

MOVING FORWARD



Damage in Minden, Iowa, following the tornado outbreak which struck the city on April 26, 2024.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Council of Officials to feature Airport Terminal Modernization Program

READ ARTICLE >>

COUNCIL OF OFFICIALS

FEATURED SPEAKER
DAVID ROTH, Chief Executive Officer
OMAHA AIRPORT AUTHORITY

VENUES AT THE GRANARY
5555 Granary Plaza, Suite 101, Omaha, NE 68127

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 18TH 2025

LUNCHEON

MAPA Board to vote on FY2026 Work Program

READ ARTICLE >>

MAPA WORK PROGRAM

Safe Streets Safety Action Plan approved

READ ARTICLE >>

RPA-18 FY2026 Work Program released for public comment

READ ARTICLE >>

RPA 18

Regional bike projects highlight National Bike Month

READ ARTICLE >>

MAPA receives award for ICOG Impact Map

READ ARTICLE >>

Staff Updates

READ ARTICLE >>

Anniversary of devastating Arbor Day Tornadoes

On April 26, the Omaha-Council metro region observed a solemn anniversary - one year from the day a large tornado outbreak spun its path of destruction across southeast Nebraska and southwest Iowa.

The tornadoes destroyed more than 1,200 homes in Nebraska and more than 300 in Iowa. One man in Minden, Iowa, died from injuries sustained when a tornado struck his home.

During the past year, communities devastated by the tornadoes have been rebuilding.

In Minden, construction is expected to begin this summer on three duplexes, creating six new affordable housing units to replace some of the housing stock lost. The units are expected to be completed in the winter.

Minden received a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery award in the amount of \$1,172,042 from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to support the construction.

The duplexes will be constructed on land the City purchased with support from the Community Foundation for Western Iowa. The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency prepared the successful grant application and will administer the grant.

In the aftermath of the tornadoes, the Douglas County Health Department partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health, Three Rivers Public Health Department, and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to launch tornado impact surveys to better understand how the disaster affected individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

These surveys provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of early warning systems and emergency preparedness efforts and provided recommendations on actions needed to better prepare for future disasters.

continued on page 2



Council of Officials to feature Airport Terminal Modernization Program

Don't miss an opportunity to learn about **Eppley Airfield's Terminal Modernization Program!**

Omaha Airport Authority CEO David Roth will provide an update on the program as keynote speaker at MAPA's Council of Officials luncheon meeting on June 18 at **The Venues at The Granary** in Ralston.



The Build OMA Terminal Modernization Program is Eppley Airfield's most significant upgrade in nearly 40 years.

Register for the Council of Officials meeting: tinyurl.com/COOJune2025.

MAPA Board to vote on FY2026 Work Program

MAPA's Board of Directors will consider approval of the final FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program at its May 22nd meeting.

The document outlines MAPA's transportation-related activities and projects for the 2026 fiscal year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026).

It covers MAPA's transportation planning activities for the metropolitan planning area in Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska and western Pottawattamie County in Iowa.

A public comment period ran from March 27, 2025, to April 23, 2025.

continued from Anniversary of devastating Arbor Day Tornadoes

Organizers shared the initial report, completed in Fall 2024, with government and non-governmental stakeholders around the community to improve future preparedness and response efforts. The report is available on the Douglas County Health Department's website.

One year later, the same team launched a second round of surveys May 5 through May 9 to assess ongoing recovery efforts and identify new or emerging needs in the affected communities. Results will inform public health planning and long-term recovery efforts.

Safe Streets Safety Action Plan approved

MAPA's Board of Directors approved the agency's Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan at its monthly meeting on April 24.



The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan was developed as part of MAPA's Safe Streets for All project, which covers Douglas, Sarpy, and western Pottawattamie Counties.

The plan's goal is to reduce all traffic fatalities and serious injury crashes to zero by 2040. It includes recommendations and identifies projects aimed at improving safety for all roadway users.

"The plan was developed through detailed data analysis and builds on extensive community engagement throughout the process," said Mike Helgersen, MAPA Executive Director.

View the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan at mapacog.org/projects/ss4a.

RPA-18 FY2026 Work Program released for public comment

Traffic safety planning is a major focus of the Draft FY2026 RPA-18 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP), which is released for public comment by MAPA. The public comment period runs from March 12, 2025, to May 16, 2025.

The Transportation Planning Work Program outlines transportation-related activities and projects for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026).

Regional Planning Affiliation 18 (RPA-18) is the designated transportation planning organization for Harrison, Mills and Shelby Counties and the eastern non-urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County.

The Draft FY2026 RPA-18 Transportation Planning Work Program includes the transportation projects for the Iowa counties included in Regional Planning Affiliation 18.

Access the Draft Transportation Planning Work Program at tinyurl.com/RPA18TPWP26. For more information on RPA-18, visit mapacog.org/projects/rpa-18/.

Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. May 16, 2025, via email to: transportation@mapacog.org or U.S. Mail: MAPA, 2222 Cuming St., Omaha, NE 68102.

Regional bike projects highlight National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling and encourage more folks to give biking a try. Here are a few projects happening in the Omaha-Council Bluffs region.

Omaha's North Downtown Pedestrian Bridge, known as the "Baby Bob," opened this spring.

The bridge links the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge plaza on Riverfront Drive to 10th Street, providing a connection to Charles Schwab Field, the CHI Health Center, the streetcar route and popular venues on both the Nebraska and Iowa sides of the Missouri River.

The construction cost of the bridge was approximately \$7.5 million paid with a combination of federal, local, and philanthropic funds.

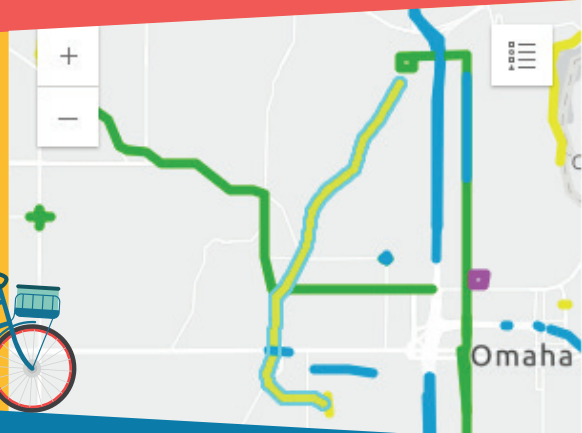


The Platte River Bridge Trail on Highway 34/75 opened in August 2024 and provides greater safety to bridge users and increased recreational opportunities for trail users by providing a connection across the Platte River between Sarpy County and Cass County.

MAPA convened partners to bring the trail to fruition by orchestrating a massive infrastructure agreement to swap state funding for federal funding to build the bridge and create pedestrian and bicycle access.



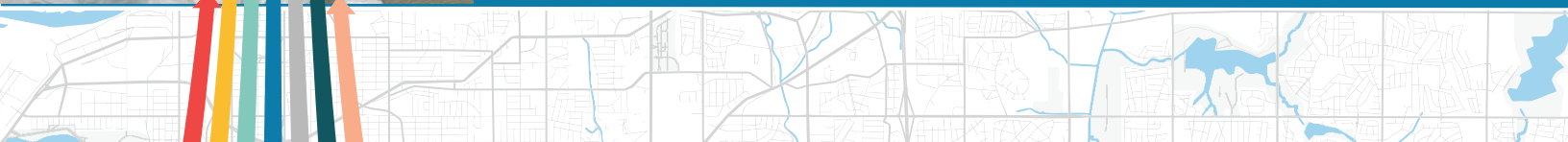
A study is planned by the City of Omaha to identify possible routes for a multi-use trail that would connect the south end of the planned Belt Line Trail at Hamilton and Military Avenues with the north end of the Field Club Trail at Leavenworth Street.



In the next few years, construction will begin on a trail to connect the existing Railroad Highway Multi-Use Trail in Pottawattamie County to the Council Bluffs city limits.

\$1.6 million in funding is being allocated to construction of the project. The trail connection would run along Railroad Highway from Kanessville Boulevard to the City of Council Bluffs boundary with Pottawattamie County.

Once the full Railroad Highway Multi-Use Trail is built out it will extend all the way to Neola.



MAPA receives award for ICOG Impact Map

A map created by MAPA, which shows the impact of work performed by Iowa Council of Governments in economic and community development across the state, receives an award.

On May 1, the Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (ICOG) presented MAPA with its Innovative Project Award for developing the Impact Map.

ICOG says the map is a tool that has enhanced the visibility and effectiveness of COG projects through Iowa significantly and it showcases the widespread and diverse influence of COGs and the transformative impact of their community and economic development projects on Iowa communities.

In presenting the award, ICOG recognized MAPA Executive Director Mike Helgerson's leadership, expertise, and commitment to community betterment made him an outstanding nominee for the award.



Staff Updates

In April, MAPA's GIS Coordinator, Owen Stuckey, began an exciting new opportunity in Minneapolis, where he is applying his GIS skills to the field of environmental planning! We're grateful for everything Owen contributed to our team during the last 9 years and wish him nothing but success in this next chapter of his career.

We are also excited to welcome Adia West as our new GIS Intern, and we extend a warm welcome back to Josh Corrigan, who has returned as our GIS Coordinator.

Adia is currently a senior at Creighton University, focusing on quantitative analysis. In her free time, she loves to explore different parks around Omaha and stop for some coffee at local coffee shops!

Josh Corrigan has returned as our GIS Coordinator! Josh worked at MAPA for 10 years until January 2024. For the past year he was employed by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Welcome back, Josh!



CALENDAR

MAY 2025

- 16** Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m.
- 21** RPA-18
11:00 a.m.
- 22** MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.
- 26** Memorial Day
MAPA offices closed

JUNE 2025

- 06** Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)
10:00 a.m.
- 11** RPA-18
11:00 a.m.
Council of Officials
11:00 a.m.
- 18** Finance Committee
9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting Only
Coordinated Transit Committee
10:30 a.m.
- 19** Juneteenth
MAPA offices closed
- 20** Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m.
- 26** MAPA Board of Directors
1:30 p.m.



The preparation of this publication is financed through planning grants from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation through Iowa DOT and the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation as provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration and through local funds from member jurisdictions. The views and opinions MAPA expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

