



HEARTLAND 2050 REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (H2050 RPAC)

Heartland 2050 is a community driven initiative pulling in stakeholders from across the region to think big and work towards a common vision for our six county region anchored by the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 1, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

In-Person (11): Bruce Fountain, Carol Vinton, Chris Shewchuk, Fred Conley, Jeff Beiermann, Jeff Spiehs, Kristine Stokes, Laura Dietrich, Meridith Dillon, Mike McIntosh, Travis Gibbons

Virtual (3): Chad Kruse, Krista Wassenaar, Dustin Marvel (OPPD alternate)

GUESTS: Robert Laroco and Lisa Smith (City of Omaha), Zack Fergus (Lamp Rynearson), Eva Roberts (Front Porch Investments), Reggie Wortman (City of Gretna), Scott Tomsu (Nebraska Methodist Health System)

MAPA STAFF: Laura Heilman, Sue Cutsforth, Saul Lopez, Charlie Harrington, Carlos Morales, Travis Halm, Lindsey Button, Grant Anderson

A. Welcome and Introductions – Laura Heilman, MAPA

B. Approval of Minutes from October 6 2023 Meeting - Laura Heilman, MAPA

- a. There was no quorum present, so the committee did not vote to approve minutes

C. City of Omaha Climate Action & Resilience Plan - Robert Laroco and Lisa Smith, City of Omaha

- a. <https://www.omacap.org/>
 - i. Survey currently available at website above
 - ii. If you're interested in serving on one of the stakeholder focus group, you can either contact a member of the project team or reply to the related question in the survey
- b. The City of Omaha's Climate Action and Resilience Plan will be a strategic roadmap that empowers the community to build climate resilience and strive for a more sustainable future
 - i. Focus on greenhouse gas reduction, climate adaptation, and carbon sequestration strategies
 - ii. Will provide equitable climate and resilience actions for the City to implement over the next 30 years
 - iii. Strategies and projects included in the plan will be eligible for federal funding
- c. Consultant is Pale Blue Dot
- d. Project is just kicking off and will ramp up in the spring
 - i. 1st deliverable is a Priority Climate Action Plan due March 1
- e. Alignment with other efforts
 - i. Working to align the City of Omaha Plan with State of Nebraska and a regional plan
 1. Strategies and projects included in the plans will be eligible for federal funding
 2. Find out more at www.mapacog.org/projects/cprg/
 - ii. Regional Climate Action Plan
 1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the City of Omaha \$1 million to develop a plan for the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

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EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



- a. MAPA will take the lead on coordinating with regional partners
- b. MSA includes:
 - i. Nebraska: Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington Counties
 - ii. Iowa: Harrison, Mills and Pottawattamie Counties in Iowa
- iii. State of Nebraska Climate Action Plan
 - 1. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) has received a \$3 million planning grant
 - 2. For more information on Nebraska Climate Pollution Reduction Planning, please visit <http://dee.ne.gov/ndeqprog.nsf/onweb/cprg>

D. Committee Membership & Bylaws - Laura Heilman, MAPA

- a. Each year RPAC membership is updated and approved by the MAPA Board
 - i. Membership is on an annual basis, from July through June
 - ii. Look for information coming in the new year!
- b. Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Selection Committee
 - i. Needed two volunteers from RPAC to serve on the selection committee
 - 1. Jeff Spiehs and Kristine Stokes volunteered
 - ii. The Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program is a set-aside of funding for MAPA's Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
 - 1. Projects funded through this program serve to move the Heartland 2050 Vision forward
 - 2. www.mapacog.org/projects/heartland-2050-mini-grant-program/
 - iii. Volunteers will help decide which project applications to fund
 - iv. Depending on the number of applications, approximately 2-4 hours of time between 1-2 meetings in the spring
- c. RPAC bylaws update
 - i. MAPA staff suggested an in-depth review of committee bylaws prior to membership list being updated
 - ii. It was decided to create a small working group of committee members who will work with MAPA staff on next steps
 - 1. Keith Station, Ashley Rae Turner and Bruce Fountain volunteered at a previous meeting
 - 2. If you're interested in being in the bylaws review small group, let MAPA staff know
 - 3. We'd like to set a meeting in January with this team

E. Additional Business

a. Committee Updates

- i. **Equity & Engagement:** Ashley Rae Turner
 - 1. Committee will be hosting a December social for all H2050 Committee members; open to the public as well - more info TBD
- ii. **Housing & Development:** Jeff Spiehs
 - 1. Working with Omaha by Design on potential expansion of their Missing Middle Playbook
 - a. <https://omahabydesign.org/playbook>

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2. Committee is also serving in workgroups 3 (innovation) & 4 (policy & code) for the Omaha Housing Affordability Action Plan implementation
 - a. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a2e352318e0d4f4991eb5e9b195f8254/page/Landing-Page/>
 3. Also supported the recent ADU for U design competition sponsored by AARP; may duplicate that effort with a different Missing Middle housing type (design competition for duplexes or triplexes, for example)
 - a. <https://www.betterlivingdesign.org/aduformaha>
 - iii. **Infrastructure:** Mike McIntosh
 1. Had a presentation on MUD's master plan at the last meeting
 2. Next meeting is Wednesday, December 6th
 - a. Will feature students from the Urban Design program at UNO talking about the regional TIF inventory they are working on for the TIF working group
 - b. Also a presentation on the Regional Digital Equity Plan by Shawwna Silivius of MAPA
 3. At the upcoming February meeting, the group will hear about OPPD's master plan
 4. Still working to get the Responsible Infrastructure working group moving on some projects
 5. Always looking for new members!
 - iv. **Natural Resources:** Zack Fergus (Committee Vice Chair)
 1. Currently the committee is focusing heavily on supporting the City of Omaha, regional and state of Nebraska Climate Action Plans
 2. Solid Waste working group is supporting an interim study (LR163) by the Nebraska Legislature about reducing municipal waste
- b. MAPA Updates**
- i. Applications are now open for Federal Transportation Funding
 1. The Transportation Management Area (TMA) covers Douglas, Sarpy and the urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County
 - a. Local units of government including cities, counties and public transit agencies can apply for this funding
 - b. Applications are due by January 12, 2024
 - c. tinyurl.com/MAPACall4Projects
 2. Regional Planning Affiliation 18 (RPA-18) covers Harrison,
 - a. Shelby, Mills and the non-urban portion of Pottawattamie County
 - b. Local units of government including cities, counties and public transit agencies can apply for this funding
 - c. Applications are due by January 26, 2024
 - d. tinyurl.com/RPA18CallforProjects
 - ii. Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 1. MAPA was awarded planning grant funding and will be developing a regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
 2. Improve traffic safety through projects which reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the local road network

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3. Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska, and the cities of Council Bluffs, Carter Lake, Crescent and McClelland in Iowa
 4. Email us at safeststreets@mapacog.org and visit our website for more information, future updates, and opportunities to get involved
 5. www.mapacog.org/projects/ss4a/
- iii. Annual Member Survey
1. Please complete MAPA's Annual Member survey at www.tinyurl.com/MemberSurveyFY2025 by January 12
 2. Helps inform MAPA's work program and budget for the upcoming fiscal year
- iv. MAPA Calendars are now available!
1. Contact mapa@mapacog.org or call 402-444-6866 to reserve copies of our large format year-at-a-glance wall calendars
- c. **Community Updates**
- i. LaVista is having their first concert at the newly opened Astro Theater & Amphitheater in the City Centre
 1. <https://theastrotheater.com/>
 2. Additional new businesses are coming to the area soon as well!

F. Adjourn

Future Meetings & Events:

H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – February 2, 2024