



Upcoming Events

June 02 | MPO Transportation Technical Committee
9:30 A.M.
Des Moines Botanical Center

June 08 | Traffic Management Advisory Committee
1:30 P.M.
MPO Meeting Room

June 15 | Executive Committee
11:30 A.M.
MPO Meeting Room

June 21 | Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable
12:00 P.M.
St. Etienne Room, Armory Building, Des Moines

June 21 | Transportation Advisory Group
2:00 P.M.
MPO Meeting Room

June 23 | MPO Policy Committee
4:00 P.M.
Des Moines Botanical Center

July 07 | MPO Transportation Technical Committee
9:30 A.M.
Des Moines Botanical Center

July 13 | Executive Committee
11:30 A.M.
MPO Meeting Room

July 13 | Traffic Management Advisory Committee
1:30 P.M.
MPO Meeting Room

July 19 | Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable
12:00 P.M.
St. Etienne Room, Armory Building, Des Moines

July 19 | Transportation Advisory Group
2:00 P.M.
MPO Meeting Room

July 21 | MPO Policy Committee
4:00 P.M.
Des Moines Botanical Center

Visit the MPO website at www.dmampo.org/ for more information.

LOCAL LEADERS MEET WITH CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

In May, more than 170 central Iowa business, civic, and regional community leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's 32nd annual advocacy trip. These local leaders presented a public policy agenda focused on transportation, economic development, business climate, quality of life, taxes, health care, education, energy, immigration, trade, homeland security, and other key issues. The group presented six priority projects for transportation appropriations, including:

- Southeast Connector Extension (City of Des Moines)
- Grand Avenue Bridge Reconstruction (City of Des Moines)
- Interstate 80 Interchange at U.S. Highway 65 Reconstruction and Side Roads (Iowa Department of Transportation)
- Northwest 66th Avenue Reconstruction and Kempton Bridge Replacement (Polk County)
- Southwest Connector Construction (City of West Des Moines)
- Des Moines [Principal] Riverwalk (City of Des Moines)

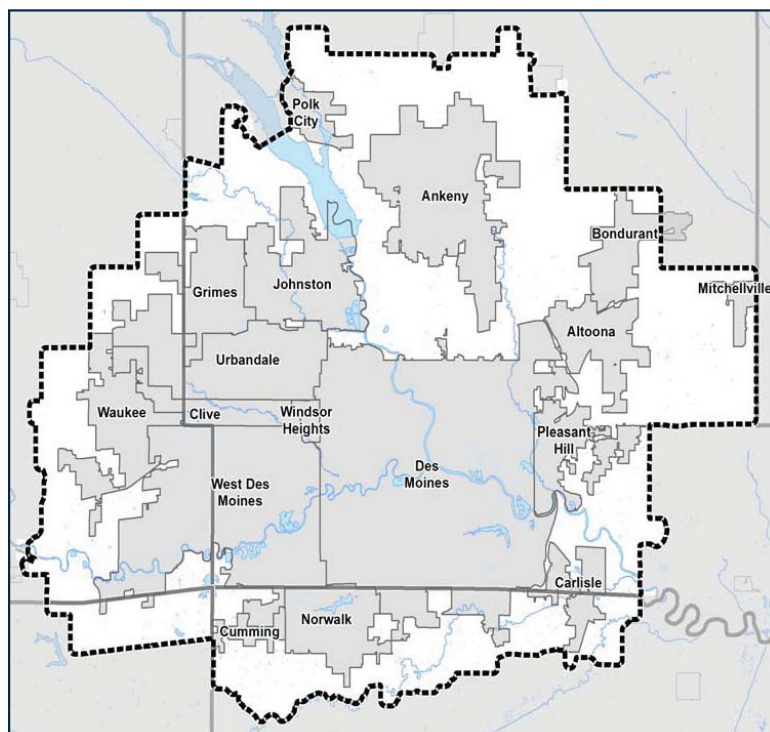
The group also discussed bringing passenger rail to central Iowa and the designation of a new interstate highway to promote economic development along the U.S. Highway 65 and Iowa Highway 5 corridor. Additionally, the group discussed the regional plan for sustainable development and initiatives of the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Agency (DART), including its long-range transit plan and the groundbreaking ceremony for its new transit facility. The facility will be located south of Cherry Street between 6th Avenue and 7th Street in downtown Des Moines. Officials hope the new \$21 million facility will help transform public transportation in greater Des Moines.

At right, Congressman Leonard Boswell meets with MPO General Counsel Jonathan Wilson and MPO Executive Director Todd Ashby.



PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY UPDATE

The MPO staff is working with the MPO's Transportation Technical Committee Planning Subcommittee to update the metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary. The MPA is required to include the area anticipated to be urbanized within a twenty year horizon. However, a portion of Bondurant's existing corporate limits already extend beyond the MPA. Any other necessary adjustments to the boundary also will be considered during this process.



The MPA currently encompasses 542 square miles and includes the cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Cumming, Des Moines, Grimes, Johnston, Mitchellville, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights.

STP, STP TE FUNDING AWARDS ADJUSTED

Each year, the MPO receives funding targets from the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) in order to allocate funds appropriately. Two programs for which the MPO allocates funds are the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Surface Transportation Program Transportation Enhancement (STP TE). The STP is a federal-aid highway funding program that funds a broad range of surface transportation capital needs, including many roads. The STP TE is a federal-aid funding program that supports transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal transportation system.

On April 19th, the Iowa DOT notified the MPO that the funding targets for the STP and STP TE for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2013-2015 had been reduced. The reduction is in response to insight that future obligations for the STP and STP TE will need to be balanced with Highway Trust Fund revenues.

The STP targets for FFY 2013-2015 decreased to \$7,865,000, while the STP TE targets for the same years decreased to \$542,000. As a result of this reduction, the MPO STP Funding Subcommittee recommended a percent reduction for projects slated to receive funding in FFY 2012-2015.

MPO FAST FACTS

The MPO staff compiles member governments' future land use components of their respective comprehensive planning documents to develop a generalized future land use map. The last map was created during the development of the *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*. The MPO staff currently is in the process of compiling this information, which will be a building block for the regional plan for sustainable development. Please visit the MPO website to view the generalized existing land use map and stay tuned for the updated generalized future land use map!



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If you have questions, comments, concerns, or requests regarding any article found in this newsletter, please contact the MPO staff.

If you wish to have MPO staff present to your group or association, please contact the MPO office.

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ALTOONA • ANKENY • BONDURANT • CARLISLE • CLIVE • DALLAS COUNTY • DES MOINES • DART
 GRIMES • JOHNSTON • MITCHELLVILLE • NORWALK • PLEASANT HILL • POLK CITY • POLK COUNTY
 URBANDALE • WARREN COUNTY • WAUKEE • WEST DES MOINES • WINDSOR HEIGHTS

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE PLANNING EFFORTS PROGRESS

The MPO-led consortium is progressing in its work on a project funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*. The \$2 million grant will be utilized to create a regional plan for sustainable development, which will address housing, transportation, land use, environmental, and economic development issues for the MPO's planning area.

A consultant team led by Wallace Roberts and Todd (WRT) has been hired to assist with the project. The team also includes PlaceMatters, Farr Associates, RDG Planning and Design, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Constructive Technologies Group, Inc., the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and ETC Institute. Working in collaboration with the consultant team, the consortium has developed a five phase work plan, shown below. Completion of the project is expected in November 2013. The first phase, project initiation, already is underway. Please visit www.dmampo.org/sustainability.html for the latest news.



THE ROUNDTABLE RUNDOWN

This feature highlights the issues that the MPO's roundtables are discussing. All of these meetings are open to the public. Please visit the MPO website for meeting information.

Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable: Over the last few months, this roundtable has discussed how to assess and evaluate trails to meet the new Department of Justice rules allowing the use of power-driven mobility devices on trails. The group also has strategized to brand central Iowa as the "trails capital of the world," has updated bicycle and pedestrian facilities to identify and prioritize system gaps, and has promoted bike month and bike to work week.

Public Transportation Roundtable: Most recently, the Public Transportation Roundtable has discussed passenger rail, intercity bus accommodations, the passenger transportation plan, and a mobility manager for central Iowa. A mobility manager would coordinate transportation services among customer groups, service providers, and funding agencies.

Stakeholders Working Group: During its last meeting, the Stakeholders Working Group heard presentations about brownfields. Brownfields are sites where resale, redevelopment, and reuse have been hindered by environmental concerns, whether real or perceived. An example of a brownfield may be a former gas station, petroleum bulk plant, fertilizer warehouse, or a vacant industrial plant or factory. Both the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offer grants to redevelop brownfields.

TRAIL UPDATES UNDERWAY

The MPO's *Connect: Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* states that the Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable will "establish a process to update governments and agencies on new trail developments and connections to the state and regional trail system." In April, the MPO staff began to update trail maps to include any projects in the metropolitan area that were included in 2011 capital improvement documents. Such projects include trails, bike lanes, and other similar bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The trail updates will allow local stakeholders to track the progress of connecting gaps and completing trails within the central Iowa trail system.

WHAT'S NEW?

- The MPO again is collaborating with 1000 Friends of Iowa and several other entities to host a sustainable planning conference. This year's event, scheduled for June 28th in Perry, will focus on "building what we have." Roger Millar, Director of Smart Growth America's Leadership Institute, will provide the keynote address. To register, please visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org or contact the MPO.
- The U.S. Department of Justice released a new regulation under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) that permits persons with mobility disabilities to use power-driven mobility devices on trails without restrictions on the device's size or horsepower. The new regulation places limitation on a public entity's ability to inquire about one's disability status or need for a power-driven mobility device. Some are concerned that the new regulation could result in the use of four-wheelers or other all-terrain vehicles on trails by persons that do not have true disabilities. Local governments are reviewing the regulations and are working to develop uniform assessment metrics to ensure local provisions regarding the devices are consistent.
- The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) broke ground on its new transit facility on May 20th. Congressman Leonard Boswell and Mokhtee Ahmad, Federal Transit Administration Region 7 Administrator, and DART Commissioners participated in the event. The facility is expected to be operational as early as the fall of 2012.

For the latest news, please visit the MPO website.

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