



NOTICE OF MEETING

REVISED AGENDA

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Traffic Management Advisory Committee (TMAC)**

—
2:00 p.m., Monday, November 30, 2015
Des Moines Area MPO Burnham Conference Room

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. **Call To Order**
2. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**
3. **REPORT: Iowa DOT Statewide Traffic Incident Management Plan** Page 2
 - Overview of the Iowa DOT's new Traffic Incident Management Plan.
4. **REPORT: Water Trails & Greenways Plan**..... Page 3
 - Discussion of guiding principles and research items for the regional water trails and greenways plan.
5. **REPORT: MPO's Congestion Management Process** Page 4
 - Discussion regarding the development of the MPO's Congestion Management Process.
6. **REPORT: Des Moines Metro Traffic Coordination Effort** Page 6
 - Report on several communities' efforts to coordinate on traffic issues.
7. **REPORT: Meeting Time/Dates and Discussion Topics** Page 7
 - Discussion on what future topics the committee can discuss.
8. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest**
9. **Next Meeting Date: TBD**
10. **Adjournment**

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.

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November 2015
Item No. 3

ISSUE: Iowa DOT Des Moines Traffic Incident Management Plan

REPORT: Review of the metro's traffic incident management plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa DOT has updated the Des Moines Metro's traffic incident management plan, which hasn't been revised in several years. Eight of the major urban areas of Iowa all have similar plans. Metro-wide plans cover topics such as how to use detours, when to use Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) messaging, collecting emergency contacts, etc.

Local officials, such as engineers, public works officials, fire departments and law enforcement, were all involved in creating the new plan. Having and using up to date plans is important for first responders when responding to major incidents.

Representatives from the Iowa DOT will present an updated version of the metro plan and give a presentation on how it works.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075.

November 2015
Item No. 4

ISSUE: Water Trails

REPORT: Discussion on guiding principles and research items for the regional water trails and greenways plan.

BACKGROUND:

Rivers become known as water trails when people paddle on them and begin to organize amenities to support paddling, such as parking areas and launches. Water trails, in turn, also support uses beyond paddling. River edge amenities also engage anglers, those relaxing near the river, hunters, and students studying the ecosystem. Rivers also have a substantial impact on the Iowa economy.

In order to promote central Iowa's rivers, the MPO kicked off the water trails planning effort in late May. Once developed, the plan will provide the region and local governments with a road-map for enhancing citizen experiences in and along the 150 miles of creeks and rivers in central Iowa. In the summer of 2015 the MPO will conduct community visioning and gather public input through an online survey, stakeholder interviews, and paper based surveys. In the fall of 2015 an existing conditions report will be compiled which will include the compiled community input and be a major contribution to the 2016 water trails plan.

This plan will include recommendations for recreational amenity improvements, conservation efforts and programming/marketing initiatives. The first phase of the MPO's work on the water trails plan is to develop an existing conditions report. Staff seeks feedback from the planning community regarding:

- Guiding principles for the whole planning process;
- How to create buy-in from each of the communities for future implementation;
- Challenges and opportunities;
- Research items for the existing conditions report; and,
- Specific uses or amenities you would like to see along the river.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075.

November 2015
Item No. 5

ISSUE: Congestion Management Process

REPORT: Discussion regarding the update of the MPO's *Congestion Management Process*.

BACKGROUND:

MPOs with a population over 200,000 are required to develop a *Congestion Management Process* (CMP) to define the process by which the region will monitor and manage congestion. The MPO last updated its CMP in July 2013 to comply with federal regulations. However, the CMP must be updated to align with *Mobilizing Tomorrow*.

Since the July 2013 CMP's development, Federal guidance has been released placing more emphasis on travel time reliability and delay versus traditional level of service when evaluating congestion issues. As a result, the MPO has access to more sophisticated congestion information, such as INRIX.

MPO staff intends to work with the Traffic Management Advisory Committee, as well as committees such as the Long Range Transportation Committee, to develop the CMP update. MPO staff will provide more information about the update process, as well as discuss ideas for the process at the August 24, 2015 meeting.

Included, immediately following, is a document outlining the parameters for identifying congested roadways.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org; and,
Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075.

Proposed Des Moines Area MPO Congestion Management Metrics and Thresholds

Level 1

To determine potential congestion, roadways will be reviewed to determine their Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS) and Speed as a Percentage of Free Flow Speed. If LOS is below D or the Percent of Free Flow Speed is below 40% then the analysis will move on to the second level. If neither one of those two criterion is met, then the road is determined to not be congested.

| Roadway LOS | Next Level of Analysis |
|-------------|------------------------|
| A – D | No |
| E – F | Yes |

Source: *Mobilizing Tomorrow*

| Percent of Free Flow Speed | Next Level of Analysis |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 100% - 40% | No |
| <40% | Yes |

Source: *Geometric Design of Roads Handbook, 2015*

Level 2

Roadways that pass Level 1 will be reviewed using INRIX data to determine the road’s travel time index and planning time index. The travel time index is an index used to show travel time represented as a percentage of the ideal travel time. A travel time index of 1.0 indicates free flow speed while an index of 1.50 means that on average, it will take a user 50% longer to travel on that road segment.

The planning time index represents the total travel time that should be planned for in order to arrive at ones destination on time 95% of the time. This means the planning time index compares near-worst case travel time to travel in free-flow traffic. A planning time index of 1.60 means that for a 5 minute trip in no traffic, the total time that should be planned for the trip is 8 minutes.

Using the tables below, if a roadway has a combine **8 points or more**, then it is considered **congested**. If it receives 7 points or less then it will be considered not congested.

| Travel Time Index | Points |
|-------------------|--------|
| 0 – 1.30 | 0 |
| 1.301 – 1.50 | 2 |
| 1.501 – 2.00 | 4 |
| 2.001 – 3.00 | 6 |
| >3.000 | 8 |

Source: *Travel Time Study 2013, Mid-America Regional Council Transportation Department*

| Planning Time Index | Points |
|---------------------|--------|
| 0 – 1.30 | 0 |
| 1.301 – 1.50 | 1 |
| 1.501 – 2.00 | 2 |
| 2.001 – 3.00 | 3 |
| >3.000 | 4 |

November 2015
Item No. 6

ISSUE: Des Moines Metro Traffic Coordination Effort

REPORT: Report on several communities' efforts to coordinate on traffic issues.

BACKGROUND:

Five communities in the Des Moines Metro area have been meeting to coordinate efforts in addressing traffic issues. They are formally entering into a 28E agreement to coordinate with each other on issues such as identifying where Internet fiber is located, the benefits of a regional signal coordination effort, etc.

The communities that are involved are Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights. Jim Dickinson with West Des Moines will be here to give an overview of this effort.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075.

ISSUE: Meeting Time and Date

REPORT: Discussion regarding the best time and date to meet.

BACKGROUND:

There are several options available for when and how often the group should meet. Currently the group is scheduled to meet the last Monday of the month at 2:00 PM quarterly. If the group feels that a different date/time/schedule would work best we can make changes to accommodate the group. If we continue on the current schedule, the following would be the next 4 meetings.

| Day | Date |
|--------|-------------------|
| Monday | February 29, 2016 |
| Monday | May 30, 2016 |
| Monday | August 29, 2016 |
| Monday | November 28, 2016 |

Additionally, staff will discuss potential topics for review and what role the committee can will have within the MPO.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
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