

GOAL

Infrastructure

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Together, our region's investments will develop efficient infrastructure that supports economic development, provides more transportation choices, and reduces energy consumption.

We want our leaders to make fiscally sound investments in the transportation system, utilities, renewable energy and new technology to support prosperity for all residents. We want to ensure that existing roads, highways and transit systems are maintained properly, improved, and implemented in a fair and equitable manner. We also want more options for getting around the region, like expanded bike and pedestrian facilities and new forms of transit, coordinating with Metro's transit system improvements underway already.

The transportation sector (rail and truck logistics) is a major part of our region's economy and regional investments that balance new transportation options, advance workforce development for disadvantaged neighborhoods, and support existing networks are needed. New sites for industrial development will benefit from access to highway, railroad, freight, and air transportation. The US 34/Platteview Road corridor which opened a new \$100+ million bridge recently across the Missouri River is an example of how new industrial development can be linked to existing highways. Other investments in infrastructure, such as broadband, will also support our communities and workforce.

Outcome 5.1: By 2050, we have a transportation system that allows for efficient movement of people, goods and services throughout the region by all modes. We have developed an efficient and effective scale of infrastructure that meets the constant evolution of human needs. Development patterns will have a greater focus on walking, biking, and transit.

Strategies:

Heartland 2050 will promote, support, and/or facilitate:

- a) a regional transportation plan for the five-county area that provides for regional coordination, with inclusive local representation in decision making. Modes in the transportation plan will include roads and auto, freight and logistics, biking and walking, and local and regional transit. Plan will consider emerging future technologies such as autonomous connected vehicles and drones.
 1. Explore structures to address transportation issues regionally. Expand existing inter-local cooperation agreements to include members from MAPA, Nebraska, Iowa, the five counties, and local governments - with representation from urban, suburban, and rural areas.
 2. Develop a coordinated staff team led by MAPA with executive and technical staff borrowed from other organizations, such as the states, counties, and private industries. Agencies and organizations will commit to an annual leadership-sharing program targeted to achieving specific programs.
 3. Review options for regional bond issues and a funding compact in each state; with close coordination between state funding packages. Coordinate timing and projects between states.
- b) coordinated local and regional capital improvement programs highlighting regionally significant projects that are adopted and implemented by each of the five counties and local jurisdictions.
 4. Create a phased capital improvement plan and a coordinated capital improvement program that have multiple sources of funding to implement the regional vision.
 5. Fund the regional transportation effort through public and private sector funding.
- c) in coordination with Heartland 2050 regional land use plan, transportation improvements (existing system and expansion) to complete physical links between town centers, employment centers and areas of concentrated poverty. Walking, biking and transit facilities integrated into all areas of the region so that they are safe, efficient and offer convenient connections. Aesthetics considered from a local and regional perspective.
 6. Adopt a regional complete streets policy that addresses providing for all users and modes and considers the context of the land use when planning, improving, and maintaining the region's roadways. Monitor progress in achieving complete street

- goals, and celebrate successes throughout the region to encourage implementation of complete streets.
7. Prepare model policies for local jurisdictions to adopt that provide for all users and modes in transportation projects. Prepare design guidelines for implementation throughout the region.
 8. Coordinate transportation, housing and economic development investments to foster more equitable development patterns and healthy, opportunity-rich neighborhoods across the region.
 9. Make transportation investments that increase mobility and access to jobs for low-income transit-dependent residents and expand employers' access to workers.

Outcome 5.2: By 2050, we have efficient, sustainable, and affordable utility systems that foster health and prosperity and incorporate advanced technologies to better serve residents and businesses.

Strategies:

Heartland 2050 will promote, support, and/or facilitate:

- a) infrastructure planning across political boundaries, based on land topography and natural areas, and managed growth so that new development is contiguous and directed to areas where adequate public infrastructure and services exist already or are planned.
10. Conduct a regional market assessment in coordination with property inventory.
- b) coordinated water and waste water strategies with strong local representation in decision making, recognizing geographic and political barriers.
11. Joint services and tools across the region, enabling local jurisdictions to work together.
- c) regional guidelines for water, waste water, storm water and solid waste management that are consistent with the Heartland 2050 regional land use plans.
12. Develop a regional, consolidated service plan which enables shared resources with water and treatment facilities provided for multiple cities within the drainage service area.
- d) regional energy strategies to provide efficient access to a diverse portfolio of reliable energy sources, including a larger portion of renewable energy sources, distributed energy generation and conservation practices.