



American Planning Association  
**Iowa Chapter**  
*Making Great Communities Happen.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

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## You're invited: Planners' Bike Ride and Iowa Data Bike Unveiling

The public and members of the media are invited to the Planners' Bike Ride and unveiling of the new Iowa Data Bike.

City, county, and state planners have played an important role in the development of the hundreds of miles of paved trails throughout Iowa, including more than 600 miles in central Iowa. To celebrate these contributions and to highlight the value of active transportation during National Bike Month, the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association organized an 11-mile bike ride where the public can ride alongside and get to know the planners working to improve their communities.

"This event is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and experience the results of the work that city, county, and state planners contribute to the active transportation network," said Ben Champ, APA-Iowa Chapter President.

The event starts with the unveiling of Iowa Data Bike, an initiative of Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in partnership with Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF).

- WHERE:** Event and bike ride start at Carney Marsh Nature Reserve, 580 SE 54<sup>th</sup> St., Ankeny  
Bike ride ends at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company, 101 Main St. NE, Bondurant
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 20  
2 p.m. – Iowa Data Bike Unveiling  
2:15 p.m. – Depart Carney Marsh  
~3:30 p.m. – Arrive at Reclaimed Rails  
Return to Carney Marsh at your own pace
- WHO:** **Ben Champ**, APA-Iowa  
**Todd Ashby**, Des Moines Area MPO  
**Andrea Boulton**, INHF
- PARKING:** Parking near is available at the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, 1735 NE 70<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ankeny
- RSVP:** Please RSVP at <https://plannersbikeride.eventbrite.com>. Media can RSVP at [golson@dmampo.org](mailto:golson@dmampo.org).
- WAIVER:** Participants in the bike ride will be required to sign a waiver

The **American Planning Association Iowa Chapter** is a membership organization of approximately 400 professional planners, planning educators, planning commissioners, and planning students from across the state of Iowa. The primary focus of the Chapter is education to improve planning in communities, counties, and regions of the State. The Chapter focuses on equipping our members with the best tools and information available in order that they can assist in "Making Great Communities Happen."

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.

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