An aerial photograph of a landscape, possibly a racetrack or a large industrial site. The image shows a winding road or path that curves through a large, dark green area. In the upper right, there is a large, white, rectangular structure, possibly a building or a large container. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, showing the layout of the area and the surrounding terrain.

Chapter 1: Introduction

**A Long Range Transportation Plan for
Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning Association**
Completed by the Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)

I. Overview

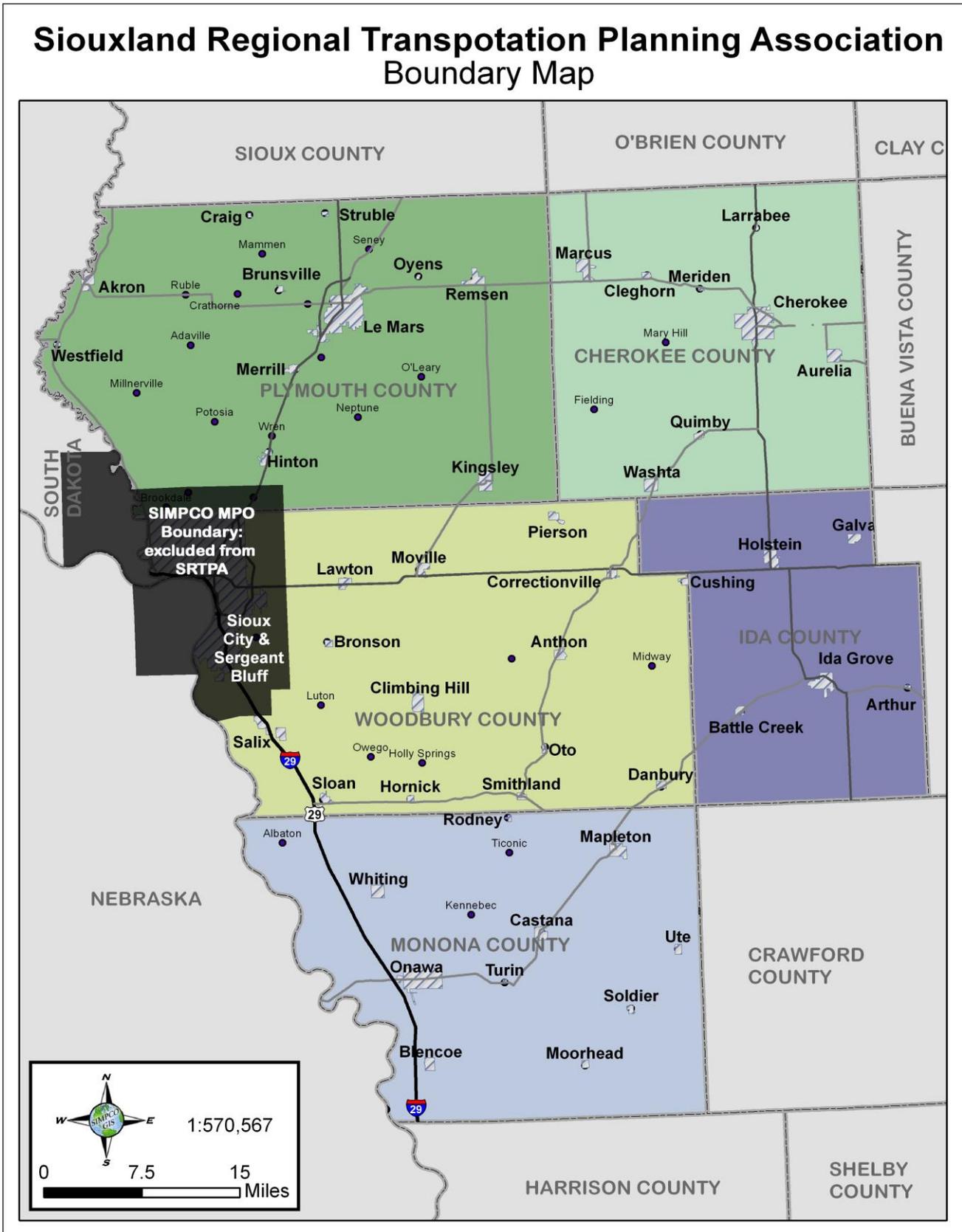
The 2040 Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning Association (SRTPA) Long Range Transportation Plan is an update to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. This plan continues the 3C process (Cooperative, Continuing and Comprehensive) that has been the hallmark of transportation planning for 50 years. The Long Range Transportation Plan is a tool for developing safe and efficient transportation improvements for the SRTPA region through the year 2040. These improvements encompass all modes of transportation including transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel in addition to street and highway. In accordance with the 2012, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), this plan addresses the deficiencies of the existing transportation system in the SRTPA planning area, analyzes the projected demand on that system, and identifies projects and policies to both preserve and enhance mobility.

The 2040 SRTPA Long Range Transportation Plan is organized into the following sections:

- **Introduction** - outlines the planning area, the SRTPA organization, purpose of the plan, and the process used for developing the plan.
- **Plan Goals and Objectives** – identifies the long range transportation goals and objectives which have been agreed upon by the local stakeholders.
- **Regional Background and Trends** – gives a brief description of the socio-economic characteristics within the planning boundary.
- **Existing Regional Transportation System** – describes the multimodal transportation system within the planning area. In addition, this section identifies levels of usage, condition, safety, and mobility.
- **Planning and the Environment** – describes the environmental issues that SRTPA faces and gives a synopsis of environmental mitigation activities that the region can become involved in not relating to any specific project.

- **Future Regional Transportation Opportunities, Threats, Solutions, & Alternatives** – considers how the transportation system will serve the region in the next twenty five years given key trends in population, the economy, traffic and the condition of the system. This section also outlines the transportation opportunities in the future, identifies the negative possibilities in the future, identifies possible solutions to mitigate these issues, and discusses the alternatives identified by stakeholders.
- **Financial Summary and Conclusion** - gives a detailed listing of projects by transportation mode for years 1-5, which are being proposed for the region in the near future and identifies the funding sources needed to support the first five years of the plan. Years 6-25 outlines a sketch plan for the long-range transportation system of the region. Major needs for new facilities, capacity, rehabilitation, replacement, and preservation will be included.

Map I.1: Regional Area Overview



A. The Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning Association Area

The SRTPA Region IV consists of the portions of Woodbury and Plymouth County (area not included in the SIMPCO MPO Planning Area), Cherokee, Ida, and Monona Counties. (See Map I.1 on page I-3)

B. The Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning Association (SRTPA)

The SRTPA is responsible for developing transportation plans and programming projects for Region IV.

The SRTPA is represented by the following units of government:

- City of Le Mars
- City of Cherokee
- Plymouth County
- Woodbury County
- Ida County
- Cherokee County
- Monona County

SIMPCO functions as the Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning Association (SRTPA), responsible for the submission of transportation planning documents to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and public distribution.

SRTPA functions are directed by a ten member Policy Board consisting of seven voting members including one member from each of the following County Board of Supervisors: Cherokee County, Plymouth County, Ida County, Monona County and Woodbury County; one member from the City Councils of the City of Le Mars and the City of Cherokee. Non-voting members include a representative from the Iowa DOT, FHWA Iowa, and FTA.

The SRTPA Policy Board is advised by an eleven member Technical Advisory Committee consisting of voting and non-voting members. Voting members include one staff member from the counties of Cherokee, Plymouth, Ida, Woodbury, and Monona; one staff member from the following cities: Le Mars and Cherokee; one staff member from the Siouxland Regional Transit System. Non-voting members include a representative from the Iowa DOT, FHWA Iowa, and FTA.

The SIMPCO professional staff is available to aid local officials and concerned citizens in implementing various community improvement programs in an overall effort to enhance the area. Staff members encourage and assist local leaders in several programs, with strong emphasis on the benefits of regional cooperation and coordination.

C. Long Range Transportation Plan

The SRTPA 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan updates the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan adopted by the Policy Board in 2009. The 2040 plan serves as a revision of the issues covered in the previous plan by encompassing all modes of transportation. This plan is intended to identify the key projects from each of these modes, which, when combined and implemented as a multi-modal system, will develop the safest and most efficient transportation system for the SRTPA area. Plan updates will occur every five years as recommended by the Iowa DOT, maintaining consistency with forecasted transportation and land use conditions.

There are eight factors the long-range plan considers as outlined in the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

1. Support the economic vitality of the planning area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;

5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operations, and;
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

D. Long Range Planning Process

The SRTPA will develop and review this plan chapter by chapter. A time schedule (see Table I-I) has been developed and approved by the Policy Board to ensure that the SRTPA Long Range Transportation Plan is approved by the Iowa DOT deadline of November 2014. After completion of the draft plan, there will be a 30 day public comment period and a public open house.

Table I.1 Long Range Transportation Plan Meeting and Review Schedule

TASK	MEETING DATES
Review Schedule and Plan Outline	May 2013
Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Plan Goals and Objectives	September 2013
Chapter 3: Regional Background and Trends Chapter 4: Existing Regional Transportation System	November 2013
Chapter 5: Planning and the Environment Chapter 6: Future Regional Transportation Threats, Solutions, and Alternatives	March 2014
Chapter 7: Financial Summary and Conclusion	June 2014
Review Draft Plan	August 2014
Public Comment Period/ Public Open House	October 2014
Final Approval	November 2014

E. Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders involved with the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan include the county engineers and city staff on the Technical Advisory Committee, the county supervisors and councilpersons on the Policy Board, the public, freight shippers and providers of freight transportation, transit services, human service agencies, environmental and cultural organizations, Indian Tribal governments, and other interested parties. Other stakeholders have been identified by contacting the different cities and towns within Region IV. Stakeholders are also identified by using established SRTPA public participation mailing list which not only includes local jurisdictions but also agencies and organizations with a vested interest in transportation issues within the planning area.

Stakeholders may also be identified through public outreach. The draft Long Range Transportation Plan can be found in its entirety on the SIMPCO web page (www.simpco.org) where the public can view and send comments directly to SIMPCO staff.

F. Amendments and Revisions

The *S RTPA 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan* is a working document and will be updated and revised as various local, regional, state, and national characteristics, factors, and requirements change, which ultimately affect the transportation network in and around Region IV. The LRTP will be updated at least once every five years. The review and updating will insure continual citizen involvement and the LRTP's overall viability as the Region IV's long-range transportation planning document.

The plan shall be subject to public review for no less than 30 days, announced in the regional newspapers via public notice, and available in every courthouse and city hall in Region IV. This process shall be approved by both the S RTPA Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Board. Amendments to this process shall be made in similar fashion.