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Speaker David Fields: Walkability needs to extend beyond downtown

There has been much discussion in Greater Des Moines about improving walkability in downtown Des Moines. What about the rest of the region? How do communities improve walkability in neighborhoods and suburban environments?

This will be the focus of the next speaker in The Tomorrow Plan 2016 Speaker Series: David Fields, AICP, of Nelson\Nygaard. He was the lead transportation consultant for The Tomorrow Plan, a plan for the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines, and is a 20-year veteran in helping communities provide transportation choices to all users, from walking and biking to transit and park-and-rides.

“Investing in walkability is a strategy worth applying across the metro,” said Todd Ashby, executive director of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. “This can help cities yield higher tax revenue on their infrastructure investments, while improving the health and wellbeing of residents.”

Fields’ talk will be 7:30 a.m. Thursday, November 10, 2016, at the Windsor Heights Community Center, 6900 School St., Windsor Heights. It is free to attend and open to the public.

ABOUT: David Fields, AICP, believes a great community provides transportation choice and access for all. With 20 years of transportation planning experience as both a consultant and public sector employee, David’s work focuses on transportation planning that supports communities’ long-term goals, including multiple modes (walking, biking, heavy rail, light rail, and on-street bus services); parking and park-and-ride facilities; policy (transit-oriented development, parking management, and transportation demand management); and community involvement. David led the transportation component of The Tomorrow Plan and is excited to continue to support the Des Moines region.

ABOUT: The Tomorrow Plan Speaker 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 2016 Speaker Series will touch on a wide range of topics related to creating a high quality of life in metropolitan areas, including the sharing economy, the effects of transportation and housing on public health, walkability, water quality, public transit and more. For more information, please visit www.dmampo.org/the-tomorrow-plan/2016-speaker-series/.