



## 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, June 7, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### MEMBERS:

**In-Person:** Ashley Rae Turner, Chris Gibbons, Chris Meeks, Jeff Beiermann, Jeff Spiehs, Kent Holm, Kristine Stokes, Laura Dietrich, Evan Schweitz, Mark Norman, Meghan Engberg, Meridith Dillon, Michael Jensen, Travis Gibbons

**Virtual:** Leland Jacobson

**GUESTS:** Jody Holston and Eva Roberts (Front Porch Investments)

**MAPA STAFF:** Mike Helgerson, Laura Heilman, Sue Cutsforth, Saul Lopez, Carlos Morales, Lindsey Button, Court Barber, Grant Anderson, Mia Haschenburger, Helen Corrigan

**A. Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Gibbons, Committee Vice Chair

**B. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes** - Chris Gibbons, Committee Vice Chair - **ACTION**

- a. No action was taken as the committee did not have quorum.

**C. RPAC Committee Updates:** Laura Heilman, MAPA

- a. Committee Membership Update
- b. Updated Open Meetings Act guidance

**D. MAPA Transportation Project Updates:** Transportation Team Staff, MAPA

**a. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**

- i. [www.mapacog.org/projects/ss4a](http://www.mapacog.org/projects/ss4a)
- ii. MAPA was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning grant to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on the local road network
  1. Geography is Douglas County, Sarpy County and the urban areas of Pottawattamie County
  2. Projects listed in the CSAP will be eligible for implementation funding
- iii. Email [safestreets@mapacog.org](mailto:safestreets@mapacog.org) with questions or to get involved
- iv. There is an additional Safe Streets effort for the Regional Planning Affiliations 13-18
  1. MAPA administers RPA-18 and will be involved in this effort
  2. More information to come!

**b. Transportation Improvement Programs (MPO & RPA)**

- i. Lists regionally significant transportation projects, including federally funded projects
- ii. MAPA administers the TIP for two areas:
  1. Transportation Management Area: Douglas County, Sarpy County and urbanized Pottawattamie County
    - a. Awards a subset of federal transportation funding

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2. Regional Planning Affiliation 18: Harrison, Shelby and Mills Counties and the non-urban portion of Pottawattamie County
  - a. Awards a subset of state funding
3. There is currently open comment periods open on the draft TIPs for both areas
  - a. View the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Transportation Management Area (TMA) at [tinyurl.com/MPODraftTIPFY2025](https://tinyurl.com/MPODraftTIPFY2025)
    - i. Submit comments by 4:30 p.m. June 21, 2024, via email to [transportation@mapacog.org](mailto:transportation@mapacog.org) or by mail to MAPA, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102.
    - ii. Find more information about the TMA TIP at [www.mapacog.org/projects/tip](http://www.mapacog.org/projects/tip)
  - b. View the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Regional Planning Affiliation 18 (RPA-18) at [tinyurl.com/FY2025RPATIP](https://tinyurl.com/FY2025RPATIP)
    - c. Submit comments by 4:30 p.m. June 21, 2024, via email to [rpa@mapacog.org](mailto:rpa@mapacog.org) or by mail to MAPA, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102
    - d. Find more information about RPA-18 at [www.mapacog.org/projects/rpa-18/](http://www.mapacog.org/projects/rpa-18/)

**c. Federal Functional Classifications**

- i. After the 2020 Census data is available, MAPA completes these steps:
  - ii. Draft Urban Area Boundaries (UABs) developed
    1. This is important for federal grant eligibility
  - iii. UABs Adjusted & Finalized
  - iv. Federal Functional Classification (FFC) adjustments
- v. Federal Functional Classifications
  - vi. MAPA staff are currently working on this step
  - vii. Roads are first classified as either Urban or Rural (based on the Urban Area Boundaries)
  - viii. Additional classification is determined by roadway characteristics:
    1. Interstate
    2. Other Freeways & Expressways
    3. Other Principal Arterials
    4. Major Collector
    5. Minor Collector
    6. Local Roads
  - ix. Major Collectors and above are generally eligible for federal funding
- x. Contact MAPA transportation staff with questions or to be involved

**E. Introduction to the Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** Mike Helgerson, Carlos Morales, and Grant Anderson, MAPA

**a. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

- i. MAPA serves as a federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD) through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- ii. Because of our status as an EDD, we are required to complete a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

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1. The CEDS is updated every 5 years with annual reporting; next update is due in Fall 2025
  2. Essential components:
    - a. Regional profile and demographic summary
    - b. Regionally significant projects
    - c. Economic indicators
    - d. Regional assessment
    - e. Plan of action
  3. Want to ensure the CEDS aligns with the LRTP, as transportation and economic development are interconnected
  4. Engagement on the next update will start this summer
    - a. Lot of economic development-related changes in the area since the last CEDS in 2020
    - b. Anticipate additional disaster relief/recovery funding coming to the area
    - c. Applications for federal funding will ask whether the project is incorporated in the local CEDS
- iii. For questions or to get involved, please contact Grant Anderson, Community & Economic Development Manager, [ganderson@mapacog.org](mailto:ganderson@mapacog.org)

**b. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

- i. MAPA administers the LRTP for two areas:
  1. Transportation Management Area: Douglas County, Sarpy County and urbanized Pottawattamie County
  2. Regional Planning Affiliation 18: Harrison, Shelby and Mills Counties and the non-urban portion of Pottawattamie County
- ii. Long-range plan that looks out 20+ years and is required to be updated every 5 years
  1. Due in Fall 2025
  2. Incorporating feedback and data from a variety of recently-completed and current transportation studies and projects
  3. Public outreach and engagement will be starting soon
- iii. Want to ensure the CEDS aligns with the LRTP, as transportation and economic development are interconnected
- iv. For questions or to get involved, please contact Carlos Morales, Transportation & Data Manager, [cmorales@mapacog.org](mailto:cmorales@mapacog.org)

**F. Additional Business**

1. Heartland 2050 Committee Updates
  - a. **Equity & Engagement and Housing & Development:** Ashley Rae Turner, Omaha Municipal Land Bank and Jeff Spiehs, Lamp Rynearson
    - i. Are now meeting in a combined meeting at the Equity Committee date & time
    - ii. Next meeting is next Tuesday, 6/11
    - iii. Developing five working groups between the two committees
    - iv. Just finished a Symposium jointly sponsored by the Omaha Land Bank and Spark
  - b. **Infrastructure:** Mike McIntosh, Lamp Rynearson
    - i. Zack Fergus spoke at the last meeting about ideas to bring back to our communities from the recent Heartland 2050 Learning Site Visit to Charlotte

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- c. **Natural Resources:** Kent Holm, Douglas County
    - i. Committee is realigning working groups to align with Climate Action Planning
    - ii. At the last meeting Lisa Smith with the City talked about a new Urban Agriculture Hub to develop a network of community and equipment-sharing
      - 1. Find out more at <https://www.urbanfarmsomaha.org/>
    - iii. Solid Waste working group is meeting on July 10th
      - 1. Will be a presentation on dealing with vape and other electronic waste that can be dangerous
      - 2. Focusing on Extended Producer Responsibility to transition waste management costs from governments back to the private sector
        - a. Incentivizes producers to make products with less waste
2. MAPA Updates
- a. **Upcoming Housing Market Analysis project:** Mike Helgerson, MAPA
    - i. We are thrilled to be an award recipient from the Spring 2024 cycle of Front Porch Investments' Development and Preservation Fund
    - ii. We see this effort as a technical tool that can support decision-making and help track progress in housing across the region
      - 1. Would include all of MAPA's six county area
  - b. **Heartland 2050 Learning Site Visit:** Laura Heilman, MAPA
    - i. A group of 20 traveled to Charlotte NC in early May to learn about some of the work in that region and get ideas to bring back to our communities
    - ii. Learning topics for this trip included:
      - 1. Regional Planning & Coordination
      - 2. Trail- & Transit-Oriented Development
      - 3. Historic Preservation & Adaptive Reuse
      - 4. Placemaking & Economic Development
3. **Community Updates**
- a. Omaha Municipal Land Bank is working on a lot transformation project to get 20 lots shovel-ready and prepared for development
  - b. Ralston
    - i. Declared an area of the city as an Arts & Creative District
      - 1. Find out more at <https://www.cityofralston.com/arts-and-creative-district-governance-board>
    - ii. Lockwood will be the developer for the Hinge development
    - iii. Hillcrest development is underway!
  - c. Papillion
    - i. Also working on creative arts district
    - ii. Working on a form-based zoning to encourage Missing Middle housing
  - d. Council Bluffs
    - i. Just kicked off sanitary sewer study to look at existing capacity, gaps and cost-benefit analysis for possible future extensions
  - e. Gretna
    - i. Still working on Comp Plan update; hope to be done by this fall

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- ii. We-STEP plan is currently being finalized; done by summer or early fall
- iii. Plan to update zoning regulations after the Comp Plan update
- f. Cass County
  - i. Working on a housing study
- g. OPPD
  - i. Platteview solar array came online in May; largest solar array in Nebraska at 81 MW

**G. Public Comment**

- a. No public comments were requested or made.

**H. Adjourn**

**Future Meetings & Events:**

- Council of Officials Quarterly Meeting – June 12, 2024
- Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – August 2, 2024