

NOTICE OF MEETING

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Technical Committee

9:30 a.m., January 4, 2024

Virtual Meeting

OR Dial 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 890 559 757 21

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. **Call To Order**
2. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**
3. **VOTE: FFY Approval of the Meeting Minutes** Page 2
 - Approve the December 7, 2023, meeting minutes.
4. **PRESENTATION: MidAmerican Energy Presentation** Page 5
 - Representatives from MidAmerican Energy will provide an overview of their experience and expertise in the construction and maintenance of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
5. **REPORT and VOTE: Planning Area Boundary Update** Page 6
 - Report and discussion regarding the update to the MPO's Planning Area Boundary; consider approval.
6. **REPORT and VOTE: Mobilizing Tomorrow – Funding Projections** Page 7
 - Update regarding the funding projections for the development of Mobilizing Tomorrow, the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan; consider approval.
7. **REPORT: Mobilizing Tomorrow – Project Solicitation** Page 8
 - Update regarding project solicitation for the development of Mobilizing Tomorrow, the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan.
8. **REPORT: Iowa DOT 2020-2024 Safety Performance Targets (PM1)** Page 9
 - Report on the Iowa DOT's 2020-2024 safety performance targets.
9. **REPORT: FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget Development** Page 10
 - Discussion on the process to develop the upcoming work program and budget for FY 2025.
10. **REPORT: Norfolk Southern Rail Spur Track Assessment** Page 11
 - Report and discussion regarding an early step in determining feasibility of a proposal for passenger rail service on the Norfolk Southern rail spur.
11. **REPORT: Iowa Data Bike Regional Trails Pavement Condition Report** Page 13
 - Report and discussion regarding updated regional trail pavement conditions.
12. **REPORT: National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Grant Program** Page 14
 - Report on National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Grant Program.
13. **REPORT: Executive Director Search** Page 15
 - Report on the search and hiring process for a new MPO Executive Director.
14. **Upcoming Events** Page 16
15. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
16. **Next Meeting Date – February 1, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**
17. **Adjournment**

The established protocol for minutes of this meeting will be to list all attendees, and with each item on which a vote is conducted in the ordinary course in order to take formal action, those voting nay or abstaining will be identified by name. Any member who is absent from the meeting for any period of time during which a vote of the body is taken, is expected to notify the recording secretary at the conclusion of the meeting so that the absence can be duly noted in the minutes. Roll Call votes will be taken as required by law or upon the request of any member that is approved by the chair, and the vote of each member for or against the proposition, or abstention, will be incorporated in the minutes or recorded on a separate sheet attached to the minutes.

The MPO receives federal funding and may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin, according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint form, visit www.damapo.org/title-vi/ or call 515-334-0075.

January 2024
Item No. 3

ISSUE: Approval of Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Consider approval of the December 7, 2023, MPO Transportation Technical Committee meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the December 7, 2023, MPO Transportation Technical Committee meeting are included on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023, MPO Transportation Technical Committee meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tracey Deckard, tdeckard@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

MEETING MINUTES

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Technical Committee

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 7, 2023

The MPO TTC held a virtual meeting at 9:30 a.m., December 7, 2023. Before the meeting, the MPO staff emailed agenda packets to the TTC representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office on December 1, 2023.

Representatives Present:

John Dostart | City of Altoona
Amy Quartell | City of Ankeny
Mark Mueller | City of Ankeny
Mitch Holtz | City of Carlisle
Jeff May | City of Clive
John A Davis | City of Des Moines
Steve Naber | City of Des Moines
Bert Drost | City of Des Moines
Luis Montoya | DART
Matt Ahrens | City of Grimes
Dave Wilwerding | City of Johnston
Chelsea Huisman | City of Polk City
Aaron Putnam | Polk County
John Larson | City of Urbandale
Rudy Koester | City of Waukee
Karen Marren | City of West Des Moines
Tim Hill | Warren County
Eric Petersen | City of West Des Moines
Justin Ernst | City of Windsor Heights
Julia Castillo | HIRTA

Representatives Absent:

John Horton | City of Bondurant
Rita Connor | City of Cumming**
Murray McConnell | Dallas County
Angie Schaffer | City of Elkhart**
Charlie Dissell | City of Indianola**
Mike Hackett | Madison County
Paul Green | City of Mitchellville
Luke Parris | City of Norwalk
Madeline Sturms | City of Pleasant Hill
Dave Herman | City of Van Meter**
Shelby Ebel | Iowa DOT
Kevin Foley | DSM International Airport *
Darla Hugaboom | FHWA*
Gerri Doyle | Federal Transit Administration*
* Non-Voting, Advisory Representative
** Non-Voting, Associate Representative

Staff Present:

Dylan Mullenix | Interim Executive Director
Zach Young | Planning Manager
Andrew Collings | Principal Planner
Gunnar Olson | Public Affairs Manager
Tracey Deckard | Office Manager
Zhi Chen | Senior Planner
Carl Saxon | Senior Planner

Others Present

Austin Harney | Iteris
Scott Perley | Iteris
Derrick Kempf | Iteris
David Dougherty | HR Green
Erin O'Higgins | Street Lights
Julie Hirni | Street Lights

1. **Call to Order**
TTC Chair recognized a quorum and called the December 7, 2023, meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by Koester and seconded by Mueller to approve the MPO TTC's meeting agenda.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
MOTION: A motion was made by Koester and seconded by Huisman to approve the MPO TTC November meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. **Presentation: Transportation Data Vendors Spotlight**
Representatives from Iteris and StreetLight provided overviews of their respective transportation data. Information only.
5. **Calendar Year 2024 Meeting Dates**
Public Relations Manager presented. Recommend approval of April 1, 2024, as the alternate meeting date.
MOTION: A motion was made by Huisman and seconded by Koester to approve the alternate meeting date of April 1, 2024.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
6. **Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program**
Staff presented. Report on Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program Selection Awardees. Report and discussion only.
7. **Des Moines Metro Pavement Qualify Forecasting Report**
Principal Planner presented. Report regarding the Pavement Qualify Forecasting Report for the MPO planning area.
Report and discussion only.
8. **Executive Director Search**
Planning Manager presented. Report on the proposed search process for a new Executive Director.
Report and discussion only.
9. **Upcoming Events**
Information only.
10. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
STBG and TAP applications posted on the MPO website. Applications are due back January 5, 2024.
11. **Next Meeting Date**
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 4, 2024.
12. **Adjournment**
The MPO TTC's December 7, 2023, meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

January 2024
Item No. 4

ISSUE: MidAmerican Energy Presentation

PRESENTATION: Representatives from MidAmerican Energy will provide an overview of their experience and expertise in the construction and maintenance of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, the MPO applied for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant funding to install EV infrastructure throughout the metro. Due to the infrastructure's energy needs, MidAmerican Energy is a key partner in the success of EV infrastructure deployment.

The results of that application have not been released. However, regardless of the outcome of the initial application, it is anticipated that the MPO will apply for additional funding in the next CFI funding round later this year. For the second application, private entities will be eligible to receive funding so long as projects comply with CFI requirements.

Communication and coordination with MidAmerican Energy is crucial for future EV infrastructure deployment. MidAmerican Energy representatives will provide an overview of their experience and expertise in the construction and maintenance of EV infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Presentations and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

January 2024
Item No. 5

ISSUE: Planning Area Boundary Update

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the update to the MPO's Planning Area Boundary.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO staff periodically reviews and updates the MPO's Planning Area Boundary. This process usually coincides with the update to the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Planning Area Boundary is required to encompass all future growth anticipated to occur within the next 20 year. Staff has reviewed future land-use maps to determine areas along the Planning Area Boundary that need updating. A draft Planning Area Boundary was presented in November and staff collected comments through November 27, 2023. A key change from the initial draft is that all Polk County is now shown in the MPO's Planning Area Boundary.

[A map of the proposed Planning Area Boundary updates is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the updated Planning Area Boundary.

STAFF CONTACTS:

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January 2024
Item No. 6

ISSUE: Mobilizing Tomorrow – Funding Projections

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the funding projections for the development of Mobilizing Tomorrow, the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Staff has developed funding projections to use to determine the fiscal capacity for the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Staff looked at a variety of funding sources, including federal, state, and local sources. Historical funding data was used to determine historical growth rates and to develop the annual growth rate to use in the planning process. These growth rates were reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee at their November meeting and the draft projections were shared with the Policy Committee in November.

[A summary of the funding projections is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the Mobilizing Tomorrow Funding projections.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

January 2024
Item No. 7

ISSUE: Mobilizing Tomorrow – Project Solicitation

REPORT: Update regarding project solicitation for the development of Mobilizing Tomorrow, the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO is beginning the process of soliciting projects for the update to Mobilizing Tomorrow. Staff has developed a Google Form to collect project information. The form will be made available in mid-January, and member governments will have approximately one month to submit their projects.

Staff will provide an overview of the project submittal process at the January meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

January 2024
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Iowa DOT 2020-2024 Safety Performance Targets (PM1)

REPORT: Report on the Iowa DOT's 2020-2024 safety performance targets.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, as part of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), MPOs can either (1) support their state department of transportation's (DOT) safety targets or (2) establish their own safety targets for their planning area. In August 2023, the Iowa DOT established statewide safety performance targets for the 2020-2024 period. The Des Moines Area MPO has 180 days, or until February 27, 2024, to either support the Iowa DOT's statewide targets or set its own regional targets. There are no penalties for MPOs that do not meet or make significant progress toward the safety performance targets.

[An Iowa DOT memo summarizing their targets and target setting methodology is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

For the previous performance reporting period, the Des Moines Area MPO adopted the Iowa DOT's statewide safety performance targets.

Iowa DOT's 2020-2024 Safety Performance Targets

Performance Measure	Five-year Rolling Averages	
	2018-2022 Baseline	2020-2024 Target
Number of Fatalities	338.6	352.6
Fatality Rate*	1.036	1.080
Number of Serious Injuries	1,363.2	1,419.8
Serious Injury Rate*	4.166	4.344
Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	136.4	138.2

**Rates are per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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January 2024
Item No. 9

ISSUE: *Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program* and Budget Development

REPORT: Discussion of the process to develop the next work program and budget.

BACKGROUND:

MPO staff is beginning to develop the *Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program* (FY 2025 UPWP) and budget, which will document all planning activities the MPO will perform from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) requires the UPWP to describe the MPO's proposed planning activities – including task objectives, previous work, project descriptions, and work products – as well as the budget and funding sources to carry out the planning activities. The Iowa DOT requires the MPO to submit a draft UPWP by April 1, 2024, and a final UPWP by June 1, 2024.

The MPO staff asks for input from member governments and participating agencies on planning tasks for FY 2025 throughout the development of the UPWP. In particular, MPO staff would welcome any proposals for special studies, plans, or other activities, as well as requests for local planning assistance.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075

January 2024
Item No. 10

ISSUE: Norfolk Southern Rail Spur Track Assessment

REPORT: Discussion regarding a proposal for passenger rail services on the Norfolk Southern rail spur.

BACKGROUND:

An opportunity exists to explore the introduction of passenger rail service within the MPO planning area, specifically on the rail spur running from just west of downtown Des Moines northwest before terminating in Grimes. A map is included on the following page. The line is owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway, with Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) being the primary operator.

IAIS is owned by Railroad Development Corporation. Railroad Development Corporation also owns Pop-Up Metro, a passenger rail company that utilizes existing low-density freight lines. Pop-Up Metro is interested in introducing passenger rail on the rail spur. Under Pop-Up Metro's business model, a community can lease all the capital necessary for the operation for a trial period of 1-3 years, which would enable the community to understand the feasibility and ridership levels before making permanent investments. Any upgrades necessary to tracks and crossings would be included in the lease fee.

The MPO and the Iowa Department of Transportation have met with Pop-Up Metro several times over the last two years to discuss this concept. To move forward with obtaining an accurate estimate of operating costs, an assessment must be made on the existing track to determine necessary upgrades. Pop-Up Metro estimates this could be done for approximately \$25,000.

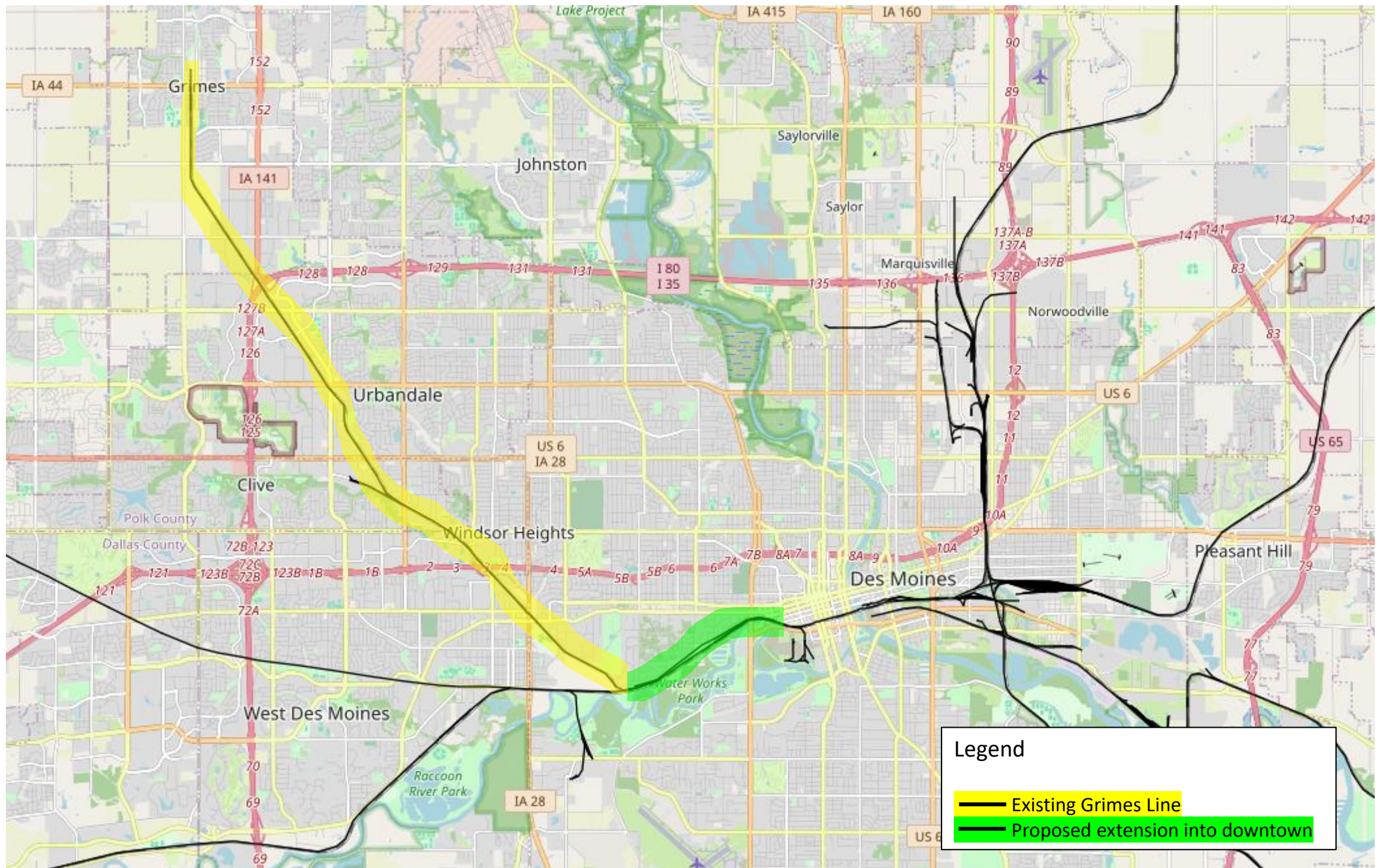
Staff utilized the recently adopted Decision Tree to assess what level, if any, role the MPO should play. Staff determined that the initial track assessment would warrant the MPO taking a Lead Role if desired by the Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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January 2024
Item No. 11

ISSUE: 2023 Regional Trail Pavement Condition Report

REPORT: Discussion regarding updated regional trail pavement conditions.

BACKGROUND:

Since the beginning of the Data Bike program in 2017, the MPO has collected pavement conditions for the Regional and Local Trails on an alternating annual basis. In 2023 MPO staff collected new data along the Regional Trail network and have that data ready to share.

This data includes surface roughness via an accelerometer smartphone application; pavement photos via a GoPro camera aimed at the pavement collecting photos every 2 seconds, and then analyzed visually to detect stress and damage; and 360-degree imagery collected and displayed on Google Street View.

MPO staff is in the process of publishing published this data on the MPO website via an ESRI Online Story Map. The data includes roughness by trail segment as well as pavement photos containing distressed pavement. These distressed photos will be displayed in a heatmap to identify problem areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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January 2024
Item No. 12

ISSUE: National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Grant Program

REPORT: Report on National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

The [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Grant Program](#) Notice of Funding was released in December 2023. The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) is seeking applicants for a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to participate in the deployment of NEVI-compliant charging infrastructure across the state. Iowa DOT's goal is to deploy EV charging infrastructure strategically to support the development of convenient, accessible, reliable, and equitable EV charging infrastructure along the designated [AFCs \(Zone 11\)](#) for MPO planning area. This NOFO focuses on design, construction, acquisition, installation, operations, maintenance, and ownership of EV charging infrastructure at locations near the interstate system where there is a lack of EV charging sites (Priority Zone Segments).

The expected amount of funding available will range between **\$17 Million** and **\$27 Million**.

This round of funding applications are due by March 13, 2024.

Eligible Applicants include:

- For-profit businesses.
- Privately owned electric utilities.
- Non-profit organizations.
- Partnerships that include the above as well as governmental entities and municipal utilities.

Ineligible Applicants include:

- Governmental entities as the primary applicant; they can be part of a partnership.
- Municipal utilities as the primary applicant; they can be part of a partnership.
- Entities or individuals who are currently suspended or debarred by the state of Iowa or the federal government.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carl Saxon, csaxon@dmampo.org
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January 2024
Item No. 13

ISSUE: Executive Director Search

REPORT: Report on the search and hiring process for a new MPO Executive Director.

BACKGROUND:

The Policy Committee voted in December to enter into contract with the consulting team of 2 The Top and Deibler & Company to manage the search process for a permanent replacement for the MPO Executive Director.

Staff will provide an update on the process, timeline, and involvement of the Transportation Technical Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tracey Deckard, tdeckard@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

January 2024
Item No. 14

ISSUE: Upcoming Events

REPORT: Report on upcoming events of regional interest.

BACKGROUND:

Staff will highlight upcoming events, trainings, and other opportunities of interest to representatives of MPO member governments.

Webinars

- [Risk Management During Trail Construction](#) – January 11, 2024
- [The Path to Mental Health: Using Trails to Equip Healthy Communities](#) – January 25, 2024
- [Systematic Condition Analysis and Management for Multi-Use Trails](#) (Presenters: City of Des Moines Park and Recreation) – February 8, 2024

Events

- [T4America Transportation Camp](#) – January 6, 2024 – Washington, DC and Online
- [TRB 103rd Annual Meeting](#) – January 7-11, 2024 – Washington, DC
- [ITE International Virtual Spring Conference](#) – March 19-20, 2024 - Virtual
- [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) – April 7-9, 2024 – Denver, CO
- [APA National Planning Conference](#) – April 13-16, 2024 – Minneapolis, MN
- [TRB 2nd International Conference and Peer Exchange on Roadside Safety](#) – June 23-26, 2024 – Orlando, FL
- [ITE International Annual Meeting and Exhibit](#) – July 21-24 – Philadelphia, PA
- [Safe Routes to School National Conference](#) – October 22 – 24, 2024 – Fort Collins, CO

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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