep your priorities moving forward and connect local leaders to the resources they need to be successful.

It's an honor to serve the communities in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area and I am excited about the team that we are building here at MAPA. Thank you to all our members and partners that have contributed their time and talents to our work during the past year. We cannot do any of our work successfully without your support. Our team is tremendously grateful for your partnership and we are looking forward to some exciting work in the year ahead.

Best,

Michael Helms



MAPA publishes 2020 Traffic Reports

New traffic data from MAPA shows that downtown and mid-town Omaha experienced the most significant decrease in traffic in the metropolitan area during the pandemic when compared to other parts of the region. MAPA's Regional Traffic Patterns Report shows traffic in the downtown area dropped more than 22% from 2018 to 2020.

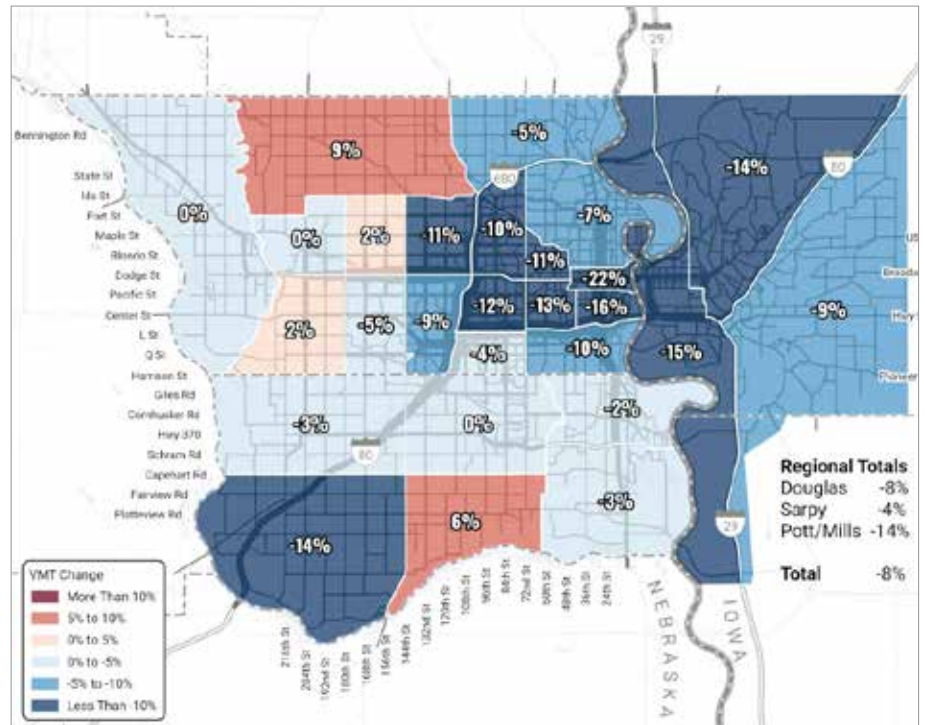
The report shows traffic in the region decreased 8% overall during the same period. Data indicates traffic decreased by 8% in Douglas County, 4% in Sarpy County and 13.5% in Pottawattamie County. All data is collected and measured by the changes in Average Daily Traffic (ADT) and Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT).

By comparison, regional VMT grew by approximately 2% during 2016 and 2018. Data show traffic volumes in the suburban and exurban areas of Douglas and Sarpy County have recovered more quickly than the urban core.

MAPA's Regional Traffic Patterns Report is published periodically as a part of the agency's on-going process to monitor transportation in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan region.

MAPA also publishes the Top Intersections Report and the Top Interchanges Report.

Traffic data for the Omaha-Council Bluffs region is located on MAPA's Traffic Data Portal, traffic.mapacog.org.



RPA-18 issues Call for Projects for FY2024

The Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA)-18 issued a call for projects for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for Fiscal Year 2024.

RPA-18 includes the Counties of Harrison, Mills, Shelby and the rural portion of Pottawattamie County.

Local units of government including cities, counties, and public transit agencies are eligible for STBG funding.



The STBG program provides flexible funding that may be used to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of any federal-aid highway, bridge, public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as well as transit capital projects.

Download an application at:

mapacog.org/reports/rpa18callforprojects/

Send completed applications and questions to:

Travis Halm, Transportation Planner, via email at:

thalm@mapacog.org or U.S. Mail:

Travis Halm

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

2222 Cuming Street

Omaha, NE 68102

Applications are due February 28, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. CST.

MAPA hosts joint TTAC-RPAC committee meeting

MAPA hosted a joint meeting for its Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) on Dec. 2.

Justin Luther from the Federal Highway Administration presented the results of MAPA's Federal Certification Review, which occurs every four years. The report includes some recommendations such as continuing efforts to incorporate equity into the transportation planning process, and several commendations including MAPA's outreach to underrepresented populations.

Meredith Dillon, Front Porch Investments Executive Director, presented on the great need for affordable housing in the region.

In an effort to incorporate more equity into the transportation planning process, MAPA introduced a proposal to create a Regional Funding Committee, which would review and rank transportation project applications submitted for federal funding.



Currently, three separate committees comprised of members from TTAC and MAPA's Coordinated Transit Committee (CTC), consider projects for each funding program including the Surface Transportation Block Grant program, Transportation Alternatives Program and 5310 program.



MAPA will be continuing this conversation with its committees in the coming months to develop a recommendation to the MAPA Board of Directors.

MAPA to develop Digital Equity Plan for Nebraska counties in its region

The Digital Equity Act under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides funding to states to develop their own Digital Equity Plans.

The federal government allocated nearly \$600,000 to Nebraska to develop a state digital equity plan. The State awarded funding to each of Nebraska's Economic Development Districts to develop a Digital Equity Plan for each of the regions it serves.

As one of the state's Economic Development Districts MAPA will be working with stakeholders to develop a Digital Equity Plan for Washington, Douglas, Sarpy and Cass Counties by mid-August.

MAPA will provide a data summary of current broadband access and needs, and an asset inventory.



MAPA sponsors Iowa Planning and Zoning training workshop

On Nov. 30, MAPA sponsored a planning and zoning training workshop for city and county officials in southwest Iowa.

Staff from Iowa State University presented the Introduction to Zoning & Planning for Local Officials at the Oakland Community Center.



Participants learned the basic principles of land use planning and zoning laws and discussed the issues they face frequently in the land use process.

Thank you to all who participated!

Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund receives funds for 2023 awards

The Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund receives its largest award to date from the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). The award will fund its program which awards grants for projects which increase and improve housing for low-to-moderate income county residents. The IFA awarded the trust \$339,494 for its 2023 awards program.

The trust fund will match the funding with \$71,294 in local funds and smaller grants.

The total available to the trust fund in 2023 is \$410,788.



Happy Holidays from MAPA!



Back Row: Josh Corrigan, Lindsey Button, Laura Heilman, Jim Boerner, Elizabeth Zeller, Michael Blank, Travis Halm, Charles Mitchell
 Middle Row: Matt Eash, Jodi Woolery, Natasha Barrett, Carlos Morales, Rachel Goettsch, Amanda Morales, Sue Cutsforth, Ryan Ossell
 Front Row: Rafael Corrales, Owen Stuckey, Grant Anderson, Court Barber, Christina Brownell Not Pictured: Michael Helgerson, Shawna Silvius, Julie Smith, Isabelle Fleming

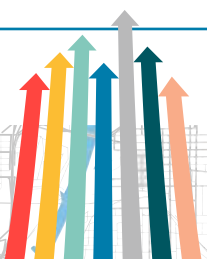
CALENDAR

JANUARY 2023

- 02** **New Year's Day Observance**
MAPA Offices Closed
- 11** **RPA-18 Policy & Tech Committee**
11:00 a.m.
- 16** **Martin Luther King Day**
MAPA Offices Closed
- 18** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- 20** **Transportation Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 26** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2023

- 03** **Regional Planning (Heartland 2050 RPAC)**
10:00 a.m.
- 08** **RPA-18 Policy & Tech Committee**
11:00 a.m.
- 15** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
- 17** **Transportation Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 20** **Presidents' Day**
MAPA Offices Closed
- 23** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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