

Trans – Iowa/Illinois Freight Corridor Study



HeartlandHighway
AVENUE OF OPPORTUNITY
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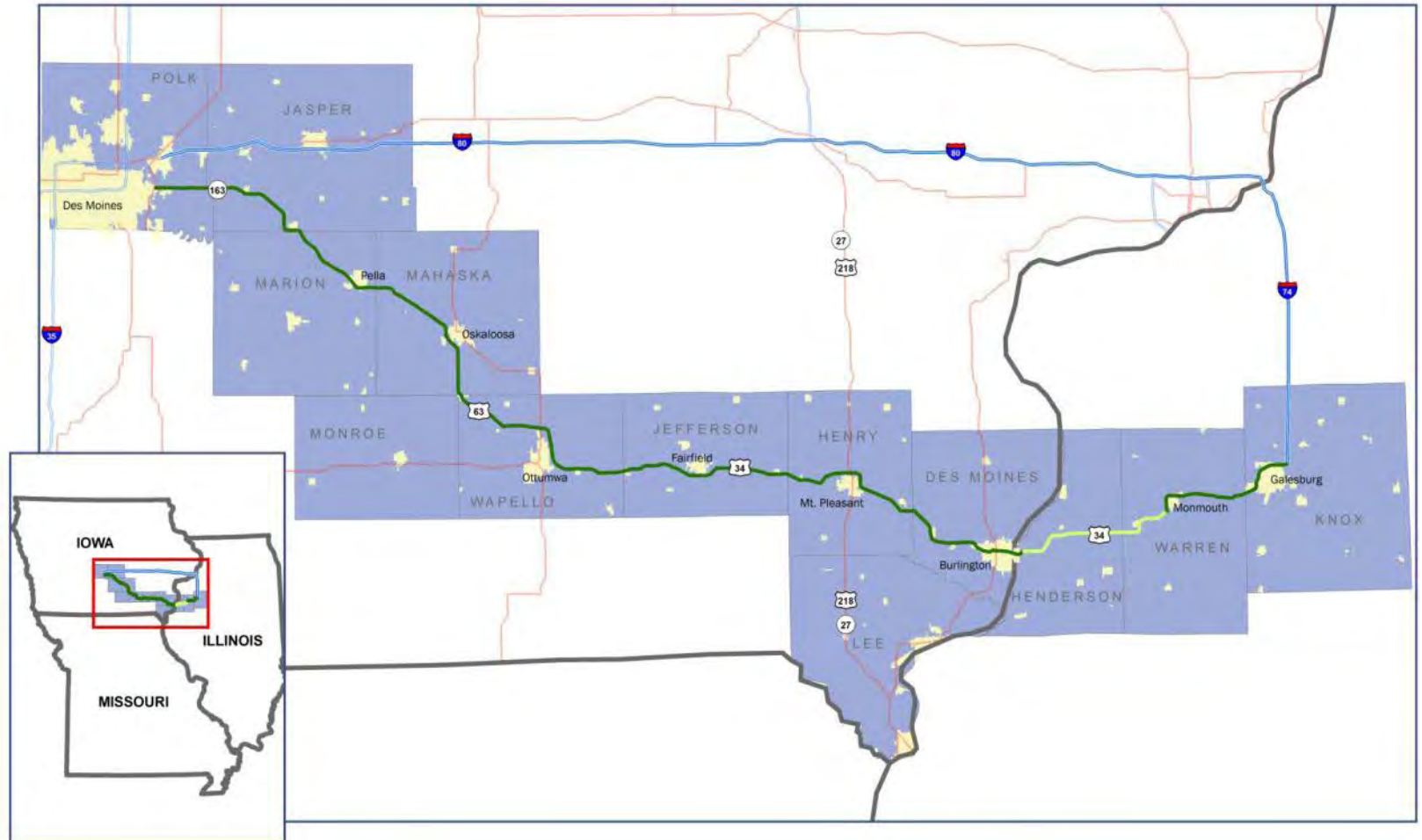


Heartland Highway

AVENUE OF OPPORTUNITY

The Corridor

Total 210 Miles with 25 Miles 2 Lane





Study Overview

- Idea began in 2004 by SEIRPC
- Came from exclusion of the Des Moines to Galesburg corridor from the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study.
- Significance of exclusion - corridor is being upgraded to 4 lanes and connections to Interstates





Study Overview

- SEIRPC approached 2 regional planning agencies and 1 MPO
- Presented idea to Policy Boards
- Held Corridor Wide meetings to gauge support and develop direction for study
- Study undertaken by 3 regional planning agencies and 1 MPO





Study Purpose

- Evaluate key characteristics of corridor
- Evaluate freight-carrying potential of corridor
- Evaluate potential of corridor as alternative to I-80/I-74 corridor
- Identify steps to preserve corridor investment
- Identify steps to develop corridor as alternative to I-80/I-74



Study Approach

- Analysis of existing conditions
 - Socioeconomic data, traffic conditions, connectivity, freight statistics, and land use
 - Analyzed by sub area for in depth analysis
- Determined needed improvements in each area, growth impacting corridor, potential for intermodal, potential for additional truck traffic
- Comparison to I80/I74
 - Traffic conditions, safety, and time travel
- Findings based on analysis and input from stakeholders



Primary Findings

- Corridor *MUST* be completed to 4-lanes in both Iowa *AND* Illinois
- If completed, Corridor is a feasible freight alternative to I-80/I-74 corridor
- Corridor improvements must be made to preserve traffic flows and promote economic development
- Consortium is needed to foster coordinated decision making along entire corridor



Heartland Highway Freight Corridor Consortium

- 12 Total Members
 - 3 members from each subarea
 - Subareas: Des Moines to Pella, Oskaloosa to Fairfield, Mount Pleasant to Burlington, Iowa/Illinois Border to Galesburg, IL
- 4 Alternate Members
 - 1 alternate from each subarea
- Representation from Iowa DOT, Illinois DOT, and Iowa DED
- RPA and MPO provide staff support
- Only meet annually or semi annually

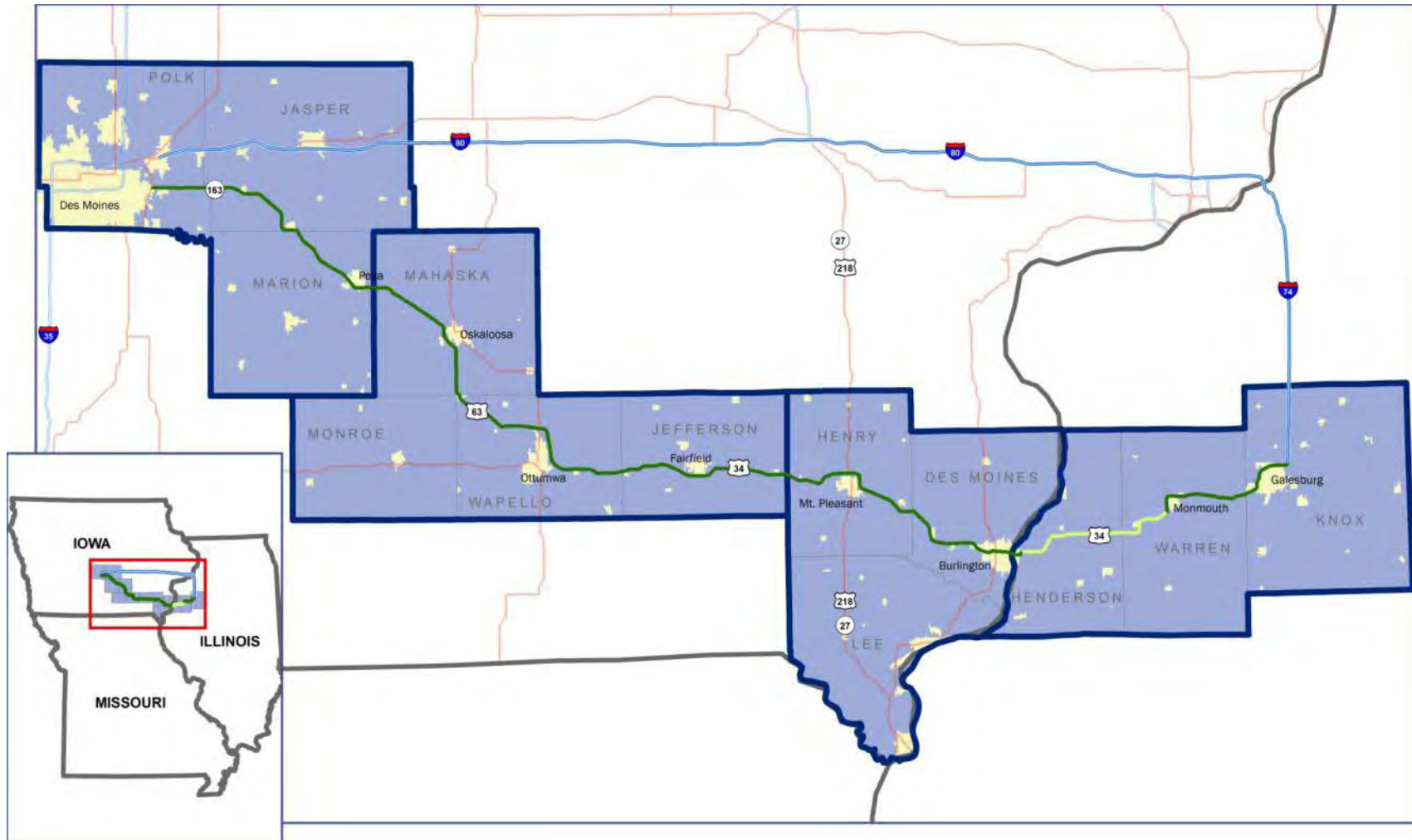


Heartland Highway

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Sub Areas

Criteria included population, employment, RPA boundaries, and traffic volumes





Strategic Plan

- Identified mission and vision for consortium
- Identified immediate and future priorities
- Updated and evaluated on a yearly basis



Mission

The mission of the Heartland Highway Freight Corridor Consortium is to implement the recommendations of the Trans – Iowa/Illinois Freight Corridor Study by improving communication and cooperation among cities and counties along the corridor and promoting coordinated decision making that will:

- Encourage the timely expansion of Highway 34 in West Central Illinois
- Preserve the corridor through consistent zoning and access management techniques.
- Identify ways to utilize and promote the corridor for economic development.
- Promote the Heartland Highway as an alternative to I-80 and I-74 for freight traffic through Iowa and Illinois.



Vision

The vision of the Heartland Highway Freight Corridor Consortium is to develop a safe 4 lane highway corridor from Des Moines, IA to Galesburg, IL with uninterrupted traffic flow that is known to passengers, carriers, and shippers as a major route in “The Heartland” for connecting people to commerce, culture, and tourism in one of the best areas in the Midwest.



Immediate Priorities

- Corridor Wide Access Management Agreement
- Increase participation with Illinois
- Create a PR and marketing campaign to promote name and use of corridor
- Structure consortium to improve efficiency, expertise, and participation
- Increase the awareness of our mission, vision, and priorities
- Complete upgrade to 4 lanes in Illinois
 - Support Highway 34 Coalition in efforts to expand US Highway 34 in Illinois



Future Priorities

- Create and implement a PR and marketing plan to promote the corridor as an alternative to I80 and I74
- Create and implement a PR and marketing plan to attract new businesses to develop along corridor
- Prepare a feasibility study of intermodal facilities locations along corridor
- Identify improvements for better freight and passenger rail service



Keys to MPO/RPA Cooperation

- Creating and buying into a shared mission/vision
- Clear communication between staffs and boards
- Shared workload among staff
- Building trust between organizations



Contact Information

- Dale Uehling, Consortium Chairman, Mayor of Ottumwa, Iowa
- Chris Kukla, Senior Planner, Region 15 Planning Agency
- Dylan Mullenix, Senior Transportation Planner, Des Moines Area MPO
- Zach James, Transportation Planner II, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission