

NOTICE OF MEETING

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee**

4:00 p.m., February 20, 2025

Des Moines Area MPO Burnham Conference Room

AMENDED AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. VOTE:** Approval of Agenda
- 3. VOTE:** Approval of January Meeting Minutes Page 2
- 4. CONSENT AND VOTE:**
 - a. January Financial Statement..... Page 6
 - b. SUDAS representative Page 7
 - c. Regional Safety Performance Targets (Performance Measures 1) Page 8
 - d. Regional Pavement and Bridge Performance Targets (Performance Measures 2) Page 9
 - e. Water Trails – Harriet Street Change Order #3 Page 10**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT** Page 11
- 6. REPORT and VOTE:** Strategic Planning Framework..... Page 12
- 7. REPORT and VOTE:** Election of MPO Officers Page 13
- 8. REPORT and VOTE:** Special March Policy Committee Meeting Page 14
- 9. REPORT and VOTE:** Multimodal Economic Impact Study Contract Page 15
- 10. OPTIONAL VOTE:** Enter Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters Page 16
- 11. REPORT and VOTE:** Executive Director Annual Review Page 17
- 12. REPORT:** Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Draft Page 18
- 13. REPORT:** Regional Application to Safe Streets for All..... Page 19
- 14. REPORT:** Legislative Update and DC List Page 20
- 15. REPORT:** FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget Development..... Page 21
- 16. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- 17. OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE**
- 18. NEXT MEETING DATE:** 4:00 p.m. April 17, 2025
- 19. 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.dmampo.org/title-vi/ or call 515-334-0075.

February 2025
Item No. 3

ISSUE: Approval of Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Consider approval of the Policy Committee meeting minutes of January 23, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of January 23, 2025, Policy Committee meeting are included on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025, MPO Policy Committee meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

Meeting Minutes
Policy Committee Meeting
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
4:00 p.m., January 23, 2025

The MPO held a hybrid in-person/ virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m., January 23, 2025. The MPO staff emailed agenda packets to the MPO’s representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office on January 16, 2025. An Amended Policy Agenda was emailed and posted on January 16, 2025. **In addition to these published tentative minutes, there are also additional Meeting Notes on file with the MPO staff that are public records and available upon request as provided by law. These tentative minutes reflect all action taken at the meeting.**

MPO Representatives Present:

Jeremy Boka | City of Altoona
Todd Shafer | City of Ankeny
Mike Schrock | City of Ankeny
Doug Elrod | City of Bondurant
Dan Carver | City of Carlisle
Ted Weaver | City of Clive
Kathie Hungerford | City of Cumming**
Amanda Wanke | DART
Chris Coleman | City of Des Moines
Connie Boesen | City of Des Moines
Carl Voss | City of Des Moines
Joe Gatto | City of Des Moines
Josh Mandelbaum | City of Des Moines
Steve Richardson | City of Indianola**
Jessica Trobaugh | City of Mitchellville
Len Murray | City of Pleasant Hill
Jeff Walters | Polk City
Mark Holm | Polk County
Robert Andeweg | City of Urbandale
Courtney Clarke | City of Waukee
Matt McKinney | City of West Des Moines
Jamie Letzring | City of West Des Moines
Mike Jones | City of Windsor Heights
Shelby Ebel | IDOT *
Brian Mulcahy | Des Moines International Airport*

MPO Representatives Absent

Julia Helm | Dallas County
Colton Fors | City of Elkhart**
Jake Anderson | City of Grimes
Jim Evans | City of Johnston

Heather Stancil | Madison County**

Jason Brown | City of Norwalk

Aaron DeKock | Warren County

Joel Akers | Van Meter**

Julia Castillo | HIRTA*

Dakin Schultz | FHWA*

Daniel Nguyen | FTA*

Eva Steinman | FTA*

* Advisory/Non-Voting Representatives

** Associate/Non-Voting Representative

Others Present:

Scott Sanders | City of Des Moines

Clifford Leonard | Public

Carol Maher | Public

Pete DeKock | City of Clive

Steve Naber | City of Des Moines

MPO Staff Present:

Scott Brennan | MPO General Counsel

Dylan Mullenix | Executive Director

Gunnar Olson | Planning & Public Affairs Manager

Marcus Coenen | Senior Planner

Carl Saxon | Senior Planner

Addison Williamson | Associate Planner

Tracey Deckard | Administrative Specialist

Rhonda Miller | Accounting Specialist

1. Call To Order

Chair Holm recognized a quorum and called the January Policy Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION: A motion was made by Gatto and seconded by Murray to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization January 23, 2025, meeting agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: A motion was made by Gatto and seconded by Walter to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization November Policy meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approval of Consent and Vote Items**

- a. December Financial Statement
- b. Contracts and Expenses

MOTION: A motion was made by Gatto and seconded by Weaver to approve the Consent and Voting Items listed above.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Public Comment**

None

6. **PRESENTATION: FY 2024 Audit**

Joe Sparks, CPA from Denman CPA LLP presented. He was delayed so this item was skipped until Mr. was available. Sparks reported a clean audit with several issues from the previous audit removed. This was discussed with staff and the financial committee. A remedy was discussed and approved. Recommend approval of the FY 2024 Audit. Murray congratulated staff on the improvements made to the annual audits.

MOTION: A motion was made by Coleman and seconded by Weaver to approve the FY 2024 Audit.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **PRESENTATION: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Draft and Target Goal Adoption**

Shawn Murphy Lopez and Dean Chamberlain from Toole Design presented on the draft CSAP followed by a report on target goal; consider adoption of target goal

MOTION: A motion was made by Murray and seconded by Gatto to adopt a zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2045 to be included in the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. **Multimodal Economic Impact Study**

Executive Director, Dylan Mullenix presented. Discuss moving forward with development of a Multimodal Economic Impact Study; consider approval Discussion ensued.

MOTION: A motion for MPO staff to prepare an RFP was made by Gatto and seconded by McKinney.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. **Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Strategic Planning**

Executive Director Dylan Mullenix and Cass Halls, from 2 The Top discussed the process to develop the next work program, budget and strategic plan. Halls requested that all board members complete the SWOT worksheet and turn it into staff by January 31, 2025. Report and discussion only.

10. 2025 Committees, Representative Handbook, and Officer Nominations

Executive Director, Dylan Mullenix provided an update on MPO committee representatives as well as nominations for MPO officers. A nominating committee consisting of Dean O'Connor, Joe Gatto and Amanda Wanke recommended re-electing the current officers for another term. Discussion of additional opportunities to participate in various MPO Committees was also discussed. Report and discussion only.

11. Future 435 Update

Planning and Public Affairs Manager, Gunnar Olson presented on pending state legislation related to the effort to designate the Highway 5/ U.S. Highway 65 corridor, a/k/a Future 435, as an interstate. Report and discussion only.

MOTION: A motion was made by Gatto and seconded by O'Connor to approve the proposed budget amendment.

[Josh Mandelbaum left meeting at 4:46 p.m.]

12. Informational Items

- a. Regional Safety Performance Targets (Performance Measures 1)
- b. Pavement and Bridge Performance Targets (Performance Measures 2)
- c. Central Iowa Trail Counter Expansion

13. Directors Report

Dylan Mullenix provided an update on his goal of having an aligned board. He also advised that the Strategic Direction should begin in early April and discussed the freeze on the Carbon Reduction Funds.

14. Other Non-Action Items

Chair indicated that it is time for Dylan's annual review and that he will design a constant defined evaluation format for Dylan in the future so he is aware of his goals, expectations, etc. but this year he will meet with the officers for the review. The STBG/TAP application timelines were also discussed. Questions were also asked if the MPO was in "compliance" with the new administration. Discussion ensued.

15. Next Meeting Date February 20 , 2025 at the MPO offices at 4:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Hearing no objection to the contrary, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

February 2025
Item No. 4a

ISSUE: January Financial Statement

VOTE: January Financial Statement for Policy Committee approval.

BACKGROUND:

Contents of the January Financial Statement can be found in the following links. The MPO's Finance Subcommittee has reviewed the January Financial Statement.

- [Statement of Financial Position](#)
- [Budget vs. Actuals](#)
- [Transaction List by Vendor](#)
- [Water Trails Transactions Detail](#)
- [Water Trails DOT Grant Fund Balance](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval.

STAFF CONTACT:

Rhonda Miller, rmiller@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 4b

ISSUE: MPO Appointment to SUDAS Board of Directors

VOTE: Consider approval of appointment of a technical representative to the Statewide Urban Designs and Specifications Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO periodically appoints a technical representative to serve as the MPO's representative to the Statewide Urban Designs and Standards (SUDAS) Board of Directors. The SUDAS representative is required to be a licensed professional engineer (P.E.). Mark Mueller, with the City of Ankeny, has been the MPO's representative since August 2016. Mr. Mueller's term is expiring, and he has offered to continue serving in this role if the board reappoints him.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend reappointing Mark Mueller as the MPO representative on the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Board of Directors.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

ISSUE: Regional Safety Performance Targets (PM1)

VOTE: Consider approval of the MPO’s Regional 2021-2025 safety performance targets.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), MPOs can either (1) support its state department of transportation’s (DOT) targets or (2) establish its own targets for its planning area. In August 2024, the Iowa DOT established statewide safety performance targets for the 2021-2025 period. The Des Moines Area MPO has 180 days, or until February 27, 2025, to either support the Iowa DOT’s statewide targets or set its own regional targets.

Previously, the Des Moines Area MPO adopted the Iowa DOT’s statewide safety performance targets. With the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), MPO staff propose the following regional safety targets to be consistent with the CSAP. There are no penalties for MPOs that do not meet or make significant progress towards the safety performance targets.

[An MPO memo summarizing the targets and methodology is available here \(click to access\).](#)

Performance Measure	Five-year Rolling Averages			2045 Goal
	2019-2023 Baseline	2020-2024 Baseline	2021-2025 Target	
Number of Fatalities	40.4	42.8	40.7	0
Fatality Rate*	0.919	0.971	0.922	0
Number of Serious Injuries	186.4	187.6	178.2	0
Serious Injury Rate*	4.215	4.239	4.027	0
Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	31.8	34.2	32.5	0

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend adopting our own safety targets that align with the MPO’s CSAP and Vision Zero Goal. Forward to the Policy Committee for approval.

STAFF CONTACT:

Addison Williamson, awilliamson@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 4d

ISSUE: Iowa DOT 2022-2025 Pavement and Bridge Performance Targets (PM2) Adjustments

VOTE: Consider approval of the Iowa DOT’s 2022-2025 pavement and bridge performance targets.

BACKGROUND:

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act established pavement and bridge conditions national performance measures (PM2) for state department of transportation (DOT) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). Targets are set every 2 and 4 years, with the first targets set in calendar year (CY) 2018 for the CY 2018-2021 performance period. For the second reporting period of CY 2022-2025, the Iowa DOT set its 2- and 4-year PM2 targets in October 2022. In September 2024, the Iowa DOT adjusted its 4-year PM2 targets. The Des Moines Area MPO has 180 days, or until March 29, 2025, to support the Iowa DOT’s statewide targets or set its own regional targets.

[An Iowa DOT memo summarizing the adjusted targets and methodology is available here \(click to access\).](#)

Previously, the Des Moines Area MPO adopted the Iowa DOT’s statewide pavement and bridge performance targets. There are no penalties for MPOs that do not meet or make significant progress towards the performance targets.

	Topic	Performance measure(s)	2021 Baseline	2022-2023 2-year Target	2022-2023 2-year Actual	Prior 2022-2025 4-year Target	Adjusted 2022-2025 4-year Target
PM2	Pavement	Percentage of pavements of the Interstate System in Good condition	58.8%	55.0%	58.2%	55.0%	53.0%
		Percentage of pavements of the Interstate System in Poor condition	0.4%	3.0%	0.5%	3.0%	3.0% (No change)
		Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS in Good condition	37.9%	35.0%	35.3%	35.0%	30.0%
		Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS in Poor condition	3.7%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	6.0% (No change)
	Bridge	Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in Good condition	49.4%	52.5%	48.9%	56.0%	48.0%
		Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in Poor condition	2.4%	5.0%	1.3%	6.6%	6.6% (No change)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend adopting Iowa DOT’s statewide pavement and bridge performance targets. Forward to the Policy Committee for approval.

STAFF CONTACT:

Addison Williamson, awilliamson@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 4e

ISSUE: Downtown Water Trails Change Order – Harriet Street

VOTE: Report on change order #3 to the Harriet Street phase of the Downtown Water Trails project; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

Snyder and Associates has made the MPO staff aware of a change order to the Harriet Street phase of the Downtown Water Trails project. The change order is summarized below:

- Item 1 – Reinforcing Steel – The ISG plans called for 2’ on center and should have been 1’ on center so additional steel was needed.
- Item 2 - Electrical Conduit Bore Installation is needed to provide power to the site as the originally designated location was not available.
- Item 3 – Bench Installation – The original plans included quantity for three benches but only two fit on the site. Three benches were purchased by the contractor. Additional bench will be delivered to the City of Des Moines for storage on a future ICON project.
- Item 4 – Additional Survey Hours – The contractor’s surveyor had 13 hours of delay time over the course of the project due to questions/issues on the plan documents.
- Item 5 – Cold Weather Concrete Protection – This is an additional payment item per IDOT specifications since the weather turned cold by the end of the project and the pavement had to be covered.

This change order results in approximately \$16,573 in additional costs.

[The change order #3 documentation for the Harriet Street phase of the Downtown Water Trails project is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval of change order #3 to the Harriet Street phase of the Downtown Water Trails project.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 5

ISSUE: Public Comment of MPO Actions

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opportunity for public comments on actions taken by the MPO board.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO's *Public Participation Plan* provides an opportunity for the public to comment on items on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Public comment only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 6

ISSUE: Strategic Planning Framework

REPORT and VOTE: Discuss the draft Strategic Planning Framework; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO is working with 2 The Top to develop a strategic framework to aid in the MPO's strategic planning and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and budget development. A Strategic Plan Subcommittee was formed to aid in this effort. The subcommittee, who has met twice, includes the following MPO representatives:

- John Dostart, Altoona (TTC representative)
- Bobbi Bentz, Ankeny
- Connie Boesen, Des Moines
- Mark Holm, Polk County
- Bob Andeweg, Urbandale
- Tom Hadden, West Des Moines
- Mike Jones, Windsor Heights

In January a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis exercise was distributed to representatives of the Policy and Technical Committees, as well as staff, to gather input into the strategic framework.

Cass Halls from 2 The Top will be at the February meeting to review the SWOT analysis and discuss the draft strategic framework, and also to facilitate a discussion about the MPO's mission, vision, and values.

[A summary of the SWOT analysis is available here.](#)

[A draft strategic planning framework is available here.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the Strategic Planning Framework.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 7

ISSUE: Election of Calendar Year 2025 Officers

REPORT and VOTE: Report on the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Calendar Year (CY) 2025 officer positions; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

MPO Chair Mark Holm appointed Dean O'Connor, Joe Gatto, and Amanda Wanke to serve on the annual Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the election of MPO officers.

The Nomination Committee has recommended reappointing the current officers for another term. Those officers include:

- Mark Holm, Polk County - Chair
- Jeff Walters, City of Polk City – Vice-Chair
- Connie Boesen, City of Des Moines – Secretary/Treasurer

The Nominating Committee will present their recommendations at the February Policy Committee meeting. Other nominations may be made at that time. The CY 2025 officers will assume their responsibilities beginning in March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Special March Policy Committee Meeting

REPORT and VOTE: Report on the need for a special Policy Committee meeting in March; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Policy Committee in November adopted its meetings for the 2025 calendar year. Per usual, no meeting was scheduled for March.

However, there is a need for a meeting in March to adopt the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to have an adopted plan in place when the next Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Safe Streets for All program is released, likely in March. The plan is nearly complete and final edits and design are underway. The Transportation Technical Committee and Executive Committee discussed options this month and suggested a special March meeting of the Policy Committee made the most sense.

The special March meeting would be brief and held virtually. Staff suggests 4 p.m. Thursday, March 27. Other suggestions are welcome.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend setting a time and date for a special March meeting of the Policy Committee.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 9

ISSUE: Multimodal Economic Impact Study

REPORT and VOTE: Update regarding proposals received for the Multimodal Economic Impact Study; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

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

The estimated project budget is \$250,000. The MPO's current budget includes \$150,000 for the study. DART plans to contribute \$100,000.

MPO staff issued the RFP on January 24, 2025. The RFP was sent to 25 consulting firms, including local and national firms, and was posted to the MPO website. One proposal was submitted by the firm Metro Analytics. MPO and DART staff reviewed and scored the proposal and determined Metro Analytics is qualified for the project based on its past experience on the Wasatch Front Range (Salt Lake City metro) Economic Impact Analysis Tool development and other projects.

MPO staff met with Metro Analytics on February 13 to narrow the scope of work for the project to fit the final project budget. The revised fee for the project is \$249,993.

[A proposed contract, which includes the proposed scope of work, is available on the MPO's website for review \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the MPO to contract with Metro Analytics for the Economic Impact Study pending contract review from legal counsel.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Marcus Coenen, mcoenen@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 10

ISSUE: Enter Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters

OPTIONAL VOTE: Consider action to enter closed session in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(i) to discuss personnel matters.

BACKGROUND:

The following agenda item is a review of the Executive Director's performance. As such, the Policy Committee may enter into closed session.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider entering into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 11

ISSUE: Executive Director Review and Compensation Adjustment

REPORT and VOTE: Report from the MPO Officers on the Executive Director's annual review and consideration of compensation adjustment; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO Officers constituted the Review Committee to evaluate the Executive Director's performance over the past year. The Review Committee met on February 14th to discuss the Executive Director's performance and form a recommendation. The Review Committee will provide the Policy Committee with their recommendations at the February meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Review Committee's recommendations.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 12

ISSUE: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

REPORT: Report on the near-final draft of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

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 \$25 million in implementation funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's 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 their review of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, and all the content has been shared with Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) representatives for their review. At the February TTC meeting, the committee recommended bringing the plan back after all updates and edits had been made to be considered for adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 13

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 list of potential corridors and safety treatments and deciding which corridors will 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 includes public engagement, including an open house that was held Monday, February 10, at the MPO office. Additionally, an online survey has been created to mimic the input activities available at the open house, with input welcomed through Sunday, March 16. [The presentation from the open house and the online survey are available on the project website.](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 14

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:

Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

February 2025
Item No. 15

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 developing 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.

At the February Finance Subcommittee meeting, staff shared [the draft FY 2026 budget summary and budget forecast](#). The subcommittee expressed support for the draft budget. Staff will review the draft budget in more detail at the February meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075