

MOVING FORWARD



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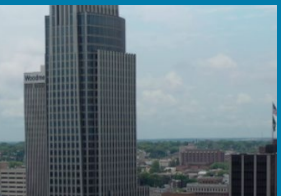
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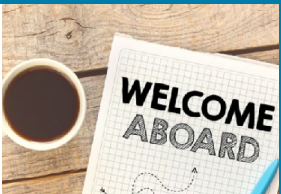
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Sarpy County PEL study recommends new I-80 interchange location

A planning study to assess the need for and potential location of an additional Interstate 80 interchange in western Sarpy County recommended 192nd Street and Capehart Road as the top potential location for a new interchange. The vicinity of 168th Street and Schram Road is another potential alternative.

MAPA led the Sarpy County Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study in partnership with Sarpy County and the cities of Papillion and Gretna.

The PEL Study determined a new interchange would help mitigate traffic congestion at the I-80 interchanges at Nebraska Highways 31 and 370, accommodate future growth and development, provide regional connectivity to I-80 and accommodate regional freight traffic.

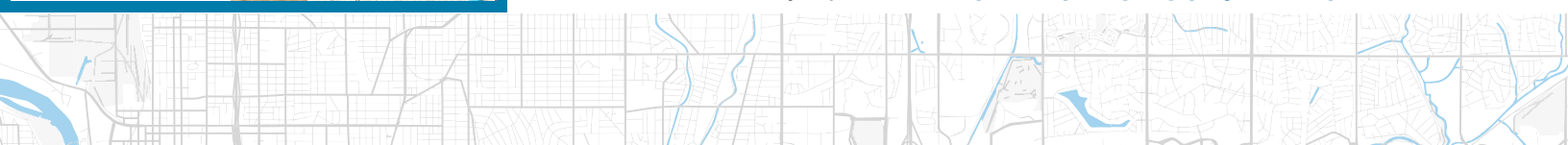
The study evaluated several possible alternatives along I-80 in western Sarpy County including:

- Pflug Road
- 192nd St. & Capehart Rd.
- Platteview Road
- 180th Street
- 204th St. & Fairview Rd.
- 168th St. & Schram Rd.

“As communities around our region continue to grow, we need to plan for transportation investments that coordinate with local development,” said Mike Helgerson, MAPA Executive Director. “We look forward to working with our Sarpy County partners and NDOT to help move this work forward.”

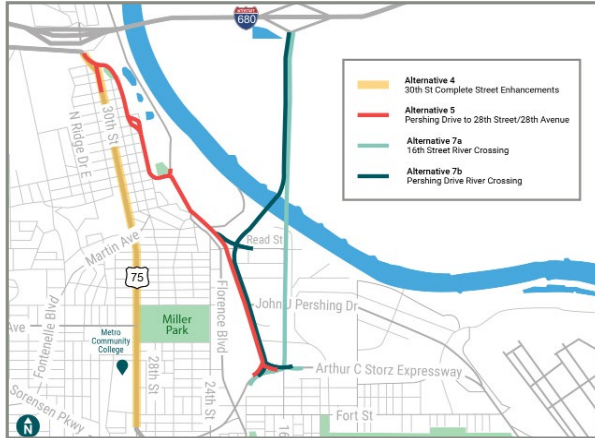
A PEL study is a high-level planning process that considers environmental, community and economic goals early in project development and carries them forward through the environmental decision-making process to design and construction.

Next steps in the process include detailed design and continued environmental planning along with development and approval of an Interchange Justification Report. Find the full PEL study report here: <https://mapacog.org/projects/i80pel>.



Highway 75 Study narrows options for diverting trucks

Four potential options for a new roadway alignment that would divert heavy truck traffic and alleviate some neighborhood impacts along Highway 75 in northeast



Omaha are identified in the final report of the Highway 75 Corridor and Freight Strategy Study released in January.

Highway 75, known locally as North 30th Street in northeast Omaha, carries between 15,000 and 20,000 vehicles per day. Four to six percent of those trips involve heavy trucks.

MAPA identified a total of nine potential alternatives and evaluated them against the study's goals of mobility, safety, accessibility, freight movement, neighborhood quality and economics.

The narrowed list of potential options includes:

- 30th Street Complete Street Enhancements - Change to three lanes, one through-lane each direction with center turn lane
- Diverting truck traffic to Pershing Drive between 28th Street to 28th Avenue
- Building a 16th Street river crossing for truck traffic
- Building a Pershing Drive river crossing for truck traffic

Another option is making no changes to the Highway 75/North 30th Street corridor.

Find the Highway 75 Corridor and Freight Strategy Study at tinyurl.com/Hwy75StudyResults.

Council Bluffs creating Community Health Assessment with planning grant

Is healthy eating and active living important to you?

Council Bluffs was awarded a planning grant to create a Community Asset Map addressing the nutritional and physical activity needs of the city. Asset mapping provides information about the strengths and resources of a community and can help uncover solutions.

MAPA facilitated a steering committee input session for this work on Feb. 28 at the Council Bluffs public library.

Help the City by completing the Council Bluffs Community Health Assessment Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/5210CBSurvey>.

By participating in this planning grant, Council Bluffs will be eligible for funding from the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services to implement initiatives which boost nutrition and physical activity.



Digital Equity Planning meetings underway

MAPA hosted its first meeting of the Regional Digital Equity Planning Committee on March 7.

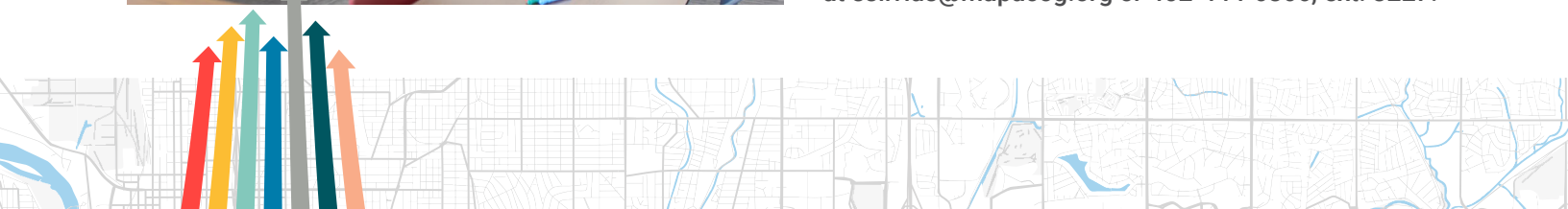
As one of Nebraska's eight Economic Development Districts, MAPA will be developing a digital equity plan for



improving broadband access in Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties. The work done by the committee will inform digital equity planning in Pottawattamie and Mills Counties too.

Several additional meetings are scheduled. Anyone involved in addressing issues of digital access, affordability and digital literacy to help overcome equity challenges providing programs, services, and funding is encouraged to attend.

Questions about the committee may be directed to Shawna Silvius, MAPA Economic Development Planner at ssilvius@mapacog.org or 402-444-6866, ext. 3227.



COO highlights Sarpy County growth catalyst

Creation of the United Sarpy Wastewater System, a sanitary sewer system to serve the southern portion of Sarpy County, is a game changer for growth and development in the county.

At MAPA's Council of Officials meeting March 8 at Papillon Landing, Sarpy County Administrator Dan Hoins shared information about the economic impact study conducted in October 2022, which analyzed the potential economic benefits of the United Sarpy Wastewater System to the county, the State of Nebraska and region.

The study showed the development that would be possible by building the sewer system would generate \$15.7 billion in tax revenue for the state and more than 4,700 new full-time jobs.

Sarpy County used the study's findings as the basis for decisions on where to locate significant transportation investments in the county such as the Platteview Road Corridor.



MAPA awarded Safe Streets & Roads for All grant

MAPA is the recipient of a 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant award. The agency was awarded \$750,000 to develop a regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

During the next several months staff will be reaching out to local communities and key stakeholders to build the team that will help us define the planning structure and highlight key focus areas.

Planning will start later this year with a goal to complete the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in 2024 and

provide a list of regional safety projects to submit for implementation grants.



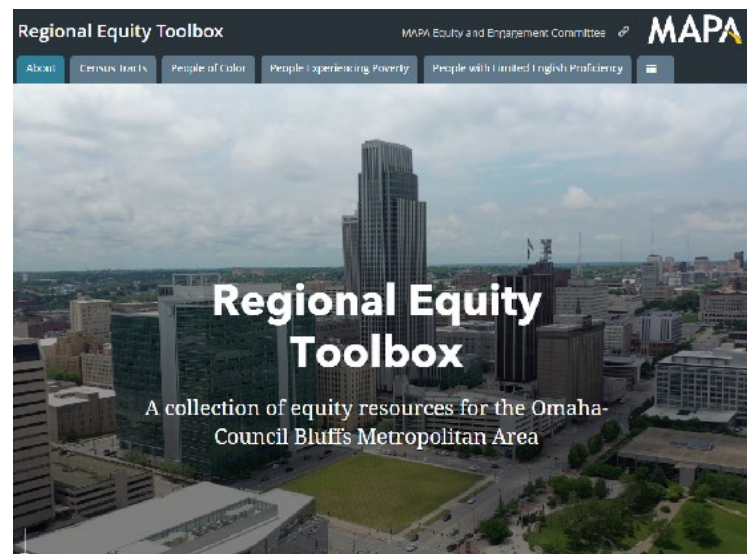
Regional Equity Toolbox available as a resource

There is a new set of tools available to help agencies connect communities facing equity issues to funding.

MAPA's Regional Equity Toolbox serves as a dashboard that is a quick reference for common equity factors in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region.

Tabs allow users to view demographic topics that are combined to create MAPA's Equity Focus Areas, a scoring matrix that identifies populations that may be impacted disproportionately by gaps in transportation such as safety and accessibility.

The toolbox can assist non-profit and governmental organizations in locating census tracts that qualify for various state and federal government grant programs.



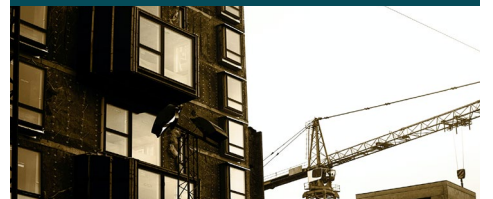
Access the Regional Equity Toolbox: equity.mapacog.org.



Workshop Details:

Thursday, March 30
 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Nebraska Urban Indian Health
 Coalition
 2226 N Street, Omaha

Find more information and register
 at tinyurl.com/BrownfieldsWorkshop



Brownfields Workshop on March 30

Is there an **abandoned building, gas station, or other potentially contaminated property** (commonly referred to as a 'brownfield') that is impacting your community's image and economic development negatively?

Register now for a **FREE** brownfields workshop to learn about valuable state and federal resources available to assist with the redevelopment of these properties to bring them back to beneficial use!

MAPA welcomes new staff

MAPA welcomed Bradley Grefe as a Planner on the Community & Economic Development Team on January 23rd. He comes from Ottumwa, Iowa, where he worked previously with the Area 15 Regional Planning Commission for 9 years. In addition, he has been involved heavily with the community revitalization project, Main Street Ottumwa.

Brad holds a bachelor's degree in Community & Regional Planning and an interdisciplinary master's degree in Transportation Planning, both from Iowa State University.

When he's not in the office, you can find Brad chasing trains as a railroad photographer or spending time with his children.

Welcome to MAPA, Brad!



Saul Lopez joined MAPA on February 21 as Project Coordinator with the Communications & Outreach Team. He worked previously with the City of Omaha Housing and Community Development Department, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and Open Door Mission.



He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Benito Juarez State University and master's degree in Business Administration from Mexico's Institute of Technology.

In his free time, you can find Saul cooking up new recipes or traveling the world.

Welcome to MAPA, Saul!

CALENDAR

MARCH 2023

- 08 RPA-18**
11:00 a.m.
Council of Officials
- 15 Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
- 17 Transportation Committee**
- 23 MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

APRIL 2023

- 07 Regional Planning (Heartland 2050 RPAC)**
10:00 a.m.
- 12 RPA-18**
11:00 a.m.
- 19 Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit
10:30 a.m.
- 21 Transportation Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 27 MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

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