

**CITY OF LA VISTA**  
**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 AGENDA**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING — SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	ANN BIRCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS**

A resolution has been prepared to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

In-kind match through staff assistance to technical committees and working groups.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be offering a Regional Planning Grant in FY 2011 to support the creation of regional plans for sustainable development. Plans must address six “Livability Principles” which include:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investments
- Value communities and neighborhoods

MAPA intends to apply for the grant and is organizing a consortium of local jurisdictions and organizations to undertake a regional visioning process for sustainable development covering the entire metropolitan area. The aim of the process, called Heartland Vision 2050, will be to conceptualize regional growth and development to mid-century, and to develop the collaborative structures and forums that can concert the various plans, policies, and actions of individual organizations and achieve efficiencies in the use of resources.

The purpose of the MOU is to define the working relationship between the City of La Vista and MAPA in regard to Heartland Vision 2050, and specifically the application for the grant. Attached is a flyer regarding the project and the draft MOU. Jake Hansen from MAPA will be available during the Council meeting to answer any questions.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VISTA, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY (MAPA) FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be offering its Regional Planning Grant to support creation of regional plans for sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, the MAPA intends to apply for the grant to support "Heartland Vision 2050", a regional visioning process for sustainable development covering the entire Omaha metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MOU is to define the working relationship between the City of La Vista and MAPA in regard to Heartland Vision 2050 and specifically the application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant administered by HUD; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Vista will be part of a consortium of local governments and other agencies and organizations that commit to assisting in the creation of the regional sustainable development vision in ways that are appropriate and beneficial to the City and to the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of La Vista, Nebraska, hereby approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) for a sustainable communities planning grant.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011.

CITY OF LA VISTA

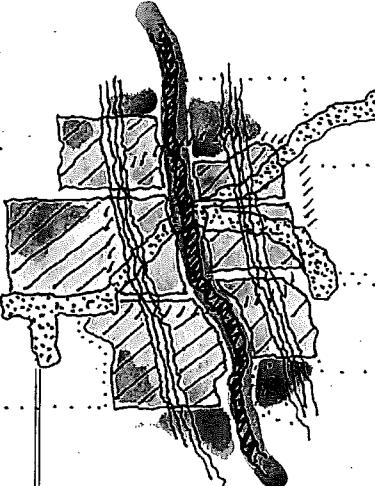
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Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pamela A. Buethe, CMC  
City Clerk



# HEARTLAND VISION 2050

## What is a “regional vision?”

- ...A way to identify the issues and opportunities facing the region and its residents
- ...A chance to define the future of our communities rather than react to problems
- ...A means of opening lines of communication, building consensus, and working together to achieve common goals.
- ...An opportunity to coordinate and achieve efficiencies in public plans, projects, and services.

## Where did this come from?

In early 2010, MAPA met with elected officials from all major jurisdictions in the eight-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), to hear their perspectives on the major issues facing our region in the long term. A number of common themes emerged, including a desire to do a visioning process that would consider the region's challenges and identify strategies to comprehensively address them, drawing on the region's many assets and strengths.

## What issues will this cover?

The ultimate scope of the vision will be defined by the Heartland Vision 2050 consortium and community stakeholders. It is expected, however, that the core elements of the vision will encompass: **land use and transportation, housing, infrastructure provision, environment, health and human development**, with regional socioeconomic equity and economic growth being cross-cutting themes.

## Who will participate?

Heartland Vision 2050 will be led by a consortium of public and private-sector entities in eight counties of the Omaha-Council Bluffs MSA, and MAPA will in turn lead and support the consortium. The consortium will include **local governments** (counties and cities), specialized **public and quasi-public agencies, donors, non-profit organizations, businesses**, and other regional citizens. The visioning process will be open to and driven by the general public, however, and their input will definitively shape the content of the final vision and associated plan.

## How will it develop?

Heartland Vision 2050 will be a **multi-year process**, resulting in a **regional plan for sustainable development**. The heart of the process will be a series of public visioning workshops. Insights generated from these workshops will inform the work of technical forums convened around the major issue areas and staffed by consortium members and community stakeholders. Oversight will be provided by a core steering committee, which will be ultimately responsible for drafting the final plan and creating the **collaborative structures and policies** to guide implementation of the vision.

### FY 2011 Funding Opportunity: HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants

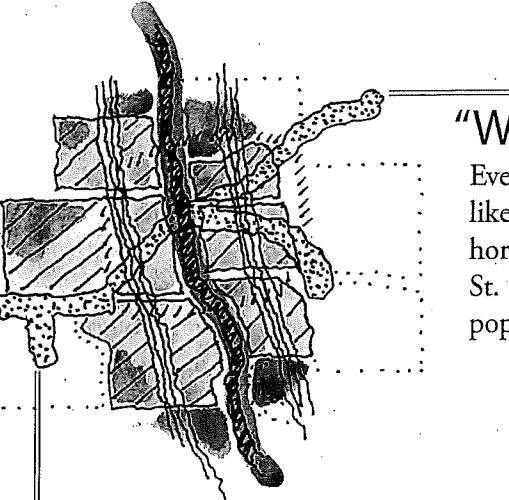
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be offering its Regional Planning Grant again in FY 2011 to support creation of regional plans for sustainable development. This grant program is one of the outcomes of the innovative Federal **Partnership for Sustainable Communities** (PSC), composed of HUD, DOT, DOE, and EPA.

Plans must address the six **Livability Principles** of the Partnership to be successful. These principles include:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investments
- Value communities and neighborhoods

MAPA intends to apply once again for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to support Heartland Vision 2050. A new memorandum of understanding has been drafted and can be made available to any organization or entity interested in partnering in the effort in the coming months.

For more information, contact Paul Mullen, [paul\\_mullen@mapacog.org](mailto:paul_mullen@mapacog.org), or Sloan Dawson, [sdawson@mapacog.org](mailto:sdawson@mapacog.org). To view and download documents related to Heartland 2050, visit [www.mapacog.org/](http://www.mapacog.org/)



## "What kind of region do we want to be?"

Every regional visioning process starts out with this question. Do we want to be like Portland, Minneapolis-St. Paul, or Denver, where cooperation led to new horizons in equity and prosperity? Or will we eventually become like Detroit or St. Louis, where central cities have struggled to maintain public services, retain population, and create opportunities for further growth?

## How can we learn from other regions?

Fortunately, there is already a wealth of experience nationwide in regional planning initiatives (including regional peers Kansas City and Des Moines) on which we can draw to design a process that is a right fit for our metro. Some initiatives have pioneered new models of public engagement and input in the formulation of a regional vision. Others have focused on specific questions, such as where to locate transit corridors and other infrastructural amenities. Most share a common concern with developing indicators, metrics, and other standards for evaluating progress toward the vision.

Our region is new to thinking at this scale, so the focus of our initiative will by necessity be on developing the right public education and input mechanisms to shape a vision that is legitimate and realistic, and thus able to be set into motion.

## Why should I get involved?

Heartland Vision 2050 will be an unprecedented opportunity to chart a path forward as a region. But as the experiences of other regions show, a **vision is only as strong as the coalition of governments, organizations, and citizens supporting it**. This is true of the formation of the vision itself as well as its ability to take hold and guide future policies, investments, and decisions.

Participation and engagement in the process will give you and your organization a voice in the outcome, provide opportunities to gain a more intimate understanding of the region's strengths and needs, and yield access to new tools for evaluating effectiveness of investments and monitoring progress toward regional goals.

## How can I get involved?

Contact Sloan Dawson, [sdawson@mapacog.org](mailto:sdawson@mapacog.org), or Paul Mullen, [paul\\_mullen@mapacog.org](mailto:paul_mullen@mapacog.org) for more information and to explore opportunities for partnership in the regional visioning initiative.

## What is MAPA?

The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and a council of governments serving the 5 core urbanized counties of the Omaha-Council Bluffs region. MAPA performs transportation planning and manages the disbursement of Federal funding to local transportation projects. It also provides technical assistance and programmatic support to local jurisdictions on transportation and community development issues.

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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### Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

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*Between:* City of La Vista, Nebraska

*And:* Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)

The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and regional Council of Governments serving the 5-county Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area, is organizing a consortium of local jurisdictions and organizations to undertake a regional visioning process for sustainable development covering the entire Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The aim of the process, called Heartland Vision 2050, will be to conceptualize regional growth and development to mid-century, and to develop the collaborative structures and forums that can concert the various plans, policies, and actions of individual organizations and achieve efficiencies in the use of resources.

MAPA proposes to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The application will propose use of Federal funds to support the costs of undertaking Heartland Vision 2050.

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the working relationship between City of La Vista and MAPA in regard to Heartland Vision 2050, and specifically the upcoming application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### **II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

City of La Vista will be part of a consortium of local governments, specialized agencies, donors, non-profit organizations, and other regional citizens. Membership in the consortium entails a willingness to discharge the terms and conditions listed below, as well as any special terms and conditions concluded through direct agreement with MAPA.

MAPA will serve as the consortium leader, providing project management and administrative support to the regional visioning effort. It will also serve as the lead applicant to the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program.

#### **III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

City of La Vista, as a member of the Heartland Vision 2050 consortium, commits to assisting in the creation of the regional sustainable development vision in ways that are appropriate and beneficial to its organization and to the region. In particular, City of La Vista and MAPA agree:

- ❖ MAPA will serve as the lead applicant for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant and will further act as the Heartland Vision 2050 consortium leader, including assuming responsibility for ensuring that the process is carried out in compliance with HUD requirements;
- ❖ City of La Vista will work with MAPA to constitute the formal governance and collaboration structures to deliver the regional visioning process, including duly appointing representatives to technical committees and working groups and contributing resources relevant to the City's interests and competencies;
- ❖ City of La Vista will work with MAPA to maintain robust external communications with citizens and other stakeholders throughout the process and engage them in meaningful decision-making roles;
- ❖ City of La Vista will work with MAPA to execute a formal consortium agreement within one hundred-twenty (120) days after the effective start date of the grant agreement, if funds are awarded to MAPA by HUD.

#### **IV. SIGNATURES**

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**Douglas Kindig**  
Mayor  
City of La Vista, Nebraska

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**Paul Mullen**  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)

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**Date**

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**Date**