



# DES MOINES AREA MPO

Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association

April 2024

# Outline



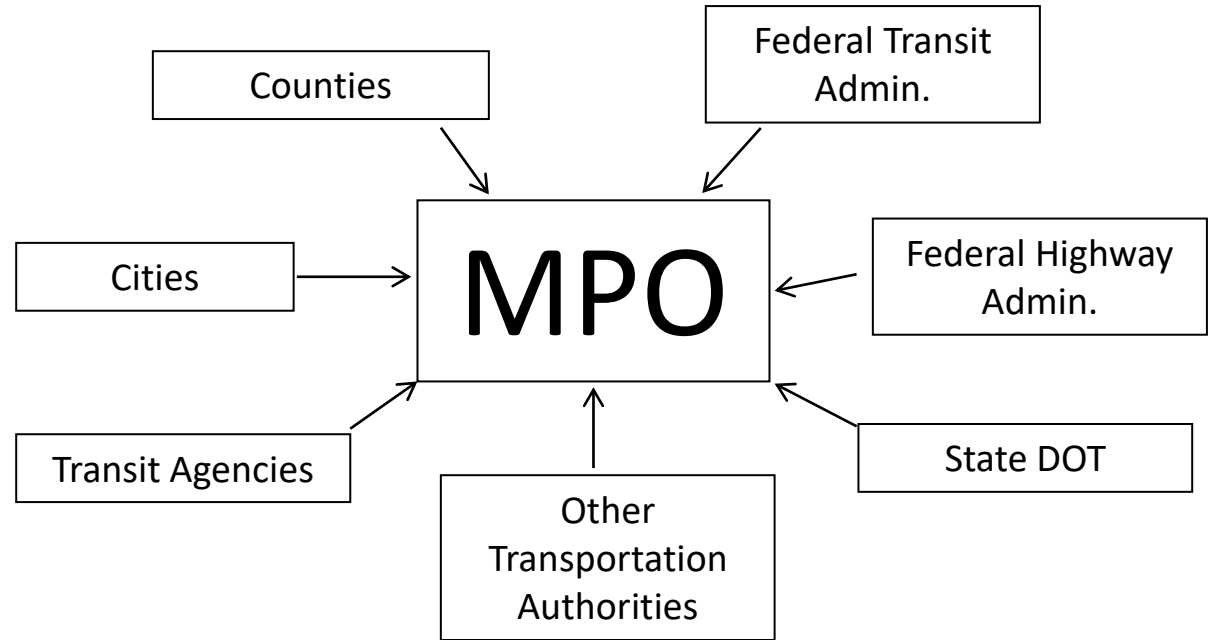
1. About the MPO
2. MPO Funding
3. Safe Streets and Roads for All
4. Future 435
5. Water Trails
6. Notable Projects of MPO Members

# ABOUT THE MPO

# What Are Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)?

Created by federal government to address regional nature of transportation networks spanning many communities.

Defined as a policy board comprised of local government and transportation agency representatives.



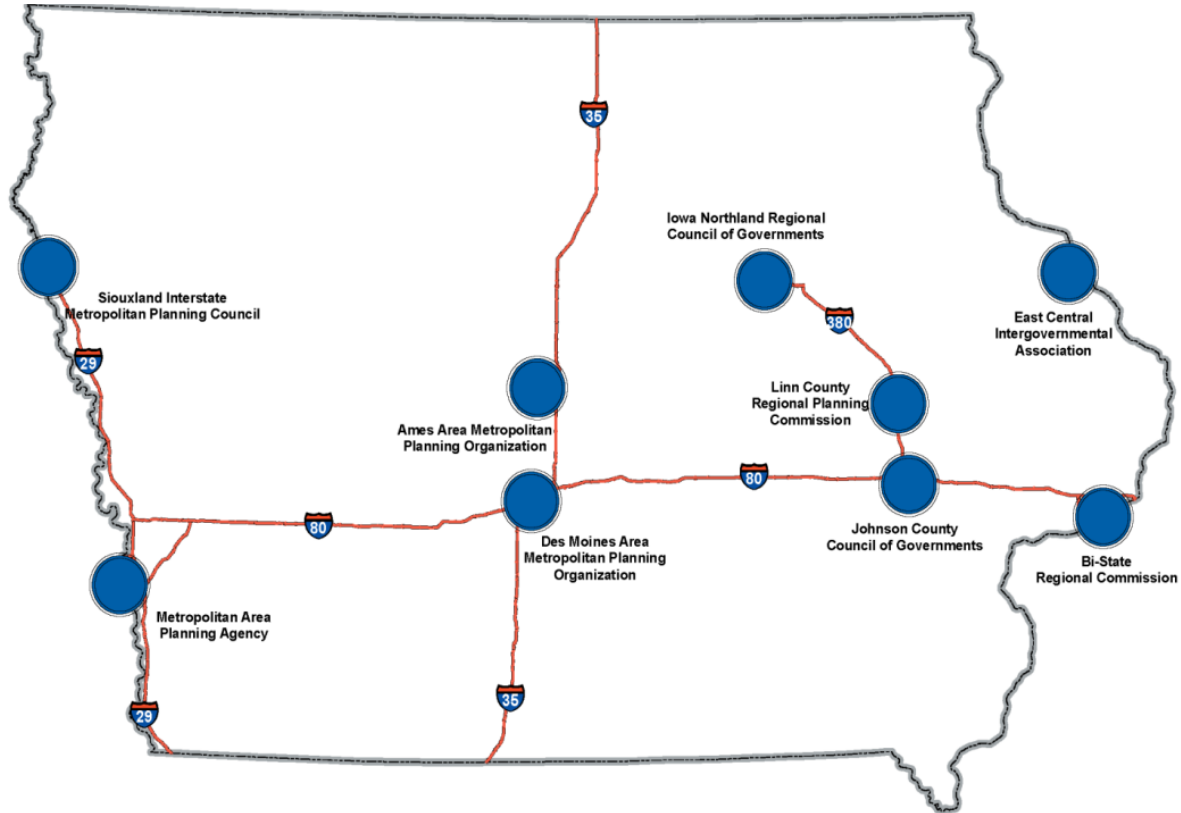
# What Do MPOs Do? 6 Core Functions

1. Establish a setting for effective decision-making
2. Identify and evaluate transportation improvement options
3. Prepare and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan
4. Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
5. Identify performance measure targets and monitor progress towards goals
6. Involve the public

## **What MPO's DON'T do**

Because MPOs typically neither own nor operate the transportation systems they serve, most MPOs will not be involved in implementing the transportation project priorities they establish. Rather, MPOs serve an overall coordination and consensus-building role in planning and programming funds for projects and operations.

# One of 9 MPOs in Iowa



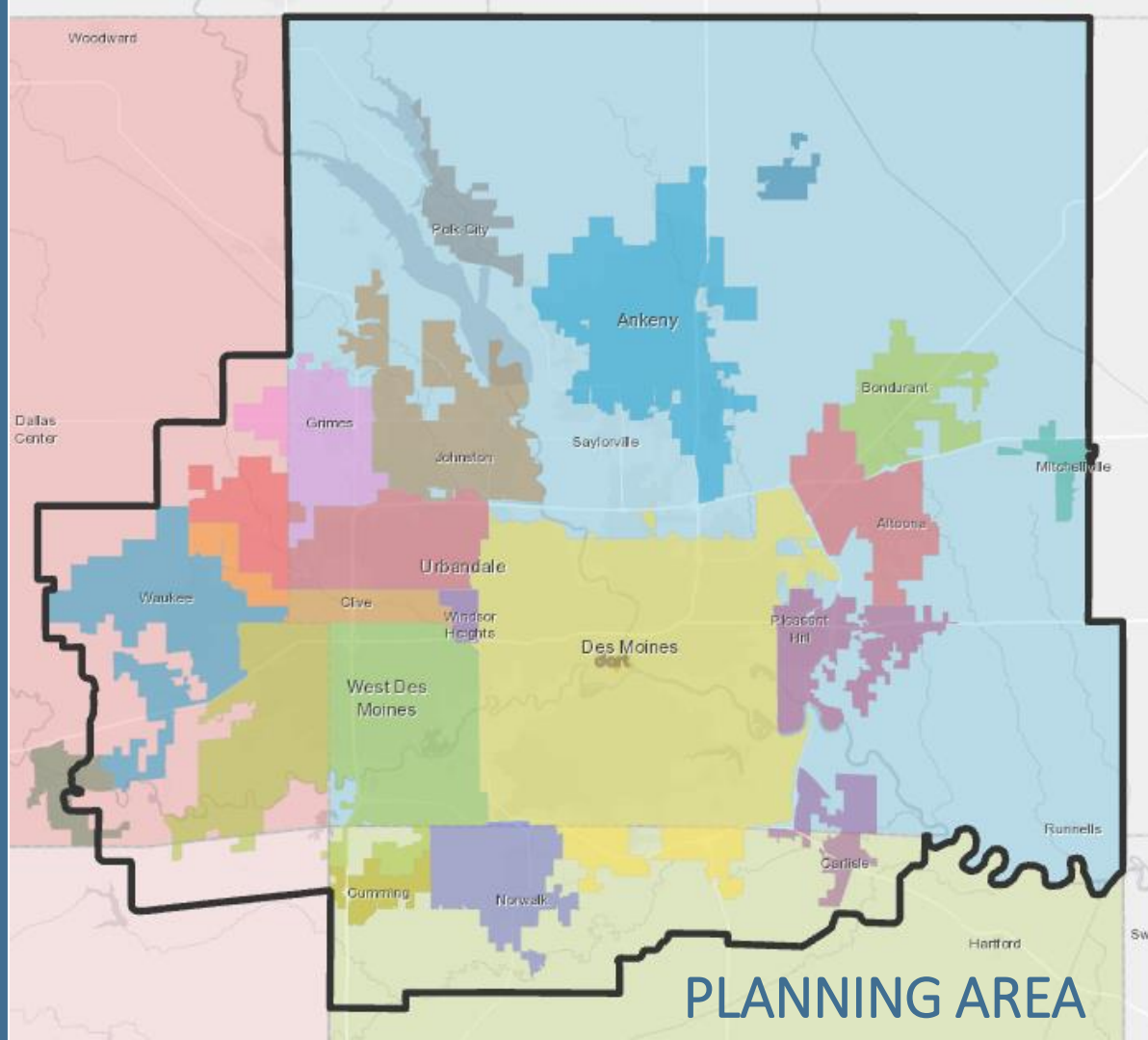
Source: Iowa DOT

# HISTORY & AUTHORITY

- Des Moines Area Transportation Planning Committee designated by Governor as MPO of Des Moines area in 1983
- Reformed as the Des Moines Area MPO in 1993
- 28E agreement & bylaws last updated in 2018

# 20 VOTING MEMBERS

Altoona	Norwalk
Ankeny	Pleasant Hill
Bondurant	Polk City
Carlisle	Urbandale
Clive	Waukee
Des Moines	West Des Moines
DART	Windsor Heights
Grimes	Dallas County
Johnston	Polk County
Mitchellville	Warren County

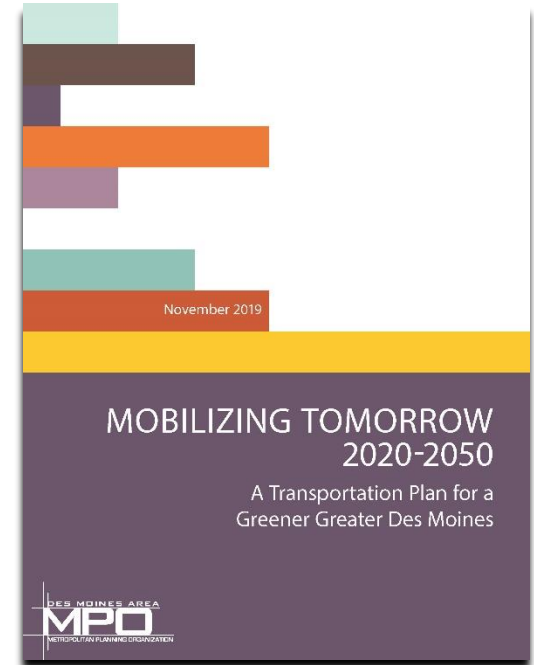


# MPO FUNDING



# Mobilizing Tomorrow

- Long-Range Transportation Plan
  - Required every 5 years
  - Updated November 2019
  - Next plan update due November 2024
- Identifies projects, policies, and funding necessary to achieve vision for future network
- Projects seeking to use federal DOT funding must be included in or supported by plan to be eligible



# MPO Funding

## Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program

- Flexible funding that may be used by states and localities for transportation projects.
- The intent of these projects is to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any federal-aid highway, bridge, public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and transit capital projects.
- Each year, approximately \$16 million is available in STBG funding for the greater Des Moines region.

Funding Category	Targets
Roadway capacity	30% (max)
Bridge repair/replacement	20% (min)
Major reconstruction	25% (min)
System Optimization	15% (min)
Transit	10% (min)

# MPO Funding

## Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to schools
- \$1.5 million annually

## Carbon Reduction Program

- NEW: For a limited time, the Des Moines Area MPO has an additional \$1.3 million in annual funding for projects that reduce carbon emissions.

All federal funding programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

# MPO GRANT FUNDING

Five-year total grants to MPO members  
(Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2027)

**TOTAL AWARDS: \$75.7M**

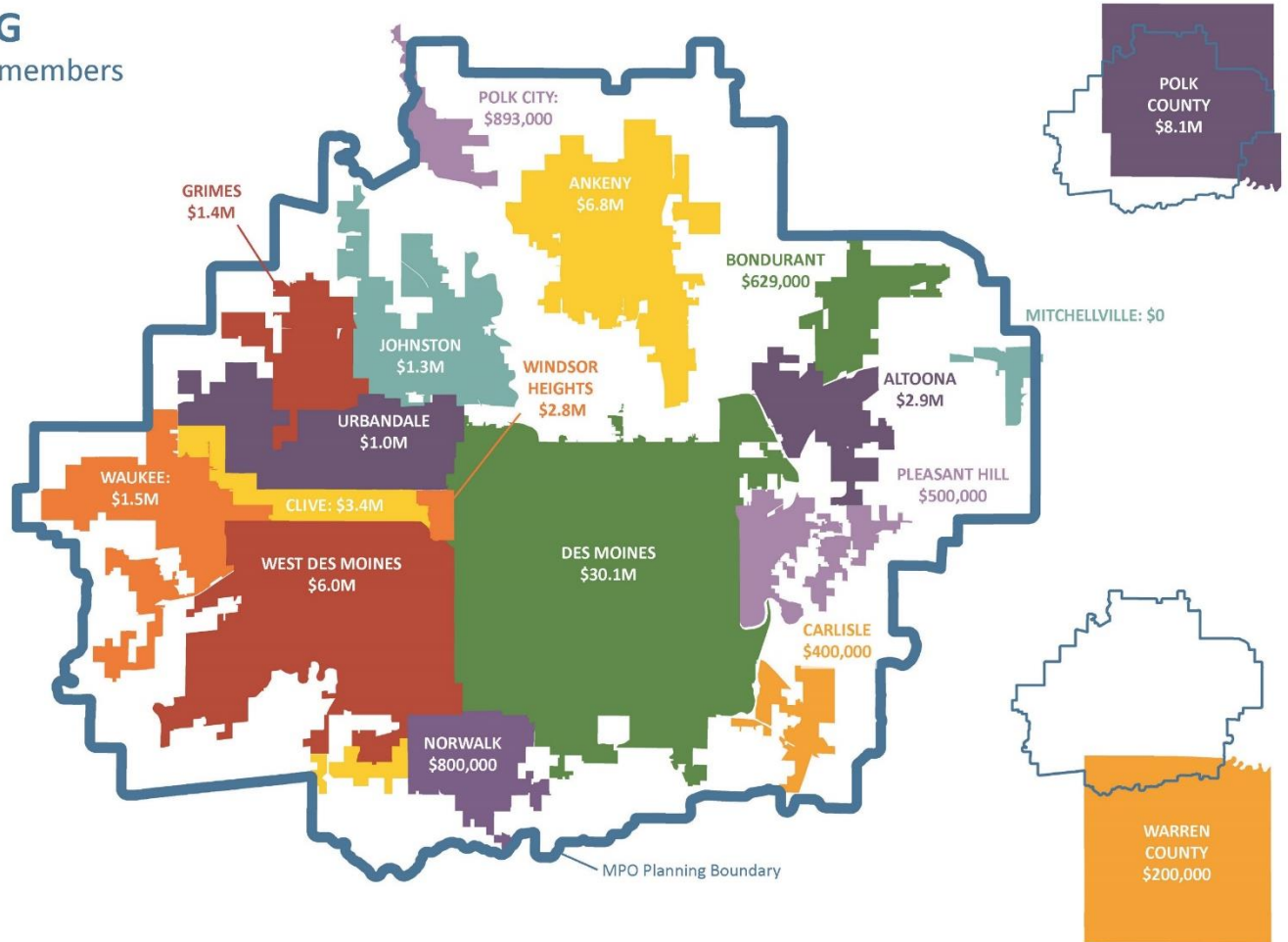
The Des Moines Area MPO has increasingly focused its funding on getting the most use out of existing infrastructure, a major theme of the region's long-range transportation plan (LRTP), Mobilizing Tomorrow.

Funding levels for the MPO-administered grant programs have increased roughly \$3 million per year, to approximately \$16 million annually, since the most recent transportation authorization bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

MPO staff has begun the 18-month process of updating the LRTP, which is federally required to be updated every five years.



DES MOINES AREA  
REGIONAL TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY  
\$7.2M



– 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year –

**\$500 MILLION:**

MPO INVESTMENT IN THE REGION

– AND COUNTING

# **SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL**

**BIPARTISAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
LAW**



# **Safe Streets and Roads for All**



# Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

- New discretionary funding program under the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- \$1 billion available for FY 23 (\$1 billion also available each of next 4 years)
- Two uses of funds – Safety Action Plan or Implementation
  - Action Plan - \$200,000 minimum award; \$1 million max for individual jurisdictions or \$5 million max for MPOs/multi-jurisdictional applications
  - Implementation - \$5 million minimum award; \$30 million max for individual jurisdictions or up to \$50 million for MPOs/multi-jurisdictional
  - Must have Action Plan or equivalent to qualify for Implementation dollars; cannot apply for both



# MPO Award: Planning grant

---

- The Des Moines Area MPO was successful in securing \$800,000 in planning funds to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.
- The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is a prerequisite for any application for implementation grants.
- The MPO's plan will cover all member jurisdictions.
- Once the plan is complete, MPO members will be eligible for implementation dollars – likely for the FY2025 cycle.

# Call to Action

---

- MPO is now seeking public input on the plan.
- We need to know what the everyday users know – challenges and opportunities
- Online map where you can identify locations and offer thoughts and suggestions.

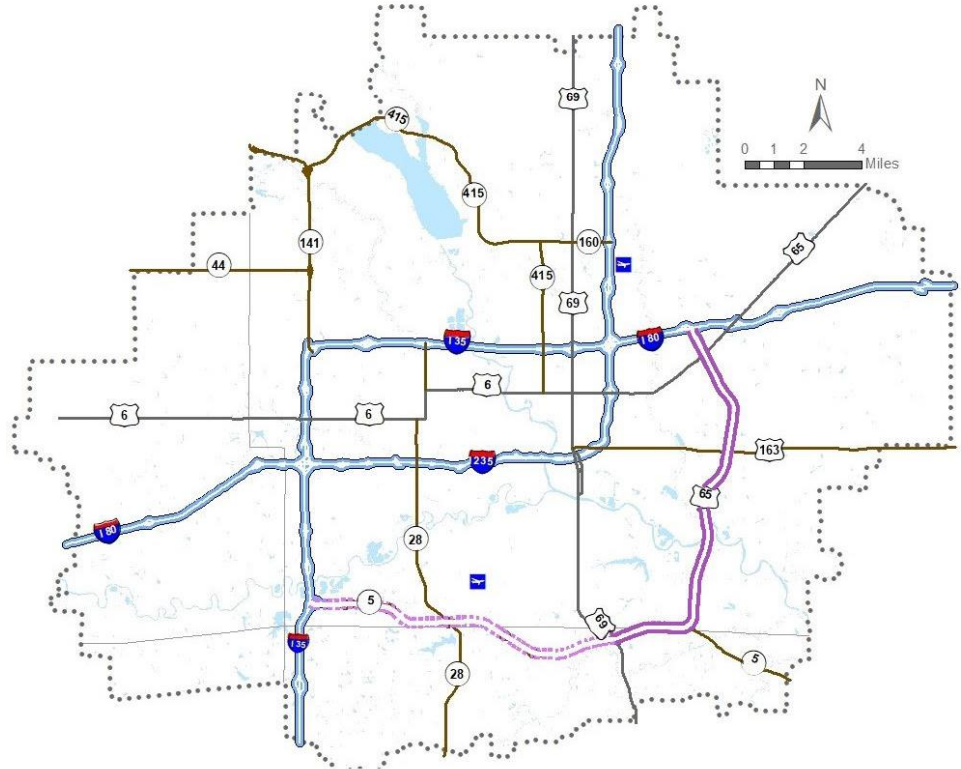
[dmampo.org/safety-action-plan](https://dmampo.org/safety-action-plan)

**FUTURE 435**

# Purple Heart Highway, aka “Future 435”

## Seeking Interstate Designation

- **WHAT:** Designate the corridor as an interstate, while preserving use of the corridor for ag stakeholders.
- **WHY:** Falling short of expectations for economic development due to lack of interstate designation; confusing signage.
- **BENEFITS:** Increased economic development; clearer signage.
- **TIMELINE:** Subject to state and federal legislation.



# WATER TRAILS

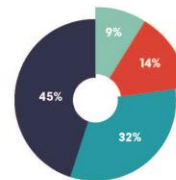
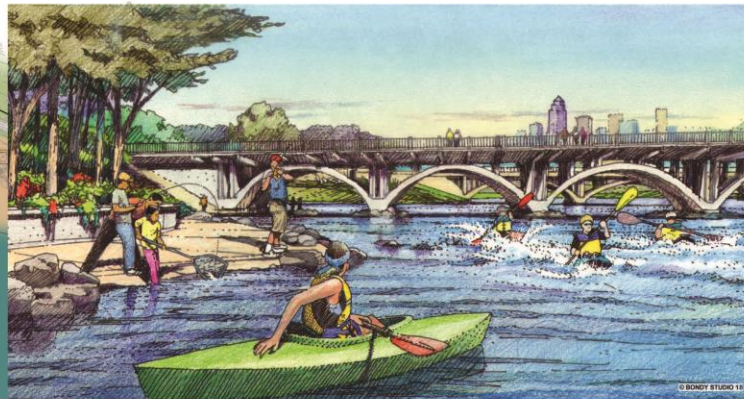
# DOWNTOWN PROJECTS



## THE NATURE CONNECTION:

### SCOTT AVENUE DAM REGIONAL ATTRACTION

By modifying the dam and adding in-water features, The Nature Connection at Scott Avenue will enhance the most popular fishing spot in the state. Designs will be completed in 2021 with construction completed in 2024. Designs will include adding more natural access points, fish-cleaning stations, fish habitat and fish passage. Paddlers will be able to take advantage of a nature setting in the middle of an urban environment. The Nature Connection at Scott Avenue was the recipient of the 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant.



### SCOTT AVENUE DAM SUMMARY COSTS: \$45 MILLION

- Site Amenities:**  
Upland amenities proposed to enhance the riverbanks
- Upland Improvements:**  
Minimum upland improvements needed for access and portage
- Recreational Improvements:**  
Whitewater drops, waveshapers, larger flashboards
- Dam Safing and Fish Passage:**  
Total cost of the dam safing and fish passage



# REGIONAL IMPACT

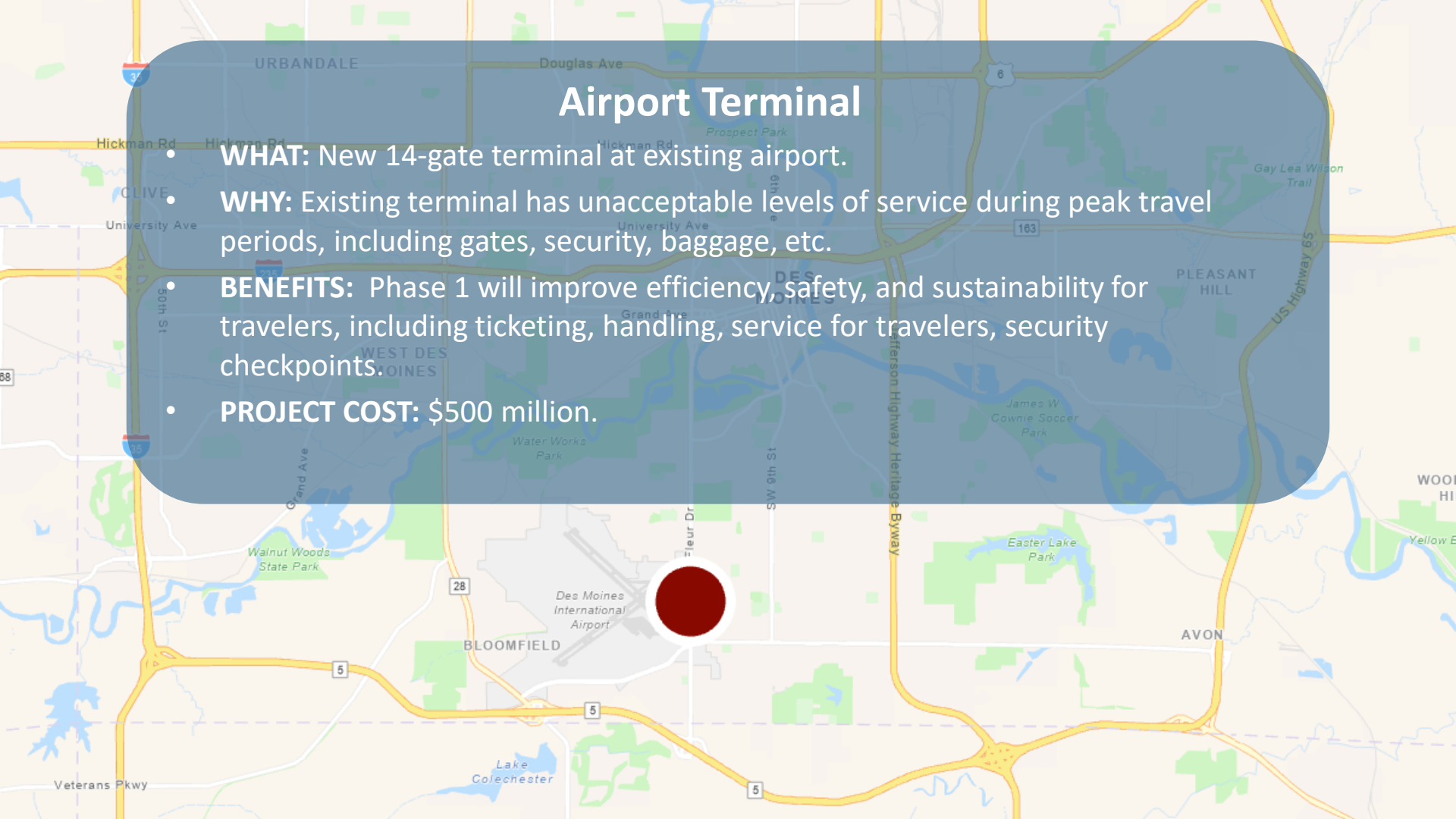




# NOTABLE PROJECTS OF MPO MEMBERS

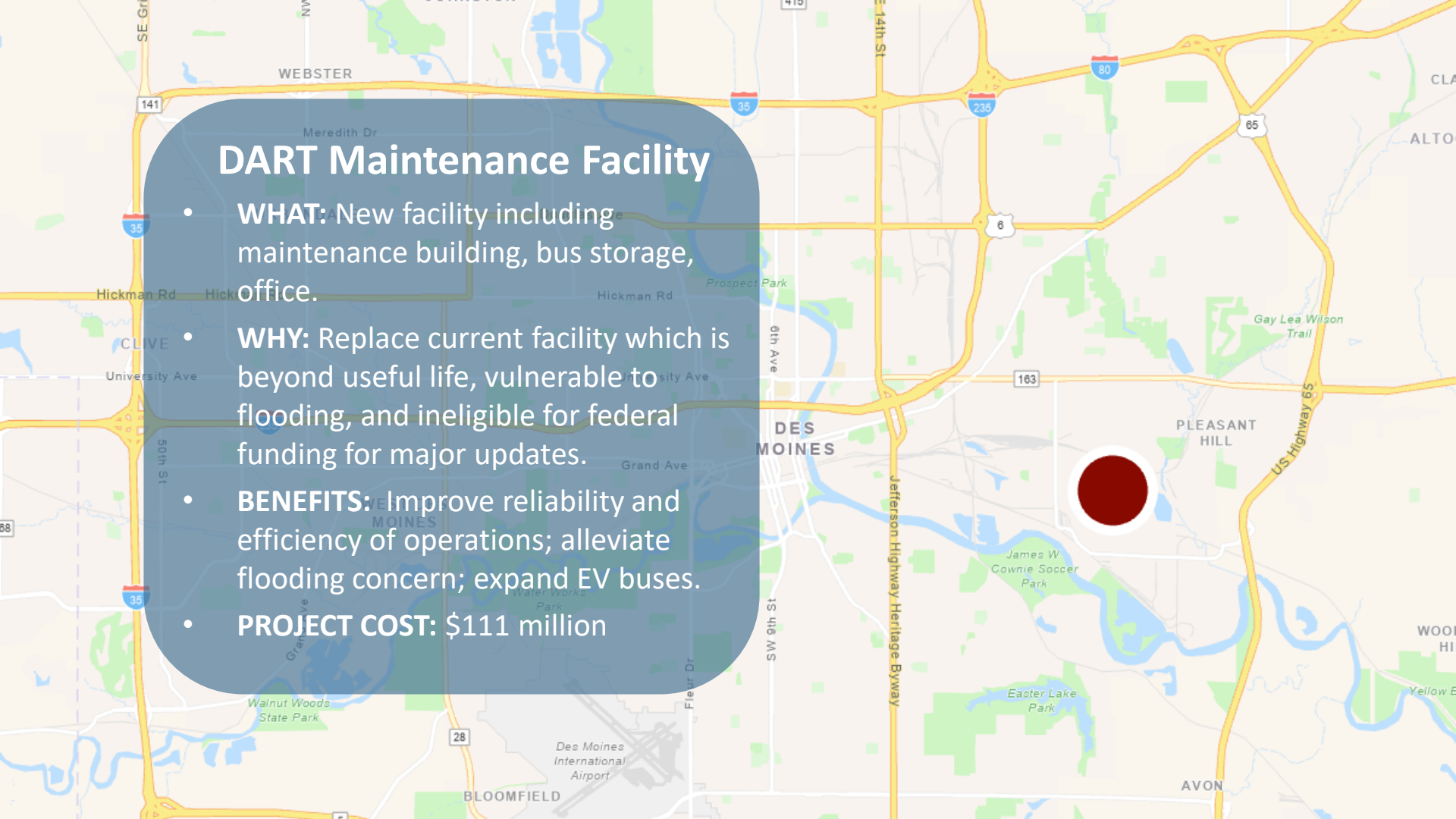
## Airport Terminal

- **WHAT:** New 14-gate terminal at existing airport.
- **WHY:** Existing terminal has unacceptable levels of service during peak travel periods, including gates, security, baggage, etc.
- **BENEFITS:** Phase 1 will improve efficiency, safety, and sustainability for travelers, including ticketing, handling, service for travelers, security checkpoints.
- **PROJECT COST:** \$500 million.



# DART Maintenance Facility

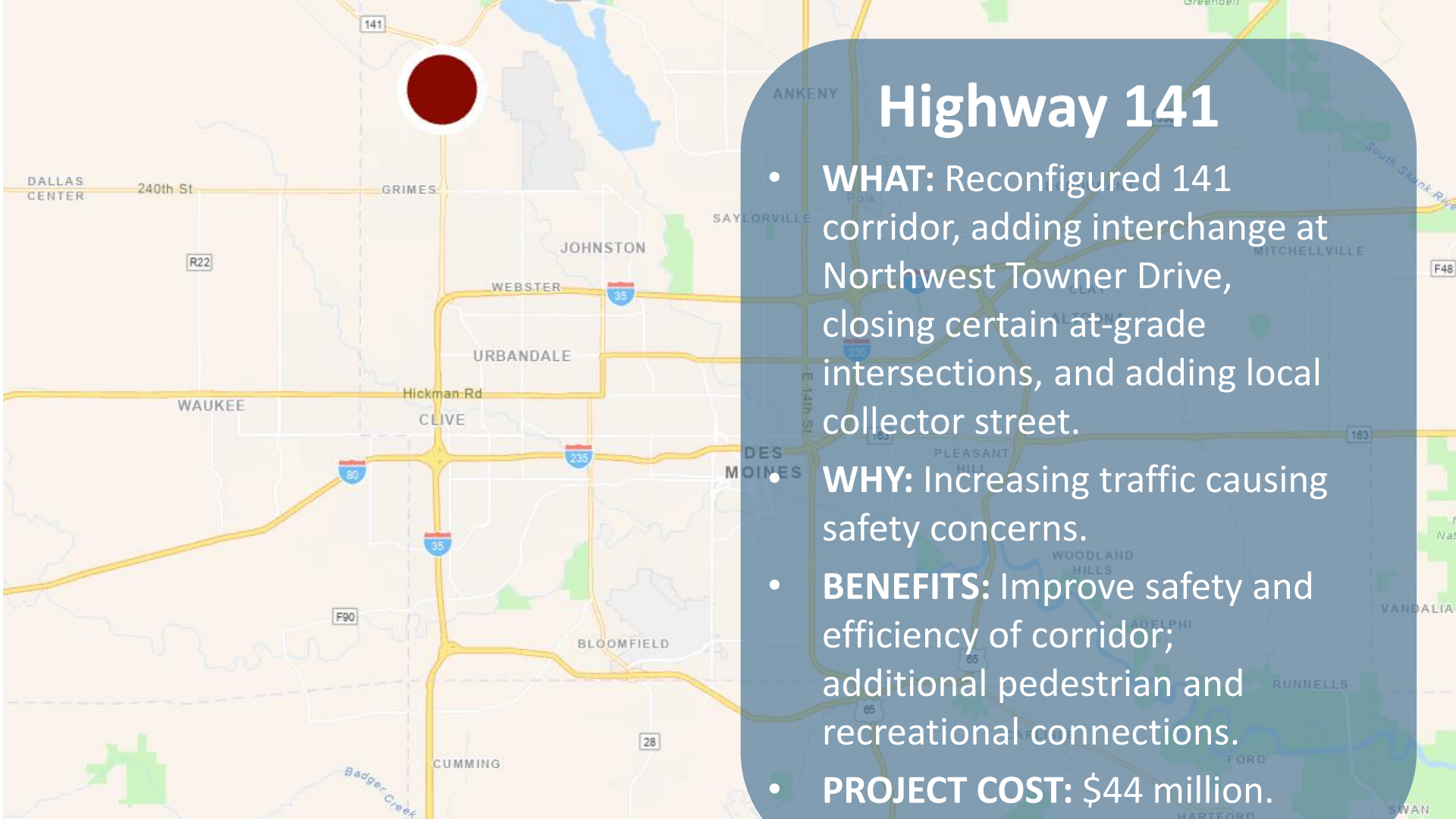
- **WHAT:** New facility including maintenance building, bus storage, office.
- **WHY:** Replace current facility which is beyond useful life, vulnerable to flooding, and ineligible for federal funding for major updates.
- **BENEFITS:** Improve reliability and efficiency of operations; alleviate flooding concern; expand EV buses.
- **PROJECT COST:** \$111 million





# Hickman Interchange

- **WHAT:** Reconfigured the interchange. Widen I-35/80 and construct auxiliary lanes from Douglas Avenue to University Avenue.
- **WHY:** The interchange is one of the metro's busiest and is over capacity.
- **BENEFITS:** Improve safety and efficiency.
- **PROJECT COST:** \$118 million.



# Highway 141

- **WHAT:** Reconfigured 141 corridor, adding interchange at Northwest Towner Drive, closing certain at-grade intersections, and adding local collector street.
- **WHY:** Increasing traffic causing safety concerns.
- **BENEFITS:** Improve safety and efficiency of corridor; additional pedestrian and recreational connections.
- **PROJECT COST:** \$44 million.



# University Avenue, Waukee

- **WHAT:** Modernize the University Avenue corridor through Waukee.
- **WHY:** Roadway is below modern standards; gaps in transportation network.
- **BENEFITS:** Improve safety and efficiency; addition of trails, pedestrian underpasses, and adjacent water-quality projects.
- **PROJECT COST:** \$58 million.



DES MOINES AREA  
**MPO**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## THANK YOU

Dylan Mullenix, AICP  
Executive Director  
[dmullenix@dmampo.org](mailto:dmullenix@dmampo.org)



Altoona • Ankeny • Bondurant • Carlisle • Clive • Dallas County • Des Moines • DART • Grimes • Johnston • Mitchellville • Norwalk •  
Pleasant Hill • Polk City • Polk County • Urbandale • Warren County • Waukee • West Des Moines • Windsor Heights