

ANNUAL **Report**





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As we look back on the past year, we recognize MAPA's work to serve our region by **planning with intention**, as well as the **tenth anniversary** of the the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision.

Through **extensive collaboration** MAPA is building strong relationships and strategic partnerships with our members.

These inclusive partnerships allow the agency to **engage our communities**, supporting their needs and identifying projects which help create growth and vibrancy throughout the region. These partnerships are also key as we work together to **recover and rebuild** from the damage caused by this year's severe weather outbreaks.

Through partnerships and collaborations, MAPA **coordinated and supported** several local applications for very competitive federal discretionary grant programs for transformative projects.

In addition, MAPA's evolving partnership with the Nebraska Department of Transportation allowed the agency to bring **technical resources** from federal partners to our communities and **unlock additional state funding** for our region.

In order to align our work with current needs, MAPA updated its Strategic Plan to focus on the **outcomes** the agency wants to see. Many of these outcomes are tied to the Heartland 2050 goals of building vibrant communities.

Be assured that MAPA remains your committed partner, dedicated to using its resources to support **collaborative solutions** for existing and emerging issues in the region to build a vibrant region with a high quality of life for all.





MAPA Board of Directors Chair



Councilmember Pete Festersen MAPA Council of Officials President



This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision. What started as a plan to think boldly about the challenges facing our region over the next 30 years has turned into an organizing principle of our work. We've hosted summits and leadership exchanges with communities across the county, created new data resources to support local policy-making, in addition to awarding millions of dollars for plans and projects to implement the principles of the vision. It's been a transformative decade for the work of MAPA, and it's built on the leadership of our members and their willingness to tackle the issues impacting quality of life in our region in the coming decades.

The past year has been one where I've reflected on our agency's tag-line of **Connect. Plan. Thrive.**

I'm proud of the MAPA Team's work to support conversations between Mills and Cass Counties, opportunities to invest in air quality and resilience in a changing climate, continued work to connect communities in western Douglas County, and transformative infrastructure investments in every corner of the region that help us attract and retain the workforce we need. The collaborative spirit is strong within our region and the MAPA team is excited to play a part in facilitating these crucial conversations.

The weather this spring and summer have served as a reminder of all the work that local community leaders do to prepare for, mobilize during, and recover after natural disasters. From tornadoes to flooding to straight line winds, nearly every corner of our region was impacted by severe weather. I'm enormously grateful for all the leadership demonstrated from cities, counties and regional partners to tackle these challenges. The quick response of agencies lessened the impacts of some of these events, while other communities will take a long time to recover fully. Our team here at MAPA is here to support these efforts in the months and years to come.

Thank you to all the members and partners who have dedicated their time to our committees, planning processes and community events during the last year. We look forward to working alongside all of you in the year to come, and are appreciative of the opportunity to serve the communities of this region.

With gratitude,

Tindrud Michael Helgerson MAPA Executive Director



WHAT'S NEXT?

We need your input! In the year ahead MAPA will be updating its Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). These documents guide MAPA's work and help local communities come together to prioritize projects and investments across the region.

Learn more about the LRTP at www.mapacog.org/projects/lrtp/

MAPA's planning work is critical to securing local, state and federal funding for local projects. We want to ensure our planning documents serve your community's current and future needs. Look for upcoming engagement opportunities for these or other MAPA projects, or contact any of our staff to see how you can get involved.

03

Since passage of the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act three years ago, MAPA has worked purposefully and collaboratively, whether as the lead agency or in a supportive role, to build grant applications and secure millions of dollars in federal discretionary funding for projects which enhance infrastructure and economic development investments throughout the region.

UNLOCKING **New resources**

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In the past year, to assist its member communities, MAPA:



In partnership with the Nebraska Department of Transportation, hosted an Innovative Finance Workshop by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau. The workshop provided expertise to local governments on how to streamline access to federal transportation credit programs and private capital in private/ public partnerships for infrastructure investments.



Is working to align efforts on local, regional and statewide climate action plans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded both the State of Nebraska and the City of Omaha a **Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant** to develop climate action plans and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in six key areas. MAPA is facilitating discussions with all levels of government to ensure local priority projects are included in the plan and eligible for federal implementation funding.



Applied for and was **awarded competitive grants from the Safe Streets and Roads for All program to create regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plans,** which will include projects aimed at improving traffic safety for all users and reducing traffic fatalities to zero by 2040.



Applied for a federal grant to create a Transformative Regional Investment Prioritization System to enhance project selection efficiency and ensure projects align with community needs and values, discretionary programs and new funding sources. As a result of its efforts to pursue new, creative approaches to planning, **MAPA's transportation** work received awards this year including:



MAPA's Sarpy County Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) 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. www.mapacog.org/projects/i80pel/



MAPA received a 2024 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Blair South Bypass project. MAPA helped secure a **\$7.56 million BUILD grant** to fund the construction of this project that reduces heavy truck traffic and increases pedestrian and bicycle safety in Blair's busy downtown business district (see picture below).



The NADO 2024 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award was awarded to Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council for the **Iowa Impact Map**. The map, designed by MAPA, showcases the impact of projects funded by the Iowa Councils of Government throughout the state. www.iowacog.com/impact-map



Photo courtesy of City of Blair.

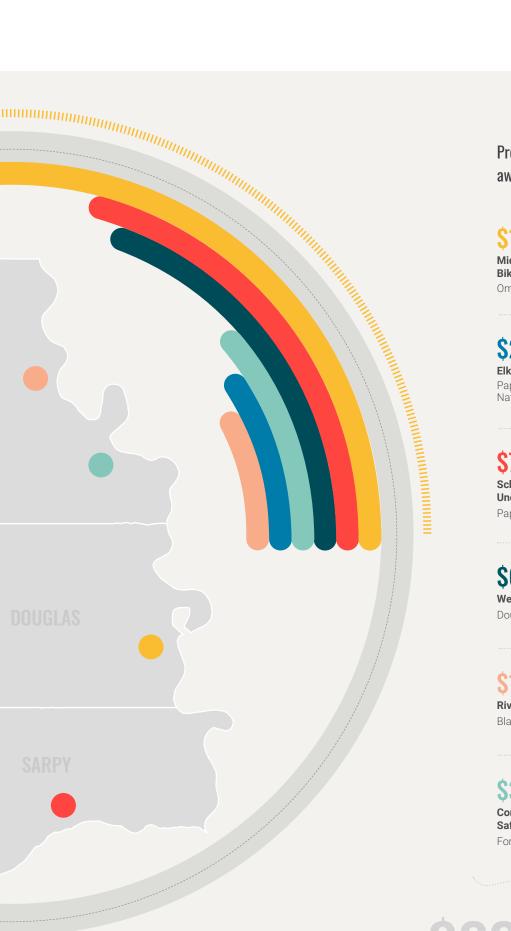
ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM AWARDS

in funding for our region, MAPA worked with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to ensure communities in MAPA's Transportation Management Area were eligible for funding from the state Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Omaha, Papillon, Douglas County, Blair, Fort Calhoun and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) are among 13 Nebraska communities and agencies sharing in \$50 million awarded by the 2023 Nebraska TAP program. It's the largest amount of funding awarded to Nebraska from the program since its inception in 1991.

Millior

\$50 Million

05



Projects in MAPA's region awarded funding include:

06

\$12 Million

Midtown Medical Center Bikeway Connection Omaha

\$2.5 Million

Elkhorn River Trail Bridge Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

\$7.5 Million

Schram Spur N-370 Undercrossing & Trail Segment Papillion

\$6.67 Million Western Douglas County Trails Douglas County

\$1.7 Million

River Road Connector Trail Blair

\$3.45 Million

Connecting Ft. Calhoun with Safer Transportation Alternatives Fort Calhoun

\$33,820,000



MAPA AS A **Convener**

MAPA brings together stakeholders to address new or emerging issues in the region and uses its resources to support collaborative regional solutions.



ICE JAM PREVENTION

In the wake of the 2022 ice jams which threatened energy generation and water delivery on the Missouri River, MAPA facilitated conversations with key stakeholders including OPPD, MUD, the Army Corps of Engineers and state and local emergency management agencies. The group collaborated to develop a resource guide for emergency management staff in the region to help prevent ice jams and low river levels.



METRO AREA MOTORIST ASSIST

Until 2020, MAPA coordinated the Metro Area Motorist Assist program with the Nebraska State Patrol. Volunteers patrolled freeways and interstates in the metro area, coming to the aid of stranded motorists. The program both increased safety and removed some of the burden from other first responders.

In 2023, the Nebraska Department of Transportation revived the program with paid contractors to continue the legacy of this important transportation safety initiative.



TORNADOES-STORM RELIEF

MAPA is working with community partners affected by recent tornado outbreaks, storms and flooding to secure funding for recovery efforts. Tornadoes on April 26 damaged or destroyed more than 1,200 homes in Nebraska and more than 300 homes in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, killing a Minden man.





PLATTE RIVER BRIDGE TRAIL

MAPA convened partners to bring the Platte River Bridge Trail on Hwy 34/75 to fruition by orchestrating a massive infrastructure agreement to swap state for federal funding to build the bridge and create pedestrian and bicycle access.

The new trail, which opened Aug. 3, provides greater safety to bridge users and increased recreational opportunities for trail users by providing a connection across the Platte River between Sarpy County and Cass County.

08





MAPA and Metro Transit co-hosted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium in August 2023 to better understand the transportation needs and barriers experienced by marginalized groups in our region.

Attendees to the Symposium included transit users, transportation providers, elected officials, community organizations, as well as government and human service agencies. Each provided their experiences and knowledge of the state of transportation in the region.

MAPA and Metro Transit will work with the Coordinated Transit Committee to implement solutions to the common barriers identified by participants.

The event was sponsored by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC), a national organization that provides resources and training on accessible transportation to empower communities and individuals.

Read the final report at tinyurl.com/NADTC-report



At the Symposium, a diverse group from throughout the region discussed barriers to transportation access and how transportation can be a consistent challenge for marginalized groups.

MILLS COUNTY & CASS COUNTY PLANNING COALITION

Because of our regional focus, MAPA often works across state lines to help address issues of mutual interest.

MAPA's Community & Economic Development Team is currently facilitating conversations between community leaders in Cass County, Nebraska, and Mills County, Iowa, to coordinate efforts supporting regional growth and economic development.

Community members have already identified areas of potential collaboration around infrastructure investments, flood resilience planning, trail planning and development opportunities.

Let us know if MAPA can help support these types of conversations for your community.

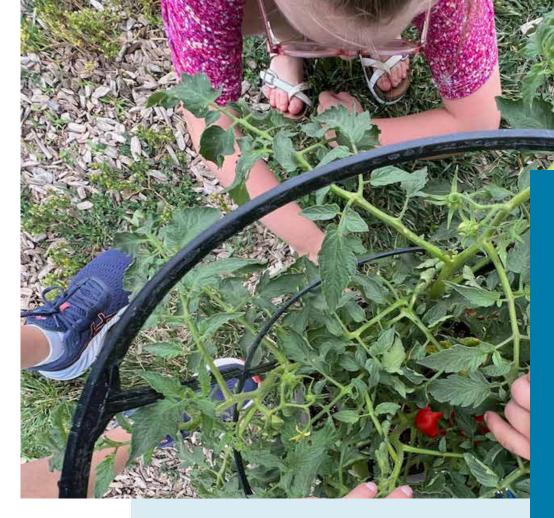


BROWNFIELDS TRAININGS

Properties with potential environmental contamination, known as brownfields, can impede a community's economic development.

To help local communities deal with these problem properties, MAPA hosted workshops with local, regional, state and federal partners to educate residents, developers and community leaders about resources to address environmental concerns and prepare sites for development.

Workshops took place in Omaha in November 2023 and Treynor, Iowa, in January 2024.



\$60,000

will be received by Council Bluffs over three years to implement health and wellness-related projects in the community.

The projects were identified during a community health and wellness needs assessment offered through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and coordinated by MAPA.

Projects that will be funded this year include:



18 33

Plants and materials for community gardens at three elementary schools



New wayfinding signs for the FIRST AVE Trail



Vouchers for children to purchase fresh produce at the city's farmer's market



A new water bottle filling station/drinking fountain for Bayliss Park



Summer program to teach children about nutrition





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Explore how Highway 75 impacted the North Omaha community through our interactive maps at: tinyurl.com/Hwy75maps

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT

MAPA partnered with the City of Omaha and Spark CDI to secure a U.S. Department of Transportation federal Thriving Communities technical assistance grant. This award supports work to study the impacts of Highway 75 on North Omaha and how to reconnect the historically Black community that was displaced and separated by this infrastructure project.

MAPA hosted a project kickoff meeting with federal, state, local and community partners in July 2024.

Contact MAPA's Transportation Team to get involved.





BRINGING MORE VOICES TO THE TABLE

EQUITY IMPACT INVESTMENTS

To help boost economic development efforts in South Omaha's Latino community, MAPA is partnering with the Latino Economic Development Council (LEDC) and Canopy South in a three-year capacity-building program through the US Economic Development Administration.

The group will focus work on fostering equitable growth and unity throughout Douglas County by bringing together diverse community stakeholders committed to addressing key urban challenges through consistent meetings, knowledge sharing, and resource coordination.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY CORPS FELLOW

Contact any of the project partners to get involved.

The North 24th Street Business Improvement District (BID) is undertaking the transformation of North 24th Street.

MAPA supported the BID's successful application for technical assistance to the Economic Recovery Corps (ERC), a collaborative initiative to accelerate COVID-19 pandemic recovery in distressed areas. Over the next 2 ½ years, ERC fellow Che Barnett will assist the BID in the implementation of the North 24th Street Streetscape Master Plan. Learn more at www.north24thstreetbid.com/

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPORT

Shortage of affordable housing is a key issue in the region. To help meet this need and increase the availability of affordable housing, MAPA leverages its resources to support several housing-related projects.



ADU COMPETITION

In 2023, MAPA partnered with AARP Nebraska on "An ADU for U" design competition. An ADU, or Accessory Dwelling Unit, is a separate residential unit on the same lot as a single-family home like a basement rental or backyard tiny home. The competition aimed to increase awareness of how ADUs may be used to help meet our community's housing needs. Contest winners are submitting designs to the City of Omaha as part of its new Fast Track permitting program.



\$150,000 GRANT AWARD

HOUSING MARKET VALUE ANALYSIS

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MAPA will conduct a regional Housing Market Value Analysis thanks to a \$150,000 grant award from the Front Porch Investments' Development and Preservation Fund. The Market Value Analysis will provide a data-driven framework to understand current housing conditions and support local decision-making.



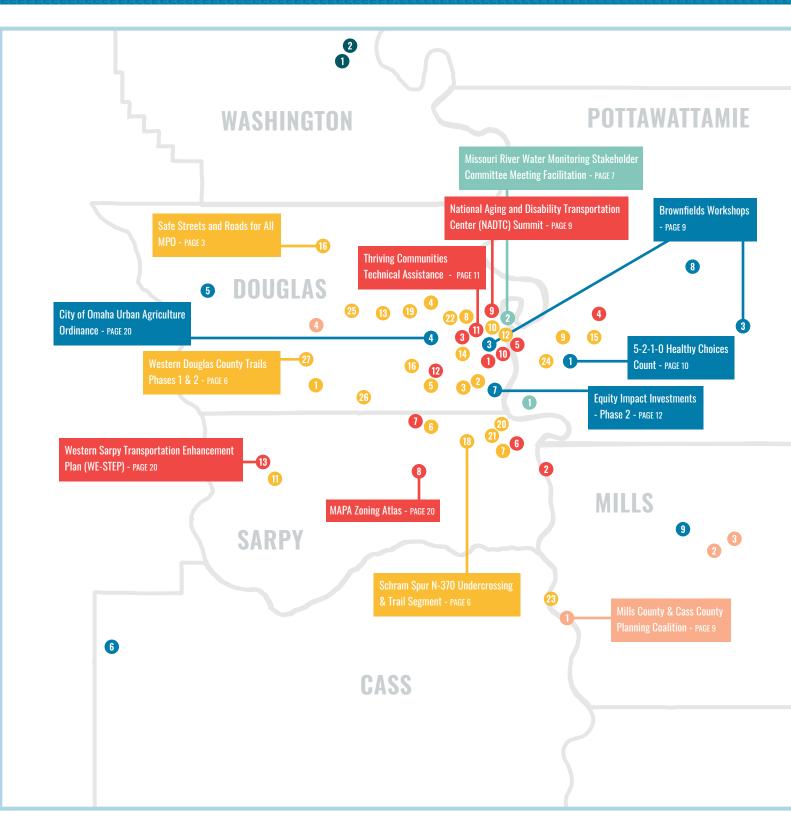


POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY HOUSING TRUST FUND AWARDS

MAPA serves as the grant administrator for the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund, which allocates funding to organizations that serve the housing needs of low to moderate income households within Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The Trust Fund awards grants for affordable housing projects, including new construction and rehabilitation of existing units. Since 2011, the Trust Fund has awarded more than \$2 million.

Homes under construction by Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs, a Housing Trust Fund grant awardee.

REGIONAL PROJECT LIST



INTERACTIVE PROJECT MAP



2

Pottawattamie County

Housing Trust Fund - PAGE 14



- 1 24th Street Corridor Study RAISE Grant
- 2 Bellevue Toll Bridge Study
- 3 City of Omaha Beltline Study
- 4 City/County Connector Trail
- 5 Council Bluffs Multimodal Connection & Expansion PEL Study
- 6 Fort Crook Road Corridor Study
- 7 La Vista Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan
- 8 MAPA Zoning Atlas see page 20
- 9 National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) Summit see page 9
- **10** Omaha Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan
- **11** Thriving Communities Technical Assistance see page 11
- 12 Travel Demand Management Commute to Work Survey
- 13 Western Sarpy Transportation Enhancement Plan (WE-STEP) see page 20

FEDERAL

- 1 168th Street West Center to Q
- 2 36th Street Phase 2
- 3 42nd & D Viaduct
- 4 72nd & Ames Transit Access & Pedestrian Amenities
- 5 72nd & D Street Viaduct
- 6 Applewood Creek Trail City of La Vista
- 7 Cornhusker Road
- 8 Cuming Street / NW Radial Hwy/Military Ave Corridor Study
- 9 East Beltway Project Council Bluffs
- **10** Economic Recovery Corps Fellow
- 11 Gretna to Wehrspann Trail
- 12 North Downtown Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge
- 13 Omaha Roundabout Program
- 14 Omaha Urban Core Street Reconfiguration Study
- 15 Pottawattamie County Multi-Use Trail Phase 1
- **16** Safe Streets and Roads for All MPO see page 3
- **17** Safe Streets and Roads for All RPA-13/18 see page 3
- 18 Schram Spur N-370 Undercrossing & Trail Segment see page 6
- 19 Signal System Master Plan
- 20 South Expressway Reconstruction Phase 1
- 21 South Expressway Trail Phase 1
- 22 Systemic Safety NW Radial
- 23 US 34 Bike and Walking Trail Phase 2
- 24 West Graham Avenue Reconstruction
- 25 West Maple I-680 to US 275
- 26 West Papio Millard Connection
- 27 Western Douglas County Trails Phases 1 & 2 see page 6



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count see page 10
- 2 Avoca Strategic Plan Update
- 3 Brownfields Workshops see page 9
- 4 City of Omaha Urban Agriculture Ordinance see page 20
- **5** City of Valley Strategic Planning
- 6 Eagle Community Needs Assessment
- 7 Equity Impact Investments Phase 2 see page 12
- 8 McClelland Municipal Code Updates
- 9 Silver City Community Development & Capacity-Building Assistance



HOUSING

- 1 Blair Rural Workforce Housing Fund
- **2** Dana Suites Adaptive Reuse
- **3** Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund see page 14



DISASTER RECOVERY

- 1 Council Bluffs Levee Repairs
- 2 Missouri River Water Monitoring Stakeholder Committee Meeting Facilitation - see page 7

PLANNING

- 1 Mills County & Cass County Planning Coalition see page 9
- 2 Mills County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- 3 Mills County M&P Accreditation Study
- 4 Western Douglas County Planning Collaborative



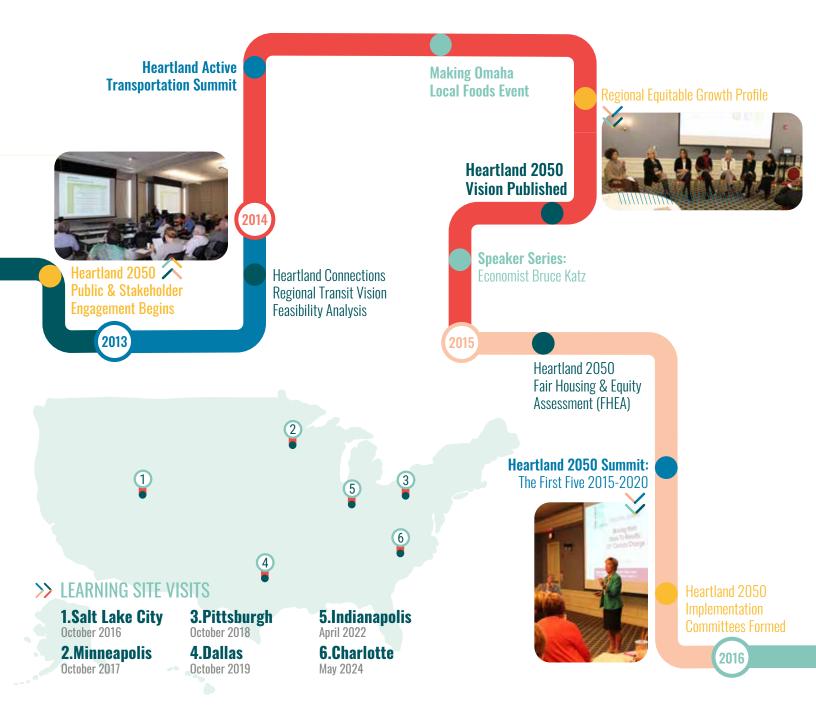
HEARTLAND

This year MAPA celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Heartland 2050 Regional Vision. Developed through extensive public engagement, the Vision is a shared road map for our region with strategies to help build and connect thriving, vibrant communities.

Learn more about Heartland 2050 at www.heartland2050.org

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Get involved! Join a Heartland 2050 Committee, attend one of our upcoming events, or connect with MAPA staff to see how we can collaborate.





Heartland 2050 Summit featuring Joe Reardon, President of the Kansas City Area Chamber of Commerce



2017

Heartland 2050 Summit: 🗡 Close the Gap, Featuring Ben Pierce, HDR

Heartland 2050 Summit & Walking Tour with Jeff Speck, author of Walkable City



Heartland 2050 Summit





Learning **Site Visit:**



Established

2018

Heartland **2050 Summit:** The Power of Collaboration ****

Program Starts

Block Talk Walk Audit



Speaker Series: One Million Cups

18

al Planning Advisory

Everyone Prospers: The Path to Equity Symposium with Dr. Michael McAfee, President of PolicyLink



HEARTLAND 2050

19









MAPA's Strategic Plan guides agency work and serves as a foundation for staff decision-making. A new Strategic Plan is created every five years, and the Plan is annually reviewed and updated as part of the budgeting and goal-setting process conducted each year.



View MAPA's current Strategic Plan and the Fiscal Year 2025 Plan of Work at www.mapacog.org/projects/strategic-plan/

ABOUT MAPA

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MAPA serves in a variety of roles throughout the region:

- Regional Council of Governments
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Economic Development District
- MAPA Foundation

Many committees operate internally and externally to support the work MAPA does in each of these roles. The following chart outlines MAPA's organizational structure.

Learn more about MAPA at www.mapacog.org/about/what-is-mapa/



MAPA would like to **thank the following individuals**

for sharing their time and expertise in leading MAPA's Committees for the upcoming year.



Pete Festersen, Omaha City Council Council of Officials President



Douglas Kindig, City of La Vista MAPA Board of Directors Chair



Carol Vinton, Mills County Council of Officials Vice President MAPA Board of Directors Vice Chair





Todd Pfitzer, Douglas County Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Chair



Mike Kleffner, City of Papillion Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Vice Chair



Keith Station, City of Omaha Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Chair

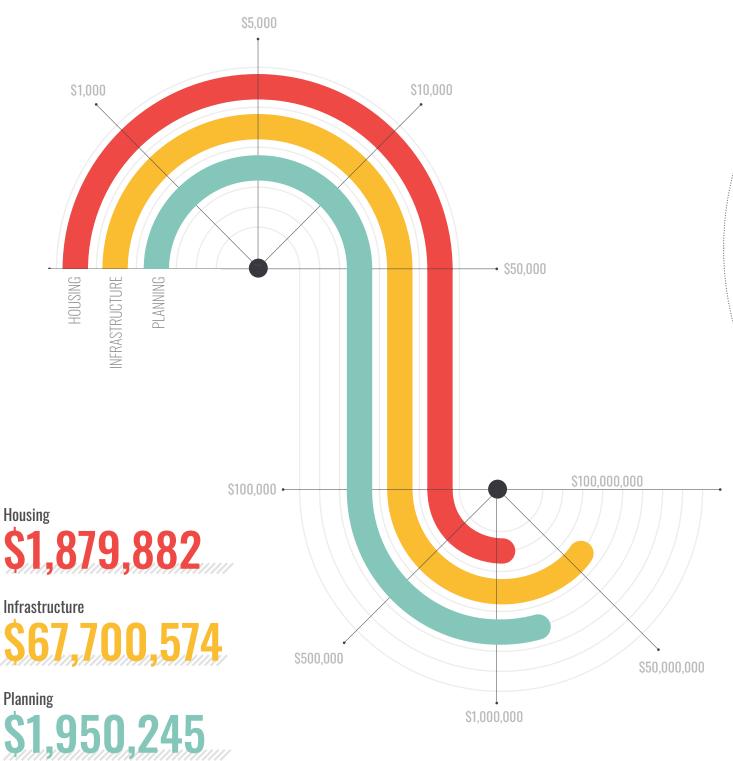


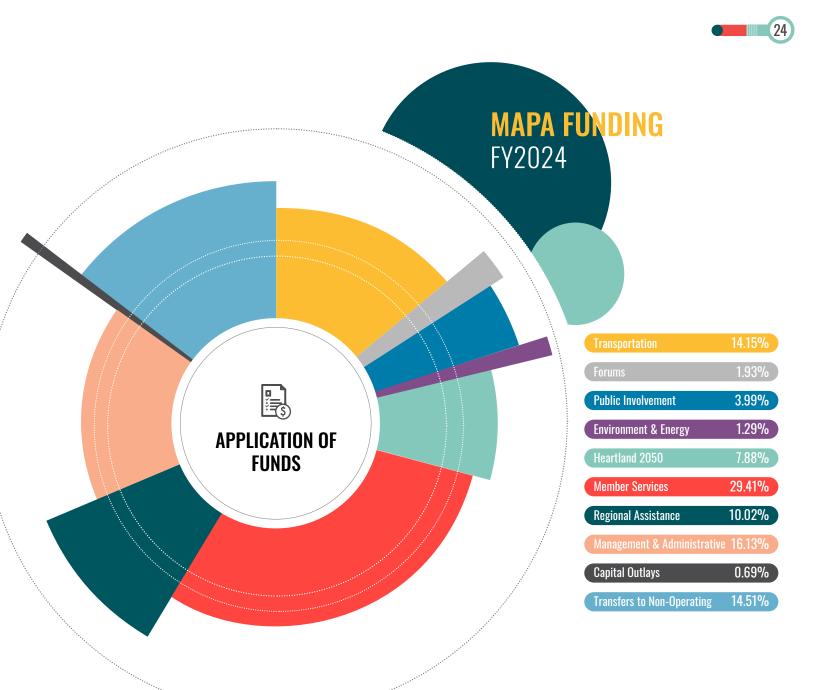
Chris Gibbons, City of Council Bluffs Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) Vice Chair

MAPA FY2024 SUPPORTED PROJECTS

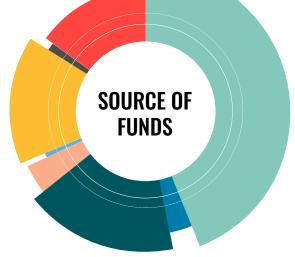
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Below is an overview of direct grant support provided by MAPA throughout FY2024. This chart combines MAPA's roles as a Metropolitan Planning Organization, Economic Development District and Council of Governments.





Federal	44.13%
State	2.92%
Direct Support	17.24%
In-Kind Support	3.79%
Non-Member	0.66%
Fees for Service	15.18%
Miscellaneous	1.31%
Reserves & Adjustments	14.77%





Amounts are derived from preliminary fiscal year-end financial records, which are subject to corrections prior to publication of MAPA's official annual financial statements.

MAPA AWARDS

MAPA won the **"Building Vibrant Places" category in the 2023 NADO photo contest** with a photo of the grand opening of the FIRST AVE Trail in Council Bluffs. (Winning photo below.)

MAPA's Communications & Outreach Team won an **Award of Merit** from the Nebraska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for the 2022 Annual Report. Awards are given out at our Annual Meeting each October, and recognize organizations and individuals for their outstanding work in the region.

ANNUAL AWARDS



Eric Williams Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District 2023 Regional Citizenship Award



Malvern Area Betterment Association (MABA) 2023 Regional Service Award



FY2024 MAPA STAFF



MICHAEL HELGERSON Executive Director



GRANT ANDERSON Community & Economic Development Manager





NATASHA BARRETT **Fiscal Analyst**



JIM BOERNER Transportation Planner



CHRISTINA BROWNELL Director of Administration



LINDSEY BUTTON Transportation Planner



HELEN CORRIGAN Communications & Outreach Intern



SUE CUTSFORTH Information Officer



MATTHEW EASH Director of Finance



ELISE EMANUEL Grants & Agreements Specialist



AYODELE FADOJU GIS Analyst



During the past year, several MAPA staff members received promotions and MAPA added several new employees too.



RACHEL GOETTSCH Transportation Planner

MIA HASCHENBURGER Transportation Planner

> LAURA HEILMAN Communications & Outreach Manager



SAUL LOPEZ **Communications Project Coordinator**



AMANDA MORALES Fiscal Officer



CARLOS MORALES Transportation & Data Manager



RYAN OSSELL Community & Economic Development Planner



JULIE SMITH Community & Economic Development Planner

OWEN STUCKEY GIS Coordinator

Accountant



CONNIE VINER



JODI WOOLERY Art Director



NEW HIRES



PROMOTIONS

Employees who contributed to FY2024 programs but are no longer employed by MAPA:

MICHAEL BLANK

RAFAEL CORRALES Community & Economic Development Planner

JOSH CORRIGAN GIS & IT Coordinator

TRAVIS HALM Transportation Planner

CHARLIE HARRINGTON Communications & Outreach Intern

SHAWNNA SILVIUS **Community & Economic Development Planner**

SOLOMON AMPOFO GIS Intern

Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Economic Development Administration and through





Metropolitan Area Planning Agency2222 Cuming St.| Omaha, NE 68102

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