



DES MOINES AREA

**MPO**

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year 2023

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)



## Rebooting the Des Moines Area MPO

The Des Moines Area MPO is resetting itself to its base function — transportation planning — following the recent change in staff leadership. This refocusing effort began this last fiscal year and will continue into the next. It includes three phases: reconciliation, stabilization, and transition.

**Reconciliation:** We have rebalanced the work program to be more transportation-centric. Staff has been meeting with all Policy Committee members to get their feedback and input on the future of the organization. And staff has made a few operational changes to ensure accountability to the Policy Committee.

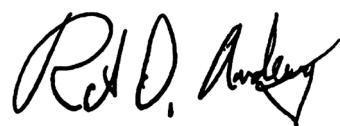
**Stabilization:** Here is where we begin building a bridge to long-term strategic direction, based on feedback given during the first phase. The Policy Committee will work with staff to clarify the

MPO mission, and staff will work with the Policy Committee to implement any needed changes to policies, procedures, and the work program. Also during this phase, staff will ensure that existing projects stay on course and new projects approved by the Policy Committee are successfully launched.

**Transition:** The first two phases are important for the third: transitioning to the new, permanent executive director. The goal is for the new director to have a solid foundation to start from with strong support from the Policy Committee.

As the Chair and Interim Executive Director, we would like to close by affirming our commitment to open dialogue and building consensus. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please let us know.

Sincerely,

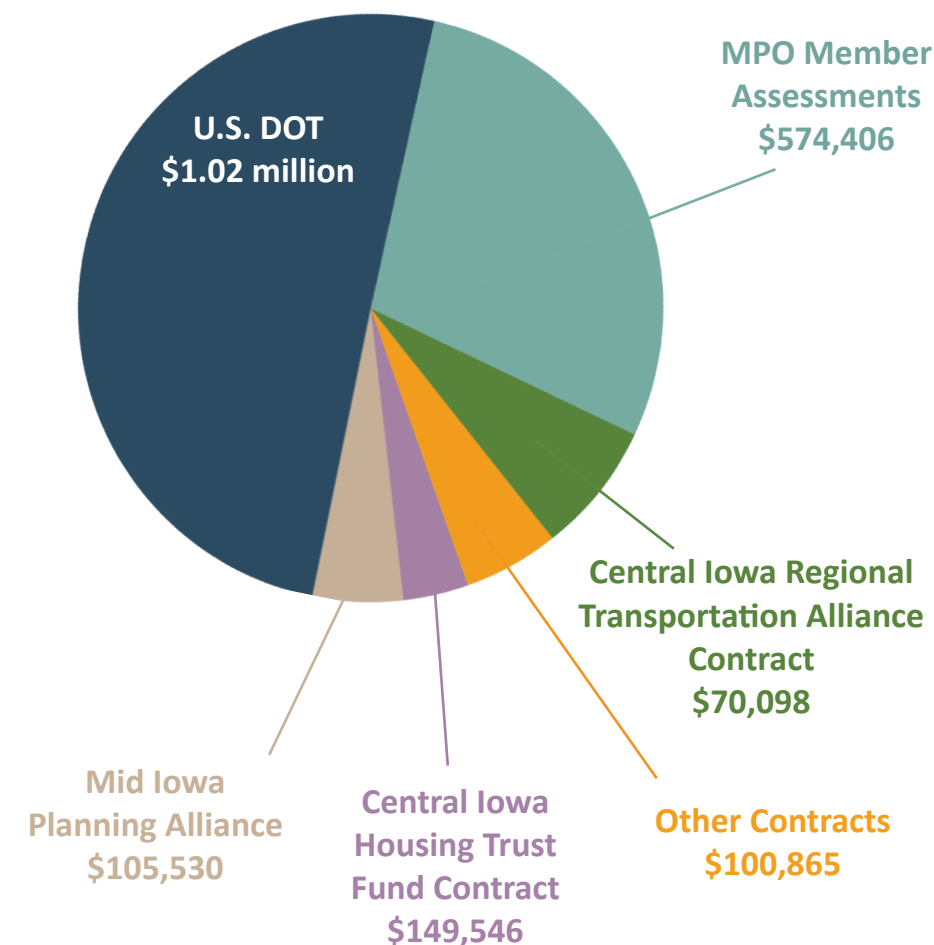



**BOB ANDEWEG**  
Mayor of Urbandale, MPO Chair




**DYLAN MULLENIX**  
Interim Executive Director

## MPO BUDGET (ACTUAL) FY2023 Revenue: \$2.02 million



*MPO budget is —  
and will remain —  
healthy*

The effort to refocus the MPO to its base function of transportation planning will have impacts on the budget — but overall the budget will remain in good health.

Looking at this past fiscal year, the MPO was able to keep member dues flat by generating additional income through contract work.

Looking ahead, the budget will lose revenue as the MPO ceases some contracts. However, the budget will be positively impacted by increased Iowa DOT planning funds due to rising population in the most recent Census.

All said and done, the MPO heads into the next fiscal year with a balanced budget while continuing to maintain MPO member dues at the current rates.



# MPO GRANT FUNDING

Five-year total grants to MPO members  
(Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2027)

**TOTAL AWARDS: \$75.7M**

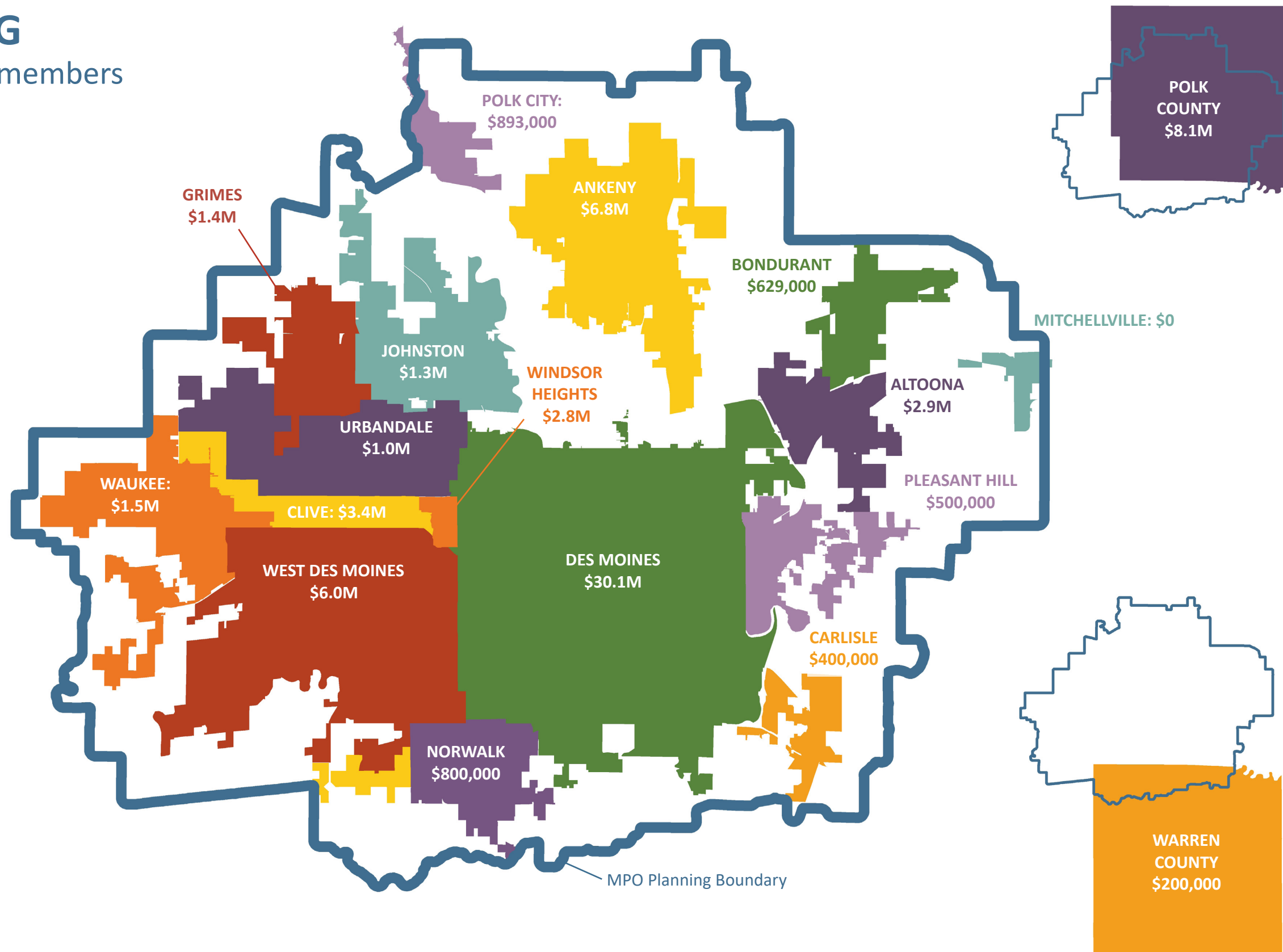
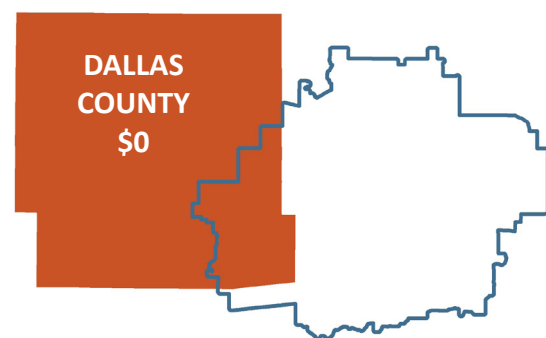
The Des Moines Area MPO has increasingly focused its funding on getting the most use out of existing infrastructure, a major theme of the region's long-range transportation plan (LRTP), Mobilizing Tomorrow.

Funding levels for the MPO-administered grant programs have increased roughly \$3 million per year, to approximately \$16 million annually, since the most recent transportation authorization bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

MPO staff has begun the 18-month process of updating the LRTP, which is federally required to be updated every five years.



**DES MOINES AREA  
REGIONAL TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY  
\$7.2M**



# 40th ANNIVERSARY:



MPO Chair and Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg commemorates the MPO's 40th anniversary at an MPO-sponsored luncheon during the Greater Des Moines Partnership's annual lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., in May 2023.

## \$500 million invested and counting

What is today the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization began operations on July 1, 1983 — 40 years ago this summer.

Many are the ways to count the organization's successes since then.

The total dollar amount invested in the region? About \$500 million, by staff estimates.

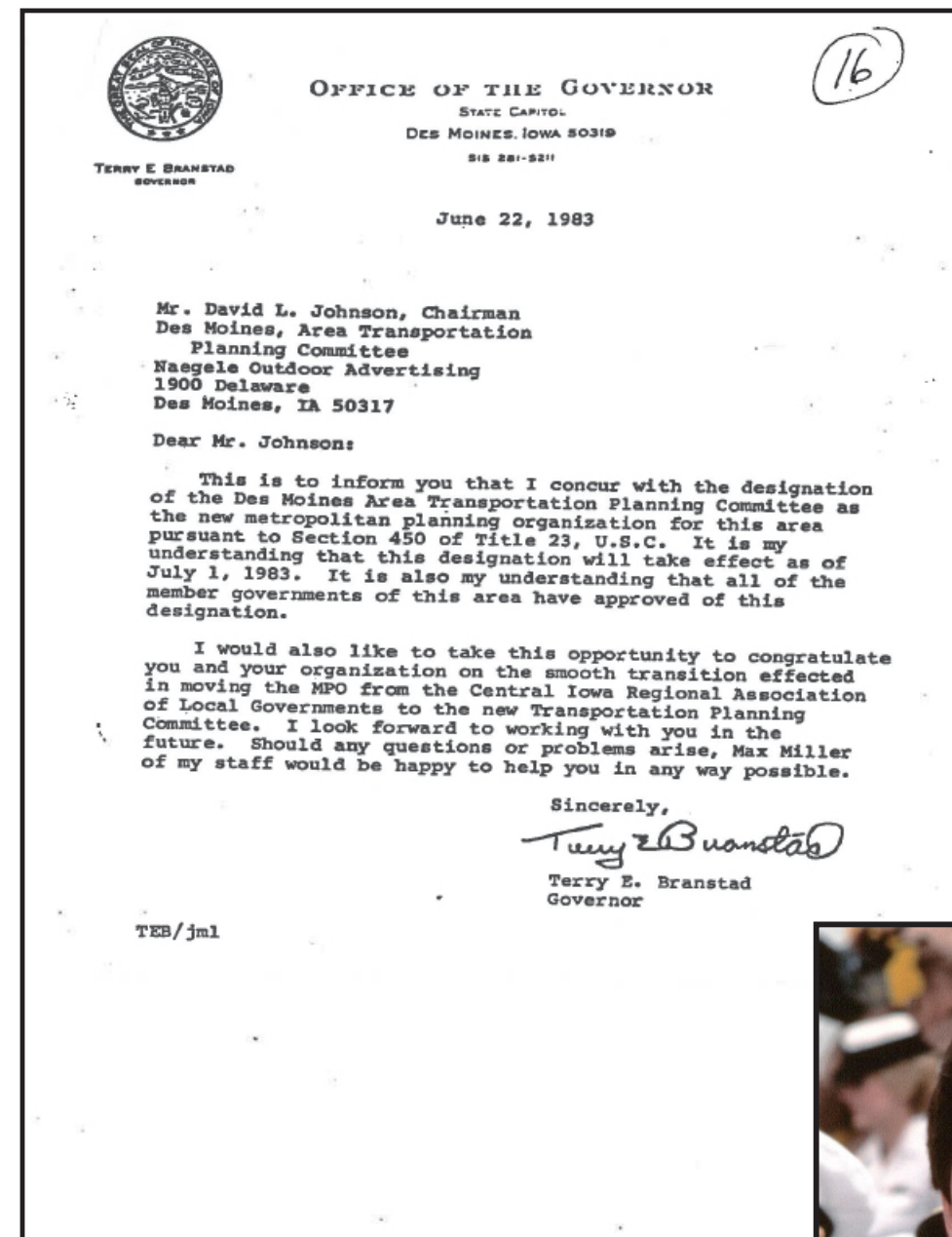
The notable projects the MPO has helped plan for or fund? Let's call out Interstate Highway 235, Southeast Connector, the paved trail

network, the water trails network, the transload facility, and many more.

But perhaps the most relevant way to measure its success is the ways in which the MPO continues to plan for a better future. Updating the long-range transportation plan. A goods-movement study. Helping the region adapt to electric vehicles.

Here's to the next 40 years.

Cheers.

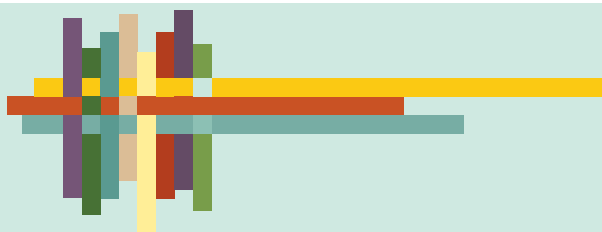


Then-Governor Terry Branstad signed the letter (above) designating the Des Moines Area Transportation Planning Commission as the region's MPO in June of 1983 — five months after he taking office.

This spring, MPO Chair and Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg caught up with Ambassador Branstad in Washington, D.C., and shared a copy of the letter with him — and Brandstad remember signing it.







# HIGHLIGHTS

The Des Moines Area MPO undertakes numerous plans and initiatives that better the Greater Des Moines region. Some are widely recognized, while others stay more behind the scenes. Here are updates on four of them that were a central focus of staff this past fiscal year and will be relevant for years to come.



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## REGIONAL SAFE STREETS PLAN WILL OPEN DOOR TO ADDITIONAL FUNDING

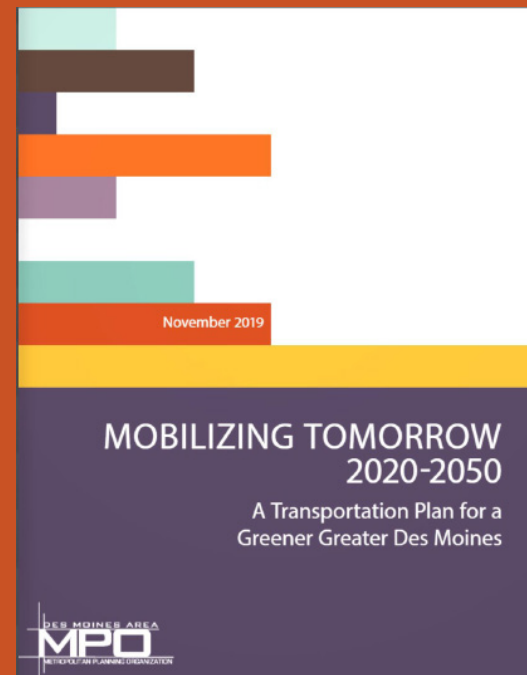
MPO member governments will gain access to additional federal funding opportunities following the completion of a regional safe streets plan.

The planning work was made possible by a Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant that was awarded to the MPO last year. The \$1 million planning effort will get underway in the fiscal year 2024.

Three qualified teams submitted proposals to develop the plan on the MPO's behalf, and a selection committee selected a preferred firm. At present, the selection is awaiting approval from the MPO Policy Committee.

The plan is anticipated to be complete by fall of 2024. In turn, member governments should be eligible for subsequent rounds of funding from the Safe Streets and Roads for All program for implementing projects for the 2025 round of funding.

For more information, contact Zach Young at [zyoung@dmampo.org](mailto:zyoung@dmampo.org).



## UPDATE BEGINS: METRO'S LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The 18-month process of updating the region's long-range transportation plan (LRTP) got started this past fiscal year and will continue through the next.

The LRTP is important because it is a prerequisite for local jurisdictions to qualify for federal funding. Maintaining an up-to-date LRTP is one of the core functions of the MPO.

The LRTP considers many planning factors, from population growth, demographic trends, industry, and more.

The planning process is overseen by a steering committee that will be appointed by the MPO Chair.

For more information, contact Zach Young at [zyoung@dmampo.org](mailto:zyoung@dmampo.org).



## BUILD GRANT KEEPS WATER TRAILS MOVING INTO IMPLEMENTATION

The MPO's years of planning and support for the activation of the region's rivers and creeks continued to bear fruit this past year.

Most visibility, officials this spring broke ground for Scott Avenue site, which is at the confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers. The river way will be made safe for passage by modifying the dam there, creating whitewater elements and better fish passage in the process.

The MPO launched the water trails effort in 2015, developing the regional water trails plan and subsequent engineering study. Then the MPO successfully applied for a \$25 million BUILD grant for the Scott Avenue project, which is at the very center of the water trails system.

Construction will continue through 2025 at the Scott Avenue site. Additional work as part of the BUILD grant is happening at the Harriet Street Landing site.

More information is available at [iconwatertrails.com](http://iconwatertrails.com).



## ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW MPO WEBSITE AND LOGO

The MPO has a new website and a new logo to go with it.

The MPO's website hadn't been redesigned in over a decade. During the last quadrennial review, the Federal Highway Administration suggested the MPO consider updating it.

The new website is at the same address — [dmampo.org](http://dmampo.org) — and should be easier to navigate. Additionally, the web design will be more responsive for better viewing on a wide range of devices.

With a new website comes a new, more responsive logo. The logo's design hearkens to many transportation themes, such as intersections, city blocks, and nodes and corridors.

The new website will be live in August. For more information, contact Gunnar Olson at [golson@dmampo.org](mailto:golson@dmampo.org).



DES MOINES AREA  
**MPO**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## MPO Policy Committee Voting Members

*\* MPO Executive Committee Members*

**CHAIR: BOB ANDEWEG\***

Mayor of Urbandale

**VICE CHAIR: STEPHANIE RIVA\***

Norwalk City Council Member

**SECRETARY/TREASURER: TED WEAVER\***

Clive City Council Member

**CONNIE BOESEN**

Des Moines City Council Member

**COURTNEY CLARKE**

Mayor of Waukee

**FRANK COWNIE\***

Mayor of Des Moines

**TAMMI DILLAVOU**

Mitchellville City Administrator

**DOUG ELROD**

Mayor of Bondurant

**JIM EVANS**

Johnston City Council Member

**JOE GATTO\***

Des Moines City Council Member

**TOM HADDEN**

West Des Moines City Manager

**MARK HANSON**

Dallas County Supervisor

**TOM HOCKENSMITH\***

Polk County Supervisor

**MARK HOLM\***

Mayor of Ankeny

**DAVID JONES**

Ankeny City Manager

**MIKE JONES**

Mayor of Windsor Heights

**JOSH MANDELBAUM**

Des Moines City Council Member

**MATT MCKINNEY\***

Mayor of West Des Moines

**SCOTT MIKKELSEN**

Grimes Mayor

**LUIS MONTOYA**

DART Chief Planning Officer

**LEN MURRAY\***

Pleasant Hill City Council Member

**DEAN O'CONNOR\***

Altoona City Mayor

**RUTH RANDLEMAN**

Carlisle City Council Member

**MARK SNELL**

Warren County Supervisor

**CARL VOSS**

Des Moines City Council Member

**JEFF WALTERS\***

Polk City City Council Member

## Staff

**DYLAN MULLENIX, AICP**

Interim Executive Director

**ZACH YOUNG, AICP,**

MRTPI, CNU-A  
Planning Manager

**ANDREW COLLINGS, AICP**

Principal Planner

**TRACEY DECKARD**

Office Manager

**RHONDA MILLER**

Accountant

**GUNNAR OLSON**

Public Affairs Manager

**ZHI CHEN**

Senior Planner

**CARL SAXON**

Senior Planner

**SCOTT BRENNAN**

Legal Counsel

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