

Meeting Minutes
Policy Committee Meeting
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
4:00 p.m., January 22, 2026

The MPO held a meeting at 4:00 p.m. on January 22, 2026. The MPO staff emailed agenda packets to the MPO's representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office on January 16, 2026. **In addition to these published tentative minutes, there are also additional meeting notes in 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.**

PO Representatives Present:

Dean O'Connor | City of Altoona
Todd Shafer | City of Ankeny
Mike Schrock | City of Ankeny
Dan Carver | City of Carlisle
Ted Weaver | City of Clive
Julia Helm | Dallas County
Amanda Wanke | DART
Connie Boesen | City of Des Moines (4:06)
Josh Mandelbaum | City of Des Moines
Carl Voss | City of Des Moines
Rob Barron | City of Des Moines
Scott Sanders | City of Des Moines
Jake Anderson | City of Grimes
Tom Phillips | City of Norwalk
Len Murray | City of Pleasant Hill
Steve Karsjen | Polk City
Mark Holm | Polk County
Courtney Clarke | City of Waukee
Matt McKinney | City of West Des Moines
Mike Jones | City of Windsor Heights
Shelby Ebel | IDOT *
Brian Mulcahy | Des Moines International Airport*

MPO Representatives Absent

Doug Elrod | City of Bondurant
Kathie Hungerford | City of Cumming**
Katie Wilson | City of Elkhart**
Bob Lane | City of Indianola**
Jim Evans | City of Johnston
Heather Stancil | Madison County
Jessica Trobaugh | City of Mitchellville

Robert Andeweg | City of Urbandale
Joel Akers | Van Meter**
Aaron DeKock | Warren County
Tom Hadden | City of West Des Moines
Julia Castillo | HIRTA*
Sean Litteral | FHWA*
Daniel Nguyen | FTA*
Gerri Doyle | FTA*
* Advisory/Non-Voting Representatives
** Associate/Non-Voting Representative

Others Present:

Dorrance Brezing | Developers Realty Group
Gabe Claypool | Des Moines Industrial
Carol Maher | Public
Rob Grove | City of Waukee

MPO Staff Present:

Scott Brennan | MPO General Counsel
Dylan Mullenix | Executive Director
Gunnar Olson | Planning & Public Affairs Manager
Marcus Coenen | Senior Planner
Addison Williamson | Associate Planner
Rhonda Miller | Accounting Specialist

1. **Call To Order**
Chair Holm recognized a quorum and called the January Policy Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
MOTION: A motion was made by O'Connor and seconded by Voss to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization January 22, 2026, meeting agenda.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
MOTION: A motion was made by O'Connor and seconded by Voss to approve the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization November Policy meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. **Public Comment**
None
5. **Approval of Consent and Vote Items**
 - a. November & December Financial Statements
 - b. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment- Iowa DOT
 - c. Proposed Change to Federal Function Classification.**MOTION:** A motion was made by Weaver and seconded by Clarke to approve the Consent items.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
6. **Presentation: Des Moines Industrial**
Des Moines Industrial Chief Executive Officer Paul Cownie provided an update on the transloading facility's activities, performance to date and plans for growth.
7. **FY 2025 Audit**
Robert Endriss of Denman CPA LLC presented an overview of the Des Moines Area MPO FY 2025 Audit. The audit was previously reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee and the Executive Committee, both of which recommended approval.
MOTION: A motion was made by O'Connor and seconded by Clarke to approve the FY 2025 Audit.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
8. **Regional Safety Performance Targets (PM1)**
Senior Planner Marcus Coenen provided a report on the MPO's Regional 2022-2026 safety performance targets. Recommend approval.
MOTION: A motion was made by O'Connor and seconded by Murray to approve the MPO's Regional Safety Performance Targets (PM1)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
9. **Safe Streets for All Partial Grant Award**
Senior Planner Marcus Coenen reported that the MPO received a partial grant award in the amount of \$4.62 million dollars. He further reviewed what portions of the grant were funded and which items were not. Report and discussion only.

10. Public Participation Plan

Planning and Public Affairs Manager Gunnar Olson presented a report on the draft Public Participation Plan. Staff reviewed updates to the structure of MPO roundtables to align with the recently adopted strategic plan and current planning needs.

During discussion, Mandelbaum asked which roundtables the MPO would participate in if it no longer hosted the Environmental and Smart City Roundtables. Staff indicated participation in the Iowa Environmental Council and the Iowa Council on Automated Transportation, respectively.

11. Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Planning and Public Affairs Manager Gunnar Olson advised that staff are beginning development of the FY 2027 UPWP and budget. Staff requested input from member governments and participating agencies on planning tasks and welcomed proposals for special studies, plans, other activities, or requests for local planning assistance.

McKinney asked about self-driving vehicles, their potential impacts on the metro area, and implications for on-street parking and parking ramps. The Executive Director responded that staff are engaged through the Iowa Council on Automated Transportation and that resources are available, which the MPO will share with members.

[Amanda Wanke left meeting 4:52 p.m.]

12. Officer Selection Process

Executive Director Dylan Mullenix provided an update on the process and status of electing MPO officers for 2026. Members of the Nominating Subcommittee include Dean O'Connor, Amanda Wanke, and Joe Gatto.

O'Connor reported that the subcommittee developed the following slate of candidates from the new Executive Committee membership:

- Chair: Matt McCoy, Polk County
- Vice Chair: Matt McKinney, West Des Moines
- Secretary/Treasurer: Connie Boesen, City of Des Moines

Officers will be elected in February, with terms beginning in March.

13. Director's Report

Executive Director Dylan Mullenix provided the following Strategic Framework implementation updates:

- A welcome/orientation for new board members is planned for February 5, including a Pancake and Partners breakfast at the MPO.
- The Funding Review Committee met earlier in the day; funding scenarios will be shared with the committee in coming months.
- The MPO continues work on e-mobility issues with PLEXA; Clarke shared additional information with the committee.
- Legislative items of interest were reviewed.
- The MPO will participate in a Transportation/Housing Coordination effort funded by a HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance program, in partnership with DART, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and Capital Crossroads. The effort is anticipated for late March or early April.
- The I-435 Alternative Corridor Study will hold a kickoff meeting with the consultant team soon.

14. Non-Action Items

Planning and Public Affairs Manager Gunnar Olson advised of changes to the May and June Executive Committee meeting dates due to changes in the DMDC trip schedule.

15. Next Regular Meeting Date – February 19, 2026, at the MPO offices at 4:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.