

MOVING FORWARD



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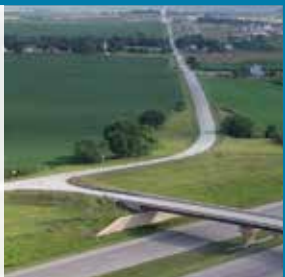
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Heavy rains lead to flooding in Omaha-Council Bluffs region

While the Omaha-Council Bluffs region works to recover from the Arbor Day tornadoes, flooding along the Missouri River created problems for communities situated on its banks.

Heavy rainfall in southeast South Dakota, northeast Nebraska, northwest Iowa and in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region in recent months pushed river levels past flood stage (27 feet) and across roadways, and into homes, campgrounds and parks.

The flooding forced the Iowa Department of Transportation to close Interstate 29 from 25th Street at the north edge of Council Bluffs to the I-29/I-880 interchange near Loveland for several days. It also closed the portion of I-680 west of I-29 in Iowa due to flooding over the roadway.

On June 24, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen declared a state of emergency for counties that abut the Missouri River which frees up state funds and resources to assist in flood recovery if the need arises.

On June 26, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a similar disaster declaration for 27 counties due to flooding including Mills, Pottawattamie and Harrison Counties. The proclamation enables state resources to help those affected by the severe weather.

A preliminary measurement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows the Missouri River crested on June 29 at 32.79 feet. That is the fourth-highest crest of the river in the Omaha area.

Officials expected the river to continue a slow and steady decline since cresting. Local leaders, public works and roads departments, public safety agencies and drainage districts have assessed impacts and damages caused by the floodwaters and repairs are underway.

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Strategic Air Command Museum hosts MAPA Council of Officials

MAPA's Council of Officials members experienced a meeting in June with a guest that was truly out of this world! Clayton Anderson, retired Nebraska Astronaut and CEO and President of the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, spoke to the group at the June 12 meeting in Ashland, Nebraska.



Anderson shared that his strategic vision is to develop the museum into an education and innovation hub to boost student interest and participation in STEM education to meet workforce needs in Nebraska.

Following the meeting, guests received a guided tour of the museum.



Heartland 2050 Learning Site Visit takes place in Charlotte

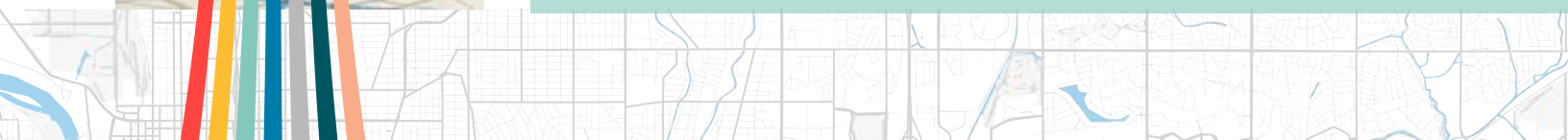
A group of community leaders from the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro descended upon Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 6 as part of Heartland 2050's Learning Site Visit.

MAPA chose to visit Charlotte because some of its transit projects and initiatives in the greater Charlotte area are similar to those underway in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area.

Learning Site Visit attendees learned more about the exciting projects happening in Charlotte, and its urban core in particular, through tours and presentations by local organizations and planners.

Guests rode Charlotte's streetcar and light rail transit while touring various newer developments.

A few of the highlights of the trip included public art throughout the city and a tour of Camp North End, a development that is an adaptive reuse of a former Ford plant and U.S. military site into an innovation hub with creative shops, office and event space and soon 2,000 apartments to help meet the demand for missing middle housing.



MAPA to launch housing market analysis project

MAPA will be starting a housing market analysis project supported by funding from Front Porch Investments.

MAPA received a grant award from the Front Porch Investments' Development and Preservation Fund for a housing market analysis tool that will provide affordable housing support to the Omaha-Council Bluffs region.

The Market Value Analysis can be used to assess many factors including, but not limited to, housing affordability, home ownership, housing market changes over time and development and investment opportunities.

MAPA's Market Value Analysis project will focus on Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie and Mills Counties in Iowa.

Housing Market Analysis Tool



Sarpy County PEL Study wins award

MAPA's Sarpy County I-80 Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study received an award in June for an innovative approach used during the environmental review process.

The study received the 2024 Gordon Frank Outstanding Accomplishment in Government Award at the SAVE International Value Summit in recognition of its innovative use of Value Planning during the environmental review process.

The PEL Study evaluated the need and locations for a potential new interchange along Interstate 80 in western Sarpy County. MAPA secured the federal funding for this project and hired **Benesch** as the consultant.

The PEL study is the first to be completed in the Omaha metro area and only the second in Nebraska. Learn more about the project at: mapacog.org/projects/i80pel/



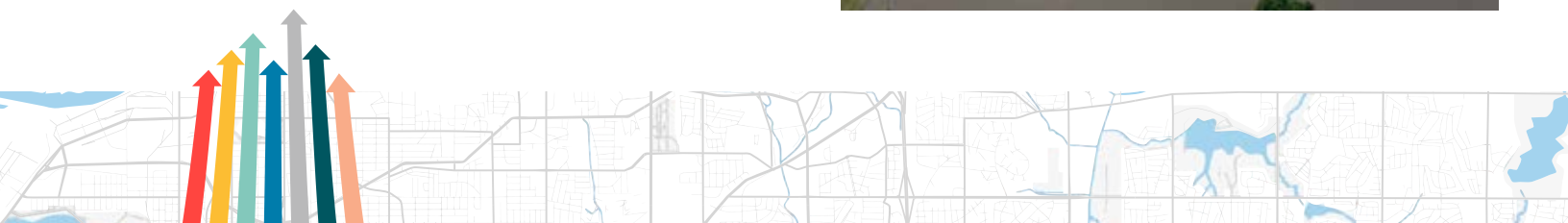
continued from Heavy rains lead to flooding in Omaha-Council Bluffs region

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the Charles Lakin Human Resources Center in Council Bluffs to assist people affected.

Pottawattamie County Emergency Management asks people impacted by recent severe weather events to complete a survey to help the county identify and connect them with assistance programs.

Access the survey at <https://pcema-ia.org> or call West Central Community Action at 712-322-2621.

For updated travel information about road closures, go to 511.nebraska.gov or 511ia.org.



MAPA Staff Updates



It's a changing of the guard for our Communications & Outreach interns. We wish Charlie Harrington good luck in his future endeavors. He concluded his internship in late May and is moving to Chicago. Thanks for all your help, Charlie!



Helen Corrigan is our new Communications & Outreach Intern. Helen, a student at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, is pursuing a Bachelor's in Studio Art with a concentration in Graphic Design. Helen is passionate about Omaha and is looking forward to making the world of government more accessible to everyone. In her free time, she enjoys playing the bass guitar and crocheting.

MAPA also welcomed two new employees in June.

Ayodele (A.Y.) Fadoju, MAPA's GIS Analyst, is an Iowa State University alumnus with a Master's degree in Planning. Before coming to our agency, he was a city planner in Nigeria for 10 years and also worked at the Iowa Department of Transportation. He is passionate about GIS and loves to do work that benefits others.



Elise Emanuel is MAPA's Grants & Agreements Specialist. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska Omaha, and her Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law at the University of Tulsa College of Law. Before coming to MAPA she worked on behalf of Native American tribes in the Nebraska area for her entire career! She loves Omaha and is excited to start at MAPA!



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CALENDAR

JULY 2024

- 19** **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 25** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

AUGUST 2024

- 02** **Regional Planning Advisory Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 14** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
RPA-18
11:00 a.m.
- 16** **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 21** **Coordinated Transit Committee**
10:30 a.m.
- 22** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 02** **Labor Day**
MAPA OFFICES CLOSED
- 11** **RPA-18**
11:00 a.m.
- 16** **Finance Committee**
8:30 a.m.
Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- 20** **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 26** **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.

