



Polk County Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, Chair
R. Todd Ashby, AICP, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Media Contact: Gunnar Olson
515-334-0075 | golson@dmampo.org

The Tomorrow Plan 2015 Speakers Series Announced

National thought leaders on urban design and development will be featured speakers in Greater Des Moines this year as part of The Tomorrow Plan 2015 Speakers Series.

The series touches on a wide range of topics related to creating a high quality of life in metropolitan areas, including street design, walkability, the economic effects of development policies, waterways, and housing and community development. The series is an implementation strategy of The Tomorrow Plan, a plan for the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines, as a resource to community leaders to learn best practices from some of the country's leading thinkers.

The 2015 Speaker Series kicks off with city planner and urban designer **Jeff Speck**, the author of "Walkable City" who advocates internationally for smart growth and sustainable design. He will be joined by Oklahoma City Mayor **Mick Cornett**, who led his city on a diet to lose 1 million pounds and an initiative to design the city to better allow for active transportation such as walking and biking. The event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, 100 Locust St., Des Moines.

Other speakers will include **Joe Gilpin** of Alta Planning + Design; **Michelle McDonough Winters** of the Urban Land Institute and **Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba** of Children's HealthWatch; **Bruce Katz** of the Brookings Institute; **Chris Zimmerman** of Smart Growth America; paddler **Natalie Warren**; artist **Mary Mattingly**; **Charles Marohn** of Strong Towns; and **Joe Minicozzi** of Urban3 LLC. Details are available at www.dmampo.org.

The Tomorrow Plan 2015 Speakers Series is a collaboration of several metro organizations, including the Urban Land Institute, Capital Crossroads, the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Tomorrow Plan is a forward-thinking plan for developing the Greater Des Moines region sustainably over the next 40 years. Adopted in 2014 as a region, the plan is being implemented by local governments and community organizations with support from and facilitation by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. More information is available online at www.thetomorrowplan.com.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. The MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.

Wednesday, March 25 – 7 to 8:30 p.m., World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, 100 Locust St. Des Moines

Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie will be joined by **Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett** and city planner and urban designer **Jeff Speck**. Cornett led his city on a diet to lose 1 million pounds and an initiative to design the city around people, not cars. Speck is the author of “Walkable City” and is an international advocate for smart growth and sustainable design. Organized by the Urban Land Institute Iowa.

Monday, April 13 – 7 to 8:30 p.m., RDG Planning and Design, 301 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Joe Gilpin is a principal with Alta Planning + Design and led the development of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide. He will be part of a panel discussion with **Jeremy Lewis**, executive director of the Des Moines Bicycle Collective, and **Michael Armstrong**, transportation planner with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Organized by the Urban Land Institute Iowa and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Thursday, April 16 – 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Olsen Medical Education Center, Des Moines University, 3200 Grand Ave., Des Moines IA 50312

Michelle McDonough Winters, Visiting Fellow of the Urban Land Institute Terwilliger Center for Housing, and **Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba**, Research and Policy Director for Children’s HealthWatch. The event will also include a panel discussion with **Dr. Angela Franklin**, President of Des Moines University; **Eugene Meyer**, President of the Greater Des Moines Partnership; **Tom Ahart**, Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools; and **Angela Dethlefs-Trettin**, Vice President of Community Investment & Initiatives for the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Organized by the Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

Tuesday, May 5 – 7:30 to 9 a.m., Windsor Heights Community Center, 6900 School Street, Windsor Heights

Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institute will discuss the themes of his book, “The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy.” Katz is the vice president and founding director of the Metropolitan Policy Program. Organized by Capital Crossroads.

Thursday, May 28 – 7:30 to 9 a.m., West Des Moines City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines

Chris Zimmerman, Vice President for Economic Development with Growth America and Director of the Governor’s Institute on Community Design, and **Patrick Lynch**, Research Director for Smart Growth America and Research and Development Manager with the George Washington University Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis. Organized by Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Friday, May 29 – 7:30 to 9 a.m., Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Dr., Des Moines

Natalie Warren, canoeist, educator and co-founder of Wild River Academy who advocates for urban paddling. She and Ann Raiho were the first women to paddle the 2,250 miles from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. Organized by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Saturday, May 30 – 1 p.m., Water Works Park, Des Moines.

Mary Mattingly, a visual artist from Brooklyn, New York, who has been commissioned to install a temporary public art work in Water Works Park; and **Chuck Gipp**, Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Organized by the Water Works Park Foundation and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Tuesday, June 30 – 9:30 to 11 a.m. Windsor Heights Community Center, 6900 School Street, Windsor Heights

Charles Marohn, an engineer and author with Strong Towns, and **Paul Trombino**, Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Organized by the Urban Land Institute Iowa and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Thursday, August 27 – 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., Iowa Downtown Summit, Valley Junction, West Des Moines.

Joe Minicozzi, Principal at Urban3 LLC, a consulting firm that helps communities analyze the relationship between building design and tax production. Organized by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.