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**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Executive Committee**

\*\*\*\*\*

**11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2012**

**Des Moines Area MPO - Mead Conference Room**

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**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 Meeting Minutes** ..... Page 3
  - Approve the June 13, 2012, meeting minutes.
4. **REPORT and VOTE: *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment***..... Page 7
  - Report on the Iowa Department of Transportation’s request to amend the *Horizon Year 2035 Transportation Plan* to add an auxiliary lane to Interstate 235 between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Streets; consider approval.
5. **REPORT and VOTE: *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Final Draft*** ..... Page 9
  - Report on the final draft of the *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program*; consider approval.
6. **REPORT and VOTE: *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Requests***..... Page 10
  - Report on the City of Des Moines’ request to increase FFY 2014 and FFY 2015 Surface Transportation Program funding for their Southeast Connector project and City of Ankeny’s request to increase FFY 2012 Surface Transportation Program funding for their Northeast 36<sup>th</sup> Street project; consider approval.
7. **REPORT and VOTE: *Travel Demand Model Review Contract*** ..... Page 13
  - Report on travel demand model review contract; consider approval.
8. **REPORT: *Transportation Reauthorization Update*** ..... Page 14
  - Report on the approval of a new Transportation Reauthorization Bill (MAP-21) by the federal government and the known and potential impacts to the MPO.
9. **REPORT: *Local Option Sale Tax Information***..... Page 15
  - Report on local option sales tax information submitted by Mike Carver.
10. **REPORT: *TIGER Grant Process***..... Page 16
  - Discussion on future TIGER grant opportunities.

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MPO Executive Committee

11. **REPORT: Transportation Improvement Program Development**..... Page 17
  - Discussion regarding the general purpose of, and attention to, the Transportation Improvement Program’s development.
12. **REPORT: *The Tomorrow Plan* Update**..... Page 18
  - Update on activities related to *The Tomorrow Plan*.
13. **REPORT: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Carryover Balance** ..... Page 20
  - Updated on the projected Fiscal Year 2013 budget carryover balance.
14. **REPORT: US 65/Iowa 5 Interstate Designation**..... Page 21
  - Update on preliminary results from the draft US 65/Iowa 5 interstate designation study.
15. **REPORT: Trail Counting Update**..... Page 22
  - Update on the MPO’s trail counting program.
16. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
17. **VOTE: Approval of the July 26, 2012, MPO Agenda**
18. **Next Meeting Date**
  - Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 11:30 a.m., MPO Office – Mead Conference Room.
19. **Adjournment**

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

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July 2012  
Item No. 3

**ISSUE: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

VOTE: Consider approval of the June 13, 2012, MPO Executive Committee meeting minutes.

**BACKGROUND:**

The minutes of the June 13, 2012, MPO Executive Committee meeting are enclosed on the following pages.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes of the June 13, 2012, MPO Executive Committee meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Jennifer Ratcliff, [jratcliff@dmampo.org](mailto:jratcliff@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Executive Committee  
11:39 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2012  
Des Moines Area MPO Meeting Room  
Des Moines, Iowa**

The MPO Executive Committee held a meeting at 11:39 a.m., on June 13, 2012, in the MPO Meeting Room. Before the meeting, the MPO staff sent agenda packets to the MPO Executive Committee's representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office at 4:10 p.m., on June 8, 2012. **The fiscal year-to-date publication cost of meeting minutes for the MPO: \$2114.56. 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.**

**Members Present:**

Tom Hockensmith, Polk County  
Tom Armstrong, City of Grimes  
Paula Dierenfeld, City of Johnston  
Robert Mahaffey, City of Des Moines  
Angela Connolly, Polk County  
Ted Ohmart, City of West Des Moines

**Members Absent:**

Chris Coleman, City of Des Moines

**Others Present:**

Mike Clayton, Iowa Department of  
Transportation\*

**Staff Present:**

Todd Ashby, Executive Director  
Stephanie Muller, Executive Administrator  
Jonathan Wilson, MPO General Counsel  
Dylan Mullenix, Principal Transportation  
Planner  
Nathan Goldberg, Senior Transportation Planner  
Luke Parris, Associate Transportation Planner  
Bethany Wilcoxon, Associate Transportation  
Planner

\* Non-voting Representative

**1. Call to Order**

MPO Vice-Chair Tom Hockensmith called the June 13, 2012, meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the June 7, 2012, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Committee meeting agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the May 18, 2012, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Transportation Planning Memorandum of Understanding**

*(Paula Dierenfeld arrives at 11:40 am)*

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding between the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority and the MPO for transportation planning activities.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Federal Fiscal Years 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification Request Draft**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification Request Draft*.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification Request**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve requests made by the City of Ankeny to move the Surface Transportation Enhancement funding for the Gay Lea Wilson Trail to earlier years within the *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program*.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Executive Director Succession Plan**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 7.

**8. MPO Employee Handbook**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 8.

**9. Long-Range Transportation Plan Update**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 9.

**10. Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Carryover Balance**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 10.

**11. Travel Demand Model Review**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 11.

**12. *The Tomorrow Plan Update***

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 12.

**13. May Subcommittee Meeting Summaries**

MPO staff presented; discussion only on item 13.

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

**15. Next Meeting Date**

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2012, in the MPO Mead Conference Room.

**16. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Hockensmith adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 4

## **ISSUE: *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment Request***

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the Iowa Department of Transportation's request to amend the *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* to add an auxiliary lane to Interstate 235 westbound between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Streets.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) has requested an amendment to the *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* (HY 2035 MTP) to add an auxiliary lane to Interstate 235 westbound between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Streets with a project cost of \$5,736,000. The Iowa DOT is preparing to advance the project into the upcoming *2013-2017 Five-Year Program*. The project must first be in the MPO's HY 2035 MTP to move forward with construction.

The intent of the project is to alleviate operational problems that result from the merging and diverging of westbound traffic through this segment of Interstate 235, particularly during the afternoon peak travel period, as well as to reduce the number of crashes in the area.

Immediately following is a map illustrating the project location.

The MPO staff held a public input meeting for the proposed amendment on July 10, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. and received no negative comments.

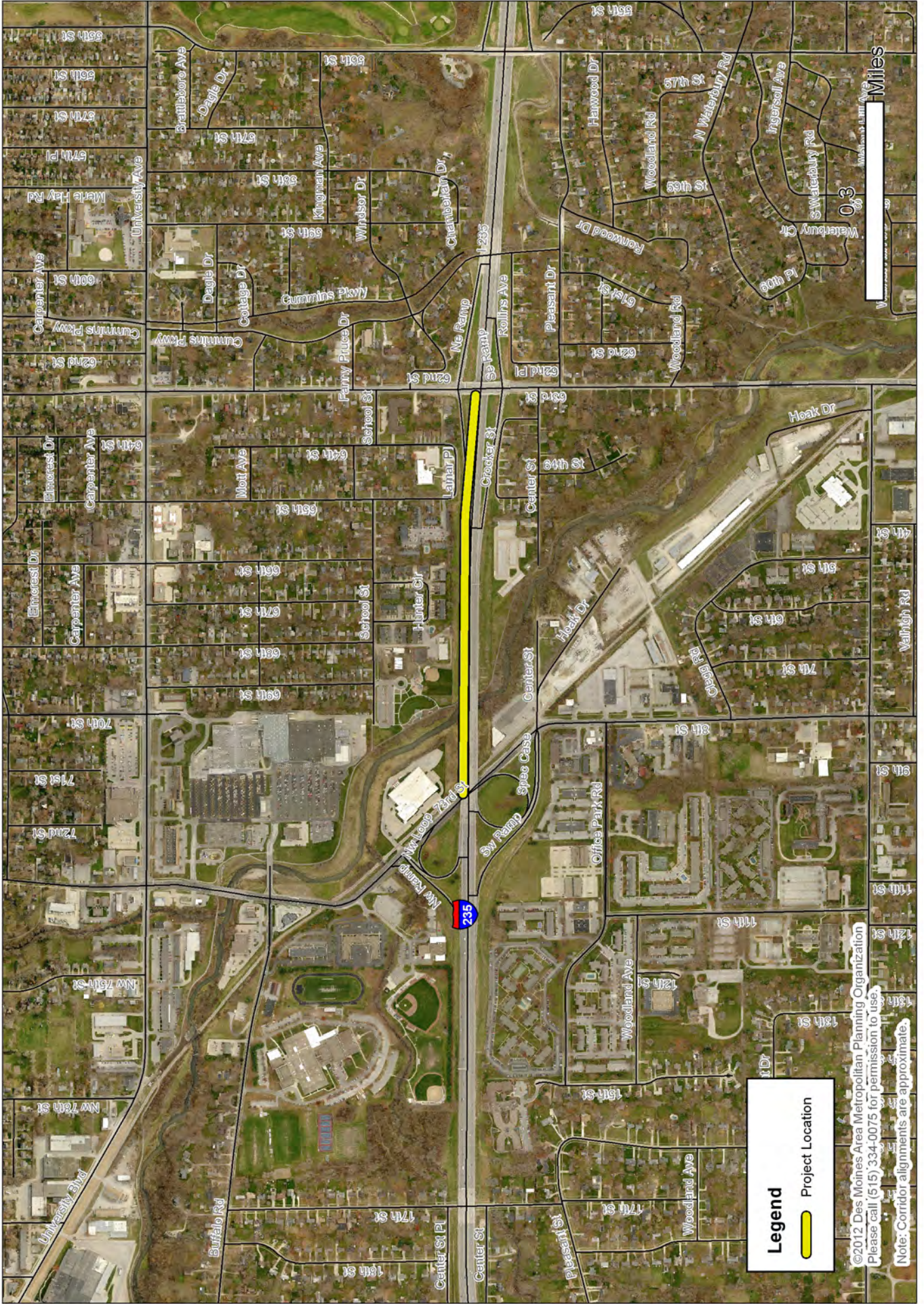
### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend approval of the addition of the westbound I-235 auxiliary lanes between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Streets to the *Horizon Year 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*.

### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Nathan Goldberg, [ngoldberg@dmampo.org](mailto:ngoldberg@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# HY 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment Request Iowa DOT- I-235 Auxiliary Lane





# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 5

## **ISSUE: *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Final Draft***

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the final *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program*.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The MPO staff is required to annually develop a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by updating the current TIP for the MPO. The purpose of the TIP is to list all projects in the MPO Planning Area for which Federal funding is proposed to be used and that are scheduled to begin within a designated time frame of the four federal fiscal years.

The MPO staff requested that MPO member governments and participating agencies review and report any project changes, new projects, or “roll-over” projects programmed in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and/or 2016. Responses from each member government were used to generate the project listing in the FFY 2013-2016 TIP.

The FFY 2013-2016 TIP draft was submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration for review and comment on June 15, 2012. Updates based on these comments were incorporated into the final draft. The final FFY 2013-2016 TIP is due to the Iowa DOT by July 15, 2012.

The MPO staff held a public input meeting for the FFY 2013-2016 TIP draft on July 10, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. and received no negative comments.

The final FFY 2013-2016 TIP is included as a supplemental item to this agenda packet.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend approval of final FFY 2013-2016 TIP.

### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Luke Parris, [lparris@dmampo.org](mailto:lparris@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 6

## **ISSUE: *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Requests***

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of amendment requests to the MPO's *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program*.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Des Moines and the City of Ankeny have requested the following revisions to the *Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program* (FFY 2012-2015 TIP):

Sponsor: City of Des Moines  
Project: Southeast Connector: SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street to SE 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Project Number: NHSX-U-1945(409)—8S-77  
Work Type: Right of way, Grade and Pave, Outside Services Engineering  
Funding: Surface Transportation Program (STP)  
Change: Increase FFY 2014 STP funds to \$2,125,000 and FFY 2015 STP funds to \$3,600,000.  
Revision Type: Amendment

Sponsor: City of Ankeny  
Project: NE 36<sup>th</sup> Street – 200' west of NE Raintree Drive to 900' east of NE Otter Creek Drive  
Work Type: Pavement Rehab/Widening, Bridge Widening  
Funding: Surface Transportation Program (STP)  
Change: Increase FFY 2012 STP funds to \$1,489,000  
Revision Type: Amendment

The MPO staff notes the two amendments are necessary due to the amount of funding restored to the projects as a result of the reallocation of FFY 2012-2015 STP funds that the MPO approved in May. The two amendments are subject to MPO approval and a public comment period.

The MPO staff held a public input meeting for the proposed amendment on July 10, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. and received no negative comments.

Included, immediately following, are maps showing the project locations.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

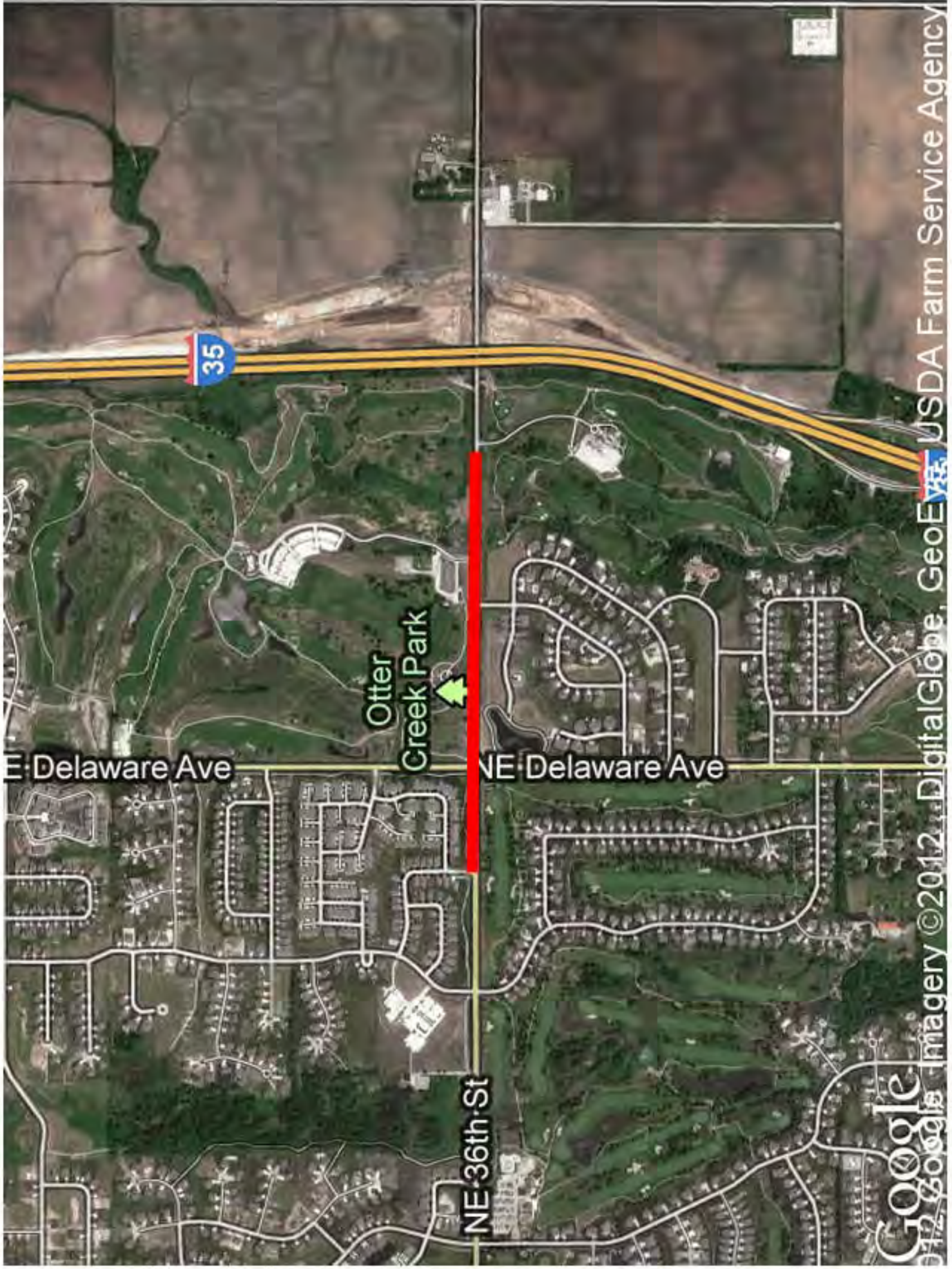
Recommend approval of the requested amendments to the FFY 2012-2015 TIP

### **STAFF CONTACTS:**

Luke Parris, [lparris@dmampo.org](mailto:lparris@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.



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# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 7

## **ISSUE: Travel Demand Model Review Contract**

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the travel demand model review contract.

### **BACKGROUND:**

As noted in the *Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program* (FY 2013 UPWP), the MPO staff will conduct a review of the travel demand model to identify any necessary updates to the MPO's modeling procedures. This review is expected to take place between July and December 2012, and is a critical step in preparing for the next long-range transportation plan's development.

The MPO staff plans to retain the consulting firm HNTB to provide this review and to assist MPO staff in making necessary updates to the model. HNTB has prior experience with the MPO's travel demand model in their work on the *DART Forward 2035 Plan*.

The MPO staff has worked with the MPO's legal counsel and HNTB to prepare a contract for the services. A copy of the draft contract is included in the agenda's supplemental items. The total contract amount is not to exceed \$49,958.

### **FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The cost of HNTB's service is proposed at \$49,958. The MPO staff anticipated the travel demand model review costs when developing the FY 2013 budget and also has received a financial contribution from the Transportation Management Association to help fund the project.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the MPO Executive Director to sign the final contract with HNTB upon the final contract's review and approval of MPO staff and the MPO's legal counsel.

### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 8

## **ISSUE: *Transportation Reauthorization Update***

REPORT: Report on the approval of a new Transportation Reauthorization Bill (MAP-21) by the federal government and the known and potential impacts to the MPO.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Congress approved a transportation reauthorization bill on June 29, 2012, and the bill was signed by President Obama on July 6, 2012. The newly passed transportation reauthorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21), will expire on October 1, 2014. The funding levels are fairly close to current levels at approximately \$54.6 billion annually. The distribution of these funds maintains the current 80/20 split for highways (\$40 billion) and transit (\$10 billion).

Bill highlights include:

- Changes to the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program. This program is now called Transportation Alternatives and merges several programs not previously included in TE, such as Safe Routes to Schools and Recreational Trails, into one category and will now be entirely distributed through competitive grants;
- Increases the allocation of highway funding to MPO's from 12.5% to 14%;
- Changes the distribution of sub-allocated Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to 50% by population and 50% to the state (from 62.5% by population and 37.5% to the state);
- Provides \$1.9 billion each year to the New Starts program, which is critical to Bus Rapid Transit projects and allows more projects to be funded;
- Maintains the previous 50,000 population threshold for MPOs;
- Requires long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs to be developed through a performance-drive, outcome based approach; and,
- Streamlines the project delivery and environmental review process.

The MPO staff will continue to work toward determining the impacts to specific funding levels and keep you advised as more information is gathered.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

## **STAFF CONTACT:**

Nathan Goldberg, [ngoldberg@dmampo.org](mailto:ngoldberg@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 9

## **ISSUE: Local Option Sales Tax Information**

REPORT: Review of information submitted to the Executive Committee by Mike Carver.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Mike Carver, City of Urbandale, has requested that the MPO examine the potential of adopting a local option sales tax to help generate additional revenue for transportation projects. At the June 2012 MPO meeting, Mr. Carver provided staff with information he had researched on local option sales tax with the request it be considered by the Executive Committee. A copy of the information submitted by Mr. Carver is included as a supplemental item.

## **FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Reviewing the information submitted by Mr. Carver and information available from the Iowa Department of Revenue, MPO staff estimates that, using Fiscal Year 2011 revenue figures, a 1% sales tax would raise approximately \$75 million annually for MPO member governments.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

## **STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

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July 2012  
Item No. 10

**ISSUE: TIGER Grant Process**

REPORT: Discussion on future TIGER grant opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:**

This item is to allow for continued discussion that began at the June 2012 MPO meeting regarding the MPO's support of future TIGER grants. The June MPO meeting's discussion was in response to news that the Southeast Connector project had received a TIGER grant, while the Northwest 66<sup>th</sup> Street/Kempton Bridge project did not.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075



# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 11

## **ISSUE: Transportation Improvement Program Development**

REPORT: Discussion regarding the general purpose of, and attention to, the Transportation Improvement Program's development.

## **BACKGROUND:**

This item is to allow for continued discussion that began at the June 2012 MPO meeting regarding the development of the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The discussion at June's meeting concerned whether the MPO's TIP included the appropriate amount of rigor when including and prioritizing projects, as well as the purpose the TIP plays throughout a project's development.

The MPO staff will review the TIP's development process, federal TIP requirements, and offer suggestions on how to improve the TIP.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

## **STAFF CONTACT:**

Luke Parris, [lparris@dmampo.org](mailto:lparris@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 12

## ISSUE: *The Tomorrow Plan Update*

REPORT: Update on activities related to *The Tomorrow Plan*.

## BACKGROUND:

### General Update

The planning process is in-between phases 3 and 4 of a five-phase process. The team is drafting alternative growth scenarios, and the next step is to draft the preferred future scenario. Once these steps are complete, efforts will focus on the development of regional policies and guidelines for local governments, non-profit organizations, and businesses to consider when conducting their own independent planning efforts. By providing this toolkit, *The Tomorrow Plan* will simultaneously allow a regional vision to be met and ensure decisions are made locally.

The planning team is working to finalize details of Choose Tomorrow, the next outreach event that will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2012, at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. The open house will run from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. At the event, attendees will:

- Learn to compare and interpret scenarios and indicator measures, reacting and providing input for the preferred scenario;
- Learn about and compare Design My DSM results, reacting and providing input for the preferred scenario;
- Reacting to the draft guiding principles; and,
- Learning about how the plan transitions to implementation and how people can get involved in future stages;

Shelley Poticha, HUD's Director for the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, will be the featured speaker at the event. Other community groups also will be part of the August 2, 2012, event.

**08.02.2012**

We've heard your ideas, hopes, and aspirations for the future.  
Now, start learning more about how we get there.  
Choose Greater Des Moines.  
Choose progress.

**CHOOSE TOMORROW.**

The Tomorrow Plan Open House  
4:30 to 7:00 pm  
World Food Prize Hall of Laureates  
100 Locust Street, Des Moines

[www.thetomorrowplan.com](http://www.thetomorrowplan.com)

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

## **In-Kind Contributions**

Per the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Consortium Agreement*, the Consortium members pledged to contribute in-kind professional staff time in support of The Tomorrow Plan. The agreement states that, "If any signatory fails to fulfill its responsibilities (i.e., its commitment, as stated under *Roles & Responsibilities of Signatories to this Agreement*), the entity will be required to tender an equivalent amount in a cash payment to the MPO in order to meet its share of the match/leverage amount, as noted on page 1 of the HUD 1044 Continuation Sheet."

To date, the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines have completed their in-kind contributions. Other entities' reported contributions, as of July 11, range from 0% to 51% with an average of 14%.

## **Regional Analysis of Impediments**

As part of planning process for The Tomorrow Plan, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring the development of a Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to assess fair housing issues in the metro area. The Regional AI has a broad scope that encompasses issues of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status, and disability. In addition to developing the Regional AI, HUD requires that the findings be utilized by the Steering Committee to inform the recommendations of *The Tomorrow Plan*.

The MPO staff worked with the City of Des Moines and City of West Des Moines to develop a strategy for the completion of the Regional AI. As part of their "in-kind" contributions to *The Tomorrow Plan*, the City of Des Moines has contracted with Iowa State University to assist in the development of the Regional AI. During June 2012, Iowa State University conducted background research, identified data needs, and began preliminary data collection.

A working group consisting of MPO staff, City of Des Moines staff, City of West Des Moines staff, and Iowa State University staff met on June 27, 2012 to review preliminary data and coordinate next steps in the development of the Regional AI. Next steps include the finalization of quantitative data for the region and collecting qualitative information from each locality in the Planning Area. The MPO staff will continue to provide updates on the development of the Regional AI and will request assistance from local governments on reviewing data and providing input on the outcomes throughout the development of the Regional AI.

Proceeding forward, the MPO staff will be requesting assistance to gather data on the following topics needed to conduct the Regional AI:

- Location of Section 8 housing;
- Location of temporary housing;
- Location of transitional housing;
- Location of homeless camps housing; and,
- Location of housing for persons with disabilities.

Additionally, the MPO staff will work with Iowa State University to schedule meetings with localities to discuss the qualitative analysis for the Regional AI. Local governments will be combined into sub-groups for the purpose of these meetings.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

## **STAFF CONTACT:**

Bethany Wilcoxon, [bwilcoxon@dmampo.org](mailto:bwilcoxon@dmampo.org); and,  
Luke Parris, [lparris@dmampo.org](mailto:lparris@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 13

## ISSUE: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Carryover Balance

REPORT: Update on the projected Fiscal Year 2013 budget carryover balance.

### BACKGROUND:

The Fiscal Year 2013 budget carryover balances for federal and local funds have changed from the balances discussed at the June 2012 Executive Committee meeting. The reason for these changes involves funds used to pay for the US 65/Iowa 5 Interstate Designation Study conducted by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The Iowa DOT funded half of the study, with the other half coming from assessments to the Purple Hearth Highway consortium members. To expedite the study, however, the Iowa DOT and the MPO agreed to pay for the entire study up front. This arrangement included the MPO allowing the Iowa DOT to deduct half of the study's costs from the MPO's Fiscal Year 2013 federal funding allocation. This reduction in federal funding would be made whole by the assessments from the Purple Hearth Highway consortium members resulting in no net cost to the MPO. This funding agreement was not accounted for in the MPO's *Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (FY 2013 UPWP)* and budget.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

\$50,000 in federal funds will be deducted from the MPO's federal carryover balance. At the time of the FY 2013 budget's development, \$17,600 of the local contributions had been paid to the MPO and this figure was already included in the local carryover balance. \$32,400 in local contributions was paid after the budget's development and will be added to the local carryover balance. The table below summarizes the changes to the MPO's Fiscal Year 2013 carryover balance.

	Old Balance	New Balance
<b>Federal Carryover</b>	\$96,172	\$46,172
<b>Local Carryover</b>	\$401,953	\$434,349
<b>Total</b>	\$498,125	\$480,521

### RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

### STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 14

## **ISSUE: US 65/Iowa 5 Interstate Designation**

REPORT: Brief report on initial results from the draft US 65/Iowa 5 interstate designation study.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed draft report documenting a planning-level analysis performed on the US 65/Iowa 5 corridor between the I-35 and I-80 system interchanges. The analysis was completed to satisfy Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements for identifying and documenting the need for potential improvements to meet design standards for interstate roadways. The study addresses issues such as geometric conditions of the existing roadway, safety analysis, farm gate access points and slow moving vehicle provisions, future traffic analysis, and cost estimates and alternatives to rectify identified issues.

Study highlights include:

- **Roadway Geometry:** Initial results from the study indicate several locations along the corridor that do not comply with interstate-level criteria for grades and super-elevations. However, these concerns could be mitigated with a maximum speed limit of 65 miles per hour rather than 70 miles per hour;
- **Median Width:** Certain areas of the corridor do not meet the minimum 50 foot median width. However, this could be mitigated with the installation of median cable barriers;
- **Farm Access:** To accommodate existing farm access points, the study recommends providing gravel access roads to connect affected parcels to the existing local road system; and,
- **Signage:** Existing signage along the corridor would be required to meet federal interstate signing standards.

The study also outlines remaining steps required for interstate designation. In addition to the DOT's study, the FHWA must sign off on design exceptions for identified geometric deficiencies on the existing corridor, NEPA environmental documentation must be prepared, and a formal request for designation must be made by the Iowa DOT.

The Iowa DOT will be releasing a final version of the study which may include additional information and cost estimates. The MPO staff will provide the final study when it is completed.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075.

# Agenda Report

MPO Executive Committee

July 2012  
Item No. 15

## **ISSUE: Trail Counting Update**

REPORT: Update on the MPO's trail counting program.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In October of 2011, the MPO purchased twenty infrared trail counters from TRAFx Ltd. The MPO staff began distributing the counters to its members in April 2012. The following member jurisdictions currently have trial counters in the field:

- Ankeny – 2 counters
- Urbandale – 4 counters
- Windsor Heights – 2 counters
- Available – 12 counters

The counters are working well and feedback from member jurisdictions has been positive. The current data being collect will develop a baseline that can be utilized to compare future trail usage.

The MPO staff is continuing to promote the trail counter program at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable and is anticipating more interest once the data begins to be reported to the committee.

If you are interested in checking out trail counters for your community please contact the MPO staff for the request form.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

## **STAFF CONTACT:**

Zach Young, [zyoung@dmampo.org](mailto:zyoung@dmampo.org);  
(515) 334-0075