

# Ames Area MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

Draft Final

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community

mobility

environment

## Chapter 1: Introduction





## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

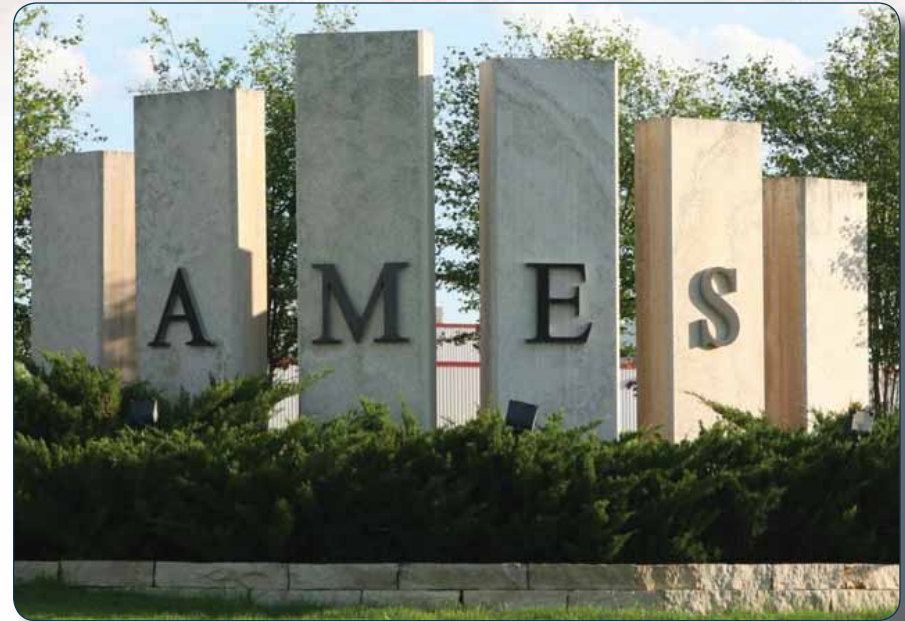
The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) urbanized area covers approximately 41 square miles and consists of the contiguous urbanized area surrounding and including the City of Ames.

With a population of 52,000, the City of Ames is the largest urban area within Story County. It is home to Iowa State University (ISU) which has a population of nearly 27,000 students. The City of Ames is also the headquarters for the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and is about 40 miles from the state capital in metropolitan Des Moines. Commuters travel between Des Moines and Ames. The Des Moines metropolitan area has a population of about 560,000.

The Ames area has a growing population and employment that are supplemented with increased transportation needs. Transportation services are developed and infrastructure implemented through the regional transportation planning process carried out by the AAMPO.

The AAMPO is comprised of the following agencies:

- City of Ames
- Boone County
- Story County
- Iowa State University
- CyRide
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Iowa Department of Transportation



As required by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), every metropolitan planning organization is required to have a transportation planning process in place in order to receive federal transportation dollars. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) serves as the guide for selection and funding of area transportation projects over at least a 20 year planning horizon. The LRTP must be updated every five years and provides the framework for the five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Since the 1962 Federal-aid Highway Act, federal authorizing legislation for expenditure of surface transportation funds has required metropolitan area transportation plans and programs to be developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) planning process.

The 2030 Ames Area MPO Long Range Transportation Plan was the first LRTP for the AAMPO and was adopted in October 2005. This Plan update reflects the SAFTEA-LU requirements and changes in the Ames area since the last plan was completed.

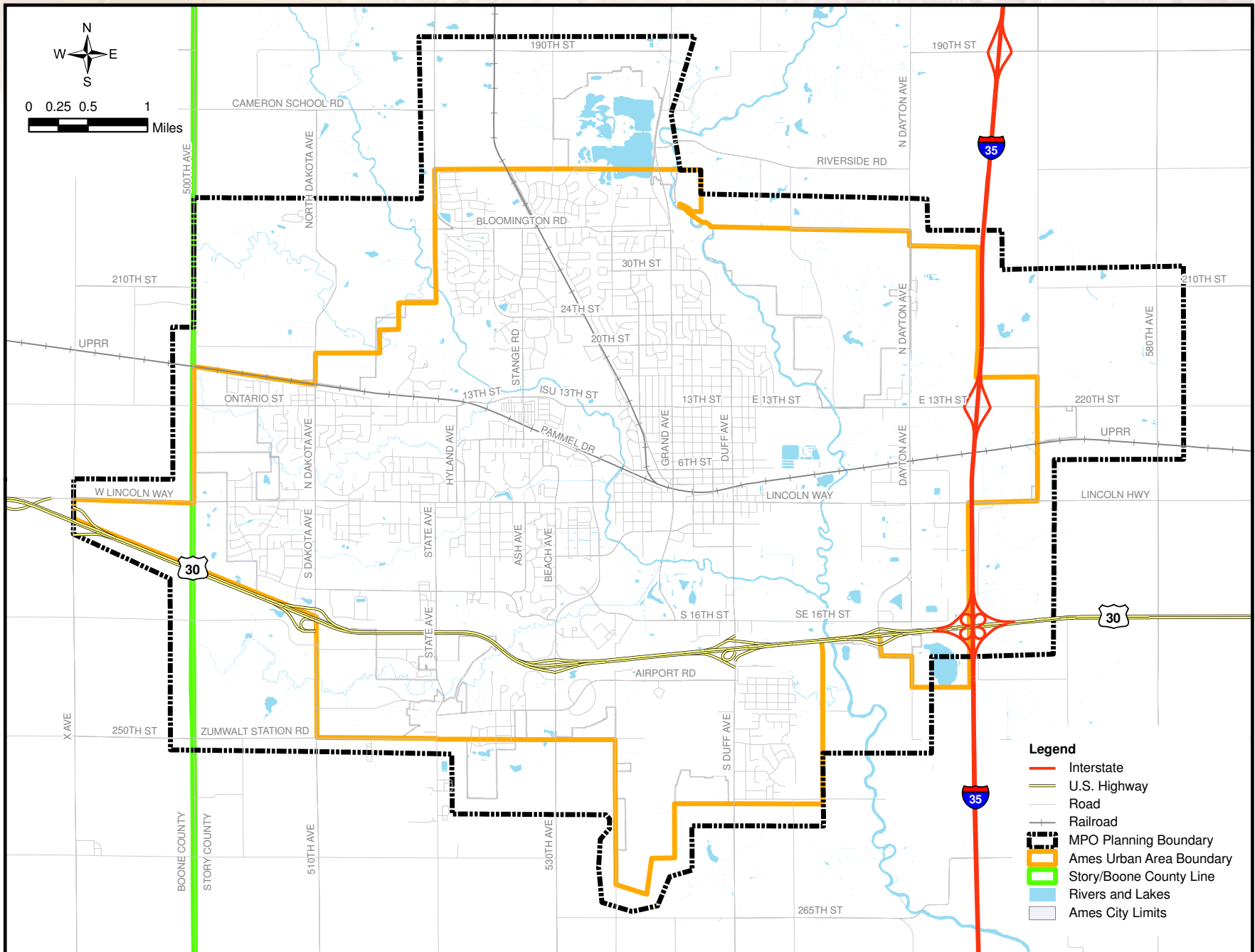
The 2035 Ames Area Long Range Transportation Plan update is a vital planning document that includes strategies leading to an integrated multimodal transportation system. The LRTP is a collaborative effort among state and local transportation officials and interested members of the public with the goal of determining future transportation needs and how to best address those needs with transportation funding dollars. This LRTP update includes collecting and analyzing new data, projecting future transportation conditions, and identifying solutions to meet transportation needs.

The 2035 Ames Area LRTP covers areas in and around Ames that are expected to become urbanized by the year 2035. This area includes the City of Ames, and portions of Boone and Story Counties. The LRTP study area (MPO Planning Boundary) is shown in **FIGURE 1.1**, which includes the Ames incorporated city limits plus the planning jurisdiction outside of the incorporated areas.

### WHY IS A PLAN NEEDED?

- The region's transportation needs are funded in part by federal funds. In order for the Ames region to receive those funds, the federal government requires a Long Range Transportation Plan to ensure appropriate expenditure of revenues and consideration of the community's needs and desires.
- The planning process enhances the community's character and quality of life by considering the interaction between land use and transportation and their collective effect on the built and natural environments. A successful planning effort involves citizens, increases the effectiveness of investments, and promotes transportation services and infrastructure that are consistent with the community's desires.
- The current roadway, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit system will not be sufficient to accommodate the future transportation needs of the Ames area. Congestion on the system continues to grow due to growth of the City of Ames population, Iowa State University student population, new development, and increased regional travel in central Iowa. Additionally, the citizens within the Ames area are devoting renewed attention to alternative mode options with increased focus on non-automobile means of traveling.

FIGURE 1.1. EXISTING AMES AREA MPO BOUNDARY MAP





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