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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 27, 2014

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MPO Board Adopts On-Street Bike Feasibility Study

DES MOINES – The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) recently completed study indicates approximately 400 miles of feasible roads for on-street bike facilities. The study provides options for the 17 communities in the region to implement on-street bike facilities, highlighting priority corridors and inter-city connections while considering trails, current and planned bikeways and employment centers.

Changing demographics show that young professionals and baby boomers have a greater interest in living in walkable neighborhoods that are bike-friendly and accessible to multiple transportation options. Many communities experience a spike in bike commuting after bike lanes are implemented. Neighboring cities in the Midwest including Minneapolis and Cedar Rapids have become aware of this change of interest and are being proactive with their efforts to implement extensive on-street bikeway networks. To be marketable and to maintain growth in the region, Greater Des Moines is starting to focus on these demands of the millennial and baby boomer generations.

The intent of the study is to provide possibilities for communities to begin to implement on-street facilities. To determine a road's feasibility for bike infrastructure, the MPO used guidelines from the National Association of City Transportation Officials. Criteria from NACTO included road width, posted travel speed, traffic volumes and street classification. Local streets were not included because speeds and volumes tend to be low enough to be considered bike-friendly. This study provides recommendations for easy, low-cost conversions similar to the Ingersoll Avenue road diet. The options provided in the study are at a macro level. Before communities install facilities, a more detailed on-the-ground analysis needs to be completed. In addition to a map of road options, the report includes best practices in bicycle lane design, standards and policies. To view the report, visit the MPO website [here](#).

The report was funded in part by an Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning grant through the Iowa Economic Development Authority's State Energy Program.

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.