DES MOINES AREA MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Notice of Meeting

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee
–
4:00 p.m., October 15, 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.** September Financial Statements ..... Page 4
    - **b.** Downtown Water Trails Change Orders ..... Page 5
    - **c.** Affirm Bylaws Amendments ..... Page 6
    - **d.** Transportation Improvement Program Amendments ..... Page 8
6. **PRESENTATION:** University of Iowa Driving Safety Research Institute ..... Page 9
7. **REPORT and VOTE:** InterCONNECT Plan Approval ..... Page 10
8. **REPORT and VOTE:** Proposed Calendar Year 2027 Meeting Dates and Posting Location ..... Page 11
9. **REPORT and VOTE:** Funding Optimization Study ..... Page 12
10. **REPORT:** FFY 2030 and 2031 STBG Funding Update ..... Page 13
11. **REPORT:** Excess Funding Update ..... Page 14
12. **VOTE:** Enter Closed Session to Discuss a Potential Real Estate Transaction ..... Page 15
13. **REPORT:** Mobilizing Tomorrow Goal One Performance Measures ..... Page 16
14. **REPORT:** 2026 Regional Trail Pavement Condition Report ..... Page 17
15. **REPORT:** Officer and Executive Committee Representatives ..... Page 18
16. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
17. **OTHER ITEMS**
18. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** 4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2026
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.

October 2026
Item No. 3

ISSUE: Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Consider approval of the September meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the September 17, 2026, meeting of the Policy Committee of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization are available for review.

- Meeting Minutes, September 2026, Policy Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the September meeting minutes.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075

October 2026
Item No. 4

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
(515) 334-0075

October 2026
Item No. 5a

ISSUE: September Financial Statements

CONSENT and VOTE: Approve September Financial Statements.

BACKGROUND:

The September Financial Statements are available to review on the MPO website. The statements were reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee.

- September Financial Statements

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the September Financial Statements.

STAFF CONTACT:

Rhonda Miller, rmiller@dmampo.org
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October 2026
Item No. 5b

ISSUE: Downtown Water Trails Change Orders

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval of change orders for the Scott Avenue In-River and Uplands phases of the Downtown Water Trails project.

BACKGROUND:

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

- **Scott Avenue In-River Change Order #8** extends the in-river project completion date from September 30, 2026, to March 1, 2027, due to high river flows delaying final tuning work. The extension has no additional cost and is not expected to delay the planned 2027 recreation season opening. Documentation is available on the MPO website (click to access).
- **Scott Avenue Uplands Change Order #6** adjusts the elevation of a sanitary manhole to match the trail pavement after field verification found the manhole partially within the trail rather than outside it as originally surveyed. The adjustment adds $1,800 to the contract. Documentation is available on the MPO website (click to access).

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Scott Avenue In-River Phase Change Order #8 and Scott Avenue Uplands Phase Change Order #6 for the Downtown Water Trails project.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

October 2026
Item No. 5c

ISSUE: Affirm Bylaws Amendments

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval on amendments to the MPO's Bylaws.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO's current 28E Agreement and Bylaws were last amended in 2018. Since then, the region has experienced population changes reflected in the 2020 Census, expansion of the MPO planning area, and continued organizational evolution.

During the MPO's 2025 Transportation Management Area Certification Review, FHWA and FTA recommended that the MPO update its 28E Agreement and Bylaws to reflect current census data and regional changes and to clarify roles and responsibilities of MPO committees.

Additionally, the MPO's 2024 Governance Insights review identified opportunities to clarify committee roles, strengthen alignment between written provisions and current practice, and enhance member engagement.

In March 2026, the Executive and Policy committees agreed on the need for a comprehensive review of the 28E and Bylaws. MPO Chair McCoy identified a steering committee of MPO representatives to help in this review process.

Steering committee members included:

- Dean O'Conner, City of Altoona
- Connie Boesen, City of Des Moines
- Bob Andeweg, City of Urbandale
- Courtney Clarke, City of Waukee
- Mike Jones, City of Windsor Heights

The steering committee met several times in May and June to review proposed changes identified by staff and legal counsel. The goal of the review was to ensure that both documents are clear, consistent, and accurately reflect the current organizational framework and operations. Proposed changes and areas for discussion were grouped into three categories:

- Tier 1: Clean-Up/Clarification
  - Minor updates were made to address obsolete language, ensure consistency of language, and ensure alignment with current practices.
- Tier 2: Structural/Organizational Updates
  - Changes were made to how the documents are organized and to clarify existing practices. These changes did not change how authority is described or how the MPO operates.
- Tier 3: Policy Decisions
  - These items were the primary focus of the steering committee's discussions and would change, or clarify, how the MPO operates.
  - Major recommendations include:
    - Remove weighted voting given that it has not been used and a member's representation is already based on population.
    - Update the timing of officer elections and Executive Committee appointments so that terms are on a calendar year basis to better align with the terms of local elected officials.
    - Reduce the Executive Committee's size, update its composition, and codify its recent role of providing strategic direction versus decision making.
    - Change the meeting frequency of committees.
    - Update the name of the Policy Committee to better reflect the body's role as the main decision-

making group (no name was recommended).

Staff presented these materials at August meetings of the Executive Committee and Policy Committee. Both committees were generally supportive of the recommended changes with the following exceptions:

1. They preferred keeping the Executive Committee at its current size instead of shrinking it.
2. There was a question of whether the MPO's subcommittees, roundtables, and advisory groups should be legally viewed as public meetings for purposes of staying within the bounds of the law and to keep with the spirit of the MPO's commitment to transparency.
3. They recommended adding reference to the Decision Tree to support existing language in the 28E that discusses the MPO's potential role in other non-transportation activities.

In September, staff reported back with revised recommendations based on three points of committee feedback and additional discussion with the steering committee. The revised recommendations were approved by the Policy Committee at its September meeting.

For the changes to the bylaws to take effect, the changes need to be reaffirmed by a second vote of the Policy Committee. Updated red-lined and clean versions of Bylaws are available on the MPO website at the links below.

- Bylaws
  - Red-lined version showing changes
  - Clean version with changes accepted

For the amendments to the 28E Agreement to take effect, a majority of MPO members would need to adopt the revised 28E Agreement. Updated red-lined and clean versions of the 28E Agreement are available on the MPO website at the links below.

- 28E Agreement
  - Red-lined version showing changes
  - Clean version with changes accepted

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve amendments to the MPO's Bylaws.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

October 2026
Item No. 5d

ISSUE: Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

CONSENT and VOTE: Consider approval of amendments to the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Des Moines has requested the following amendment to the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program:

Sponsor: City of Des Moines
Project: ITS Upgrade Phase 6
Federal Aid Amount: $1,500,000
Total Cost: $3,900,000
Type of Funding: STBG
Location: Intelligent transportation system upgrades, phase 6
Change: Map additional project locations in TPMS.

The City of Pleasant Hill has requested the following amendment to the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program:

Sponsor: City of Pleasant Hill
Project: University Avenue and Sherrylynn Boulevard Improvements
Federal Aid Amount: $500,000
Total Cost: $1,163,000
Type of Funding: STBG
Location: University Ave/Sherrylynn BV Int, Shadyview BV to 500ft E of Sherrylynn, S to Jennifer Dr.
Change: Add $200,000 of State U-Step funding to the project.

DART has requested the following amendment to the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program:

Sponsor: DART
Project: Rider and Non-Rider Surveys
Federal/State Aid Amount: $65,000
Total Cost: $130,000
Type of Funding: STA (State Transit Assistance)
Location: N/a
Change: Add project to the TIP.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the TIP amendments.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2026
Item No. 6

ISSUE: University of Iowa Driving Safety Research Institute

PRESENTATION: Presentation from the University of Iowa's Driving Safety Research Institute.

BACKGROUND:

Daniel McGehee, PhD, Director of the University of Iowa's Driving Safety Research Institute (DSRI) and National Advanced Driving Simulator and Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering, will provide a presentation on the DSRI, including efforts related to autonomous vehicles.

The DSRI is an interdisciplinary transportation safety research institute in the University of Iowa's College of Engineering. It is home to the National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS-1 simulator), a suite of world-class driving simulators, and a fleet of instrumented on-road research vehicles.

Funded by government and industry, DSRI conducts research studies for the private and public sectors.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) owns the NADS-1 simulator itself, while the University of Iowa takes responsibility for operation and maintenance.

DSRI's research areas includes drowsy and distracted driving, safety and crash data analysis, and connected and automated vehicles, among others.

Additional information is available at https://dsri.uiowa.edu/.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Presentation only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075

October 2026
Item No. 7

ISSUE: InterCONNECT Plan Approval

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the active transportation plan, InterCONNECT.

BACKGROUND:

MPO staff has drafted an active transportation plan titled InterCONNECT. This plan evaluates the existing active transportation network, provides a safety analysis, and identifies regional planning considerations. The InterCONNECT draft document can be found on the project's page.

There was a public comment period and comments were received through a form on the MPO's website. InterCONNECT was also presented at the MPO's Active Transportation and Trails Roundtables. Comments were received and edits were made.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the InterCONNECT plan.

STAFF CONTACT:

Janet Slavick, jslavick@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075

October 2026
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Proposed Calendar Year 2027 Meeting Dates and Posting Location

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the Calendar Year 2027 Meeting Dates and Posting Location.

BACKGROUND:

MPO staff annually issues a proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming calendar year. The MPO is required to issue its upcoming meeting dates, along with the location where it will post meeting agendas, to comply with the State of Iowa's Open Meetings Law. MPO staff asks for feedback of any known conflicts with the proposed schedule.

- Proposed Calendar Year 2027 Meeting Dates and Posting Location

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Calendar Year 2027 Meeting Dates and Posting Location.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

October 2026
Item No. 9

ISSUE: Funding Optimization Study

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of entering contract negotiations for Funding Optimization Study.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last year the MPO evaluated the process by which it annually awards approximately $20 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and STBG Set-Aside dollars to its member communities. This process led to updates in project scoring, funding categories, application timelines and format, among other changes.

The MPO additionally evaluated best practices from other MPOs across the country. A best practice identified for further study was the strategic use of federal and local dollars to provide additional flexibility in delivering transportation projects. One potential implementation mechanism is a federal-local funding swap.

To study the most appropriate program structure, the MPO issued an Request for Proposal on September 2 seeking a consultant to conduct a Funding Optimization Study. The MPO received one proposal, from Jack Faucett Analytics.

Staff reviewed the proposal and is satisfied with the proposed scope of work and the consultant's ability to deliver on the project. The cost of the study is $30,000, which is included in this year's budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend authorizing staff to enter contract negotiations with Jack Faucett Analytics to conduct a Funding Optimization Study.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2026
Item No. 10

ISSUE: FFY 2030 and 2031 STBG Funding Update

REPORT: Report on the recommendations from the Funding Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO will award Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds to projects throughout the region that advance the goals established in the long-range transportation plan, Mobilizing Tomorrow.

Twenty-three applications were received for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2030 and 2031. Requests totaled more than $70 million, while approximately $41 million is available.

- STBG Applications -- FFY 2030-2031
- STBG Set-Aside Applications -- FFY 2030-2031

A public comment period was held August 19 through September 18.

- Public Comments

The Funding Subcommittee has had two meetings to date and plans a third meeting prior to the Policy Committee meetings.

- October 7: Project Presentations
- October 8: Excess Funding and initial deliberations on recommendations
- October 13: Deliberations

Staff will provide an update at the October meeting of the Policy Committee. In November, the Policy Committee will consider action approving the Funding Subcommittee's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org
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October 2026
Item No. 11

ISSUE: Excess Funding Update

REPORT: Report on the recommendations from the Funding Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND:

The Policy Committee established a policy in 2020 of spending any Excess Funding in the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program that is greater than $250,000. The amount of STBG funds above that threshold will be presented to the Funding Subcommittee, which will make a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee for consideration.

The policy suggests allocating those funds in two basic categories:

1. Retroactively award the full asking amount on projects that received partial STBG or TAP awards in the past three years.
2. Invest in regionally significant projects.

The Funding Subcommittee reviewed Excess Funding at its October 8 meeting. Staff will brief the Policy Committee on those discussions during the October meeting. In November, the Policy Committee will consider action approving the Funding Committee's recommendations for allocating Excess Funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org
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October 2026
Item No. 12

ISSUE: Enter Closed Session to Discuss a Potential Real Estate Transaction

VOTE: Enter closed session to discuss a potential real estate transaction.

BACKGROUND:

The Policy Committee will enter Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code § 21.5 (1)(j) relating to the purchase or sale of specific real estate.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider entering closed session to discuss a potential real estate transaction.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

October 2026
Item No. 13

ISSUE: Mobilizing Tomorrow Goal One Performance Measures

REPORT: Update on the long-range transportation plan performance measures for Goal One.

BACKGROUND:

Mobilizing Tomorrow 2025-2050, which the MPO approved in November 2024, includes 37 measures which are key indicators of the performance of the regional transportation system. Performance measures are regularly evaluated using new data to determine if progress is being made toward plan goals.

Staff have prepared a report on the status of 16 performance measures for Mobilizing Tomorrow Goal One:

> *The Greater Des Moines region includes an extensive network of streets, bridges, bicycle facilities, and transit assets. Aging infrastructure and assets will be a critical challenge facing the region over the coming decades. Focusing investment on managing and optimizing our existing transportation systems will ensure that the region remains competitive. These investments should focus on keeping our roadways maintained to a high standard while optimizing our current systems using signal timing and other advances in technology to move people and goods more efficiently throughout the region.*

Staff will present the report on Goal One performance measures. Current Goal One performances measures can be found here.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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(515) 334-0075

October 2026
Item No. 14

ISSUE: 2026 Regional Trail Pavement Condition Report

REPORT: Update on the 2026 Regional Trail Pavement Condition Report

BACKGROUND:

Since the beginning of the Data Bike program in 2017, the MPO has collected pavement conditions for the regional and local trails on an alternating annual basis. In 2026, MPO staff collected new data along the regionally significant trail network and have that data ready to share.

This data includes surface roughness via an accelerometer smartphone application, pavement photos via a GoPro camera aimed at the pavement collecting photos every 1 second and then analyzed visually to detect stress and damage, and 360 imagery collected and published on Google Street View.

The report is published at dmampo.org/project/data-bike.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2026
Item No. 15

ISSUE: Officer and Executive Committee Representatives

REPORT: Discussion of updated process for the selection of MPO Officers and Executive Committee representatives.

BACKGROUND:

The updated MPO Bylaws change the timeline and process for the selection of Officers and representatives of the Executive Committee. These selections will be made at the November meeting of the Policy Committee. To prepare, staff will give an overview of what to expect at the November meeting.

Executive Committee

- The structure of Executive Committee remained unchanged.
  - 2 from Des Moines
  - 1 from Polk County
  - 1 each from other jurisdictions with >50k population (currently Ankeny and West Des Moines)
  - 2 each from the 3 subareas of members with <50k population
- At the November Policy meeting, time shall be provided for the member representatives to deliberate and select their Executive Committee appointments.
- Appointees to the Executive Committee will be shared prior to the election of officers.

Officers

- Nominating Committee may elect to meet prior to last Policy meeting of the calendar year (November) to develop a short list of potential officers.
- After Executive Committee appointments are announced at the November Policy meeting, the Nominating Committee can put forward nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. If needed, time will be provided to the Nominating Committee to deliberate on nominations.
- Vice Chair is treated as Chair Elect.
- Max term is 2 years.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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