

ITEM #: 5  
DATE: 01-23-24  
DEPT: AAMPO

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**                    **AAMPO METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY**

**BACKGROUND:**

The AAMPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary defines the extents for which the AAMPO is responsible for conducting planning activities and developing transportation planning documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The requirements for MPA boundaries are stated in [23 CFR § 450.312](#). The two primary requirements of a MPA are:

1. Encompass the entire existing urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as well as the urban area established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
2. Encompass the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period.

After each Census, MPOs (in coordination with the State DOT and Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) review the existing MPA boundary to ensure that they encompass the updated urbanized area, encompass the latest projected 20-year growth areas, as well as to determine if any additional adjustments should be made to ensure that the MPA reflects the most comprehensive boundary to foster an effective planning process.

**AAMPO staff and the Transportation Technical Committee have reviewed the existing MPA for the AAMPO and recommend making minor modifications to the MPA, as shown in Attachment A.**

MPA boundaries must be approved by the MPO's Transportation Policy Committee. The Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA), Central Iowa's RPA, must also approve these modifications to the AAMPO's MPA boundary. **CIRTPA's Transportation Policy Committee plans to consider approval at their next meeting (anticipated to occur in March).** Following all necessary approvals, the updated MPA boundary will be provided to the Iowa DOT, FHWA and the FTA.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Adopt the updated Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary for the AAMPO, as shown on Attachment A.
2. Direct staff to make further modifications to the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary and present an updated boundary to the AAMPO and CIRTPA Transportation Policy Committees for approval.

**MPO DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The updates to the AAMPO MPA Boundary incorporate the 2020 Ames Urban Area Boundary, encompass anticipated future growth in the next 20 years, and better encompass and align with the current and future roadway network. The AAMPO Transportation Technical Committee recommended approval of the presented MPA boundary. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the MPO Executive Director that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Attachment A - Proposed MPA Boundary](#)