



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Study Session

Item -1

Update on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

Council Agenda Memo

From: Chad Nabity, AICP

Meeting: December 11, 2012

Subject: Metropolitan Planning Organization

Item #'s: 1

Presenter(s): Chad Nabity, AICP and Terry Brown P.E

Background

In March of 2012 the U.S. Census Department published the new list of urbanized areas for the United States, based on the decennial Census of Population and Housing from 2010. Near the bottom of that list with a population of 50,440 was Grand Island, Nebraska. The Census Department made the determination that Grand Island along with the surrounding urbanized area including the east lakes, the subdivisions across Gunbarrel Road into Merrick County and the Village of Alda have a population of more than 50,000 people.

As a result of that determination many things will be changing for the City of Grand Island. One of the most immediate of those changes is the requirement to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to coordinate transportation planning in the Grand Island Urbanized area and its 20 year growth boundary. The Grand Island MPO must be formed and approved by the Governor of Nebraska no later than March 26, 2013.

Discussion

City staff, including representatives from the City Public Works Department, Regional Planning Department and City Finance Department has been meeting with representatives from the Federal Highways and Federal Transit along with representatives from the Nebraska Department of Roads since July of this year regarding the formation of an MPO for the area.

The following people representing the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Nebraska Department of Roads will be in attendance and presenting information regarding the formation of the MPO to serve Grand Island and the surrounding area.

Joseph Werning Division Administrator - Nebraska
Federal Highway Administration

Justin Luther Transportation Planner
Federal Highways Administration

Joni Roeseler, Planning/Program Development Team Leader
Federal Transit Administration

Randy Peters, Director
Nebraska Department of Roads

Brad Zumwalt, Highway Planning Manager
Nebraska Department of Roads

The presentation this evening is designed to further answer questions by Council and the public regarding the formation of the MPO and to provide guidance regarding what needs to be completed and in what timeframe regarding the formation of the MPO.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.

It is the intent of City Administration to bring this issue to a future council meeting for approval of the planning contract with the Nebraska Department of Roads and eventually for approval of the MPO structure and designation.

MPO Timeline

2012

~~July 12 first MPO Organizational Meeting~~

~~August 15 MPO Organizational Meeting~~

~~September 12 MPO Organizational Meeting~~

~~September 25 Transit Meeting~~

~~September 26 2012 Council Approves Request to Designate Grand Island as recipient of 5307 Transit Dollars~~

~~October 11 MPO Organizational Meeting~~

~~October 16-18 FHWA MPO Training at Mahoney State Park~~

~~November 6 City Council Study Session "What the Heck is an MPO?"~~

~~November 8 MPO Organizational Meeting~~

~~November 13 Information requested at Study Session is sent to Council Members~~

~~November 29 MPO Organizational Meeting 10 to 12 in the Fishbowl~~

~~December 11 Study Session with representative of FHWA, NDOR and FTA~~

~~December 18 Contract for Planning Funds is approved by Council at Meeting~~

~~December 20 MPO Organizational Meeting at 10 to 12 NDOR offices~~

2013

~~January 3 MPO Organizational Meeting at 10 to 12 NDOR offices~~

~~January 8 Council Meeting~~

~~January 10 MPO Organizational Meeting at 10 to 12 NDOR offices~~

~~January 15 Study Session Review and Discuss Jurisdiction Map for MPO and make up of Technical Committee~~

~~January 22 Council Meeting~~

~~January 24 MPO Organizational Meeting at 10 to 12 NDOR offices~~

~~February 5 Study Session Review and Discuss make up of MPO Policy Committee and submittals to Governor for designation~~

Federal Highways MPO Database You can use this to find the websites and info for all the MPO's in the US. You can even sort them by population I used up to 140,000 and it returned 157

<http://www.planning.dot.gov/mpo.asp>

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations <http://www.ampo.org/>

Staffing and Administrative Capacity of MPO's from AMPO

http://www.cutr.usf.edu/programs/pcm/files/2010-05-Staffing_and_Administrative_Capacity_of_MPOs.pdf

AMPO MPO Profiles

http://www.ampo.org/assets/1023_ampompoprofiles.pdf

MPO Websites

Lincoln

<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/mpo/>

Omaha

<http://www.mapacog.org/>

Sioux City IA

<http://www.simpco.org/transportation/index.html>

Manhattan KS

<http://www.ci.manhattan.ks.us/index.aspx?NID=2021>

Ames IA

<http://www.cityofames.org/index.aspx?page=211>

Lawrence KS

<http://www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/>

Topeka KS

<http://www.topekampo.org/>

Newspaper story on Cape Girardeau MPO Formation

<http://www.semissourian.com/story/1885742.html>

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization

▮ MPO Start-Up Committee has been meeting for a few months.

▮ Major Members include:

- Chad Nabity – Regional Planning Director
- Terry Brown – Interim Grand Island City Public Works Director
- Steve Riehle – Hall County Engineer
- Jerry Wray – NDOR Transit Liasion Manager
- Brad Zumwalt – NDOR Hwy Planning Manager
- Justin Luther – FHWA Transportation Planner
- Mark Bechtel & Joni Roeseler with Federal Transit Administration
- Marco Floreani – GI Community Development Administrator
- Tonja Carey – GI Community Development Specialist
- Theresa Englehardt & Dustin Butler with Hall County Public Transportation
- And others from
 - ▮ City County
 - ▮ NDOR Hall County Public Transportation Interests

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Brad Zumwalt

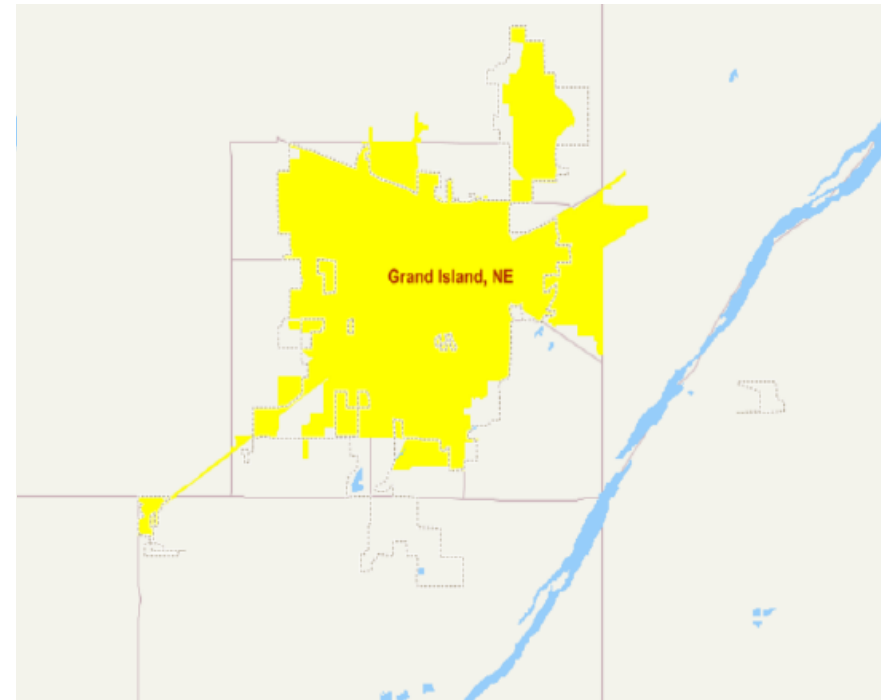
Nebraska Department of Roads

Highway Planning Manager

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization

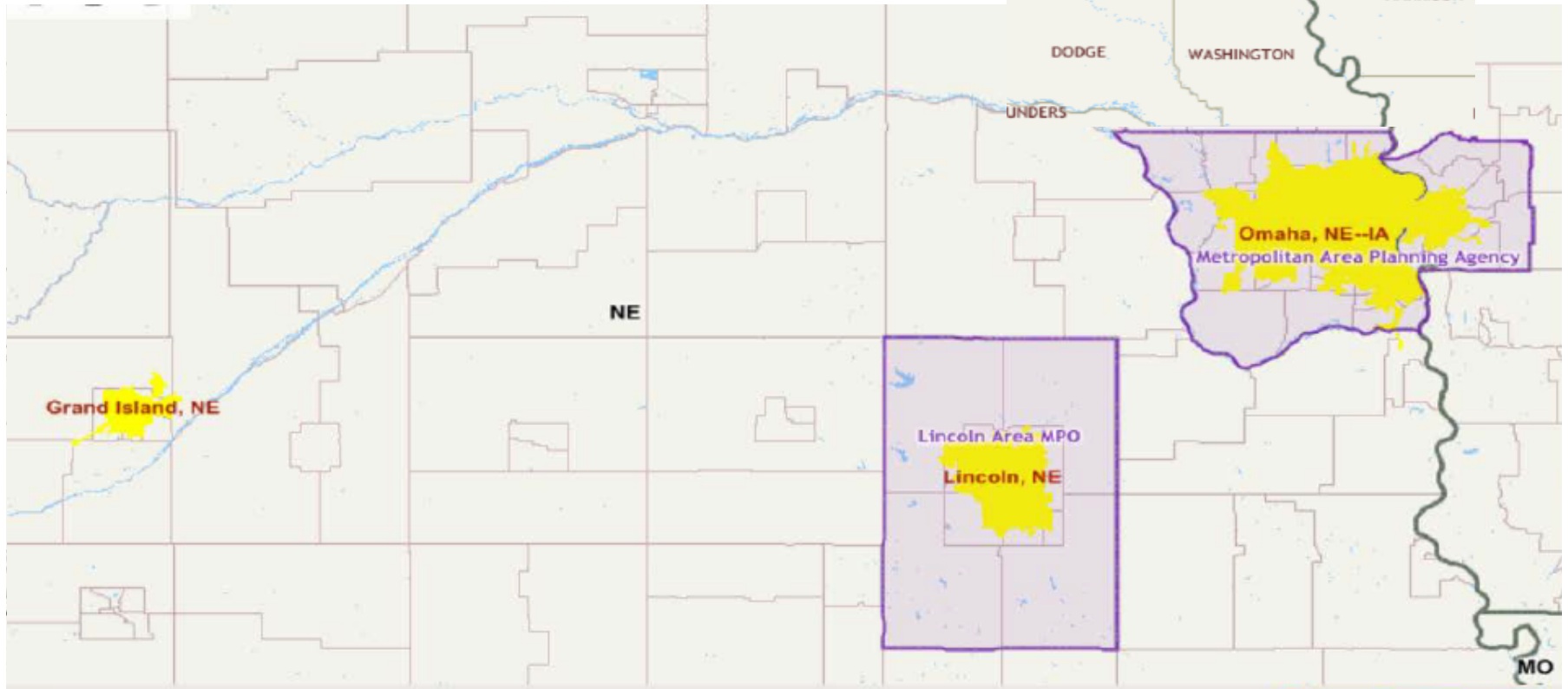
An MPO is a “The forum for cooperative transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area”



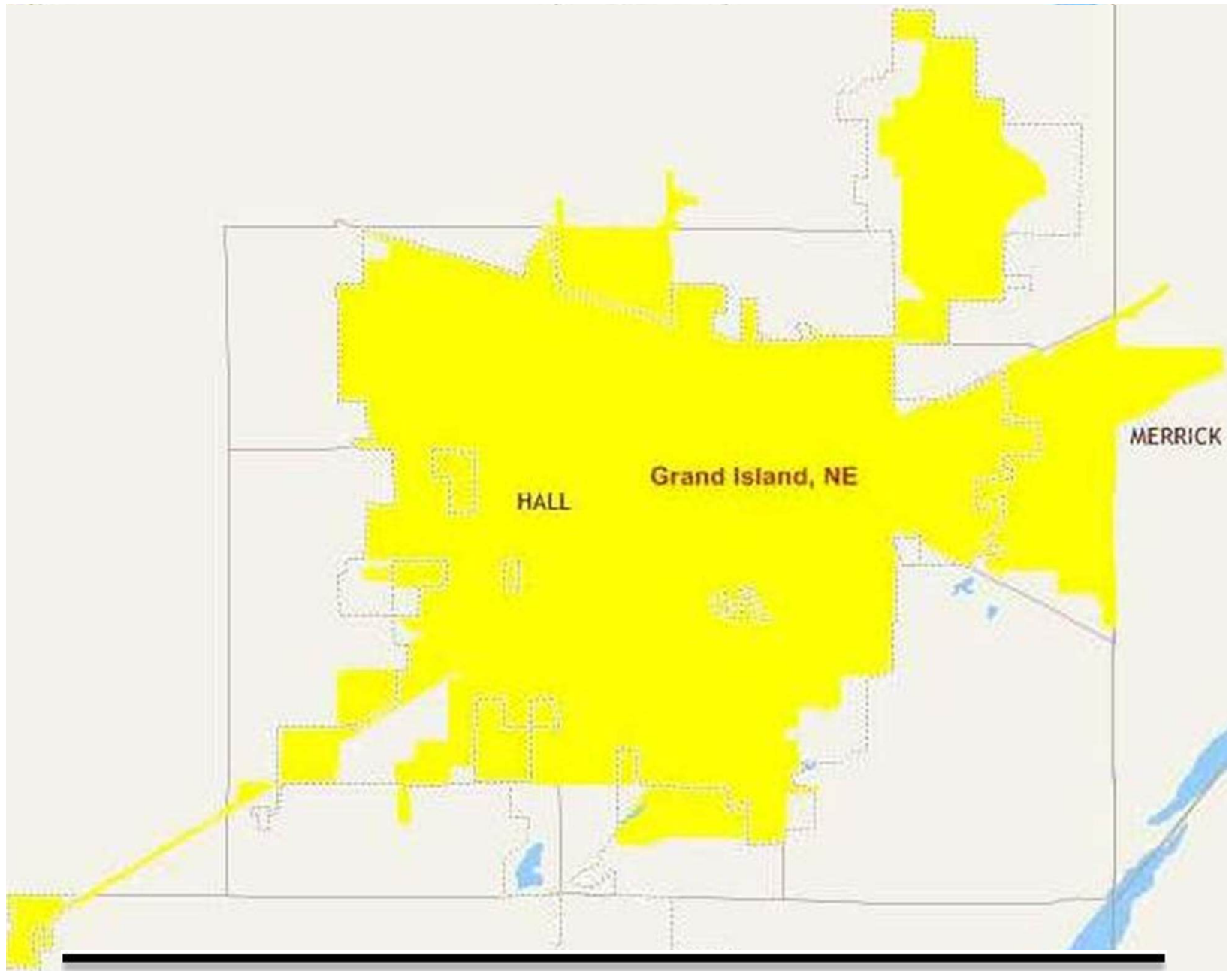
Five Core Functions of an MPO

- ▮ Establish a setting
- ▮ Evaluate Alternatives
- ▮ Maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- ▮ Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- ▮ Involve the public

Nebraska MPO Planning Boundaries



Grand Island Urbanized Area (UZA)



MPO Structure

- ▮ An MPO is required to have a decision-making “policy board”
- ▮ Beyond this, there is no required structure for an MPO, but most are made up of
 - A Policy Board
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - MPO staff

FHWA Staffing Survey

- ▮ 133 Participated, 31 MPOs with 50-100k Pop
- ▮ Small MPOs (under 100k) averaged 9 policy board Members
- ▮ 81% of all MPOs have County Commissioners on Policy board, 65% include State DOTs, FHWA/FTA, usually non-voting members (e.g. Ames/Lincoln)
- ▮ Component MPO most common type of structure
- ▮ Small MPOs have an average of 2.9 employees (1 employee per 48,000 people)
- ▮ Staff Specialties/Percent of staff time spent on...
- ▮ Pay scales
- ▮ Appendix B New MPO FAQ (e.g. board composition)

Federal and State Planning Programs/Documents

- ▮ Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- ▮ Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- ▮ Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- ▮ Public Participation Plan
- ▮ Title VI and Environmental Justice
- ▮ Federal Funding
- ▮ State Funding

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- ▮ Developed annually by MPO in cooperation with the State and Transit operators.
- ▮ The UPWP documents planning activities, discusses planning priorities facing the area, and describes all metropolitan transportation planning activities.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- 20+ year planning horizon
 - Predicts travel growth based on future land use
 - Plans for future transportation programs and projects based upon the forecasts
- Completed/updated every 5 years
- Fiscally constrained
 - Can only include projects where there is a reasonable chance of funding
 - Other needed projects can be listed in the plan as unfunded (“illustrative”)

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- ▮ The TIP should include only projects which are consistent with the long-range transportation plan.
- ▮ The TIP must include all regionally significant transportation projects which involve FHWA or FTA funding or approval.
- ▮ The TIP must be developed with public involvement.
- ▮ The TIP must be approved by the MPO and the Governor.

Public Participation Plan

- ▮ Outlines MPO goals, activities and process pertaining to public outreach activities
 - Public comment periods
 - Outreach efforts
 - Advertising methods and time periods for new documents or amendments

MPO Planning Funding

- ▮ FHWA Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) (Start-up) funding this year (\$50,000 Federal)
- ▮ Estimated FY 2014 **federal** funding available for Grand Island MPO is: \$84,000 for standard planning activities from FHWA PL; and an additional \$19,200 in FTA Section 5303 planning funds
- ▮ These funds require a 20% match

MPO Planning Funding

How Funds Are Spent

- ▮ Planning funds are spent on eligible planning activities as defined by 23CFR 420 and 450
- ▮ Typical tasks are: Traffic volume counts, street system changes, transit system data, mapping, travel time studies, parking inventory, bicycle & pedestrian facilities inventory, travel model updates, and staff time to prepare the required documents mentioned earlier.

Grand Island First Year Tasks

- ▮ Designate a recipient for FTA Section 5307 Funds (approval of eligible public agency by the Governor) by October 2012.
- ▮ Agreement for SPR startup funds (Council and NDOR)
- ▮ Set up MPO Organizational Structure (establish MPO Housing/lead agency/support staff and form policy board). (Approved by Council)
- ▮ Determine Metropolitan Planning Area (Approved by Council)
- ▮ Draft articles of agreement between GI and State of NE (Approved by Council)
- ▮ Secure resolutions of adoption from local government (Approved by Council)
- ▮ Submit articles of agreement, map, and letter requesting designation to Governor's office after February Council Meeting submit to Governor no later than March 4

Grand Island First Year Tasks

- ▮ Begin UPWP Development in February 2013 (Staff with NDOR and FHWA)
- ▮ New MPO designated by the Governor by no later than March 26, 2013
- ▮ Policy board establishes TAC. After Creation by Governor
- ▮ Draft bylaws (Done by MPO Policy Board)
- ▮ Submit UPWP to State (Done by MPO Policy Board)
- ▮ Write Job Descriptions, Advertise and Hire MPO Staff (City of GI with MPO Policy Board and impacted Department Director)
- ▮ Develop a plan Method and Methodology to Transition from Rural Transportation Services to Urban Transportation Services (TBD)

Public Transportation for the MPO

Joni Roeseler

Federal Transit Administration

Planning/Program Development Team Leader

Public Transportation for the MPO

- ▮ Transit Decision Making Process
- ▮ Transit 5307 Circular - FTA MAP 21 Fact Sheet
- ▮ Grantee Qualification
- ▮ Grantee Handbook
- ▮ Grant Application
- ▮ Relationship btw MPO and Transit Funds
- ▮ 6 Month Apportionment

MPO Questions?