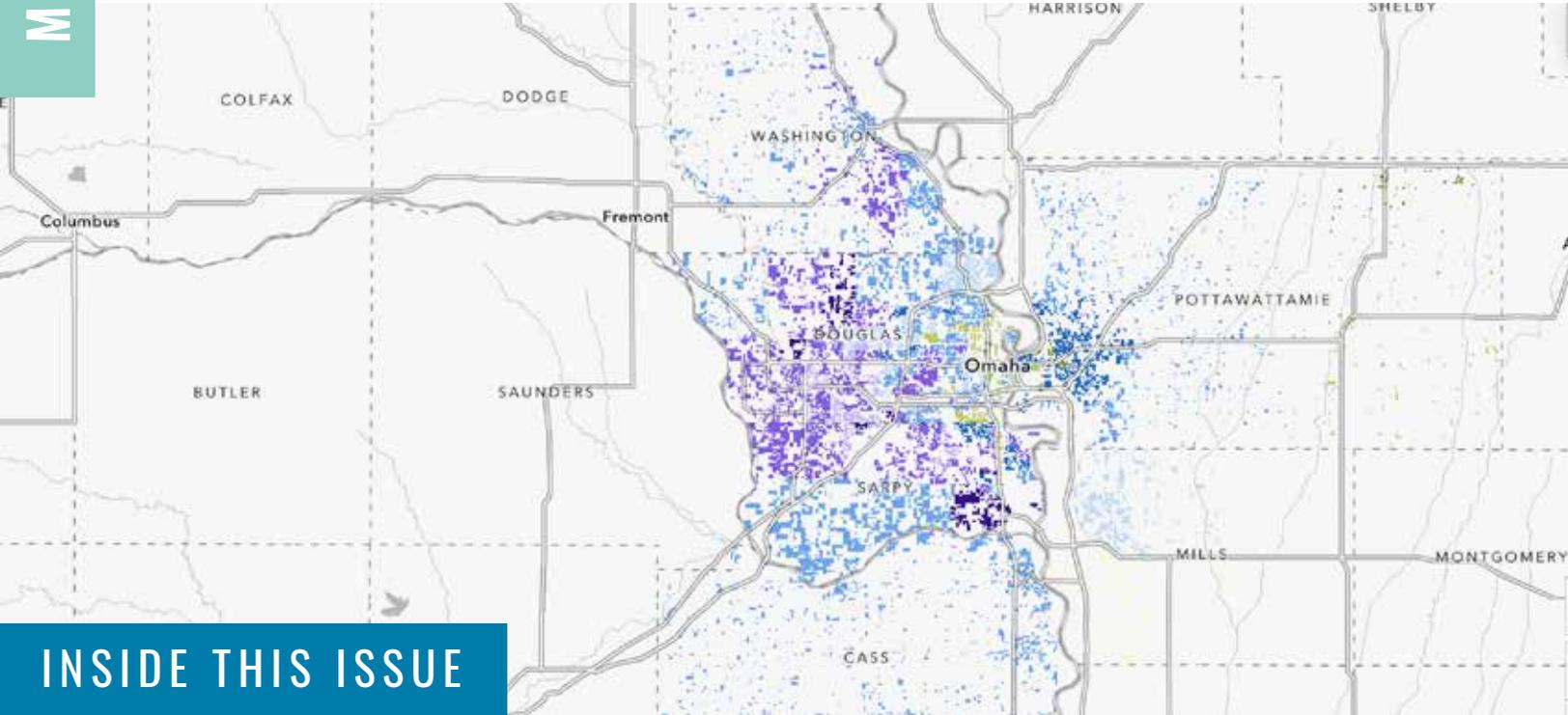


# MOVING FORWARD



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Council of Officials meeting focuses on regional energy landscape**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

**MAPA and RPA 18 project funding requests**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

**NDOT debuts preliminary designs for I-80 interchange**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

**MAPA Board members and staff attend Regions Conference**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

**Heartland 2050 Committee tours Cordia Energy plants**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

**MAPA and Heartland 2050 take programming on the road**



[READ ARTICLE >>](#)

## MAPA's Regional Market Value Analysis available for use

MAPA launches its new regional Market Value Analysis, a data-driven tool to support housing policymaking and investment decisions, and makes it available for public use. Access the regional Market Value Analysis at [mapacog.org/projects/mva](http://mapacog.org/projects/mva).

The Market Value Analysis is an interactive database of housing market conditions across the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency's six-county region, which includes Washington, Douglas, Sarpy and Cass Counties in Nebraska; and Pottawattamie and Mills Counties in Iowa.

The purpose of this tool is to support data-driven planning, community investment and policymaking around issues such as housing access and affordability, community stability, displacement and related concerns.

"The data is a measurement in how conditions are right now," said Grant Anderson, MAPA Community & Economic Development Manager at a recent joint meeting of Heartland 2050's Housing and Development and Engagement Committees. "It's purely a look at how census tracts and other geographies are doing relative to current conditions throughout the region.."

It measures two things: change over time and current conditions involving variables such as vacancy rates, assessed property values, home sales and other factors that would inform how a residential area is doing economically.

"Is it disinvested? Is there a lot of development? Are homes selling? Are homes being foreclosed?," said Anderson, further outlining factors that are included in the Market Value Analysis's evaluation of residential neighborhoods.

*continued on page 3*



## Council of Officials meeting focuses on regional energy landscape

People attending MAPA's Council of Officials meeting on March 11 at Iowa Western Community College's Arts Center had an opportunity to learn about the rapidly-changing regional energy landscape.

The meeting keynote included a panel of local leaders from OPPD, Black Hills Energy and the Iowa State University Extension.

The panel had an engaging discussion about the challenges and opportunities created by changes in the energy landscape.

Following the meeting, ISU Extension presented a Reliable Energy Siting workshop, which reviewed local government policies and provided resources for local decision makers.



## MAPA and RPA 18 project funding requests



In the last few weeks MAPA and Iowa Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) 18 hosted public comment periods on projects submitted for possible federal transportation funding.

Iowa RPA 18 includes Mills, Harrison and Shelby counties and the eastern non-urbanized portion of Pottawattamie County.

A funding request for construction of a five-mile segment of the Great American Rail Trail from Weston to Underwood, Iowa, is the sole new project submitted for inclusion in Iowa Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) 18's FY2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

Residents can review the project information at [mapacog.org/reports/rpa18callforprojects/](https://mapacog.org/reports/rpa18callforprojects/) and comment at the March RPA 18 Policy Board and Technical Committee meeting.

### Meeting: RPA 18 Policy Board and Technical Committee

- o Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- o Time: 11:00 AM
- o Location: Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)  
2222 Cuming St. Omaha, NE 68102

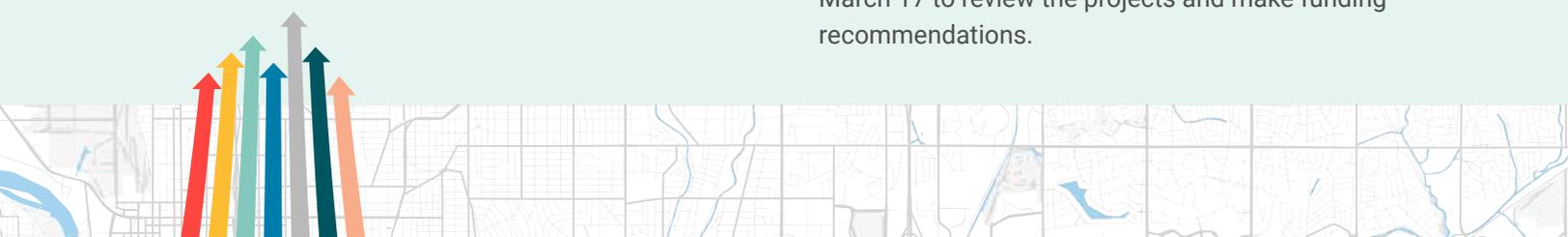
MAPA serves as the administrator for Iowa Regional Planning Affiliation 18.

A trail connection study, an active mobility plan to fill in missing trail segments and streetcar mobility hubs to support access to multiple forms of transportation are among the projects submitted for inclusion in MAPA's FY2027-FY2032 Transportation Improvement Program.

The projects submitted are from communities in MAPA's Transportation Management Area of Douglas, Sarpy and western Pottawattamie counties.

Residents can view the projects at [tinyurl.com/MPOFY27CallforProjects](https://tinyurl.com/MPOFY27CallforProjects).

MAPA's project selection committees begin meeting March 17 to review the projects and make funding recommendations.



## NDOT debuts preliminary designs for I-80 interchange

Nebraska's Department of Transportation (NDOT) released preliminary designs for a new interchange planned on Interstate 80 at 192nd Street in Sarpy County at an open house on Feb. 12.

The department's preferred option is a diamond-shaped design with connected roundabouts.



In 2022, MAPA, in coordination with Sarpy County and the Cities of Springfield and Gretna, completed the Sarpy County I-80 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, which recommended 192nd and Capehart as the top choice for the location of a new interchange in Sarpy County southeast of Gretna.

NDOT announced the selection of the 192nd Street location in September 2025.

For more information about the interchange project: [dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/i-80-sarpy-county-interchange/](https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/i-80-sarpy-county-interchange/)

*continued from MAPA Regional Market Value Analysis available for use*

The tool is designed for four main types of users:

- **Local planners** anticipating trends to inform land use policy decisions, infrastructure plans and public services
- **Affordable housing developers** investing in sites that align with their community mission and their financial model
- **Foundations (philanthropy)** repairing disinvested or at-risk neighborhoods where they can make the largest positive impact
- **Policymakers** prioritizing funding and policy to support areas within their district that are more in need

MAPA will update the data in the regional Market Value Analysis every three years. Users can customize the tool to meet their needs also.

## MAPA Board members and staff attend Regions Conference

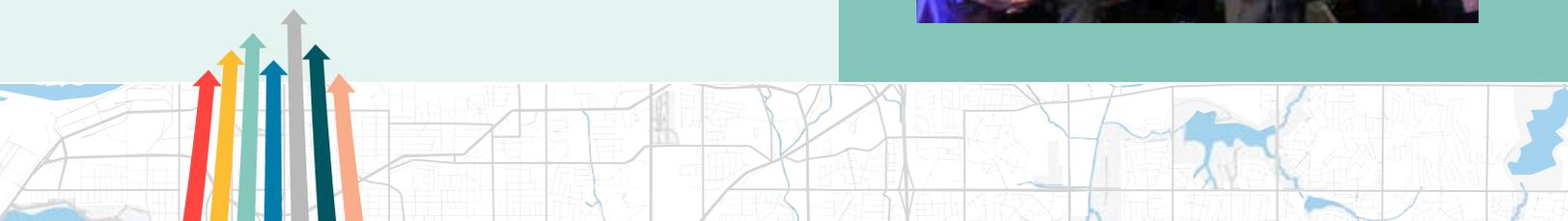
In early February, three members of the MAPA Board of Directors and two staff members headed to Washington, D.C. for the National Conference of Regions organized by the National Association of Regional Councils.



The National Conference of Regions serves as a forum to discuss key policy issues and determine a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations and their local elected officials.

MAPA Board members in attendance included Omaha Mayor John Ewing, Jr., LaVista Mayor Doug Kindig, MAPA Board Chair; and Council Bluffs Mayor Jill Shudak.

Board members and staff also met with Nebraska and Iowa senators and congressmen and their staff to discuss legislative priorities important to the MAPA region.



## Heartland 2050 Committee tours Cordia Energy plants

Members of the Heartland 2050 Infrastructure Committee and University of Nebraska at Omaha students had the opportunity to tour Cordia Energy’s downtown Omaha plants in early February.

Cordia’s highly efficient system produces steam and chilled water that serve more than 70% of downtown Omaha - powering offices, hospitals, hotels, and cultural landmarks every day.

Cordia’s team provided an inside look at how its system functions and how it fits into broader conversations about efficient, reliable urban infrastructure which supports a thriving downtown.

This is the latest in a series of field trips for Heartland 2050 committees.

On April 14, the Heartland 2050 Engagement and the Housing & Development Committee will tour Together’s

Housing Stability Clinic.

The clinic is a low-barrier, no-wrong-door access point for individuals and families experiencing housing instability, imminent eviction, utility shut-offs, or homelessness.

If you would like to be part of this tour, contact Saul Lopez, MAPA Communications Project Coordinator at [slopez@mapacog.org](mailto:slopez@mapacog.org).



## MAPA and Heartland 2050 take programming on the road

MAPA and Heartland 2050 have been busy the past few months hosting many events. ICYMI, here’s a recap of some of the most recent ones.



MAPA hosted a joint meeting of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and the Heartland 2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee at the Catalyst building in Omaha. Afterwards, attendees received a tour of the building which was built on the site of a former steel castings plant and includes repurposed portions of the plant.



Heartland 2050 committee members built connections at a December Social hosted at Cham Pang Lanes near Omaha’s Old Market.



MAPA’s Council of Officials meeting in December featured Ali Solis, a nationally-recognized housing policy strategist and was followed by a regional housing symposium, featuring a panel of local leaders who discussed innovative housing strategies in the MAPA region.

## CALENDAR

### MARCH 2026

- 18** **Coordinated Transit Committee**  
10:30 a.m.
- Regional Planning Advisory Committee**  
11:00 a.m.
- 20** **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**  
10:00 a.m.
- 26** **MAPA Board of Directors**  
1:30 p.m.

### APRIL 2026

- 03** **Regional Planning Advisory Committee**  
10:00 a.m.
- 15** **Coordinated Transit Committee**  
10:30 a.m.
- 17** **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee**  
10:00 a.m.
- 19** **MAPA Board of Directors**  
1:30 p.m.

