

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Friday, December 08, 2023 | 10:00a
Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

MINUTES

Attendance

In attendance:

TTAC Voting Members

Austin Rowser (City of Omaha)
Dan Kutilek (Douglas County)
Denny Wilson (Sarpy County)
Alex Evans (City of Papillion)
Pat Dowse (City of La Vista)
Eric Williams (PMRNRD)
Dan Owens (Omaha Airport Authority)
Marice Hinchey (NDOT)
Derek Miller (City of Omaha)
Evan Schweitz (Metro Transit)
Craig Wacker (NDOT)

TTAC Non Voting Members & Guests

Lee Myers (AARP)*
Jeff Riesselman (City of Omaha)*
Damion Stern (NDOT)
Don Butler (NDOT)*
Kevin Carder (City of Omaha)*
Larry Grant (Iowa DOT)*
Matt Knight (City of Bellevue)*
Daniel Nguyen (FTA)*
Jeff Sobczyk (City of Omaha)*
Tim Broyhill (Omaha Chamber)*
Bart Pugh (Schemmer)
Chris Rolling (Olsson)*
Matt Cox (City of Council Bluffs)*
Bryan Guy (City of Omaha)*
Pat Byrd (JEO)*
Greg Youell (FHU)*
Terry Rush (E&A)
Tim Adams (WSP)
Alex Sick (HDR)

MAPA Staff

Carlos Morales
Michael Blank
Mike Helgersen*
Lindsey Button
Owen Stuckey
James Boerner
Court Barber*
Rachel Goettsch

**Attended virtually. Voting members are not eligible to vote while attending virtually and do not count for quorum*
Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from the October 20, 2023 Meeting

No comments or proposed edits were made to the minutes.
Rowser motioned to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2023 Meeting. Miller Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

B. Appointment of Representatives to the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Selection Committee

Carlos Morales we are looking for two volunteers or nominees from this group to lead project selection for the H2050 Mini-grants. We will be asking you to attend one possible two meetings to review the mini grant applications to make a recommendation to TTAC and RPAC for what the awards should be under that program. These meetings can be performed virtually. This committee will consist of two members of RPAC, two members of TTAC, and a MAPA staff member to guide discussion. The selection will come back to TTAC for a vote. Kevin Carder volunteered as did Pat Dowse.

Williams motioned to appoint Kevin Carder and Pat Dowse to the H2050 selection committee. Schweitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

C. Call for Projects Q&A

Court Barber has met with jurisdictions individually and will continue to meet with jurisdictions. Morales showcased and briefly reviewed the application form. A couple of new points for applications this year;

- This new application now requires that project sponsors provide their UEI.
- The application now asks for resolutions of project approval from sponsor governing bodies to ensure local support for the project prior to submitting an application for funding.

As the form is now online, MAPA recommends that the application be completed in one session. The form should save progress, but we want to ensure nothing is lost during the application process. STBG uses one online form application, TAP and CRP use a second (single) online form application.

Morales opened the meeting to questions from the room on the currently open call for projects. MAPA staff will be available until the end of today to answer questions.

There were no questions.

D. Draft Traffic Report

Owen Stuckey presented the draft traffic report (interchanges and intersections), the traffic data portal (mapacog.org/traffic). MAPA is looking for feedback on the current report, and links are provided to. There is also a google form for members to submit feedback on the report.

Every two years MAPA aggregates traffic count data and adjusts it to a regional dataset. This report shows volume changes since the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa Traffic data is collected every 4 years. MAPA was a part of the 200 count cycle, but Iowa DOT did not publish the 2020 data due to the pandemic impact. Stuckey presented a map of the TMA showing the regions busiest roadways and intersections. There has been an increase since 2020, but may be skewed due to how low traffic volumes were during the pandemic.

Dowse asked how the pandemic year affects the data. Stuckey will look at 2018 - 2022 in order to remove this outlier from analyses moving forward.

Dowse asked if there is a priority list of data MAPA would like to see or have additional counts from? Morales noted that Portal Road, 72nd given upcoming projects. We would want to take a closer look at what's being counted in and around that area, and work with partners on areas where we could get additional counts. STBG and the current call for projects allows for agencies to purchase equipment like automatic counters that count 24/7/365 that would assist with current projects as well as provide count data.

We have noted a dramatic increase in crashes in Sarpy County and there will be many safety measures that will need to be put in place. Sarpy is currently putting in sewer that will open up 30,000 acres of land for development.

Williams - VMT is that total or per person. Is the increase based on population increase or an increase in driving? Boerner indicated that we are not currently capturing that information but we hope to examine it in MAPA's upcoming LRTP.

Boerner noted to Dowse that MAPA is interested in traffic counts, but also in traffic speeds.

E. Iowa Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Update

Grant presented on the Iowa Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. THE VRU is a new requirement from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and must be approved by the governor or designee (governor in Iowa). The Goal of this Safety Assessment is to identify areas of higher risk for bicyclist and pedestrian crashes and provide insight on areas of necessary infrastructure improvements.

In Iowa the definition of VRU is provided in 23 U.S.C. and does not include motorcycles. There had to be clarification in definition between Bicycles, Mopeds, and Motorcycles.

Crash Analysis of fatalities and serious injuries showed that 8% are VURs. The national average is 20%. Pedestrian serious injury and fatality crashes are not always sidewalk crossings, but many come from road workers and tow services, or motorists who have broken down and are outside of their vehicle. Cyclists at RagBrai are safer than a single cyclist on the road. Overall everything in Iowa shows that this year may be one of the worst years for fatalities and serious injuries in Iowa.

Comparing Iowa to surrounding states, Iowa is doing very well.

Emphasis Areas were grouped in accordance with a safe streets approach, with the exception of post-crash care. The Risk Factor assessment builds off previous statewide bicycle pedestrian systemic safety analysis from 2020 and utilizes 7 years of crash data and adds an equity data analysis.

Iowa DOT took the 25 highest areas on Iowa DOT road systems to establish high-risk project locations. Several of these locations are in Council Bluffs. Iowa DOT plans to work with these CB and other high-risk communities to develop better solutions to increase safety and reduce risk at these locations.

Key funding opportunities in Iowa include HSIP-Local and TSIP (Traffic Safety Improvement Program)

Any questions can be directed to larry.grant@iowa.dot.us. The report can be found on the Iowa DOT website, and Appendices include more specific information on various locations throughout the State.

Stuart asked if there is cooperation between Omaha and CB on these projects, especially with bike and ped initiatives. Boerner noted that MAPA's SS4A planning activity will get at this question for the urbanized areas of Pottawattamie County. The rest of Pottawattamie County is included in another grant. MAPA will be ensuring that these two plans work together.

Goal of VRU Safety Assessment?



- Identify areas of higher risk for bicyclist and pedestrian crashes
- Provide insight on areas of necessary infrastructure improvements on Iowa roads
- Furthering the objective of achieving zero fatalities on the nation's roads

F. Nebraska Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Update

Don Butler, Highway Safety Engineer for NDOT, presented on the Nebraska Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. Integrate assessment into the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Nebraska had previously added Non-Motorist crashes as an emphasis area to their SHSP.

National trends: 76% of crashes occur at night (Nationally) People of color are at higher risk. NDOT considered Land Use and Social Vulnerability data, which they had not previously examined in their SHSP. NDOT also examined roadway functional class, and noted that arterials are where we see the most crashes. By Land Use, transit stops, parks, social service areas, post secondary schools, and places of worship have a large number of crashes.

NDOT distributed a survey to the public and received over 500 responses. Top comment was that there is a lack of or disconnected sidewalk or trail system in the state, poor condition of trails or sidewalks, and bad driving behaviors. A large portion of these responses came from the MAPA TMA. VRUs are typically traveling for recreation, to their job locations, or for shopping.

Results - Urban area multi lane facilities are seeing the highest percentage of crashes, and are where NDOT will first target. Transit Stop locations and Parks are the locations with the highest percentage of crashes.

NDOT developed a list of strategies that they can use to increase safety at these types of locations. These have been added to the SHSP.

Funding opportunities include SS4A at the federal level, and Nebraska HSIP at the state, for which NDOT is examining a competitive grant program structure similar to their current TAP, SRTS, and Recreational Trails Program.

Bike ped safety education at schools - is this to educate ppl who are walking and riding, or education people who are driving around people who are walking/riding. Butler - both.

Morales noted that safety is the number one concern that MAPA is focused on, in coordination with Iowa, Nebraska, and the Cities as we move forward.

G. MAPA Safety Performance Targets and Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Updates

Jim Boerner provided an overview of the progress and next steps for the MAPA Safe Streets and Roads for All planning, and the target setting process for the 2025 Safety Performance targets.

PM1 safety measures are 5-year rolling averages. Crash data from Iowa and Nebraska DOT will be assessed.

Process will involve review and recommendations on the safety target made by the MAPA safety committee (January 10th) and TTAC (January 19th) and ultimately by the MAPA board (January 25th).

Boerner presented an overview of MAPA's SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This plan will conduct a region wide safety assessment and develop a prioritized list of projects and recommended policies. MAPA will support jurisdictions in finding funding for safety projects that focus on regions, low cost, high impact solutions and strategies.

The Planning Structure will involve MAPA Staff, The City of Omaha, and consultants as the project team, TTAC, and the MAPA Safety Committee, which includes community and other stakeholders. The project has been broken out into Data Support and Outreach & development of the plan.

MAPA is currently in consultant negotiation and plans to kickoff work in March of 2024, with a plan completed in time for the 2025 SS4A application window for implementation funds.

There were no questions or comments.

H. Member Agency Updates (time permitting)

Dan provided an update on the Eppley Airfield.

Three major projects;

- Drop off and pickup area between the terminal and south garage has been underway since June. Project is to widen to add one additional lane between the garage and terminal building and add a canopy to the area to protect from weather. Currently 10-15% complete on this project. This involves foundation for the canopy and upgrades to storm sewer and other utilities.
- First portion of the terminal expansion - central utility plant. New utility plant on the air side to the east of the terminal. This work just broke ground in the last 2 weeks and will take approx. 16mo.
- Terminal expansion. This new utility plant will enable the airfield to expand into the middle of the terminal space where the current utility plant is located. This project will take approximately 4 years. There will be a 3-4 story central gallery with security check, food court, increased number of gates, and enhanced restrooms. Board will take action in January on the final contract documents for that terminal program.

Douglas County (Kutilek)

- Elkhorn River Bridge - Williams noted that the NRD will continue to work with them for inclusion of active transportation and pier removal
- 168th and State intersection has been and will be closed for culvert installation
- 222nd St and Q - gravel road is being paved in 2024, and the county will install a roundabout at the Q street intersection. Neighbors are excited about this project. Two other roundabouts are planned for Q street as funding becomes available

PMRNRD (Williams)

- No update
- Wilson - parking lot we added just off cornhusker, have you seen cars using it? Williams is not aware yet.

City of Omaha (Rowser)

- 156th between Dodge and Pacific will be completed in 1 week - 6mo ahead of schedule
- 168th st phase 1 is done - will start building that north side after the winter

- 42nd st bridge is open
- 108th st project is shut down, have one more phase to do in 2024
- Baby Bob project is active and has broken ground
- Traffic Signal Master plan RFP interviews are on the 19th of December
- 72nd St bridge just bid - Hawkins - working through the contracting on that project - should begin late winter / spring 2024
- Resurfacing package is wrapped up
- Grover St. preservation bond project is wrapping up this winter
- West Center Road redeck near 90th st will open this year. Some work still to do next year.
- Studies coming
 - RAISE grant for Aes and Maple
 - Downtown traffic flow
- Roundabouts
 - Roundabouts - 33rd and Hamilton public meeting next Thursday at the Highlander
 - 33rd and Reddick roundabouts in the works

NDOT (Hinchey)

- Plattsmouth southbound lanes hwy66 is underway
- Bridges at hwy75 and 34 are done for the year - some things to do in the spring
- 480 bridge project is still on hold
- Hwy64 maple st eastbound is ongoing
- 680 from i80 to fort is completed
- Accident investigation sites at 72nd ... pavement is in, waiting on lighting and permanent striping
- Hwy36 133E is completed
- 75S from 480 to Chandler is completed
- Kennedy fwy Q to F is 96% completed - will be completed in the spring
- North Freeway - done painting for the year
- Parker St has been reopened
- Benning St Closed (?)
- Sprague closed
- Lake St is open
- NB 75 from __ to Fort is completed - additional work to do in the spring.

La Vista (Dowse)

- Missed the first project
- Received their PCI analysis to understand where their aggregate PCIs are and how to recalibrate their program
 - Currently looking at 10yr projections
- Morales: are you doing anything for sidewalks and ADA with your PCI
- Dowse, no. Just replacing curb ramps as we go.
- Astro Theater is officially open!

Sarpy

- 66 st s of 370 - plans are done, still acquiring ROW
- Platteview rd hwy 31 intersection is being worked on - going to a 3 lane rd when they do get the funds for this road. Population will grow slower in that area because there's quite a bit of forestry that can't be touched and large houses.
- Schram rd from 218 to 234 St - not a lot of traffic on this, but Gretna hasn't had any projects from Sarpy CO. in a long time. Still underway - completion in early Spring
- Connect Sarpy
 - Just finished this last week
 - Utilities are still finishing their area
 - 120M project - 9sq mi of road and 4 bridges
 - From 168th to 204th/hwy6, and from 370 to Harrison
 - Roundabouts
- Sewer mains underway

MAPA

- Calendars are here! (Blank)
- Community Project Funding - Congressman Bacon's Office is hosting a pre-proposal briefing Monday Dec 11th at 10am. Contact James Wright james.wright@mail.house.gov for more information (Morales)
- NDOT Complete Streets Stakeholder Meeting from Dec 6th (Helgerson)
 - Research project to evaluate existing NDOT policy as it pertains to complete streets, and partnerships between the state and local partnerships. Lots of work to be done, have completed the conditions analysis of policy research.
 - Workflows that talk about partnership with local jurisdictions today. Helgerson recommended that members review these.
 - MAPA will send out information later today that will include feedback opportunities.
 - Some additional details were provided by Wacker
 - Decision trees for crossing, sidewalks, and bike paths
- MAPA regional freight study (Boerner)
 - MAPA will be submitting an application to the regional STBG call for projects to conduct a regional freight study
 - Would plan to kickoff in FY25. MAPA would also like to discuss local match for portions that apply directly to specific jurisdictions

I. Additional Business (time permitting)

Hinchey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:26. Kutilek seconded. Motion carried.

Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, December 14, 2023**
- **TTAC: Friday, January 19, 2024**

Meeting Quorum: The presence of ten (10) members of TTAC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.