



**NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

–  
**4 p.m., May 21, 2026**

**Des Moines Area MPO Burnham Conference Room**  
–

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **VOTE:** Approval of Agenda
3. **VOTE:** Meeting Minutes ..... Page 2
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** ..... Page 3
5. **CONSENT and VOTE:**
  - a. April Financial Statements ..... Page 4
  - b. Downtown Water Trails Change Orders ..... Page 5
  - c. MPO Office Lease ..... Page 6
6. **PRESENTATION:** Reauthorization Overview and Update ..... Page 7
7. **PRESENTATION:** Iowa Department of Transportation Regional Projects Update ..... Page 8
8. **REPORT and VOTE:** Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget ..... Page 9
9. **REPORT and VOTE:** Safe Streets and Roads for All Application Development ..... Page 10
10. **REPORT and VOTE:** Final Recommended Funding Scenario ..... Page 11
11. **REPORT:** Legislative Update ..... Page 12
12. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
13. **OTHER ITEMS**
14. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** 4 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2026
15. **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/](http://www.dmampo.org/title-vi/) or call 515-334-0075.*

**ISSUE: Meeting Minutes**

VOTE: Consider approval of the April meeting minutes.

**BACKGROUND:**

The minutes of the April 16, 2026, meeting of the Policy Committee are available for review.

- [Meeting Minutes, April 2026 Policy Committee](#)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the April 16, 2026, Policy Committee meeting minutes.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Tracey Deckard , [tdeckard@dmampo.org](mailto:tdeckard@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Public Comment**

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 CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: April Financial Statements**

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval of the April Financial Statements.

**BACKGROUND:**

The April Financial Statements are available for review.

- [April Financial Statements](#)

The statements have been reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of financial statements.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Rhonda Miller , [rmiller@dmampo.org](mailto:rmiller@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Downtown Water Trails Change Orders**

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval of three change orders related to the Downtown Water Trails project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Snyder & Associates has made MPO staff aware of three change orders needed for the Downtown Water Trails project.

1. **Scott Avenue Uplands Change Order #3** upgrades portions of the trail from 6-inch to 8-inch pavement and widens the path to accommodate vehicle access for a new boat launch. It also adds a gateway art installation as a separate project element. [Documentation is available on the MPO website \(click to access\)](#).
2. **Scott Avenue Uplands Change Order #4** adds removal and disposal of additional lead-contaminated soil identified during testing and includes resizing limestone veneer pieces to better fit curved walls. It also revises project staging dates and delays landscaping work due to flooding impacts and delays on the adjacent in-river project. [Documentation is available on the MPO website \(click to access\)](#).
3. **Scott Avenue In-River Change Order #6** adds a hatch opening to improve maintenance access to the torque tube system without requiring removal of multiple cover components. It also extends the Stage 2 completion date to September 30, 2026 due to high river flows and additional time needed for project tuning and observation under varying river conditions. [Documentation is available on the MPO website \(click to access\)](#).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve change orders #3 and #4 for the Scott Avenue Uplands Phase and change order #6 for the Scott Avenue In-River Phase of the Downtown Water Trails project.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix , [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: MPO Office Lease**

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval of lease renewal agreement for the MPO's current office test.

**BACKGROUND:**

The MPO's current lease, last renewed in 2021, extends through November 30, 2028. However, the lease provides a one-time early termination option at the end of the fifth lease year, allowing the MPO to terminate the lease effective November 30, 2026, provided at least six (6) months' prior written notice is given. Accordingly, notice to exercise the early termination option must be delivered no later than May 31, 2026. If the early termination option is not exercised by that deadline, the lease will continue through November 30, 2028. The MPO space includes approximately 8,027 rentable square feet (RSF). The current rate is \$14.95 per RSF through November 30, 2026, then will increase to \$15.25 per RSF through November 30, 2028.

In March, MPO staff provided an overview of efforts made to explore other office spaces as well as proposals made by the current landlord, KC Real Estate, LC (Knapp Properties), to stay in the current space. Staff's recommendation, which was supported by the Executive and Policy Committees, is to pursue an option presented by Knapp Properties to stay in the current location and extend the lease by five additional years beyond the current lease's November 30, 2028, end date.

The lease document will be provided prior to the May Policy Committee meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the lease renewal agreement for MPO office space.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix, [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Reauthorization Overview and Update**

PRESENTATION: A representative with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations will provide an update on transportation reauthorization process.

**BACKGROUND:**

Katie Economou, Legislative Director for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), will provide an update on the status of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill. The current bill expires September 30, 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Presentation only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix , [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Iowa Department of Transportation Regional Projects Update**

PRESENTATION: Representatives from the Iowa Department of Transportation will provide an update on projects in the region.

**BACKGROUND:**

Iowa DOT District 1 Engineer Allison Smyth will provide an update on current and future projects happening in the Greater Des Moines region.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Presentation only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix , [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget**

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

MPO staff has completed the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (FY 2027 UPWP) and budget, which documents all planning activities the MPO will perform from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. A draft version was presented to the MPO committees in March, submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation for review, and is back before the committees for final approval.

[Click here to access the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget.](#)

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 final UPWP is due to the Iowa DOT by June 1, 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Gunnar Olson , [golson@dmampo.org](mailto:golson@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Safe Streets and Roads for All Application Development**

REPORT and VOTE: Update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) application development; consider approval.

**BACKGROUND:**

The MPO adopted the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan on March 27, 2025. Included in the contract with Toole Design Group for the development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan was an implementation grant application for the FY2025 SS4A funding round. The MPO was awarded \$4,620,000 in supplemental planning funds.

On March 27, 2026, the U.S. DOT released the FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the SS4A program. The NOFO lists several changes from previous funding cycles as well as updated items requiring self-certification from a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The FY 2026 SS4A Implementation Grant NOFO is available here: [FY 2026 SS4A NOFO](#). Grant applications for the FY2026 SS4A NOFO are due by May 26, 2026, by 5 p.m. EDT.

MPO staff will provide an update on the development of the application materials including the list of infrastructure projects. Staff will also provide an update on the timing of letters of support and matching fund commitments. The proposed projects include:

1. Ankeny – Oralabor Rd & Ankeny Blvd (U.S. 69)
2. Clive and Urbandale – 86th Street
3. Des Moines – SW 9th Street
4. Grimes – IA 44 – Phase I
5. Johnston – Pedestrian Crossings
6. Norwalk – Sunset Dr from Gordon Ave to North Ave
7. Waukee – Waukee Regional Trail Connection and Safety Improvements
8. West Des Moines – Ashworth Road
9. Windsor Heights – 73rd Street

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend approval of the project list for inclusion in the SS4A grant application.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Marcus Coenen , [mcoenen@dmampo.org](mailto:mcoenen@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Final Recommended Funding Scenario**

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the final recommended funding scenario developed through the funding review.

**BACKGROUND:**

In August, the MPO committees agreed to postpone the awarding of FFY 2030 fundings by one year, with the cycle starting in concurrence with the application for FFY 2031 funds. The pause made time to review the funding process.

The MPO Chair appointed a Funding Review Subcommittee, which worked with staff to develop a range of scenarios for consideration by the MPO committees. Three scenarios were developed and shared with the MPO committees for review and feedback.

A final scenario was developed based on committee feedback and is now presented to the committees for consideration. The final scenario includes the following:

- **SCHEDULE:** Advance the application cycle by five months to start in July.
- **SAFETY SCORING:** Increase the weight of safety elements in safety scoring and establish a minimum score to be eligible.
- **VISION ZERO PROGRAM:** Establish a Vision Zero Program, including roadway safety audits and countermeasures on corridors with elevated safety concerns. The MPO funds 80% of the cost. Additional staffing will be needed to increase staff capacity.
- **SAFETY FUNDING TARGETS:** Set a new funding target of 15% minimum for safety, notably the Vision Zero Program.
- **LOCAL-SWAP PILOT:** Hire a firm to help set up a pilot program wherein federal dollars are swapped for local dollars, which can then fund some or all of the Vision Zero Program with local dollars.

Today's vote on final approval serves to direct staff to complete the buildout of the funding scenario through a series of administrative actions. These include:

- Administrative revision of *Mobilizing Tomorrow* to reflect new funding targets.
- Direction to develop a pilot program for federal funding swap.
- Direction to develop updated Funding Guidelines.
- Establishment of Vision Zero Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve final recommended funding scenario.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dylan Mullenix , [dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

**ISSUE: Legislative Update**

REPORT: Discussion on recent legislative activity.

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff will share updates on various legislative issues and invite updates and discussion among committee representatives.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Gunnar Olson , [golson@dmampo.org](mailto:golson@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075