

MOVING FORWARD



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The MAPA Foundation administers a revolving loan fund of \$977,000 to construct workforce housing in Blair, NE, including a site on the former Dana College in Blair.

Let's talk housing!

Join us Tuesday, Dec. 10 for a special MAPA Council of Officials meeting featuring Ali Solis, a nationally recognized housing policy strategist. A Regional Housing Symposium will follow the business meeting.

Ali Solis is the founder and managing principal of S3-Solis Strategic Solutions. She helped secure more than \$7 billion in federal funding for both affordable housing and community development initiatives.

In addition to Solis's keynote presentation, attendees will hear from a panel of local leaders regarding innovative housing strategies in the MAPA area as well as listen to special virtual remarks from Congressman Mike Flood, representative from Nebraska's First Congressional District and Chairman of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Registration is \$30 for the luncheon and symposium, with lunch provided by the Metro Community College Institute of Culinary Arts. The cost to attend the symposium only is \$15.

Event details:

- 📍 Location: Metro Community College, Swanson Conference Center (Fort Omaha Campus)
- 👉 Hosted by: MAPA in partnership with Front Porch Investments
- 🕒 Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 🔗 Register now: tinyurl.com/COODec2025



MAPA hosts Council of Officials Annual Meeting

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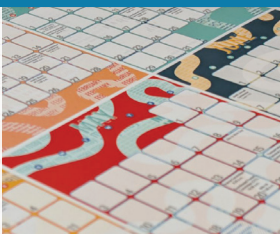
MAPA presents its 2025 Annual Awards

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MAPA hosts Council of Officials Annual Meeting

The topic of A.I. - Artificial Intelligence - took center stage at MAPA's Council of Officials Annual Meeting on Oct. 8th at the Northern Lights Venue in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.



Keynote speaker Ken Moreano, former President and CEO of Scott Data Center in Omaha, shared A.I. insights with local leaders and other members about this fast-evolving technology and possible impacts on government functions and role.



MAPA presents its 2025 Annual Awards

For its 2025 Annual Awards, MAPA recognized a devoted public servant whose work helped get legislation passed, a city's innovative efforts to improve traffic safety, a mayor's extraordinary leadership following a devastating tornado and a town's exceptional community engagement driving growth and development.

MAPA presented the awards at its Council of Officials Annual Meeting Oct. 8 at the Northern Lights Venue in Fort Calhoun.

MAPA's Regional Citizenship and Regional Service Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose positive influence on the MAPA six-county region has been extraordinary.

Recipients of the 2025 Regional Citizenship Award include:

- Kevin Zimmerman, Mayor of Minden, Iowa
- Kent Holm, Douglas County Nebraska Director of Environmental Services

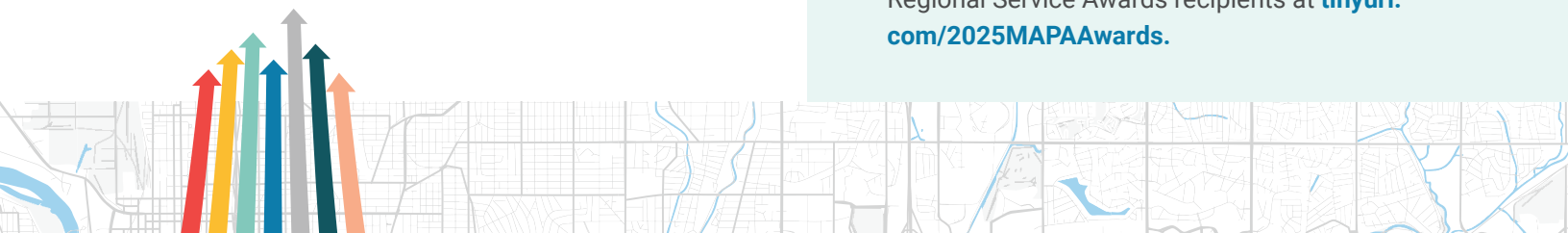


Recipients of the 2025 Regional Service Award include:

- City of Omaha Public Works Department
- City of Treynor



Learn more about the Regional Citizenship and Regional Service Awards recipients at tinyurl.com/2025MAPAAwards.



MAPA publishes its 2025 Annual Report

MAPA's 2025 Annual Report is available!

The report provides a vibrant, visual showcase of the work MAPA performs in support of our regional partners and member communities. It reinforces the connection between MAPA's strategic goals and the projects it does to support the needs of communities in our six-county region.

You can access the 2025 MAPA Annual Report at mapacog.org/about/annualreport/



MAPA publishes its 2026 Calendar

Our 2026 Calendars are here and we have two sizes available, which are perfect for scheduling your time and activities in the coming year!

Sizes include our traditional, poster size wall calendar and a limited quantity of a smaller 11"x17" version.

Calendars are available free of charge to anyone and can be picked up at MAPA offices.

Reserve yours by emailing mapa@mapacog.org or by calling 402-444-6866.



Heartland 2050 to host December Social

Calling all Heartland 2050 committee members and anyone who is interested in learning about the work of the committees.

Join us from 3-4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9th at Cham Pang Lanes in Omaha for our Heartland 2050 December Social.

Learn about the work of the committees and chat with fellow committee members.

Light refreshments will be provided with beverages available for purchase. RSVP by Dec. 5th to Saul Lopez at slopez@mapacog.org.



MAPA announces two open Calls for Projects and Amendments

MAPA and Iowa Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA)-18 are accepting applications for new projects under two funding programs and amendments to current projects in several other funding programs.

More information on MAPA's funding programs including applications can be found at tinyurl.com/MPOFY27CallforProjects.

Applications for MAPA's programs are due January 17, 2026.

For Iowa RPA-18, full program details, eligibility information and application materials are available on the RPA-18 Call for Projects webpage: tinyurl.com/RPA18FY27CallforProjects

New townhomes help Minden rebuild after 2024 tornado

Six new townhomes are under construction in Minden as the town continues to rebuild after the devastating Arbor Day tornado in 2024.

The tornado destroyed more than 40% of the housing in the Pottawattamie County community.

The Minden Great Western Townhomes, being built by Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs, are three duplexes, which will provide six two-bedroom, two-bath units when completed.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place Oct. 8th at the site.

Minden Mayor Kevin Zimmerman said there is already a list of people who are interested in moving in to the townhomes.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) prepared the successful grant application and is administering the grant.

The townhomes are anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2026.

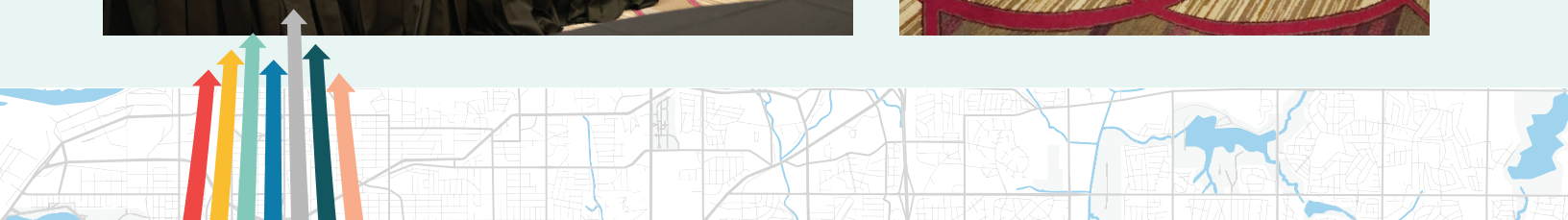


MAPA hosts Regional Economic Development Summit

Regional economic development leaders gathered in Bellevue in September for a summit hosted by MAPA, the Greater Omaha Chamber and Six Regions, One Nebraska.

More than 150 people attended the event "Collaborative Futures: A Regional Economic Development Summit" to have critical conversations about economic development in the region.

Attendees learned about and discussed opportunities to collaborate on a large scale to tackle the issues the region faces.



MAPA planners walk to work as learning experience

Earlier this fall, MAPA transportation planners Lindsey Button, Court Barber and Alex Johnson and friend, Matt Jandrain, took to the streets to walk to work.

Their purpose – to experience Omaha’s transportation system as pedestrians, instead of by driving a car, and inform their roles as transportation planners. Find out what they learned along their route in our blog post: tinyurl.com/PlannersWalk2Work



Heartland 2050 plans Detroit Learning Site Visit in Spring 2026

Since 2016, MAPA has conducted regional leadership exchanges, bringing groups of 20 to 30 cross-sectoral leaders from the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area to connect with local leaders from communities that are undertaking transformative transportation and community development projects.

We are currently planning a trip to Detroit for Spring 2026.

Let us know if you are interested in being considered for this trip.

Learn more and apply today at heartland2050.org/LSV!

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2025

- 09 **December Social**
3:00 p.m.
- 10 **RPA-18**
11:00 a.m.
Council of Officials
11:00 a.m.
- 11 **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
MAPA offices close at 12:00 p.m.
- 25 **Christmas Day**
MAPA offices closed

JANUARY 2026

- 01 **New Year's Day**
MAPA offices closed
- 14 **Coordinated Transit Committee**
10:30 a.m.
RPA-18
11:00 a.m.
- 16 **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**
10:00 a.m.
- 19 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
MAPA offices closed
- 22 **MAPA Board of Directors**
1:30 p.m.



U.S. Department of Transportation
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