



**Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development**

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[midiowaplanningalliance.com](http://midiowaplanningalliance.com)

April 18, 2022

Mayor John Haila and City Council  
Ames City Hall  
515 Clark St.  
Ames, IA 50010

Honorable Mayor Haila and City Council Members:

The City of Ames is formally invited to join the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development (MIPA), a new nonprofit organization that is dedicated to supporting communities in Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren Counties.

MIPA was formed late last year by a group of city and county staff members, economic development professionals, and other stakeholders from the Mid-Iowa region. After much preparation, MIPA is now fully operational, effective April 1, and is providing professional planning, programming, and technical assistance to its members, including:

- Grant writing & administration
- Regional Planning, e.g. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Other member support, e.g. technical assistance, map-making, and local planning
- Option to contract for local planning, such as comprehensive plans or zoning updates

MIPA will leverage federal grant dollars to help pay for staffing costs. MIPA was designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as an "Economic Development District," which has several benefits. For one thing, the designation will open more funding opportunities for local projects. For another, it will provide \$70,000 annually for staffing.

The federal grant for staffing requires 1-to-1 local match, which is why MIPA is charging annual membership dues of 15 cents per capita. For the first 15 months of MIPA's operations, those dues would come to \$12,455 for the City of Ames. Membership is optional, so there's no cost if you don't join. Though we believe the benefits outweigh the costs and hope you will consider joining.

We have created a webpage ([www.midiowaplanningalliance.com/membership](http://www.midiowaplanningalliance.com/membership)) that outlines all the information about membership. The site includes a rate sheet, bylaws, general information about membership, instructions for joining, and a template resolution. As always, please feel free to reach out to our team if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Ashby".

Todd Ashby  
CEO / Executive Director

CC: Steve Schainker



Supporting Economic Development in  
Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk,  
Story, and Warren Counties.