

Merle Hay Centre
 6200 Aurora Avenue, Suite 300W
 Urbandale, IA 50322-2866
 Phone: 515.334.0075

NOTICE OF MEETING

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

4:00 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2011

Des Moines Botanical Center's Willow Room

TENTATIVE AGENDA

The established protocol for minutes of this meeting will be to list all attendees, and with each item on which a vote is conducted in the ordinary course in order to take formal action, those voting nay or abstaining will be identified by name. Any member who is absent from the meeting for any period of time during which a vote of the body is taken, is expected to notify the recording secretary at the conclusion of the meeting so that the absence can be duly noted in the minutes. Roll Call votes will be taken as required by law or upon the request of any member that is approved by the chair, and the vote of each member for or against the proposition, or abstention, will be incorporated in the minutes or recorded on a separate sheet attached to the minutes.

1. **Call To Order**
2. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**
3. **VOTE: Approval of June 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes.....**Page 3
4. **VOTE: Approval of the June 2011 Financial Statement.....**Page 8
 - Review statement; consider approval
5. **REPORT AND VOTE: Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.....**Page 13
 - Review final draft of proposed document; consider approval
6. **REPORT AND VOTE: Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Capital Improvement Program.....**Page 14
 - Review final draft of proposed document; consider approval
7. **REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Federal Transportation Authorization Update.....**Page 15
 - Report on proposals in the US Congress regarding reauthorization legislation; consider sending a letter to congressional members encouraging action
8. **REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Midwest Passenger Rail Commission Membership.....**Page 18
 - Report on a request to assist the State of Iowa with membership on the Midwest Passenger Rail Commission; consider approval
9. **REPORT: Regional Plan for Sustainable Development**Page 19
 - Update on the plan's progress
10. **REPORT: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Update.....**Page 20
 - Presentation of the updated bicycle and pedestrian facilities map and discussion of identified gaps in the system

11. **REPORT: New MPO Office Space**.....Page 22
 - Update on the status of the MPO’s new office development
12. **REPORT: Transportation Management Association Update**.....Page 24
 - Presentation of the Mode Choice Survey results and the June commute statistics
13. **INFORMATION: Transportation Event with Congressman Boswell**.....Page 27
14. **INFORMATION: Iowa Department of Transportation Long-Range Plan**.....Page 28
15. **INFORMATION: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Monitoring Plan**.....Page 29
16. **INFORMATION: MPO Progress Report**.....Page 30
17. **Other Non- Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
18. **Next Meeting Date**
 - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2011, MPO Meeting Room
19. **Adjournment**

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 3

ISSUE:

VOTE: Review and approve minutes of the June 16, 2011, MPO Policy Committee meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the June 16, 2011, MPO Policy Committee meeting are enclosed on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the June 16, 2011, MPO Policy Committee meeting.

Meeting Minutes

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2011
Des Moines Botanical Center's Cafe
Des Moines, Iowa**

The MPO held a meeting at 4:00 p.m. on June 16, 2011, in the Des Moines Botanical Center's Cafe. Before the meeting, the MPO staff sent agenda packets to the MPO's representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office at 4:42 p.m. on June 9, 2011. **The fiscal year-to-date publication cost of meeting minutes for the MPO: \$3,024.46. In addition to these published tentative minutes, there also may be additional Meeting Notes on file with the MPO staff that are public records and available upon request as provided by law. These tentative minutes reflect all action taken at the meeting.**

Representatives Present:

Kyle Mertz, City of Altoona
Carl Metzger, City of Ankeny
Steve Van Oort, City of Ankeny
Mark Arentsen, City of Bondurant
Ruth Randleman, City of Carlisle
John Edwards, City of Clive
Ted Weaver, City of Clive
David Chelsvig, City of Cumming**
Mark Hansen, Dallas County
Chris Coleman, City of Des Moines
Allen McKinley, City of Des Moines
Kandi Reindl, City of Des Moines
Rick Clark, City of Des Moines
Robert Mahaffey, City of Des Moines
Chris Johansen, City of Des Moines
Tom Armstrong, City of Grimes
Brian Laurenzo, City of Johnston
Jim Sanders, City of Johnston
Martha Miller, City of Pleasant Hill
Gary Mahannah, City of Polk City
Angela Connolly, Polk County
Tom Hockensmith, Polk County
Robert Andeweg, City of Urbandale
Mike Carver, City of Urbandale
Dean Yordi, Warren County
Bill Peard, City of Waukee
Ted Ohmart, City of West Des Moines
Russ Trimble, City of West Des Moines
Jodi Smith, City of West Des Moines
Marketa George Oliver, City of Windsor Heights
Mike Clayton, Iowa Department of Transportation*
Brad Miller, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority

Representatives Absent:

Gerald Nolin, City of Altoona
Craig Block, City of Ankeny
Skip Moore, City of Des Moines
Tim Zisoff, City of Indianola**
Doyle Scott, Madison County**
Peggy Olson, City of Mitchellville
Jim Lane, City of Norwalk
A.J. Johnson, City of Urbandale
Don Smithy, Des Moines International Airport*
Tracy Troutner, Federal Highway Administration*
Julia Castillo, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency**
Mark Bechtel, Federal Transit Administration*

* Advisory/Non-Voting Representatives
** Associate/Non-Voting Representatives

Others Present:

Gary Fox, City of Des Moines
Glenn Lyons, Transportation Management Association

Staff Present:

Jonathan Wilson, General Counsel
Todd Ashby, Executive Director
Stephanie Ripperger, Executive Administrator
Dylan Mullenix, Principal Transportation Planner
Luke Parris, Associate Transportation Planner
Zach Young, Associate Transportation Planner
Bethany Wilcoxon, Associate Transportation Planner
Michael Wright, Transportation Planning Intern

I. Call to Order

MPO Chair Chris Coleman recognized a quorum and called the June 16, 2011, meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization June 16, 2011, meeting agenda, with corrections noted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's May 19, 2011, meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV.(A.) May 2011 Financial Statement

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 2011 Financial Statement, as presented and as attached.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV.(B.) REAFFIRMATION OF INVESTMENT POLICY

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to reaffirm the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Investment Policy, without change, for Fiscal Year 2012.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V.(A.) *Federal Fiscal Years 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority and City of Waukee*

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve amendments to the *Federal Fiscal Years 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program* to add the following projects:

- Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority: Route 7: Fort DSM/Hubbell: Operating support for expansion of route to Altoona and to increase midday service frequency. The funding award from the *Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program* is \$224,250 in FFY 2011 and \$256,511 in FFY 2012;
- Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority: Route 11: Ingersoll Avenue/West Des Moines/Jordan Creek: Operating support for the expansion of hours on Route 11 and to improve routing. The funding

award from the *Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program* is \$42,011 in FFY 2011 and \$45,629 in FFY 2012; and,

- City of Waukee: Alice's Road/105th Street/I-80: Alice's Road (Ashworth to I-80 Interchange. 105th Street/I-80 Interchange to Wendover) *National Environmental Policy Act* Documentation: I-80 Interchange construction with removal of rest area. This project is not currently utilizing any federal funds

and forward the amendments to the Iowa Department of Transportation for inclusion in the *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, 2011-2014*.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V.(B.) *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Draft*

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Draft* and submit the document to the Iowa Department of Transportation for inclusion into the Iowa Department of Transportation's *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program*.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V.(C.) *Title VI Compliance Report*

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to receive and accept the *Title VI Documentation*, as presented and as attached, and submit this document to the Federal Transit Administration as evidence of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI.(A.) *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update*

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to terminate further contract negotiations with the firm of Wallace, Roberts and Todd, and authorize the Executive Director and MPO Chair to execute a consulting contract with Sasaki Associates, Inc., when the necessary contract documentation can be finalized to the satisfaction of the Executive Director and MPO Chair, for a price not to exceed \$1,400,000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*(Marketa George Oliver arrived at 4:35 p.m.)
(Russ Trimble exited at 4:38 p.m.)*

VI.(B.) *Congestion Management Process Update*

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item VI.(B.).

VI.(C.) *Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Update*

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item VI.(C.).

VI.(D.) *Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Capital Improvement Program Draft*

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item VI.(D.).

VII.(A.) *Transportation Management Association Update*

Transportation Management Association staff presented; discussion only on item VII.(A.).

VII.(B.) *May 2011 Progress Report*

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item VII.(B.).

VIII. *Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee*

IX. *Next Meeting Date*

4:00 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2011, Des Moines Botanical Center's Willow Room.

X. *Adjournment*

Hearing no objection to the contrary, Chair Coleman adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 4

ISSUE:

VOTE: Review and approve the June 2011 Financial Statement.

BACKGROUND:

The June 2011 Financial Statement is enclosed on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the
Approve the June 2011 Financial Statement.

STAFF CONTACT:

Stephanie Ripperger, Ripperger@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #207.

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transaction Summary for Month Ended June 2011

Interest Income		
Interest Income - Checking (June 2011)	0.60	
Interest Income - IPAIT (June 2011)	0.12	
Deposits		
June 2011	149,056.67	
	149,057.39	
TOTAL INCOME/DEPOSITS - JUNE 2011		\$149,057.39
Expenses		
Per Vendor Payment Report for June 2011	130,299.24	
	130,299.24	
TOTAL EXPENSES - JUNE 2011		\$130,299.24
NET INCOME - JUNE 2011		\$18,758.15

Quickbooks Reconciliation Summary for Month Ended June 2011

BEGINNING QUICKBOOKS CHECKING BALANCE (as of June 1, 2011)		\$58,424.87
Cleared Checks & Payments	-169,591.74	
Cleared Deposits & Credits	149,057.27	
Total Cleared Transactions	-20,534.47	
CLEARED QUICKBOOKS CHECKING BALANCE (as of June 30, 2011)		\$37,890.40
Uncleared Checks & Payments	-15,675.27	
Uncleared Deposits & Credits	1,666.04	
Total Uncleared Transactions	-14,009.23	
QUICKBOOKS CHECK REGISTER BALANCE (as of June 30, 2011)		\$23,881.17
Checking Account Balance (as of June 30, 2011)	37,890.40	
IPAIT Account Balance (as of June 30, 2011)	2,914.19	
Total Account Balance	40,804.59	
TOTAL CASH BALANCE (as of June 30, 2011)		\$40,804.59

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Expenses by Vendor Detail

June 2011
 Memo

Amount

Bethany Wilcoxon

Mileage - May 2011		57.75
		57.75

Delta Airlines

Airfare - T. Ashby flight to Washington, D.C. to testify Before Cognress re		679.40
Airfare - B. Wilcoxon flight to Washington, D.C. to testify Before Cognress		720.10
		1,399.50

Des Moines Botanical Center

Beverages for MPO Meeting, 5/20/11		44.99
Beverages for Special MPO Meeting		59.99
		104.98

Des Moines Register

Publication of Meeting Minutes - MPO, March 2011		149.23
PIM Notice - TIP Amendment		30.57
PIM Notice - TIP Amendment		33.67
Publication of Meeting Minutes - Executive Committee, February 2011		63.35
		276.82

Des Moines Stamp Mfg. Co.

Engraved Name Plates		23.00
		23.00

DylanMullenix

NASCO Conference - Kansas City, MO, May 17-18, 2011 (D. Mullenix)		595.26
Mileage - May 2011		83.05
		678.31

Greater Des Moines Partnership

Capital Crossroads Contribution		25,000.00
		25,000.00

Hotels.com

Hotel Fees - T. Ashby flight to Washington, D.C. to testify Before Cognres		259.63
		259.63

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System

May 2011 Contribution		6,573.74
		6,573.74

LukeParris

Tuition Reimbursement for AICP Exam Materials		225.00
Mileage - May 2011		143.99
		368.99

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Expenses by Vendor Detail

June 2011
 Memo

Amount

Merle Hay Mall

Rent - July 2011	5,680.13
	<u>5,680.13</u>

NokilPark

Mileage - May 2011	14.85
	<u>14.85</u>

Paychex, Inc.

Flex Program Administration Fee	71.75
Flex Program Reimbursement	193.00
Flex Program Reimbursement	15.00
Flex Program Reimbursement	15.00
Flex Program Reimbursement	225.00
	<u>519.75</u>

Payless Office Prodcuts

Office Supplies - April/May 2011	815.37
	<u>815.37</u>

Payroll

Payroll 5/29/11 - Processing Fee	111.07
Payroll 5/29/11 - Employee Wages	14,838.30
Payroll 5/29/11 - Payroll Taxes	5,163.53
Payroll 6/12/11 - Processing Fee	114.35
Payroll 6/12/11 - Employee Wages	14,822.60
Payroll 6/12/11 - Payroll Taxes	5,278.37
Payroll 6/26/11 - Employee Wages	14,977.65
Payroll 6/26/11 - Processing Fee	114.35
Payroll 6/26/11 - Payroll Taxes	5,042.00
	<u>60,462.22</u>

Pitney Bowes

Postage Refill	500.00
	<u>500.00</u>

Stephanie Ripperger

Mileage - May 2011	50.60
Parking Fees - RPSD Steering Committee Meeting, 5/5/11	3.00
	<u>53.60</u>

The Printer Connection

Printer Repair	150.00
	<u>150.00</u>

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Expenses by Vendor Detail

June 2011
Memo

Amount

Transportation Management Association

TMA Reimbursement - FY 2011 Q3

27,310.00

27,310.00

Zach Young

Mileage - May 2011

50.60

Total Zach Young

50.60

130,299.24

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 5

ISSUE:

REPORT AND VOTE: Brief report and approval of the *Federal Fiscal Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program* (FFY 2012-2015 TIP) draft.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO annually develops a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as required by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The TIP lists all projects in the MPO Planning Area utilizing federal funding and scheduled to begin within the next four federal fiscal years. Projects may be included in the TIP with no federal funding if inclusion satisfies a federal requirement.

To develop the FFY 2012-2015 TIP, the MPO staff asked the MPO member governments and participating agencies to review and report any project changes, new projects, or “roll-over” projects programmed in FFY 2011, 2012, 2013, and/or 2014 to the MPO. The MPO staff reviewed all the MPO member governments’ and participating agencies’ responses and incorporated those responses into the FFY 2012-2015 TIP draft.

The MPO staff also updated projects in the FFY 2012-2015 TIP draft to reflect reductions to the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Surface Transportation Program Transportation Enhancement (STP TE) approved by the MPO on May 19, 2011. The MPO staff held a public meeting to receive input on the document on May 31, 2011, at the Des Moines East Side Library.

The MPO staff submitted the draft FFY 2012-2015 TIP to the Iowa DOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on June 17, 2011, for review and comment. MPO staff received minimal revisions from the Iowa DOT and FHWA and incorporated those revisions into the final FFY 2012-2015 TIP.

Following action on the FFY 2012-2015 TIP, MPO staff will submit the final document to the Iowa DOT and FHWA by July 22, 2011.

The FFY 2012-2015 TIP draft is included in this agenda packet’s supplemental items.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program* draft and submit the document to the Iowa Department of Transportation for inclusion into the Iowa Department of Transportation’s *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program*.

STAFF CONTACT:

Luke Parris, lparris@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #207.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 6

ISSUE:

REPORT AND VOTE: Brief report and approval of the *Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Capital Improvement Program* (FY 2012-2015 TCIP) draft.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO annually develops a four-year TCIP. The TCIP's purpose is to list all projects in the MPO Planning Area for which federal funding is not utilized and that are scheduled to begin within the next four fiscal years.

To develop the FY 2012-2015 TCIP, the MPO staff asked the MPO member governments and participating agencies to submit copies of their respective capital improvement planning documents. The MPO staff reviewed all the MPO member governments' and participating agencies' responses and incorporated those responses into the FY 2012-2015 TCIP draft.

The FY 2012-2015 TCIP draft is included in this agenda packet's supplemental items.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the *Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Capital Improvement Program* draft.

STAFF CONTACT:

Michael Wright, mwright@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #213.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 7

ISSUE:

REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Report on proposals from the U.S. House and Senate regarding transportation authorization, and optional action to send a letter to congressional members in response to the Senate's proposal.

BACKGROUND:

The current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on September 30, 2011. Members of the US House and Senate have recently announced proposals and timelines for the development of surface transportation authorization bills to succeed SAFETEA-LU. Summaries of recent proposals are as follows:

House of Representatives

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) recently announced he would introduce a six-year bill the week of July 11, 2011, with full committee markup the week of July 25. The bill's authorization funding level would be approximately \$230 billion over six years. This amount incorporates a 30 percent cut from current funding levels consistent with the House-passed budget resolution. The committee believes this level is sustainable with Highway Trust Fund revenue, assuming no revenue increases or general fund transfers. The bill is anticipated to focus on program consolidation, greater use of innovative financing, and more opportunities for public-private partnerships. A summary of the introduced bill is included on the following pages.

Senate

Environment and Public Works Chairperson Barbara Boxer (D-CA) announced recently that Democrat and Republican leadership on that committee have reached an agreement in principle on an authorization bill at funding levels of approximately \$339 billion, which is equal to current levels adjusted for inflation. It is unclear, however, whether other Republican leadership will support the bill. It is also unclear whether the bill would be a six-year or two-year bill. Senator Boxer also planned to release her bill the week of July 11, 2011, although that timeline may be altered due to the Senate's recent work to raise the debt ceiling. Senator Boxer has asked transportation stakeholders to contact members on the Senate Finance Committee, which includes Senator Grassley, to urge them to support a new transportation authorization bill for at least two years.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the MPO send a letter to congressional members urging that they support funding a transportation authorization bill.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #202.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

HIGHWAY, TRANSIT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

Transportation Reauthorization Bill Funding

- Provides \$230 billion over six years from the Highway Trust Fund – consistent with the amount of revenue deposited into the Highway Trust Fund during that time frame.

Better Leverage Existing Resources

- Funds the TIFIA program at \$1 billion per year and provides incentives for states to create and capitalize State Infrastructure Banks.

Surface Transportation Program Reform

- Consolidates or eliminates nearly 70 duplicative programs or programs not in the federal interest.
- No longer requires states to spend highway funding on non-highway activities, but permits states to fund those activities if they so choose.

Streamlining the Project Delivery Process

- Cuts bureaucratic red tape by allowing federal agencies to review transportation projects concurrently, delegates project approval authority to states, and establishes hard deadlines for federal agencies to make decisions on permits and project approvals.
- Expands the list of activities that qualify for Categorical Exclusions – an approval process that is faster and simpler than the standard process.

Federal Highway Program

- Distributes nearly all federal highway funding to state DOTs through formula programs designed to preserve existing highways, build new highway capacity, and address congestion, freight mobility, and highway safety.
- Focuses the Federal Highway Program on the Interstate Highway System and the National Highway System – the highways that facilitate interstate travel and commerce.

Transit

- Removes current barriers that prevent the private sector from offering public transportation services, provides more focus on transit programs that benefit suburban and rural areas, and improves transit options for the elderly and disabled.

Highway and Motor Carrier Safety

- Ensures that federal regulators keep unsafe trucks and buses off the road while allowing companies that operate in a safe and responsible manner to continue to do so.
- Incentivizes states to enact laws that prevent impaired driving, increase seatbelt use and improve the safety of younger drivers.

PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RAIL PROGRAMS

Better Leveraging of Federal Funds

- Leverages private sector dollars and expertise.
- Eliminates unnecessary grant programs.

Improves Current Programs

- Reforms underperforming programs, such as the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program, to enhance participation.
- Promotes transparency and accountability in rail programs.

Streamlines Rail Project Delivery

- Reduces red tape by allowing concurrent reviews of rail projects, setting hard deadlines for decisions by agencies, and increasing coordination among agencies.
- Delegates more authority to the states.
- Expands the use of categorical exclusions for certain classes of projects.

Enhances Rail Safety

- Ensures positive train control is properly implemented in the safest manner.

Promotes Regulatory Reform

- Requires rail regulations to be based on reasoned cost/benefit analysis and the best available science, and to consider effects on jobs and the economy.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Restores Trust to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

- Ties Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to revenues, ensuring fees paid by shippers go to channel maintenance.

Expedites Permit Processing

- Permanently extends the Corps of Engineers' Section 214 program. Permit backlogs impact the timeliness and cost of these investments - costs ultimately borne by U.S. consumers and shippers.

Expedites Navigation Studies

- Allows non-federal project sponsors to contract with the Corps to expedite their study for an enhanced navigation project.
- Exempts navigation projects from having to participate in reconnaissance phase of a project study.

Provides Equity for Deepening Projects

- Ensures that ports requesting the construction of deeper channels are not penalized for attempting to attract larger vessels.

Provides Incentives for Domestic Waterborne Transportation

- Eliminates double-taxation on shippers engaged in coast-wise or short-sea shipping.
- Expands the allowable use of Capital Construction Fund accounts to expand the U.S. flagged fleet and spur domestic shipbuilding.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 8

ISSUE:

REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Report and optional vote concerning the MPO's assistance with funding Iowa's membership in the Midwest Passenger Rail Commission.

BACKGROUND:

Funding for the State of Iowa's membership in the Midwest Passenger Rail Commission was eliminated in the State's recently approved budget. Senator Joe Seng contacted the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition, operated through the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, to see if other stakeholders along the proposed passenger rail corridor would help fund the \$15,000 membership fee. Senator Seng thought this would send a signal to Governor Branstad and the Legislature that Iowa is supportive of increased passenger rail service. The Quad Cities Chamber shared this idea with the Iowa City Chamber and the Greater Des Moines Partnership, who in turn inquired about the MPO's willingness to participate. The goal would be for the Quad Cities, the Iowa City, and the Des Moines metropolitan areas to each contribute \$5,000 to reach the \$15,000 fee. The Greater Des Moines Partnership has proposed splitting the Des Moines area's \$5,000 contribution with the MPO.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The Greater Des Moines Partnership has proposed splitting the \$5,000 contribution with the MPO, meaning the MPO's maximum contribution would be \$2,500. This amount could decrease if other entities in the Des Moines area are also willing to contribute. The MPO's *Fiscal Year 2012 Unified Work Program* and Budget projected a non-federal reserve balance of \$209,317 after accounting for all projected operating costs. This reserve balance could be tapped to fund any MPO contribution.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the MPO contribute funds to support Iowa's membership in the Midwest Passenger Rail Commission.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #202.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 9

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on the *Regional Plan for Sustainable Development's* (RPSD) progress.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO continues to move forward with the RPSD development. On July 5, 2011, the MPO entered into a contract with a consultant team led by Sasaki Associates, Inc. The Sasaki team was in central Iowa July 12,13, 2011, for its initial site visit. The Sasaki team met with the MPO Executive Committee, the RPSD Technical and Steering Committees, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, and other local stakeholders during their visit. MPO staff will highlight other outcomes of the consultant team visit at the July 21, 2011, meeting.

Additionally, the MPO was one of three grant recipients invited by the American Planning Association and Smart Growth America to participate in a briefing in Washington, D.C., on July 11, 2011. During the briefing, Congressional staffers heard from the MPO, as well as the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Boston) and the Northern Main Development Commission. MPO staff will provide an update about the briefing at the July 21, 2011, meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Bethany Wilcoxon, bwilcoxon@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #203.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 10

ISSUE:

REPORT: Brief presentation of the updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities map and discussion of the identified gaps in the system.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO's *Connect: Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan* Chapter 4, Action 1.3 states, "Establish a process to update governments and agencies on new trail developments connections to the state and regional trail system". The benchmark for Action 1.3 is as follows:

1.3.1 Provide active project updates routinely to the Roundtable.

The MPO staff, at the March 17, 2011, MPO Policy Committee meeting, requested that member governments and agencies provide the MPO staff with updated bicycle facility information for their jurisdictions.

The updates provided by the member governments and agencies allowed MPO staff and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable to also address Chapter 1, Action 2.1 of *Connect*. Action 2.1 states, "Eliminate gaps in the existing bicycle and pedestrian system. The benchmark for Action 2.1 is as follows:

2.1.1 Identify and map regional bicycle and pedestrian facility gaps annually, or as determined.

The MPO staff notes that collecting bicycle facility updates on a regular basis ensures that all facility information reflects current activity in central Iowa. This information will allow local stakeholders to track progress on connecting gaps and completing facilities within the central Iowa bicycle facility system. The MPO staff will continue to update the bicycle facility map on a regular basis.

The MPO staff has included, immediately following, the updated bicycle facility and gap inventory map.

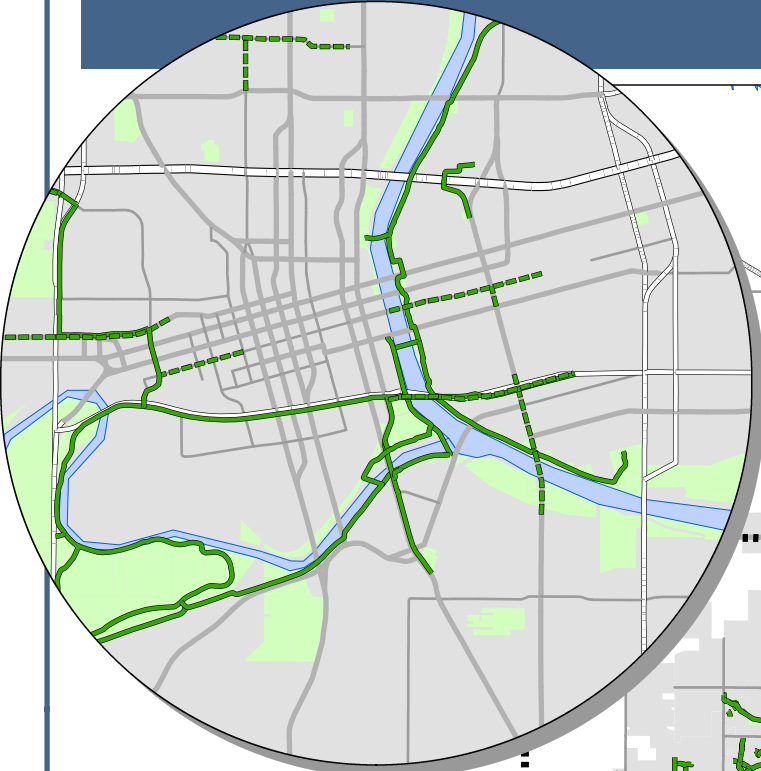
RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #208.

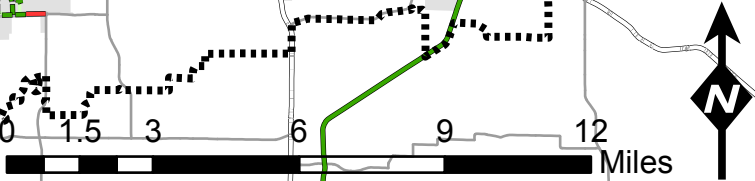
MPO Bicycle Facility Inventory



Legend

- MPO Boundary
- Existing, Off-Street
- Existing, On-Street
- Gap

Created: June 23, 2011



Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 11

ISSUE:

REPORT: Brief update on the MPO office's move to a new location.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2011, the MPO authorized the MPO Chair, Executive Director, and Legal Counsel to negotiate a lease with Knapp Properties for office space located at 420 Watson Powell in Des Moines. The MPO has since signed a lease for the property, is working with Knapp Properties to remodel the space, and is making other arrangements necessary for the move. The new lease begins September 1, 2011.

Included, immediately following, is a floor plan for the new office space.

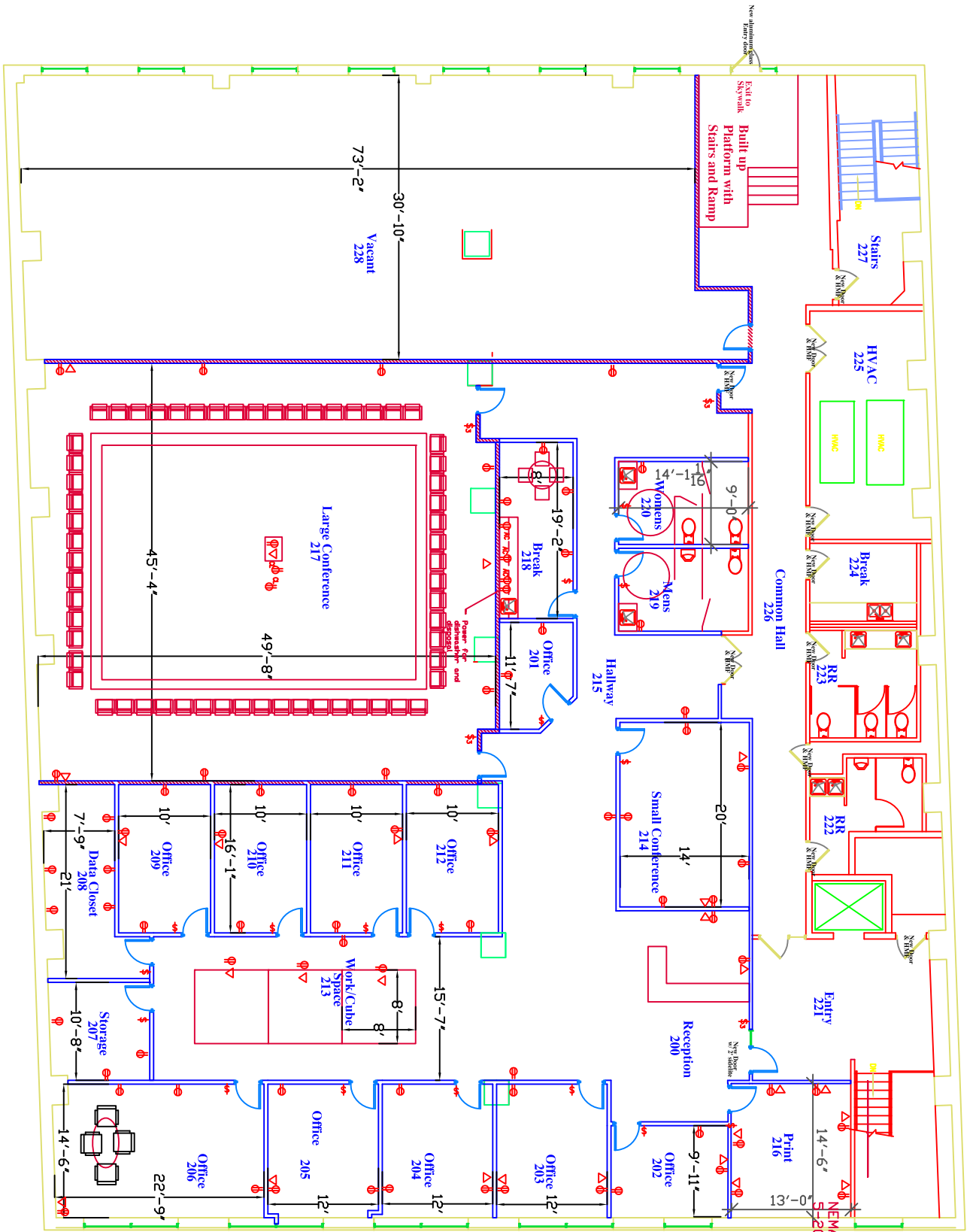
MPO staff will provide additional information at the July 21, 2011, meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Todd Ashby, tashby@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075



420 Watson Powell
 Second Level
 7/6/11

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 12

ISSUE:

REPORT: Presentation of the Transportation Management Association's (TMA) Mode Choice Survey results and the June Rest Your Car program's performance.

BACKGROUND:

The TMA commissioned a Mode Choice Transportation Study in Spring 2011. This study's goal was to gather statistical data from commuters in the metropolitan area to determine the modal split of the commute to work. The preliminary findings of this study are included in this agenda packet's supplemental materials.

The TMA's Rest Your Car program is a volunteer-based program that allows commuters to track trips made using alternatives to single-occupant vehicles. Tables and figures summarizing the performance of the TMA Rest Your Car program through June 2011 are included on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

CONTACT:

Glenn Lyons, glyons@downtowndesmoines.com
(515) 286-4932; and,
Dana Conn, dconn@drivetimesdesmoines.org
(515) 286-4969.

TMA Rest Your Car Performance Report

TABLE 1 Rest Your Car Program Performance through June 2011

	February 2011	March 2011	April 2011	May 2011	June 2011	Calendar Year to Date
Total Miles Reported	426,986	486,714	490,488	480,148	454,480	2,782,182
Total Reports Made	9,989	11,573	11,769	11,648	11,062	66,617
Total Persons Reporting	1,031	1,041	1,134	1,141	1,088	6,447
Average Miles/Report	42.7	42.1	41.7	41.2	41.1	41.8
New Members	30	63	71	61	38	298

Source: Transportation Management Association, 2011.

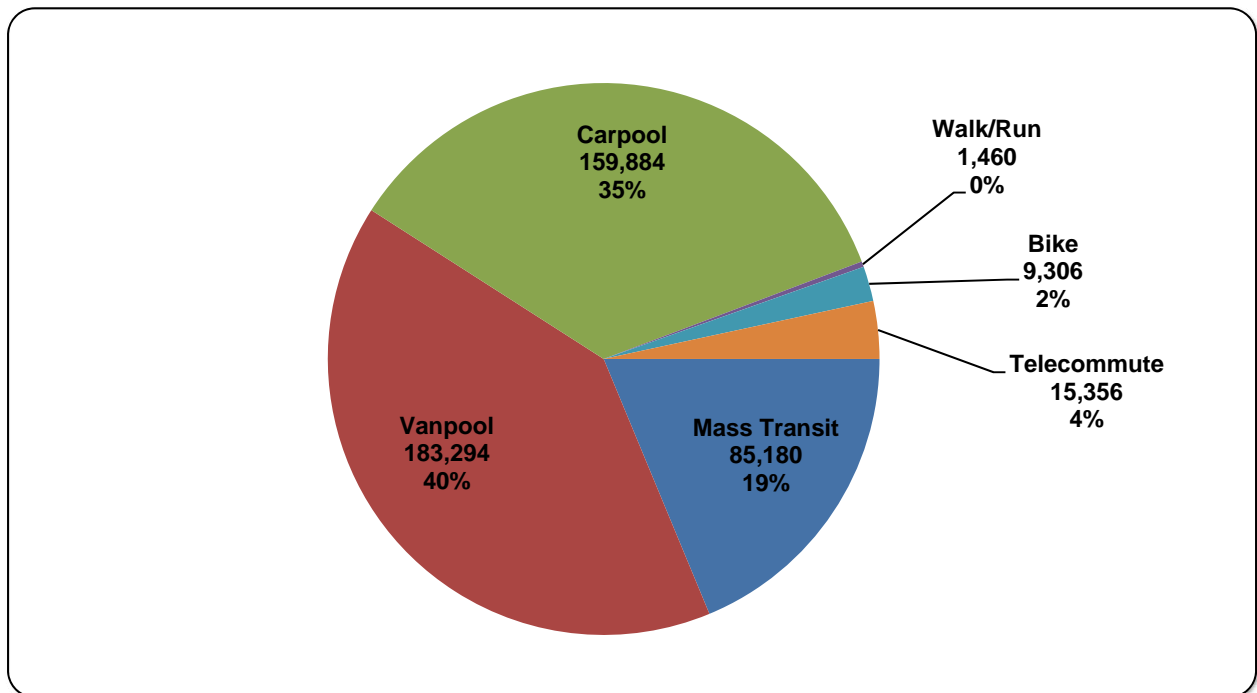


FIGURE 1 Rest Your Car Miles Reported by Commute Type, June 2011

Source: Transportation Management Association, 2011.

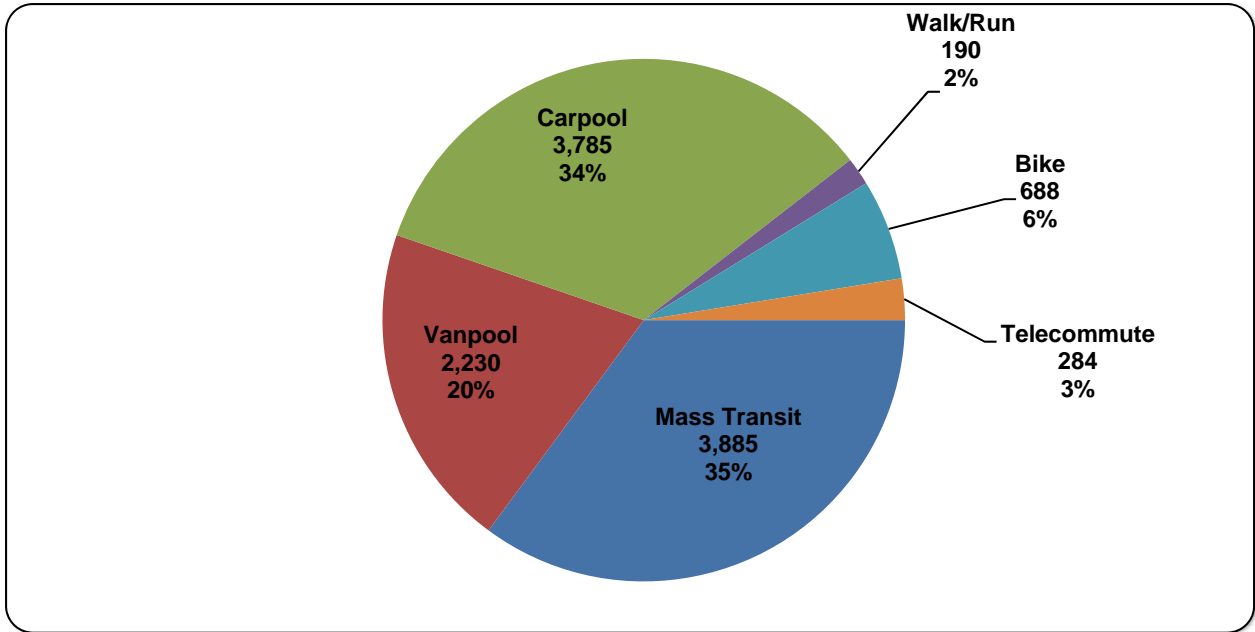


FIGURE 2 Rest Your Car Reports by Commute Type, June 2011

Source: Transportation Management Association, 2011.

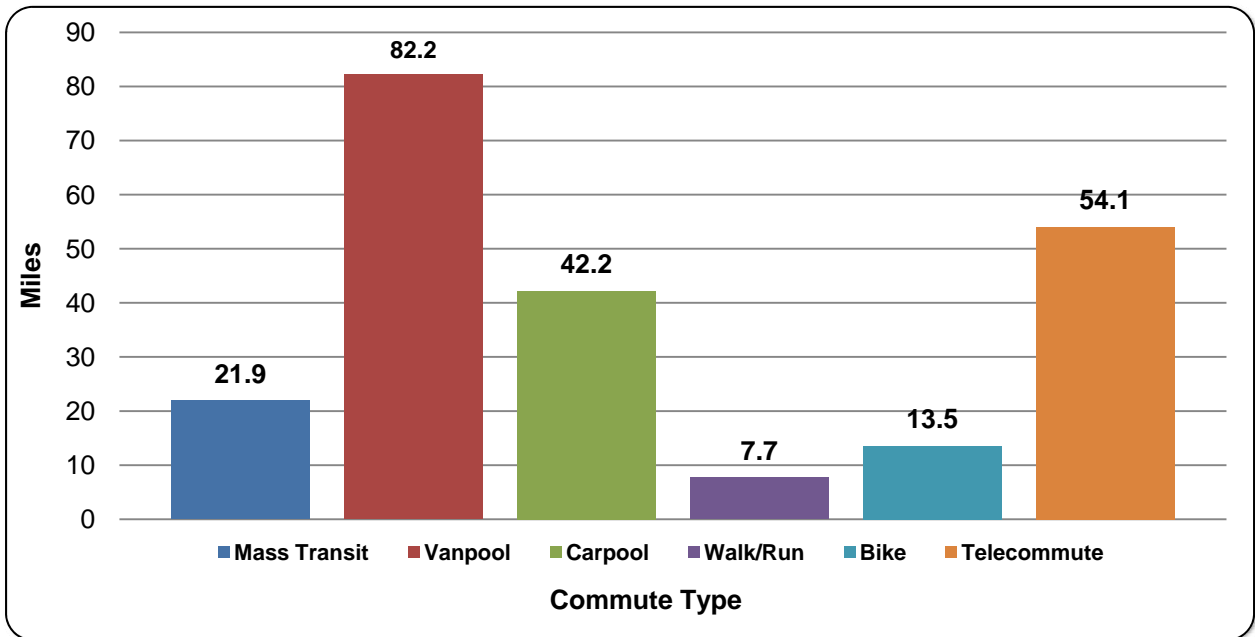


FIGURE 3 Average Round Trip Commute Distance by Commute Type, June 2011

Source: Transportation Management Association, 2011.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 13

ISSUE:

INFORMATION: Brief report on plans for a transportation event with Congressman Leonard Boswell in August.

BACKGROUND:

Congressman Leonard Boswell plans to meet with constituents in August to discuss transportation issues affecting the region. On July 6, 2011, the MPO staff met with Congressman Boswell's staff to discuss organizing an event around the visit. Through this meeting, it was determined that August 18, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., prior to the MPO Policy Committee meeting, would be a suitable time to hold an event with local transportation stakeholders.

The roundtable event would be approximately an hour long consisting of brief presentations by Congressman Boswell and representatives from the private and public sector. The remaining time will be a question and answer session.

The event will spotlight transportation challenges and opportunities facing the region in the coming years, including transportation authorization. The event would also provide an opportunity to focus on two key bills that have been introduced in Congress:

H.R. 2091: Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act of 2011 – Introduced June 2, 2011 by Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA). On June 2, 2011, the bill was referred to the *House Committee on Ways and Means*.

H.R. 1780: Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011 – Introduced May 5, 2011 by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA). On May 6, 2011, the bill was referred to the *House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's* subcommittee on *Highways and Transit*. (The MPO staff notes that the *Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011* was also introduced in the Senate as *S.1056* by Sen. Thomas Harkin (D-IA) on May 24, 2011).

The key participants in this event would include MPO member governments and agencies, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, the Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable, the Freight Roundtable, and the Greater Des Moines Partnership. The event would be open to other organizations with an interest in transportation issues, as well as the general public.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #208; and,
Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #202.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 14

INFORMATION:

INFORMATION: Brief report of the Iowa Department of Transportation State Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently updating the state transportation plan, titled *Iowa in Motion – Planning Ahead 2040*. The Iowa DOT has posted some initial draft materials on its website, www.iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/state.html and is accepting comments on the draft materials. Additional draft materials will continually be released for review and comment.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #202.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 15

INFORMATION:

INFORMATION: Brief report of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Monitoring Network Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 2011 Air Monitoring Network Plan is available for review and comment at www.iowadnr.gov/air/news/articles/11jun02.html. The plan will assist the Iowa DNR monitor the quality of Iowa's air. The plan is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Bethany Wilcoxon, bwilcoxon@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #203.

Agenda Report

MPO Policy Committee

July 2011
Item No. 16

INFORMATION:

INFORMATION: Presentation of the June 2011 Progress Report.

BACKGROUND:

The monthly Progress Report is a summary of work performed by the MPO staff. The June 2011 Progress Report is included in this agenda packet's supplemental items.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Stephanie Ripperger, sripperger@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075, extension #206.