



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.

View the meeting livestream on the Regional Planning Advisory Committee playlist on MAPA's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/@MAPA2222

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 1, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

In-Person: Ashley Rae Turner, Brian Lodes, Brittni Stephens, Chris Gibbons, Chris Meeks, Keith Station, Kristine Stokes, Laura Dietrich, Lindsay Neemann, Tammi Palm, Travis Gibbons, Zack Fergus

Virtual: Lindsay Huse

GUESTS: None

MAPA STAFF: Mike Helgerson, Laura Heilman, Sue Cutsforth, Saul Lopez, Andrew Kresin, Carlos Morales, Grant Anderson, Maggie Weigle

A. Welcome and Introductions – Keith Station, Committee Chair

B. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes - Keith Station, Committee Chair - **ACTION**

- a. June 6, 2025

C. Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Grant Anderson & Maggie Weigle, MAPA

- a. www.mapacog.org/projects/ceds
- b. MAPA serves as an Economic Development District (EDD) and must complete the CEDS every 5 years; currently working on update by December 2025
- c. Working with multiple partners on an ongoing basis to provide insight and feedback to document
- d. Reviewed 2020 vision statement as well as draft goals & objectives, and a draft survey to go out to local partners
- e. Sending two documents to RPAC members
 - i. Funding Opportunity Summary
 - ii. Proposal Questionnaire
- f. Additional Information:
www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2025

D. Additional Business

1. **Heartland 2050 Committee Updates** www.heartland2050.org

- a. **Engagement:** Ashley Rae Turner
 - i. Still meeting in conjunction with Housing & Development Committee
 - ii. No major updates
 - iii. Next meeting hearing about Omaha & Gretna Comp Plans
 - iv. Finalizing committee videos

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EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



- b. **Housing and Development:** Joe Flaxbeard
 - i. Still meeting in conjunction with Engagement Committee
 - ii. Working with Douglas County Emergency Management on how to implement neighborhood plans
 - c. **Infrastructure:** Brittni Stephens
 - i. Next meeting with City of Omaha re: streetcar
 - ii. In Two months, the Omaha Airport Authority will present
 - iii. December, hope to have UNO public administration and public policy for speed networking with students
 - 1. Look for an invite for this!
 - d. **Natural Resources:** Zack Fergus
 - i. Held July meeting at 41st and Grant about the Mayan Community Garden and Beltline Trail on the site
 - 1. Watched KETV coverage of the event
 - ii. Solid Waste Working Group
 - 1. Reworking interlocal agreement for solid waste management
 - 2. Updating the Solid Waste Plan
 - iii. Design is underway for several additional trail connections
- 2. MAPA Updates**
- a. Iowa Public Information Board: Training for Newly Elected and Appointed Officials
 - i. New Iowa legislation (HF 706) requires newly elected or appointed public official who are a member of a governmental body to complete a 1-2 hour training course within 90 days
 - ii. Iowa Public Information Board will hold trainings and/or approve training materials
 - iii. Sign up for a training at <https://ipib.iowa.gov/trainings/ipib-training-newly-elected-and-appointed-officials>
 - iv. More information at <https://legiscan.com/IA/bill/HF706/2025>
 - b. Transformative Regional Investment Prioritization System (TRIPS) Project
 - i. Working through Program Agreement with USDOT; Due in September
 - ii. \$2 Million award at 100% Federal Share (no local match needed)
 - iii. Focusing on enhancement of project selection process to align with community needs and values
 - c. Collaborative Futures: A Regional Economic Development Summit
 - i. In partnership with Greater Omaha Chamber Economic Development Partnership and Nebraska DED's 6 Regions One Nebraska program
 - ii. Tuesday, September 9th from 9-4 pm
 - iii. Keynote presentation by Dr. Dell Gines, Chief Innovation Officer of the International Economic Development Council
 - iv. Register at tinyurl.com/EconDevSummit2025
 - d. Council of Officials Annual Meeting
 - i. Featuring keynote presentation by Ken Moreano of Scott Data, discussing AI
 - ii. Beardmore Events Center
 - iii. Provide your feedback on keynote topics: tinyurl.com/AIKeynoteSurvey

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3. Community Updates

- a. Papillion
 - i. Just approved first TIF project for affordable housing
 - ii. Just kicked off \$10 million renovation of City Park
 - iii. Developed a new zoning district for pocket neighborhoods and missing middle housing to encourage more affordable housing and different housing types
- b. Gretna
 - i. City will be starting on City Community Center complex at Hwy 31 at Jansen Drive near Gretna Crossing
 - 1. will include City Hall, Library, MakerSpace
 - ii. Also soon to kick off update to zoning & subdivision regulations
 - 1. Consultants will be meeting with groups
 - 2. Need to finish in one year
 - 3. Will likely keep as separate documents instead of combining
- c. MAPA
 - i. Will open call for projects for Heartland 2050 Mini-Grants this fall
 - 1. Two people from RPAC will serve on the selection committee; we will ask to select those members at the October meeting
- d. Council Bluffs
 - i. Completed a recent annexation with Mills County that will open up a lot of economic development opportunities
 - ii. Putting together an RFP to adopt a new Comp Plan and Downtown Master Plan (as one integrated documents)

G. Public Comment

H. Adjourn

Future Meetings & Events:

Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – October 3, 2025
MAPA Council of Officials Annual Meeting - October 8, 2025

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