

February 2025
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

REPORT AND VOTE: Review of the final draft of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO hired Toole Design Group in fall 2023 to develop the region’s Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This plan will identify safety concerns and provide safety countermeasures to address these issues and ultimately make the region eligible for up to \$50 million in implementation funding through the Safe Streets and Road for All (SS4A) grant program. The plan is being funded through a \$800,000 SS4A grant with a \$200,000 local match from the MPO.

A representative from Toole Design Group will provide an overview of the draft plan. Staff completed its review of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, and all the content has been shared with committee representatives for review.

Please note that the plan up for approval is a “pre-design version” of the plan (aka, rough design in Microsoft Word, awaiting final design in InDesign for a more polished finished product). Staff is recommending moving forward with adopting a pre-design version of the plan for purposes of having an adopted plan for the regional grant application, for which the Notice of Funding Opportunity is anticipated to be released in late March. The final design version of the plan is anticipated in March and will be shared with the committee when available. While the design may change, the content will remain the same as the version adopted by the committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

STAFF CONTACT:

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February 2025
Item No. 9

ISSUE: Regional SS4A Implementation Grant Application

REPORT: Discuss next steps for developing scope of regional grant application for Safe Streets for All implementation funding.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO in December started the process of narrowing down a long list of potential corridors and safety treatments and deciding which corridors be included in a regional grant application for Safe Streets for All implementation funding.

The MPO committees have been building toward this step since the development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan began. The 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is anticipated to be published in March 2025.

In December, the consulting team, Toole Design, together with MPO staff facilitated a workshop for representatives of the Transportation Technical Committee, who provided input on which systemic safety improvements and corridors should be considered for the regional application.

A representative from Toole Design will present on the proposed process for finalizing the grant application including project selection and ask for feedback from committee representatives.

This process will include a public-engagement component, including an open house which has been scheduled for Monday, February 10th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the MPO office. The open house will include a presentation about the draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and the process moving forward to submit a grant application. The public will be asked to provide their input on projects and safety countermeasures. An online survey will be created to mimic the input activities available at the open house, with input welcomed through Sunday, March 16th. The public will be invited to attend in person or online. The presentation will be recorded and placed on the MPO's website.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Discussion only.

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February 2025
Item No. 10

ISSUE: Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives Applications

REPORT: Update on applications received for the Federal Fiscal Year 2029 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

BACKGROUND:

The MPO has received 27 total applications totaling \$44.3 million in grant requests from the Federal Fiscal Year 2029 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Transportation Alternatives Program. Funding targets are anticipated from the Iowa DOT in February. For reference, the FFY2028 total allocation was \$17.1 million.

[Summary of FFY2029 STBG and TAP Applications \(click to view\)](#)

Project presentations to the MPO Funding Subcommittee are scheduled for March 12 and March 25.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Informational only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

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February 2025
Item No. 11

ISSUE: Multimodal Economic Impact Study

REPORT: Providing an update on a Multimodal Economic Impact Study.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO Policy Committee in January authorized MPO staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Multimodal Economic Impact Study.

Study Overview

The study’s purpose would be to 1) quantify the economic impacts and benefits of transportation investments in the region, and 2) isolate the economic impacts of transit in the area to demonstrate the nature, magnitude, and sensitivity of return on investment to different strategic options the region may consider in the Reimagine DART plan.

Funding

The estimated cost is \$200,000 - \$300,000. The MPO’s current budget includes \$150,000 for the study. DART also plans to contribute to the study.

MPO staff drafted and issued the RFP January 24, 2025. The RFP was sent to 25 consulting firms, including local and national firms, and was posted to the MPO website.

The anticipated schedule for the proposal review, contracting, and project completion are included in the table below.

Activity	Date
Issue RFP	January 24, 2025
Proposal Deadline by 5:00 p.m. (CT)	February 7, 2025
Proposal Review by Consultant Selection Group	February 10-11, 2025
Virtual Consultant Interviews (if needed)	February 17, 2025
Approval from MPO Policy Committee	February 20, 2025
Award Contract	March 2025
MPO Policy Board Adopts Study	September 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Informational only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

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February 2025
Item No. 12

ISSUE: Legislative Update and DC List

REPORT: Discussion on recent legislative activity and development of DC List.

BACKGROUND:

Staff has been monitoring various directions from the new administration that may impact federal transportation funding. Staff will provide updates on what is known at the time of the meeting and invite discussion among representatives.

Related, staff is beginning preparations for [DMDC 2025](#), the annual lobbying trip to Washington DC that is organized by the Greater Des Moines Partnership. This year's trip is May 7-9.

Each year, the MPO works with its member governments to develop a list of priority transportation projects to be discussed with Iowa's Congressional delegation during the trip to Washington DC. The MPO's DC list includes projects that are actively seeking funding, along with any important policy initiatives.

Request: Please let MPO staff know if you have a project seeking federal funding that should be on the DC list. Please include a project name, project summary, total project cost, funding amount being requested, and desired funding source if applicable. These should include any planned submissions for Community Project Funding, with the understanding that not all of them will likely be selected by the congressional offices.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

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February 2025
Item No. 13

ISSUE: Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Strategic Planning

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

BACKGROUND:

MPO staff is beginning to develop the Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (FY 2026 UPWP) and budget, which will document all planning activities the MPO will perform from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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, 2025, and a final UPWP by June 1, 2025.

The MPO staff asks for input from member governments and participating agencies on planning tasks for FY 2026 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.

Starting this year, the MPO will be incorporating its strategic planning within the UPWP. The MPO is working with 2 The Top to develop a strategic framework as a first step, and committee representatives are requested to provide input.

Please complete the following Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis by Friday, January 31.

- [SWOT Analysis Form](#) (click to download Word document from MPO website)
- [SWOT Directions](#)

Please email completed forms to golson@dmampo.org.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

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February 2025
Item No. 14

ISSUE: Upcoming Events

INFORMATIONAL: Report on upcoming events of regional interest.

BACKGROUND:

The following events, trainings, and other opportunities may be of interest to representatives of MPO member governments.

Webinars

- [USDOT Discretionary Grants and Data-Driven Analysis](#)- February 25, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- [How Public Libraries are Advancing Safe Routes Advocacy, Funding, and Programming](#)- February 6, 2025, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
- [Introduction to AI & Ethics in County Planning](#)- February 14, 2025, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- [Mapping the Food Landscape: Using Healthy Food Walk Audits to Assess Local Food Systems](#)- February 21, 2025, 12-1:30 p.m.

Events

- [Iowa Work Zone Safety Workshop](#) – February 27, 2025 – Ankeny, IA
- [Mobility Matters 2025](#) – February 27, 2025 – Virtual
- [American Traffic Safety Services Association \(ATSSA\) Convention and Traffic Expo](#) – February 28-March 4, 2025 – Orlando, FL
- [The League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit](#) – March 11-13, 2025 – Washington, DC
- [The World Bank and World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities’ Transforming Transportation](#) – March 11-12, 2025 – Washington, DC
- [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) – March 9-11, 2025 – Long Beach, CA
- [People for Bike’s Bicycle Leadership Conference](#) – March 18-20, 2025 – Tucson, AZ
- [ITE Virtual Spring Conference](#) – March 25-26, 2025 – Virtual
- [Iowa Work Zone Safety Workshop](#) – March 25, 2025 – Ankeny, IA
- [APA National Planning Conference](#) – March 29-April 1, 2025 – Denver, CO
- [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Safe Mobility Conference](#) – April 7-9, 2025 – Madison, WI
- [International Trails Summit](#) – April 15-17, 2025 – Madison, WI
- [National Association of County Engineers \(NACE\) Annual Conference](#) – April 14-17, 2025 – Schaumburg, IL
- [NACTO Designing Cities Conference](#) – May 28-31, 2025 – Washington, DC
- [TRB Tools of the Trade](#) – June 23-25, 2025 – Albuquerque, NM
- [NADO National Regional Transportation Conference](#) - July 15-17, 2025 – Des Moines, IA

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Informational only.

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