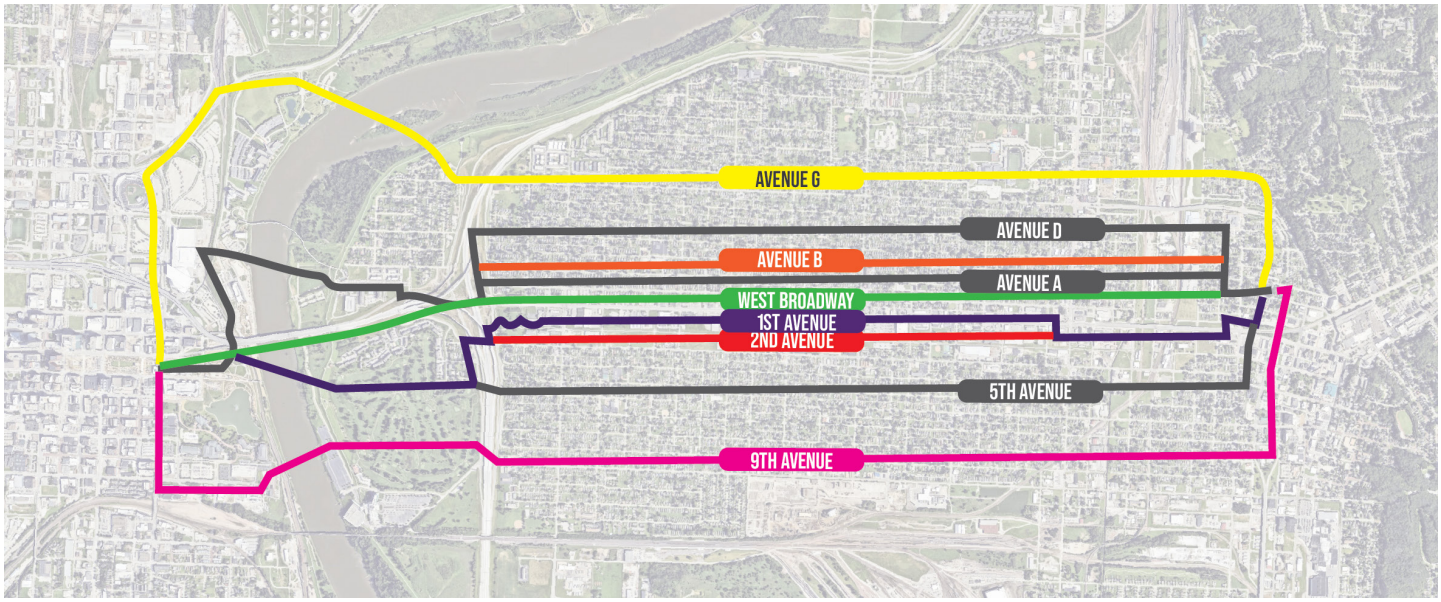
WHAT IS THE LINKAGES STUDY?

Council Bluffs LINKAGES
MULTIMODAL CONNECTION & EXPANSION PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY

The Council Bluffs Linkages Study is exploring future multimodal transportation connections between Downtown Council Bluffs and Downtown Omaha. Building on years of community planning and regional transit discussions, the study is evaluating opportunities to improve mobility, connectivity, and economic development through potential transit and corridor improvements.



Community input gathered during prior phases helped identify the transportation, mobility, and development priorities that matter most to residents, businesses, and stakeholders. The following themes emerged as the top priorities for the study:

1. Providing more transit options between Downtown Council Bluffs and Downtown Omaha

2. Improving safe and reliable transportation access to jobs

3. Creating development opportunities for new affordable and market-rate housing

PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the Council Bluffs Linkages Study is to provide a safe and efficient multimodal transportation option for users between downtown Council Bluffs, Iowa and downtown Omaha, Nebraska.

- Enhance Accessibility & Safe Travel
- Improve Mobility
- Maximize Economic Development Opportunities

TRANSIT MODES BEING CONSIDERED

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
A high-capacity transit service that provides faster and more reliable transit connections.

Key Features
- Improved stations and rider amenities
- Faster, more reliable service
- Modern, accessible vehicles
- Encourages growth and development

Streetcar
A fixed-route rail transit option designed to connect major destinations and support redevelopment.

Key Features
- Permanent infrastructure
- Frequent, accessible service
- Can operate in a dedicated guideway or in street
- Boosts walkability and compact urban development

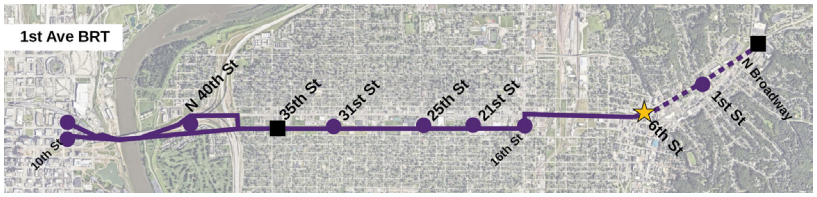
*These are study findings not recommendations.

ALTERNATIVES

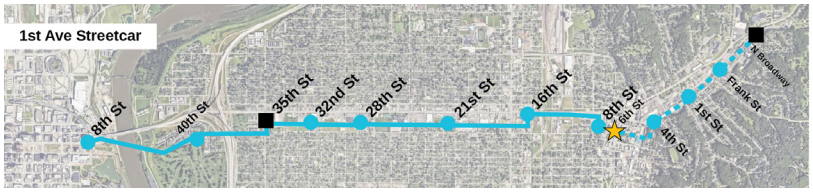
Council Bluffs LINKAGES
MULTIMODAL CONNECTION & EXPANSION PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY

West Broadway BRT
- Direct downtown-to-downtown connection
- Access to businesses and services
- Connects to Omaha's ORBT system

2nd Avenue BRT
- Alternative east-west corridor
- Avoids Broadway traffic
- Residential corridor access



1st Avenue BRT
- Dedicated transit guideway
- Strongest BRT development potential
- Rail-like transit experience



1st Avenue Streetcar
- Connects to Omaha Streetcar
- Highest economic development potential
- Supports long-term corridor transformation

WHY DID THESE ALTERNATIVES ADVANCE?

Providing direct connections between Downtown Council Bluffs and Downtown Omaha

Improving access to jobs, services, and destinations

Supporting future economic development opportunities

Utilizing feasible Missouri River, I-29, and railroad crossings

WE ARE HERE

Current Phase: Public Review & Community Feedback

The project team is:
- Gathering public feedback on the final alternatives
- Reviewing comments and stakeholder input
- Refining final recommendations

Following completion of the study, the City will determine whether alternatives should move forward into future study, environmental review, funding, or implementation discussions.

Public Commenting Period Closes

JULY 5, 2026

https://fhu.mysocialpinpoint.com/council-bluffs-linkages

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