

MOVING FORWARD



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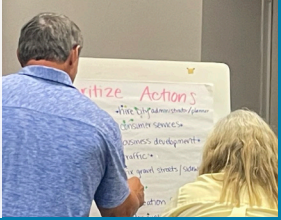
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Traffic Safety Project moves ahead

On Sept. 6, MAPA issued two Requests for Qualifications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) project to help address an increase in traffic deaths and serious injuries in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region.

Disadvantaged communities make up **13%** of the region's population.

They experience:

19%

of the total traffic fatalities on all



45%

of the pedestrian fatalities on local roads



One RFQ is for a Data Support Plan; the other is for a Public Outreach and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The Data Support plan will aid in the development of MAPA's Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which will build on MAPA's current safety planning efforts to achieve zero traffic deaths by 2040.

Nationwide, traffic deaths and serious injuries are increasing at an alarming rate, particularly in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

From 2016-2020, the MAPA region saw a slightly lower overall increase in traffic deaths and serious injuries than other parts of the country, but experienced a higher rate of nonmotorist fatalities than either the Nebraska or Iowa state averages, and a disproportionately high impact on disadvantaged communities.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's "Safe Streets and Roads for All" grant program awarded MAPA \$750,000 to improve traffic safety by developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the Nebraska counties in the MAPA region and western Pottawattamie County cities of Council Bluffs, Crescent and McClelland.

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Council of Officials Annual Meeting set for Oct. 4

MAPA's Council of Officials Annual Meeting takes place Oct. 4 at the Bellevue Berry Farm.

The featured speaker is Peter Mancauskas, acting director of the Federal Highway Administration Office of Performance and Innovative Finance Support.



The event kicks off with a 5:30 p.m. social hour, followed by dinner and the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Registration is closed. Admission at the door is \$35 per person.

Omaha moves closer to Vision Zero Safety Plan

The City of Omaha is drafting its Vision Zero traffic safety plan.

Vision Zero is a holistic approach to reducing all traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero. This approach believes all traffic deaths are preventable and integrates human failings into it to prevent fatal and severe crashes.



Between 2010 and 2020, there were 250 fatal crashes in Omaha which killed 261 people and nearly 2,600 serious injury crashes that left more than 4,400 people injured.

The City hosted an open house Aug. 15 at the Weitz Community Engagement Center at University of Nebraska Omaha to gather public input on recommendations proposed for the plan.



Attendees were asked to prioritize safety recommendations and safety projects for the Vision Zero Action Plan by placing dots on lists of action steps set up throughout the room.

For more information, go to: omahavisionzero.com

NDOT Director speaks at MAPA Board meeting

MAPA's Board of Directors meeting on Aug. 24 included a special guest.

Nebraska Department of Transportation Director Vicki Kramer spoke to the board about federal discretionary funding opportunities for transportation.

She emphasized the importance of developing regional partnerships for Nebraska cities and the State to compete with other states in securing some of the billions of dollars in federal discretionary funding available for transformative transportation projects.



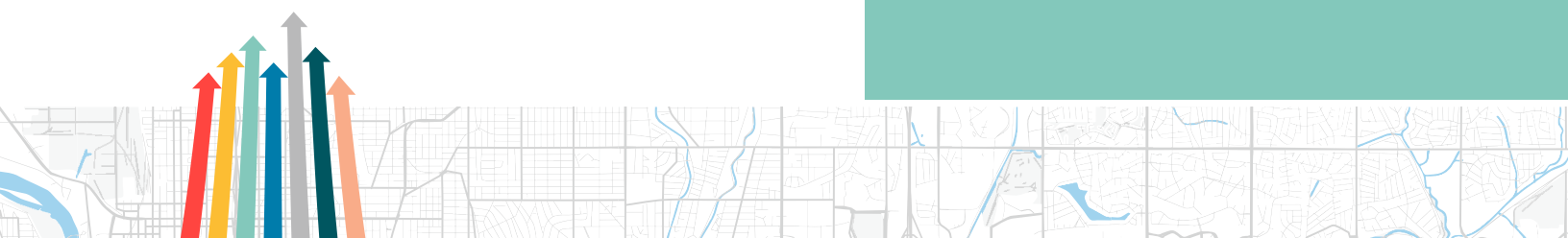
Traffic Safety Project moves ahead continued

This plan will identify projects and policies to improve safety on local roads for all users including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and motorists.

Both RFQs can be found at mapacog.org/projects/rfpsrfqs/.

Proposals must be submitted **by 4:30 p.m. CDT on Oct. 18, 2023.**

In July, MAPA submitted another grant application with the Southwest Iowa Planning Council to develop a safety action plan for the counties in Iowa's Regional Planning Affiliation-18: eastern Pottawattamie, Mills, Shelby and Harrison Counties.





MAPA & Metro cohost DEI Symposium

To address disparities in transportation access for marginalized communities, related to race, socio-economic status, age, or ability, MAPA and Metro Transit hosted a symposium on Aug. 25., sponsored by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center.

MAPA will utilize its Coordinated Transit Committee to develop a framework for the proposed solutions.

Other steps for MAPA and Metro include developing a consistent framework for transit rider surveys, exploring new ideas for free or reduced fares and examine ways to enhance transit customer service overall.

The symposium developed the following proposed solutions:

- **Accessibility:** Establish Community Navigators, improve signage on all buses and stops and improve sidewalks
- **Communication:** Improve traditional and social media usage; improve MOBY tracking and alerts; Partner with resettlement agencies to assist with refugees; Improve overall language accessibility (beyond English and Spanish)
- **Coordination:** Begin discussions with medical providers on flexible scheduling for transit riders who may not meet appointment times; work with chambers of commerce to locate businesses near transit routes
- **Education:** Provide transit and driver training on how to help riders with various abilities or service needs
- **Funding:** Explore funding options to increase geographic reach or timing of transit

MAPA Board approves 2023 Public Participation Plan

After a 45-day public comment period, MAPA's Board of Directors approved the 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP) at its Aug. 24 meeting. The updated plan is a guidebook for encouraging public participation within the Omaha-Council Bluffs region. The plan was updated in anticipation of the Long Range Transportation Plan update in Fiscal Year 2025. The PPP simplified and clarified language, and added an executive summary in an effort to improve accessibility for the public and staff.

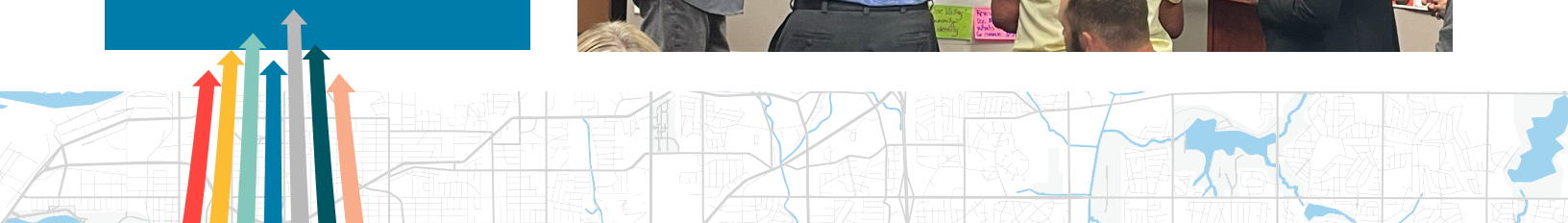
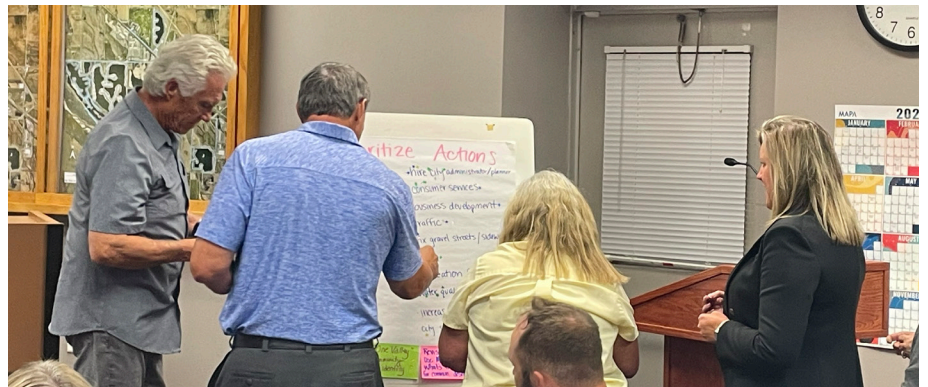
Valley hosts Strategic Plan meeting

The City of Valley, Nebraska, is beginning development of its strategic plan.

MAPA is assisting in the development of the plan and facilitated a public meeting Sept. 26 at Valley City Hall to gain residents' opinions on the goals and projects the City should prioritize in its strategic plan.

The strategic plan follows a Community Needs Assessment that MAPA Community & Economic Development staff completed with Valley residents. The Valley assessment was MAPA's first test of a new Community Needs Assessment model.

Reach out to Grant Anderson, MAPA Community & Economic Development Manager at ganderson@mapacog.org or Julie Smith, MAPA Community & Economic Development Planner, at jsmith@mapacog.org, if you are interested in completing a Community Needs Assessment or other planning process in your community.



MAPA partners on Accessory Dwelling Unit Design Competition

Affordable and accessible housing are issues in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. To help address the problem MAPA is collaborating with AARP Nebraska, Better Living Design and a host of other sponsors in AARP’s “ADU for U” Design Competition.

The competition addresses the problem of affordable and accessible housing by designing small accessory dwelling units or ADUs that are age-friendly and universal.

The submission window opened Sept. 15 and will close Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.

Competition winners will enjoy the City of Omaha’s Fast-Track permitting process for the construction of their design. For learn more and enter, go to: betterlivingdesign.org/aduformaha.



CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2023

- 04** Council of Officials Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m.
- 06** Regional Planning (Heartland 2050 RPAC)
10:00 a.m.
- 09** Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day
MAPA Offices Closed
- 11** RPA-18
11:00 a.m.
- 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.

MAPA to partner with Omaha on Climate Action Plan

In late August, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City of Omaha a \$1 million grant to fund the development of a climate action, resilience and mitigation plan, and MAPA will receive a sub-award for work it will perform as part of the plan.

MAPA submitted a letter in support of Omaha’s application and will partner on the regional plan, working to coordinate the plan with regional partners and supporting

public engagement and stakeholder outreach throughout the region.

The climate action plan will establish clear targets, goals, and strategies that serve as a roadmap for Omaha to achieve and exceed climate action and resilience goals equitably.

The plan is expected to be completed in 2024.

MAPA GIS Intern moves forward in her path to success

MAPA’s GIS intern, Lauren Brady, a recent graduate of University of Nebraska - Omaha with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, completed her summer internship in August. As a GIS intern, she supported updating natural resource inventory datasets and developed a story map to support the broadband and digital equity projects. Lauren is an Omaha native and was happy to be able to “see the impacts” of her work in the city where she grew up. We wish Lauren the best of luck in her future endeavors!



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