



OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY
2222 Cuming Street, Omaha | (402) 444-6866
Training Room - Lower Level

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, February 7, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- A. Welcome and Introductions** – Keith Station, Committee Chair

- B. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes** - Keith Station, Committee Chair - **ACTION**
 - a. October 4, 2024
 - b. December 6, 2024
 - c. There was no quorum, so no vote was held.

- C. Omaha Land Bank: Community-Informed Policies & Application Review Scorecard:** Leslie Smith, Executive Director, Omaha Municipal Land Bank
 - a. www.omahalandbank.org
 - b. Land banks across the nation all have different structures and abilities
 - i. Omaha Land Bank has a focus on vacant and abandoned properties, due to Nebraska legislation enabling land banks in the state
 - ii. The Land Bank will obtain properties, clean up and maintain them until sold
 - iii. There is a new program to prepare selected sites to be shovel ready for development
 - iv. They are able to sell or hold properties to align with community needs and goals
 - c. Community Informed Policy Development
 - i. Revisiting Acquisition, Maintenance and Disposition policies and procedures
 - ii. Lots of outreach & engagement has happened and will continue; looking for additional feedback
 - d. Application & Discount Scorecards were developed to support consistent decision-making; these can be found on the Land Bank website
 - e. What's Next for the Land Bank?
 - i. Potential legislative changes with current NE bills:
 - 1. [LB 620 Nebraska Neighborhood Revitalization Act](#): Would like support for hearing on March 19
 - 2. [LB 458](#) would allow an expedited timeline for land banks to redeem tax foreclosure properties
 - ii. Strategic Planning
 - iii. 10 Year Anniversary
 - iv. Reignite2Unite Omaha Development Symposium: June 4-5, 2025

HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



D. City of Bellevue Comprehensive + Transportation Plan Update: Tammi Palm, Planning Director, City of Bellevue

- a. <https://www.bellevuecompplan.com/>
- b. Last comprehensive plan from 2007-2008
- c. Did extensive engagement, data analysis, site visits, etc.
- d. 13-month process overall
- e. Positioning for implementation includes an action plan with a hot list of things to address in the short-term
- f. Development of a vision helps provide a shared identity for the community
- g. Plan Recommendations revolve around Growth, Future Land Use, Destinations & Districts, Economic Health & Vitality, Creating a strong community identity, Enhancing quality of life, Connecting Destinations & Districts through multimodal transportation options with an Active Transportation framework
- h. Builds on the Offutt Joint Land Use study completed by MAPA in August 2015
 - i. <https://mapacog.org/reports/offutt-afb-jlus-final-report/>
 - ii. MAPA is now coordinating with the Greater Omaha Chamber and Offutt on the Military Installation Resilience Review project to support and coordinate the future growth and needs of the base with the surrounding community

E. Additional Business

1. Heartland 2050 Committee Updates www.heartland2050.org

- a. **Equity and Engagement:** Ashley Rae Turner, Omaha Municipal Land Bank
 - i. Continuing joint meetings with Housing & Development committee
 - ii. Will revisit committee strategic planning efforts
 - iii. June 10th meeting will be a field trip on a North Omaha tour with Preston Love
 1. Other committees and RPAC members are invited to attend
- b. **Housing and Development:** Joe Flaxbeard, Lamp Rynearson
 - i. Joe is the new committee chair - welcome Joe!
- c. **Infrastructure:** Mike McIntosh, Lamp Rynearson
 - i. Had a meeting this past Wednesday
 - ii. Lori Laster with Papio Missouri River NRD presented on new FEMA flood maps
 1. March 25th date of adoption for Douglas County
 2. No final date on Sarpy County maps yet
 - iii. April meeting will be a field trip to visit CSO site
 - iv. Working groups
 1. Creating a TIF factbook that will be finalized soon, in partnership with UNO faculty and students
 2. Reconnecting Communities working group; MAPA received a grant for this work
 3. Responsible Infrastructure: working toward a presentation at an upcoming transportation conference
- d. **Natural Resources:** Kent Holm, Douglas County
 - i. Recent meeting featured UNMC climate-related work
 - ii. Solid Waste Subcommittee work is moving forward with a recent legislative study and potential upcoming legislation

HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



2. MAPA Updates

- a. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update
 - i. www.mapacog.org/projects/ceds/
 - ii. MAPA serves as an Economic Development District and must complete the CEDS every five years; the next update is in progress to be completed by December 2025
 - iii. Working with Equity Impact Investments, New Growth Innovation Network, PIPE Consulting and local community organizations focusing on strengthening local partnerships to align efforts and be competitive for funding opportunities
- b. Transportation Projects
 - i. Safe Streets for All project updates
 - 1. www.mapacog.org/projects/ss4a
 - 2. Upcoming public meetings to get feedback on draft plan priorities and recommendations
 - 3. Plan to be finalized by summer 2025
 - ii. Upcoming TIP comment period for the MPO/TMA area
 - 1. Submit your comments on projects submitted for federal transportation funding starting on February 19
 - 2. www.mapacog.org/reports/fy2026-transportation-improvement-program-tip/
 - iii. Long Range Transportation Plan Surveys Open now
 - 1. The Transportation Management Area (TMA) covers Douglas, Sarpy and the urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County
 - a. <https://lrtp-2050-update.mapacog.org/>
 - 2. Regional Planning Affiliation 18 (RPA-18) covers Harrison, Shelby, Mills and the non-urban portion of Pottawattamie County
 - a. www.mapacog.org/projects/rpa18-lrtp/
- c. Civil Rights Policy Update
 - i. Outlines how laws and federal regulations, specifically those prohibiting discrimination, are implemented in MAPA's processes
 - ii. Includes MAPA's Title VI, LEP, and ADA Policies, as well as the complaint process for both Title VI and ADA
 - iii. Updated every three years; plan was updated and approved by the MAPA Board in January 2025
 - iv. www.mapacog.org/about/what-is-mapacog/civil-rights/
- d. Reconnecting Communities
 - i. Grant was awarded to MAPA but may be targeted for elimination by the new federal administration
 - ii. MAPA was awarded \$1.5 million of funding through the US Department of Transportation for continued planning work along the North Freeway in Omaha. The plan will coordinate efforts between the City of Omaha, NDOT, MAPA and community organizations in the area
 - iii. The project will support the coordination of land use and housing strategies with the highway corridor, reducing the division caused by the urban highway investment

HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



- iv. This project builds on Technical Assistance that MAPA received through the Thriving Communities program in partnership with the City of Omaha and Spark CDI
 - v. Thriving Communities Conference
 - 1. Three local members attended December conference in Washington DC
 - 2. Discussed ways to fund program after federal administration changes and learn how to make grant applications and projects successful
 - 3. Reach out to MAPA staff if you're interested in participating in this work
 - e. Indy MPO Site Visit Recap
 - i. Five staff from the Indianapolis MPO visited with MAPA staff and partners in November 2024
 - 1. indympo.org
 - ii. MAPA hosted a Heartland 2050 Learning Site Visit to Indianapolis in April 2022 & coordinated with this team
 - iii. The Indy team learned from MAPA staff and visited:
 - 1. Blackstone with Jay Lund
 - 2. La Vista City Centre with Bruce Fountain
 - 3. Seventy-Five North Highlander Development with Sharlon Rodgers
 - f. Elected Officials Training
 - i. MAPA is hosting two elected & appointed officials training
 - ii. Perfect for officials or anyone wanting to learn more about government processes and network with local officials
 - 1. Iowa Training 2/13/15 from 5-8 pm at Treynor Community Center
 - a. tinyurl.com/electedtrainingIA
 - 2. Nebraska training 2/27/25 from 5-8 pm at MAPA offices
 - a. tinyurl.com/electedtrainingNE
 - g. Member Survey
 - i. Annual MAPA membership survey is open until February 14
 - ii. Please tell us how MAPA can support your work; your answers inform MAPA's budget and work plan for the upcoming fiscal year
 - iii. tinyurl.com/membersurveyFY2026
- 3. Community Updates**
- a. Empowerment Network <https://empoweromaha.com/>
 - i. [State of North Omaha Part II](#) event tomorrow 9 am at Omaha North High School
 - ii. Starting step up program work to employ youth over the summer
 - 1. <https://stepupomaha.com/>
- G. Public Comment**
- a. None
- H. Adjourn**

Future Meetings & Events:

Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – April 4, 2025



This meeting will be conducted in compliance with the Nebraska Statutes of the Open Meetings Act; copies of the Open Meetings Act are available from MAPA staff.

Members of the public are welcome to speak on agenda items, but should identify themselves by name and affiliation (if applicable) before speaking. Individuals interested in addressing RPAC regarding non agenda items must sign the request to speak list located in the meeting room prior to the beginning of the meeting or in writing by regular U.S. mail or email (mapa@mapacog.org) provided that requests are received by close of business on the day prior to the meeting. Members of the public will be limited to three minutes. The presiding officer shall have authority to limit discussion or presentation by members and non-members or to take other appropriate actions necessary to conduct business in an orderly manner.

The participation of fifteen (15) voting members of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum. The vote of two-thirds (2/3) of members present shall decide questions brought before the Committee.

HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT