




# DES MOINES AREA MPO

## Executive Committee Meeting

November 6, 2025

# APPROVAL OF AGENDA

# November 6, 2025, Agenda



1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of September Meeting Minutes
4. REPORT and VOTE: 2026 Meeting Dates
5. REPORT and DISCUSS:
  - a) Water Trails Grant Agreement Amendment
  - b) Water Trails Change Orders
  - c) *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Revisions
  - d) *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Goal 4 Performance Measures
  - e) Freight Plan Update
  - f) Active Transportation Plan Update
  - g) Executive Director's Review
  - h) 2026 MPO Representative and Officer Selection Process
6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
  - a) October Financial Statement
  - b) Unified Planning Work Program Amendment
  - c) FFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments
7. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
8. Next Meeting Date – 11:30 a.m. December 4, 2025
9. Adjournment

# APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

# 2026 MEETING DATES

TECHNICAL	EXECUTIVE	POLICY
Meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted.	Meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted.	Meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted.
January 8*	January 8*	January 22*
February 5	February 5	February 19
March 5	March 5	March <del>19</del> 12 <sup>1</sup>
April 2	April 2	April 16
May 7	May 14**	May 21
June 4	June 4	June 18
No meeting <sup>2</sup>	No meeting <sup>2</sup>	No meeting <sup>2</sup>
August 6	August 6	August 20
September 3	September 3	September 17
October 1	October 1	October 15
November 5	November 5	November 19
No meeting <sup>2</sup>	No meeting <sup>2</sup>	No meeting <sup>2</sup>

\* All meetings are delayed one week due to New Year's Day holiday falling on the first Thursday of the month.

\*\* Executive Committee delayed one week to avoid annual trip to Washington, D.C., which is tentatively scheduled for May 6-8.

<sup>1</sup> Proposing to reestablish the March meeting of the Policy Committee due to frequent occurrence of having to schedule a meeting for needed Policy Committee actions. Meeting is in the second week to avoid Spring Break.

<sup>2</sup> Proposing to have no meetings for all committees in July and December due to these being slow times of year for MPO.

# **WATER TRAILS GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

# Water Trails Grant Agreement Amendment

- Changes project completion dates due to delays from high-water events
- Supported by ICON, FHWA, and Iowa DOT

## Changes:

- Harriet Street: December 20, 2025 to May 31, 2026
- Scott Ave (Uplands): December 1, 2025 to May 15, 2027
- Scott Ave (In-River): December 30, 2025 to May 15, 2027

# **WATER TRAILS CHANGE ORDERS**

# Water Trails Change Orders

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- Harriet Street Change Order #6: reseeding/planting due to high water event in summer 2025
- Scott Ave (In-River) #4: fixes damage to a retaining wall from summer 2025 high water events plus other misc. changes
- Scott Ave (Uplands) #1: disposal of contaminated soil and other unforeseen conditions

***MOBILIZING TOMORROW***  
**REVISIONS**

# Mobilizing Tomorrow Revisions

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- Revisions complete
  - Updated 2050 safety performance targets to align with Vision Zero goal of 2045 as defined in the *Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (2025)*.
  - Revisions to Figures 3.13 and 4.15 to address formatting.
  - Revision to Appendix I, Section 13.4 to document revisions as well as amendments.

***MOBILIZING TOMORROW***  
**GOAL 4 PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

# Goal 4 Performance Measures

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One of Greater Des Moines' key competitive advantages is a high quality of life. The region is consistently recognized for its affordability, access to the outdoors, and family-friendly atmosphere. However, this way of life is being challenged by impediments to multiple systems, including the area's car-centered transportation system and decreasing levels of physical activity. For residents, regardless of age or disability, to be able to truly enjoy the high quality of life for which Greater Des Moines is known, health and well-being, in all senses of those terms, need to be actively promoted throughout the region.

- Safety
- Transit Ridership
- Housing & Transportation Affordability
- Access to Necessities

# Goal 4 Performance Measures

Measure	Base Year	Current	5-YR Target	2050 Target
<b>Safety</b>				
Number of fatalities*	40.4	40.6	23	0
Fatalities per 100 million VMT*	0.919	0.971	0.460	0
Number of serious injuries*	186.4	181.2	150.9	0
Serious injuries per 100 million VMT*	4.215	4.239	2.927	0
Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries*	31.8	34.0	22.5	0

\* Performance measures required by the Federal Highway Administration in 23 CFR 490.

# Goal 4 Performance Measures

Measure	Base Year	Current	5-YR Target	2050 Target
<b>Transit</b>				
Total Ridership	3,600,000	3,753,065	4,000,000	7,000,000
<b>Housing &amp; Transportation</b>				
Housing/Transportation Affordability Index (% of income spent on housing)	43.0	42.0	40.0	35.0
<b>Access to Necessities</b>				
Multimodal Job Access (% housing units within ¼ mile)	65.5	No Update	Increase	Increase
Multimodal Access to Medical Facilities (% of housing units within ¼ mile)	22.2	No Update	Increase	Increase
Multimodal Access to Food (% of housing units within ¼ mile)	11.7	No Update	Increase	Increase
Access to Parks (% of housing units within ¼ mile)	37.8	No Update	Increase	Increase

# FREIGHT PLAN UPDATE

# Previous Freight Plans

- Multiple studies predate current freight planning efforts:
  - *Goods Movement in the Des Moines Metropolitan Area (2002)*
  - *Goods Movement in Central Iowa and in the Des Moines Metro Area (2006)*
  - *Trans-Iowa/Illinois Freight Corridor Study (2007)*
  - *Des Moines Rail Transload Feasibility Study (2014)*



# Goods Movement → Freight Planning

- The framing of this plan was in question since last Summer: Goods Movement vs Freight? What do we need to prioritize in this update?
- Discussions with various groups in CY 2024 determined the plan should focus on the movers of the goods rather than the goods being moved
- What is freight in our region?
  - **Primary focus:** railroad, aviation, and highway goods movers
  - **Secondary focus:** pipelines, waterways



# Overall Purpose of the Plan:

- Provide an updated understanding of the goods that move into and out of the Greater Des Moines area.
- Overviews of freight modes in the region, the routes they take, and the impediments they face.
- Identify conflicts between land uses and more efficient goods movement.
- Collaborate with regional freight stakeholders to understand trends in freight affecting the region.
- Undertake a SWOT analysis with our freight stakeholders and member jurisdictions.
- Prepare for the next long-range transportation plan update.

# Two Freight Plan Surveys

- **Stakeholder Survey:** Identify impediments, catalogue import/export operations, understand common trends/modes; build up freight round table
- **Jurisdictions Survey:** Identify major businesses/industries/modes, conflicts, infrastructure/regulatory constraints → *build up round table*
  - ***What else should we be asking?***




Scan the QR code to take our community freight survey!

Des Moines Area MPO - Freight Plan Survey

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about your experience with freight transportation.

This survey should take 7-10 minutes.

Your information will be kept strictly confidential.



1 What are the major businesses/industries in your jurisdiction that ship goods in or out of the region?  
Please provide the name of the business and the address.

2 What mode(s) of freight are most common in your community?  
(Mark all that apply)

Full Truckload (FTL)

Less than Truckload (LTL)

Intermodal

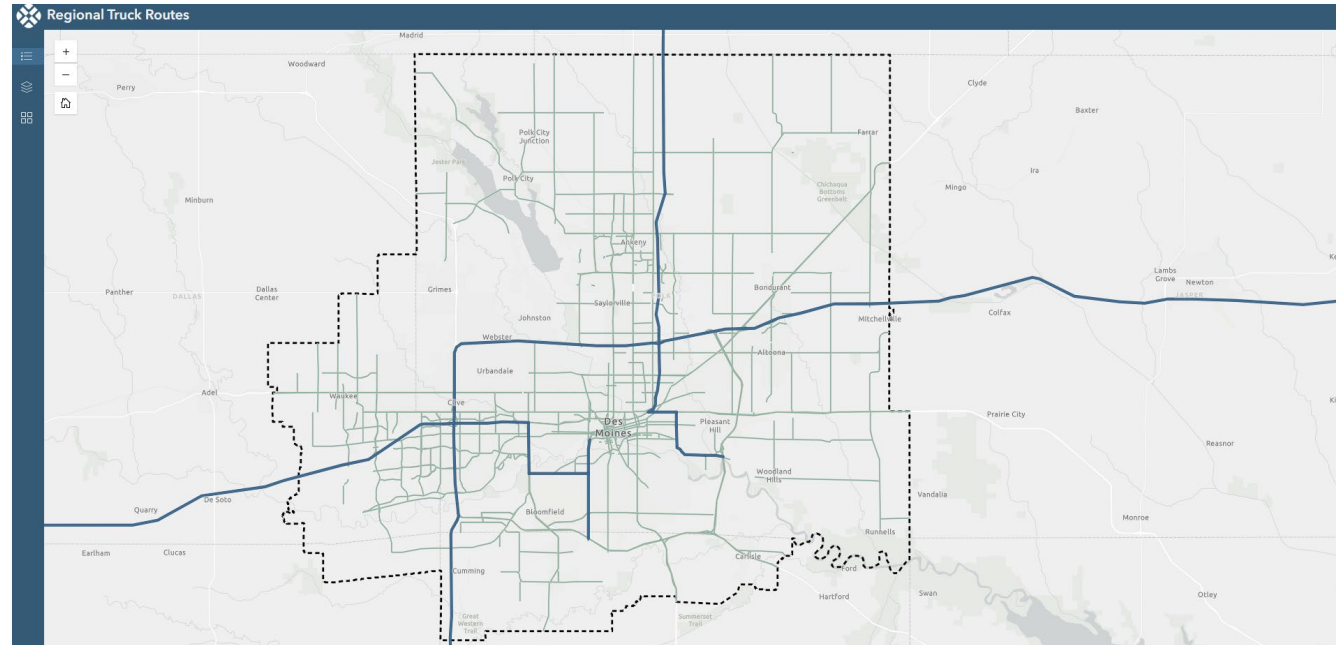
Railroad

Box Trucks/Sprinter Vans

Air

# Updating Regional Truck Routes

- Among other requests, the MPO will be seeking out updates to its Regional Truck Routes dashboard:
  - **New routes**
  - **Defunct routes**
  - **Additional regulations**



# Plan Development

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- Task 1: Distribute Survey, Build up Contacts (Now)
- Task 2: Draft introductory materials (Now)
- Task 3: Identify Data Needs; Acquire, Map & Analyze Data (November-December)
- Task 4: Work with freight round table to identify trends and share survey results (Q2-Q3)
- Task 5: SWOT analysis (Q3)
- Task 6: Plan development (Q2-Q3) for approval Q4

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

# Gaggle on the Streets with TTC Reps



# Foundation and Pillars

- **The MPO has committed to Vision Zero by 2045:**
  - The Active Transportation Plan is one mechanism for the region to plan for action on safety.
  - Progressing toward a safer active transportation system requires consistency, localized solutions (e.g., urban/suburban) and coordinated efforts.
- **Communities are already acting on walkability:**
  - Trails are highly valued to community residents and economic development.
  - Sidewalk gaps, trail gaps and developer incentives.
  - Construction of walkable market/civic districts.
- **The MPO is responding to feedback from the discovery process – short & long-term.**



# On the Horizon

- Refining interconnections between MPO plans, functions, & outcomes.
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Level of Stress analysis is in progress.
  - Walk Audits
- E-Moto Developments
  - Policy, Education, Infrastructure, & Enforcement... & Funding
    - MAC, PLEXA, Communications
      - Growing list of short & long-term solutions
        - Model language, creative messages, & clarity
- Engagement continues
  - Invited & invented spaces
    - Invite form will be included in post-meeting email – please share!

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

# Executive Director Annual Review

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- ConnectifyHR administered surveys to MPO staff and MPO Policy Committee in October.
- MPO officers met to review results and perform annual review of the Executive Director on October 28.
- The officers will report to Executive Committee and Policy Committee on their recommendations in November.

# 2026 MPO REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICER SELECTION PROCESS

# Key Steps

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- Appointment of Policy and Technical representatives by each member
- Appointment or Nomination of Executive Committee representatives
- Election of Officers

# Process - Under 50,000

- Request forms/sample resolutions sent to each member in November, due by end of December.
- Tech and Policy representatives – appointed by the member.
- Executive Committee representative:
  - One nominee per member.
  - Selection committee of mayors/supervisor chair meets to review nominees and select two representatives and inform MPO staff.

## **East Subarea**

Altoona  
Bondurant  
Carlisle  
Mitchellville  
Pleasant Hill

## **Northwest Subarea**

Dallas County  
Grimes  
Johnston  
Polk City  
Urbandale

## **Southwest Subarea**

Clive  
Norwalk  
Warren County  
Waukee  
Windsor Heights

# Process - Over 50,000 + Polk County

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- Request forms/sample resolutions sent to each member in November, due by end of December.
- Tech, Policy, and Executive Committee representatives – appointed by the member.

# Representative Selection Process

- New Policy Committee representatives will take their positions in January.
- The MPO chair will appoint a three-person nominating committee prior to the February meeting.
  - The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates to be voted on in February.
- Officer terms are from March 1 through the end of February.

# INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

# Informational Items

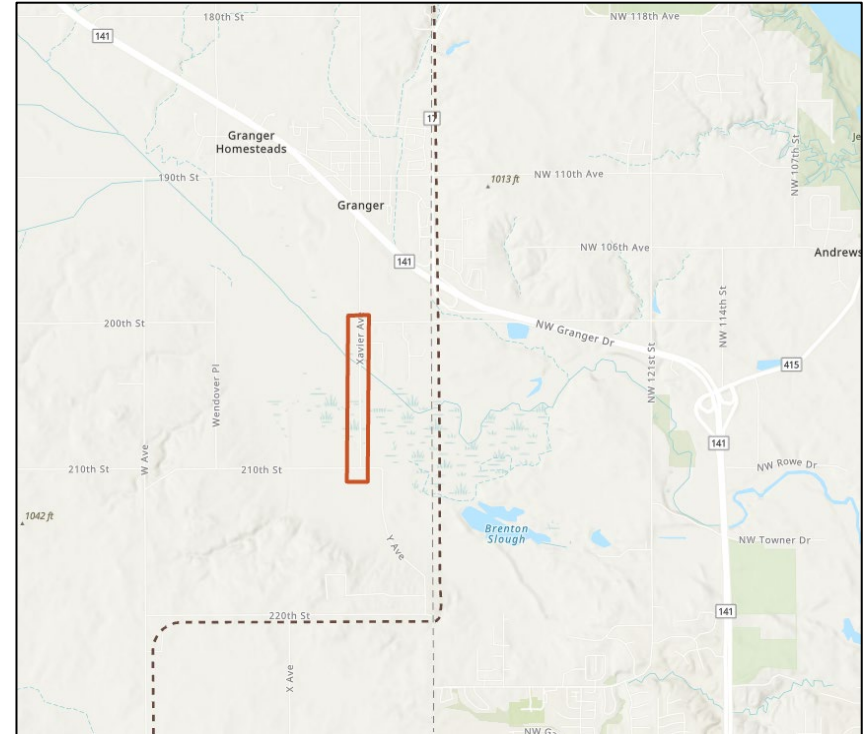
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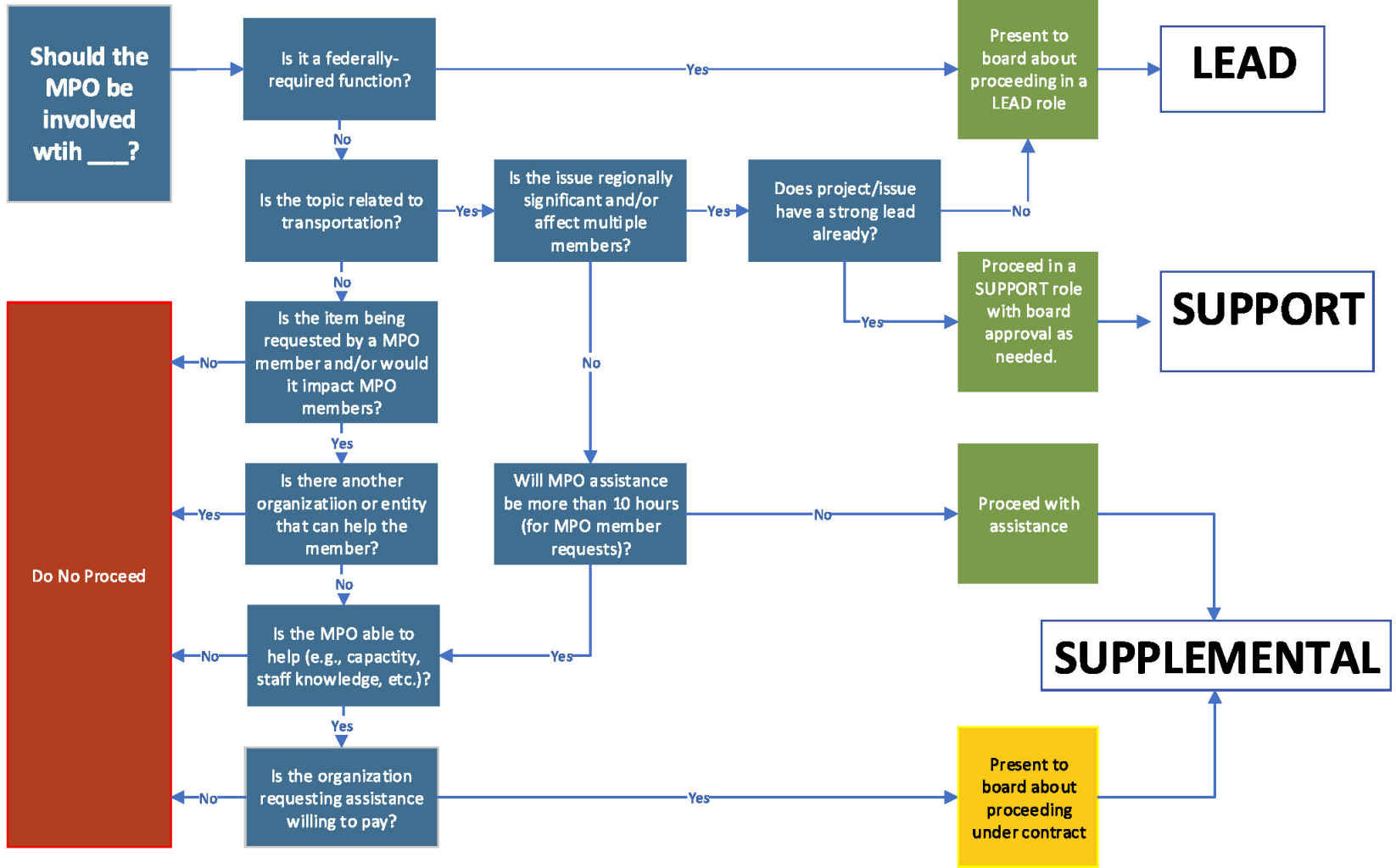
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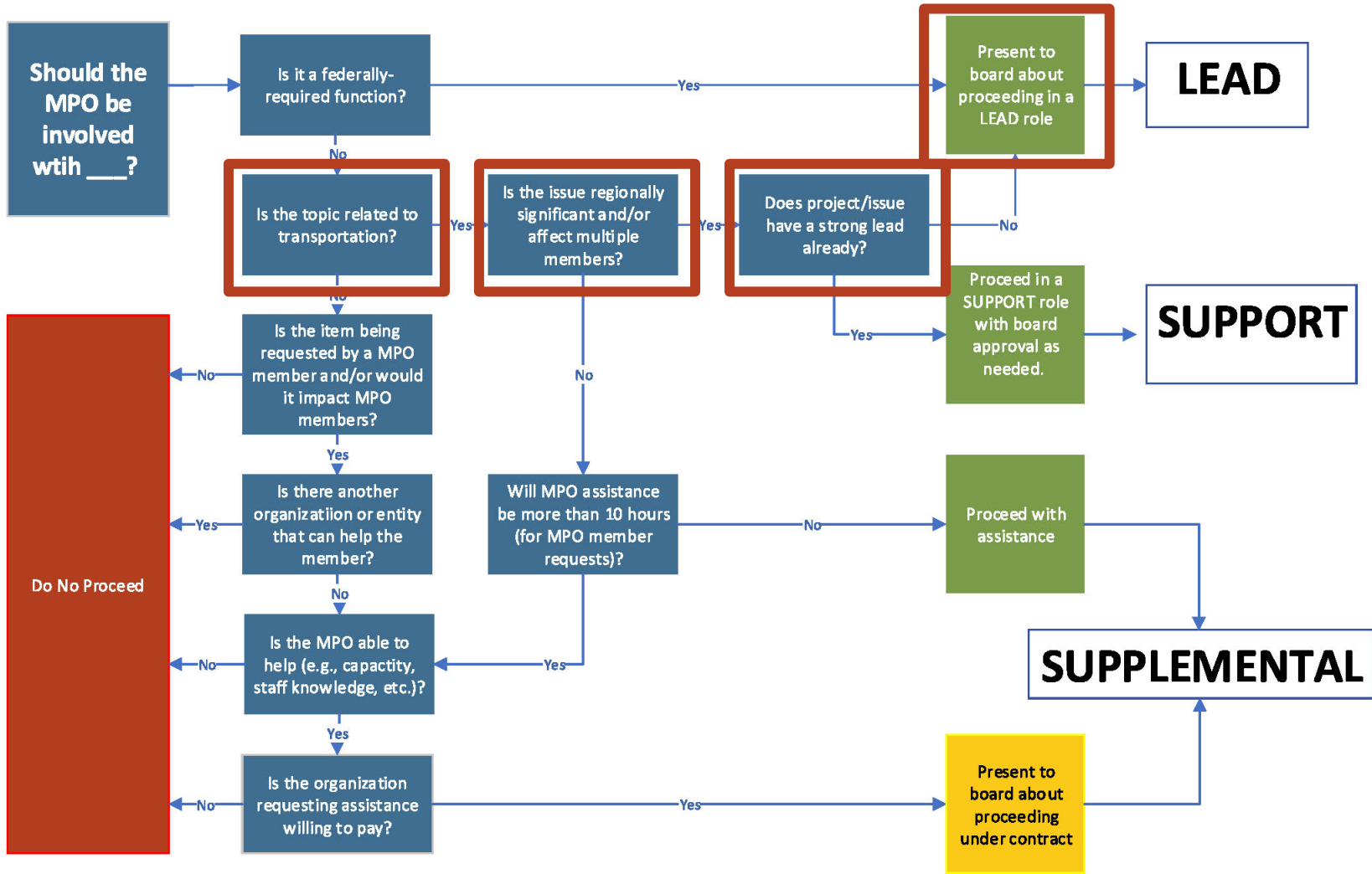
# OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

# NW Transportation Study Request

- MPO staff approached by communities in NW part of metro to coordinate a multi-jurisdictional study of transportation options.
  - Examine roadway and trail corridors, particularly those crossing Brenton Slough
  - Examine connections to broader regional system

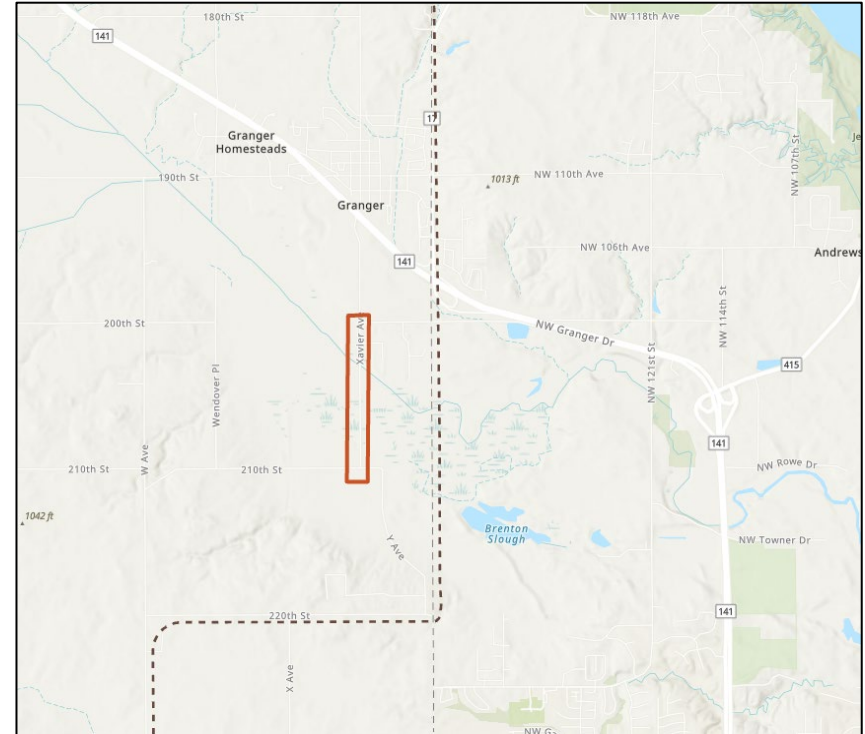






# NW Transportation Study Request

- Next Steps
  - Present request to Policy Committee (November)
  - Work with communities to develop scope (December/January)
  - Presentation on planning project and amend into UPWP (February)




# Staff Update

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- Departure of Carl Saxon, Senior Planner
- Addition of Janet Slavick, Associate Planner

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