



# DES MOINES AREA MPO

## Policy Committee Meeting

June 20, 2024



# APPROVAL OF AGENDA

# June 20, 2024, Agenda



1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. CONSENT and VOTE: May Financial Statement
5. CONSENT and VOTE: Investment Policy
6. PUBLIC COMMENT on MPO Actions
7. PRESENTATION: 2 The Top Services Update
8. PRESENTATION: DART Update
9. REPORT and VOTE: Downtown Water Trails Change Orders
10. REPORT and VOTE: FY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments
11. REPORT and VOTE: DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program
12. REPORT and VOTE: Self-Certification
13. REPORT and VOTE: U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Applications
14. REPORT: Carbon Reduction Program Funding Process
15. REPORT: Transportation Capital Improvement Program Update
16. Director's Report
17. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
18. Next Meeting Date – August 15, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
19. Adjournment

# APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

# APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

# INVESTMENT POLICY

# Fiscal Year 2025 Investment Policy

- The MPO has an Investment Policy that documents the procedures and safeguards for the investment of public funds owned by the MPO.
- The MPO has three accounts:
  - Checking Account – First National Bank
  - Money Market Account – First National Bank
  - Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT) Account
- Policy must be reaffirmed annually.
  - Neither staff nor Finance Subcommittee recommend any changes.

# **PUBLIC COMMENT ON MPO ACTIONS**



# **PRESENTATION: 2 THE TOP SERVICES UPDATE**

# PRESENTATION: DART UPDATE



# DART Update

June 20, 2024

MPO Policy Committee

# Agenda

- ▶ **A shared vision and plan**
- ▶ **How we're aiming to get there:**
  - ▷ **Short-term:** Two-year stability plan
  - ▷ **Long-term:** Reimagine DART
  - ▷ **DART Infrastructure:** Facilities, Fleet and Technology



## **A shared regional vision for the future of public transit in Greater Des Moines**

Reimagine DART seeks to develop a sustainable, 10-year vision for transit that addresses post-pandemic realities and draws upon recent planning efforts and resources to help chart a fresh course forward.

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## Two-year Stability Plan

# Multiple Funding Solutions

- MPO Funding (Carbon Reduction Program)
- One-time capital funding
- One-time reserve funds
- City of Des Moines funding (above property taxes)
- Administrative cuts
- Eliminate the Downtown Shuttle (D-Line), (no other immediate service reductions)

# Administrative Reductions

- Approximately \$900,000 in expense reductions in FY25 budget (some offset by increases in certain areas above 5%)
  - 4 position eliminations
  - Elimination of on-board Wi-Fi
  - Reduction of customer service hours
  - Cancellation of some professional services, technology, and memberships
  - Small reductions across several areas

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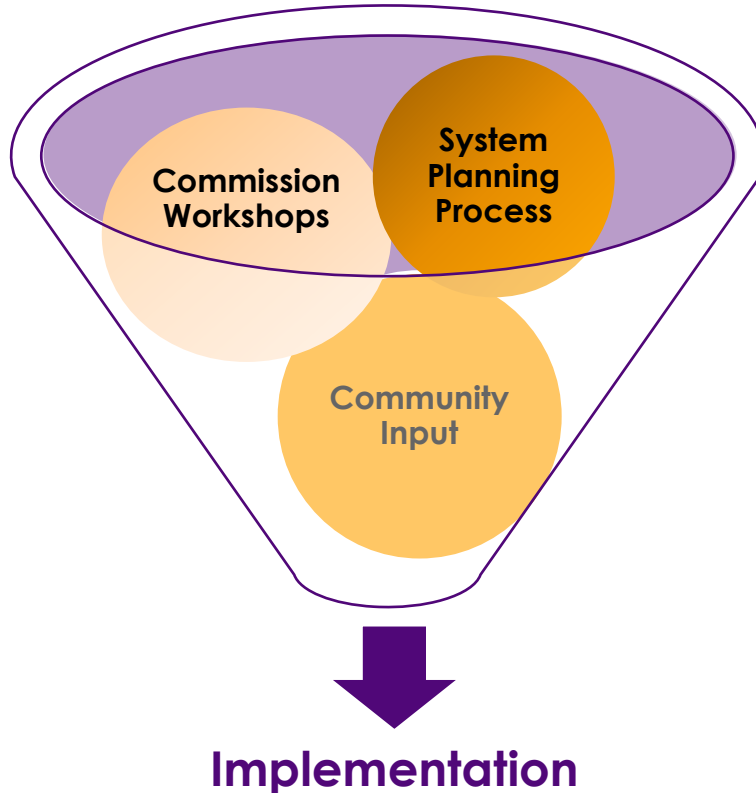
# Reimagine DART

## Goals

- Shared understanding of what we are trying to achieve through a regional transit system and how DART's performance should be measured
- Consensus on the level of service and service delivery model
- Plan for how the regional transit network grows if additional funding becomes available
- Buy-in from DART member communities on governance model and funding formula



## Reimagine DART Process



A series of facilitated Commission workshops this summer to address key issues impeding progress.

- Survey Member Communities: *May/June*
- Member government interviews: *July*
- Facilitated workshops: *August/September*

# Service Redesign

## Approximate Time Frame: 12-18 months

- Review of existing plans & studies
- Existing conditions analysis & peer analysis
- Define regional transit goals (outcomes and metrics)
- Scalable system redesign scenarios with anticipated outcomes and recommended implementation plans (*including ridership, budget and fleet impacts*)
- Identify and develop performance metrics by service mode for each scenario
- Public Input

## Additional Potential Components

- Financial development model using existing funding tools & a recommended financial strategy for long-term funding stability
- Optional funding formula and/or governance evaluation
- Fare policy review & recommendations
- Economic Impact (Possibly MPO)



# DART Infrastructure

## Fleet:

- Continued diversification of fleet (30', 40' and light-duty vehicles)
- Zero-emission transition planning

## Facilities:

### • **Operations & Maintenance Facility:**

- Phase 1 Funded, groundbreaking this fall
- Efforts underway to secure funding for future phases

### • **Bus Stops, Shelters and Benches:**

- 52 active bus shelters and 15 active benches, including newly or soon-to-be installed shelters in Ankeny, Des Moines, Johnston, Urbandale, and Windsor Heights
- Have worked with most member communities on roadway redesign projects to ensure transit and pedestrian access and proper bus stop placement (Thank you!)

## Technology:

- Evaluation and planning for improvements to customer-facing technology (app, paratransit reservations)
- Simplification and streamlining of internal systems

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Questions?

# **DOWNTOWN WATER TRAILS CHANGE ORDERS**

# Downtown Water Trails Change Order

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## Scott Avenue Dam Mitigation (Change Order #2)

- Extend the stage 1 completion date from May 30, 2024, to June 21, 2024.
- This change is due to the City of Des Moines Levee project extending past its August 1, 2023, timeline.
- There is no budget impact to this change

# Downtown Water Trails Change Order

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## Harriet Street (Change Order #1)

- Add a Polymer Grid and modified subbase due to poor soils encountered on site.
- Add footings to concrete pipe aprons.
- Trash and debris removal.
- Change order cost: \$56,594.

# **FFY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**



# FFY 2024-2027 TIP Amendments

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- Sponsor: DART
- Project: Technology and Ridership Promotion (55857)
- Federal Aid Amount: \$80,000
- Total Cost: \$100,000
- Type of Funding: ICAAP
- Change: Add project to FFY 2024



# FFY 2024-2027 TIP Amendments

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- Sponsor: DART
- Project: Route 17 Extension to Bondurant (55859)
- Federal Aid Amount: \$104,784
- Total Cost: \$130,980
- Type of Funding: ICAAP
- Change: Add project to FFY 2024



# FFY 2024-2027 TIP Amendments

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- Sponsor: DART
- Project: Vehicle Purchase(22143)
- Federal Aid Amount: \$3,600,000
- Total Cost: \$4,500,000
- Type of Funding: CRP
- Change: Add project to FFY 2024



# **DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

# Draft FFY 2025-2028 TIP

- The FFY 2025-2028 has been prepared and will be submitted to the Iowa DOT on June 15.
- The draft is being review by your technical committee representatives



## **FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

A regional program of surface transportation improvement projects to enhance the movement of goods and people along the greater Des Moines Metropolitan planning area's transportation system.

DRAFT – June 2024

# SELF-CERTIFICATION

# Self-Certification

- MPO must self-certify its planning process annually
  - MPO includes a statement in the TIP.
  - US DOT recommended additional emphasis during recent certification review.
- MPO must comply with various federal rules and regulations, including:
  1. 3-C planning process (continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative) (US Code)
  2. Clean Air Act
  3. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
  4. Older Americans Act
  5. Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprise provisions of transportation bill
  6. Americans with Disabilities Act
  7. Fiscally constrained TIP and Long-Range Plan (US Code)
  8. Prohibitions of using federal funds for lobbying

# **U.S. DOT DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATIONS**



# Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program

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- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released in May 2024.
  - \$1.3 billion available this cycle.
- Eligible Fuels: Electric, Hydrogen, Natural Gas (Compressed, Liquefied), Propane (limited to medium and heavy vehicles)
- Publicly Available Charging.
- Previously Submitted Applications:
  - Applicants not funded in previous rounds may resubmit their applications for reconsideration.
  - 120 applicants were “not recommended,” including the MPO’s application.
  - Previous application is not eligible for reapplication.
  - Scheduling meeting with FHWA to learn more.
- New Applications
  - \$800 million available.
  - **Deadline: August 28, 2024.**

# CFI Webinars and Informational Meeting

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## **WEBINARS**

- Webinar 1 – NOFO Overview – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6.
- Webinar 2 – Round 1 Reconsideration – 12 to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11.
  - Links will be included in post-meeting email to recorded meetings.

## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS**

- 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 25, at MPO office.
- 11 a.m. Thursday, June 27, at MPO office.
- 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, at MPO office.

# Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

- The ATIIIP grants will allow communities to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity
- MPO staff plans to submit for a planning grant to identify improvements to the active transportation network.
  - Anticipated request \$200,000 (minimum request is \$100,000)
  - This would require a \$40,000 local match if awarded

# **CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDING PROCESS**

# Carbon Reduction Program Update

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- The CRP Subcommittee met on May 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the development of a process to award the remaining CRP funds
- Committee members include:
  - Mark Mueller – Ankeny
  - Tony Filippini – DART
  - Mike Ludwig – Des Moines
  - Madeline Sturms – Pleasant Hill
  - Rudy Koester – Waukee

# Carbon Reduction Program Update

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- There was a good discussing including the following key points:
  - Investigate the option to suballocate
  - Application process open to all eligible uses
  - Stagger timing of CRP application to not conflict with STBG/TAP application
  - Use carbon reduction as key metric to evaluate applications

# Carbon Reduction Program Update

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- Next Steps:
  - Draft application materials
  - Share with CRP Subcommittee in July
  - Finalized application materials
  - Present to Tech, Executive, Policy in August
  - Open CRP application in September/October

# **TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**



# Transportation Capital Improvement Plan FFY 2025 – 2028

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- Comprehensive Coverage:
  - Create a regional TCIP that encompasses all local municipalities, counties, and the Iowa DOT within the MPO planning area.
  - Organized by municipality, project type, fiscal year funding and funding sources.
- Interactive Public Map:
  - An ArcGIS Story Map will be created to provide public access to the information.
- Submission Deadline:
  - Member govts asked for most up-to-date CIP by Friday, June 21.
- Next Steps:
  - CIP collection and Story Map.

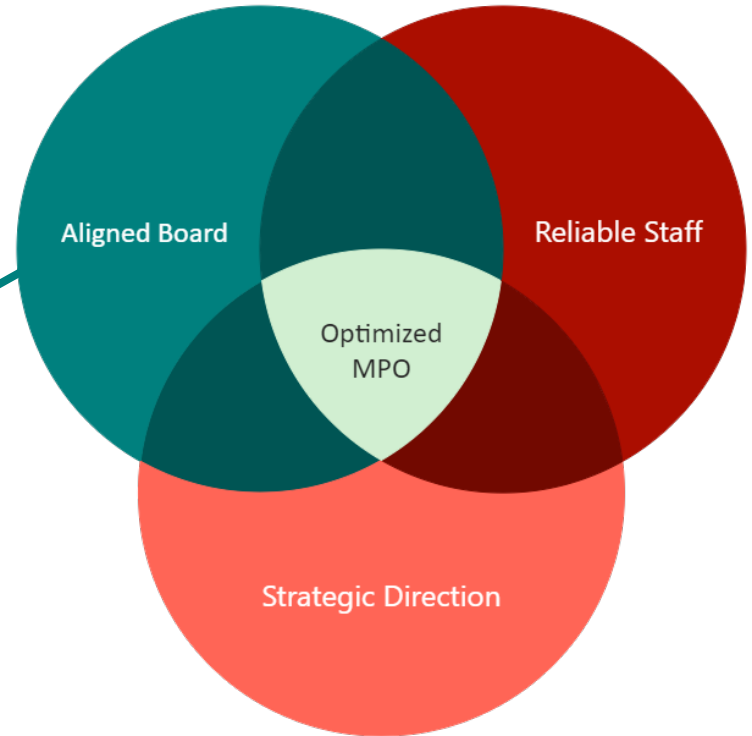
# Member CIP Submissions

Altoona		Johnston	X
Ankeny	X	Norwalk	X
Bondurant	X	Pleasant Hill	
Carlisle		Polk City	
Clive	X	Polk County	
Dallas County		Urbandale	X
DART		Warren County	
Des Moines	X	Waukee	X
Iowa DOT		West Des Moines	X
Grimes		Windsor Heights	X

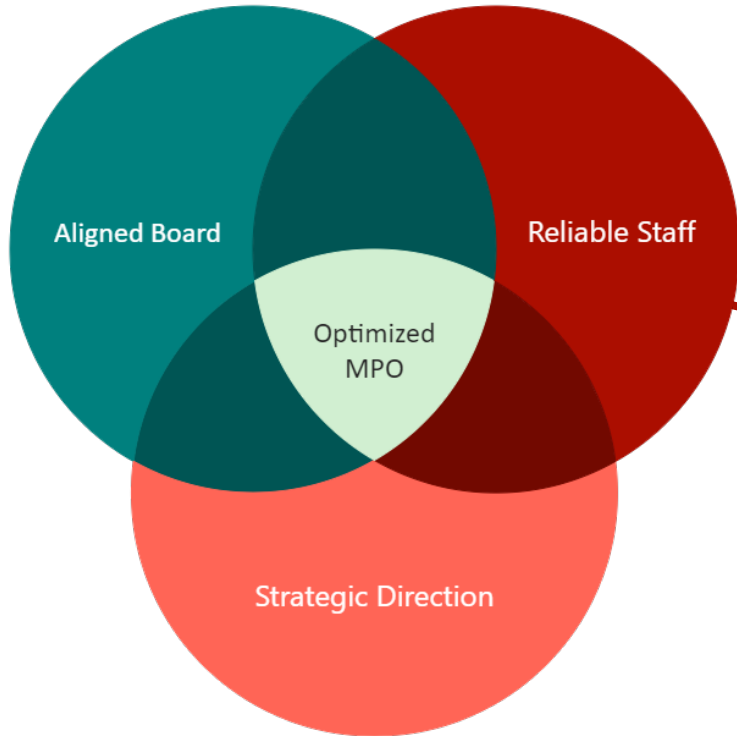
# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Optimized MPO: Updates on Aligned Board

- Governance Assessment by 2 The Top
- Staff will be reaching out for one-on-one meetings with board members
- National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) seeking an elected official to serve on its board to represent Iowa/Kansas/Missouri district



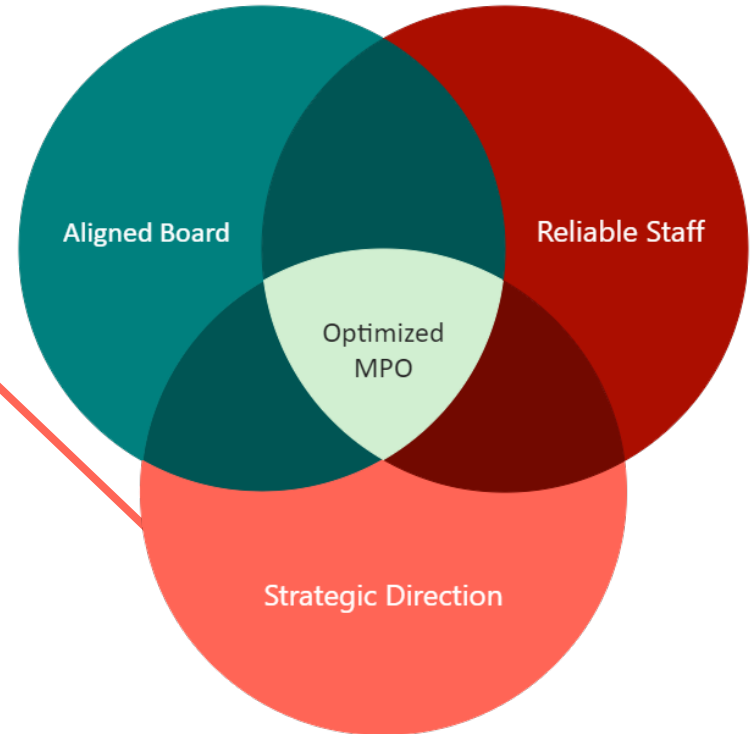
# Optimized MPO: Update on Reliable Staff



- Human Capital Plan by 2 The Top.
- Open Associate Planner position now filled; will join team July 8.
- Zhi Chen Accepted to Lead DSM Community Leadership Program for 2024-2025.

# Optimized MPO: Update on Strategic Direction

- Deliverables from 2 The Top will feed into Strategic Plan
- Long-range transportation plan document
- Transportation Economic Impact Analysis



# MPO / Partnership Team Takes Trivia Gold!



# OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



# Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

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- Public Engagement:
  - Online Engagement, Survey and Map – closes July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - In Person Meetings, within member communities
  - Regionwide engagement events



### Feels Safe!

Where do you feel safe walking, biking, or driving?



### Feels Unsafe!

Where do you feel unsafe walking, biking, or driving?



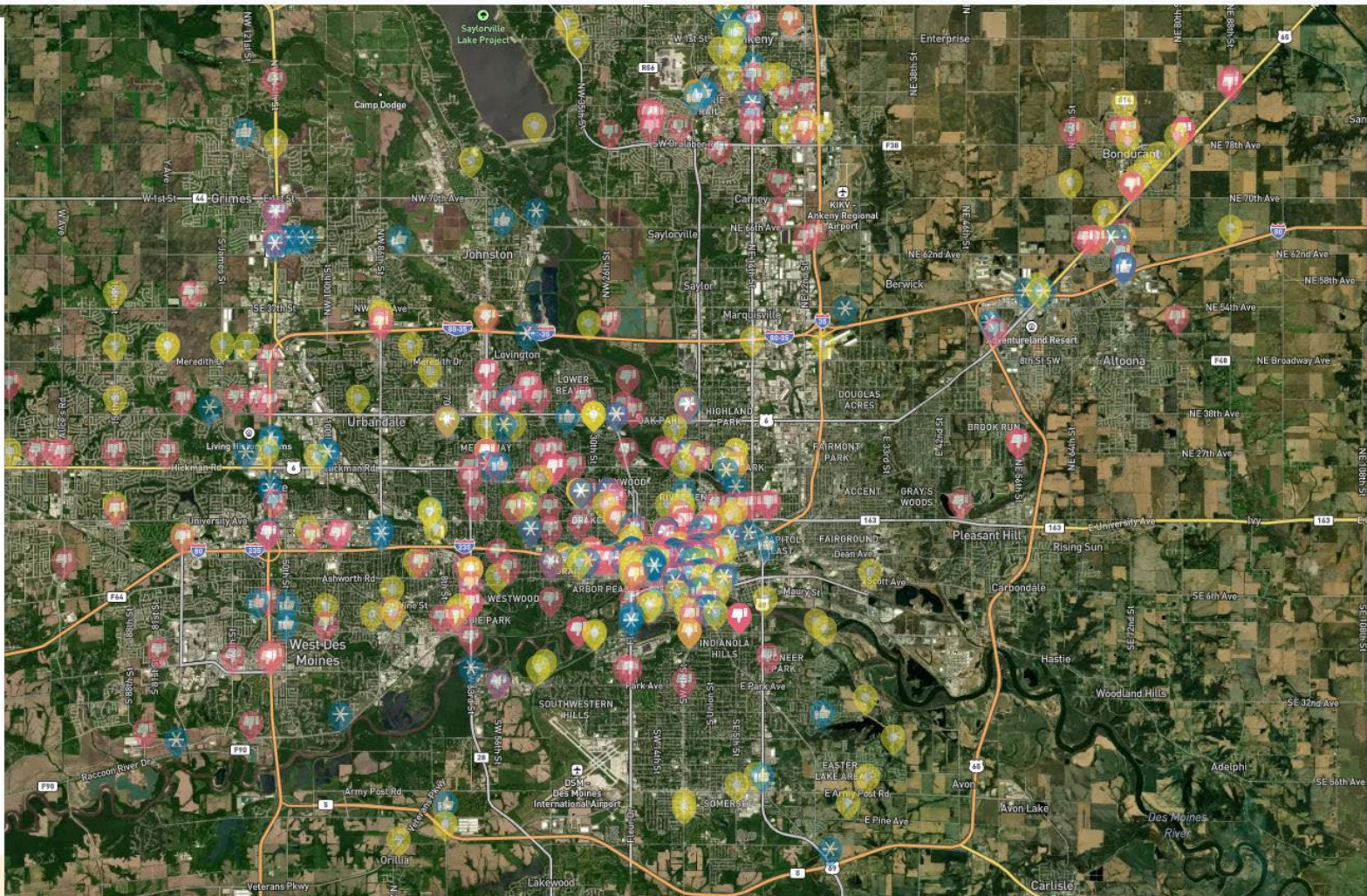
### Safety Idea

Let us know how you think streets can be safer in the Des Moines area!



### Near Miss

Where have you experienced a near miss?



For help using this map, please see the [instructions](#).

# Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

- Next Steps:
  - Prepare a safety analysis technical memo
  - Continue Engagement
  - Compare safety analysis findings with stakeholder / committee insights
  - Use findings to identify safety countermeasures and inform development of tools for member communities
  - Use analysis findings and feedback to develop priority areas
  - Engage stakeholders / committees to get feedback on priorities
  - Member Community Commitment, Resolutions
  - Develop Plan & Implementation Tools

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