



'Aunt Dottie'

An Advocacy Database

What information does Aunt Dottie provide?

- Access to your city and state elected and employed officials
- A direct path to Nebraska state law and its cities' ordinances
- State- and city-defined bicycle and hiking trails
- A variety of people and organizations in your community that can help you further your advocacy or project efforts

Who can use this database?

- Elected officials and staff to analyze opportunities for ordinance and law changes
- Cyclist and pedestrians moving about their community noticing problem points
- Advocates looking for a roadmap to policy change
- Anyone looking to connect with their elected or employed city officials

Understanding the Legend *(listed on the left-hand side of database):*

NE State Law: The laws of Nebraska as set forth by the Nebraska Constitution and amended by the Nebraska State Legislature every year.

Local Laws/Ordinances: Laws/ordinances set forth by a particular city, municipality, township, or village and apply to the people who reside in those particular areas.

Hike and Bike Trails: Trails identified by the city as streets, trails, or paths accessible for walking and biking.

City Administration: City representatives appointed by the people of that community, such as the Mayor, City Council, or City Administrator.

NE State Depts: Offices and officers employed by the state to provide expert assistance and develop regulations pertaining to their specific field.

City Planning Officials: City employees who develop comprehensive plans and designs for using space within cities.

City Public Works Depts: City employees whose job is to provide and sustain structures and services constructed for public use or enjoyment.

NE Dept of Transpo. Districts: Nebraska Department of Transportation Districts are divisions of the state that employ or appoint a specific district engineer and state highway commissioner.

City Parks & Rec Depts: City departments that provide resources and services for leisure, entertainment, and recreation on city-owned public lands.

Senate Reps and Offices: A person elected by the people of their state as one of two representatives to bring Nebraska's voice to the federal government in the first house of Congress. They have a Washington D.C. office and multiple offices throughout their state.

House of Reps Districts & Officials: A representative elected by the people in their district in the state of Nebraska, making up the second house of Congress. Currently, there are three districts in Nebraska and thus three Representatives. They have a Washington D.C. office and multiple offices throughout their state.

Legislative Districts & Reps: Legislators that are elected by the people of their local district and represent them in the Nebraska legislature each year. They start in January and serve until the end of the session a few months later. They are responsible for making and amending state laws to better their community and the state as a whole.

City Health Depts: A city department responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that keep people healthy. That can include ensuring that essential things and services, such as food, water, housing, and health centers, are accessible and safe.

City Tourism: A city department responsible for attracting new visitors/residents to Nebraska and retaining current Nebraska residents through engaging activities, infrastructure, and programming. The tourism department should try to engage a wide variety of people through the betterment and accessibility of the community.

Bicycle Lanes: *(Please note: The trails, bicycle lanes, and multi-use paths are included in the map for advocacy information only. Look for gaps that need to be filled, communities that may not have access to trails, or paths that look feasible for building a trail connecting towns. It should not be used as a route-planning tool.)*

- **Multi-Use Trail:** A multi-use trail is one designated for pedestrians, bicycles, and/or other non-motorized users. The use of e-bikes is trail-dependent, so you will have to check with trail managers or city ordinances on whether or not e-bikes are allowed.
- **Other Bicycle Lanes and Pedestrian Paths:** 'Other Bicycle Lane and Pedestrian Path Spaces are spaces in urban areas designed for use predominantly by

pedestrians and bicycles. They can be wider sidewalks, bike lanes, bike paths, or walking streets and are used for gathering or transportation.

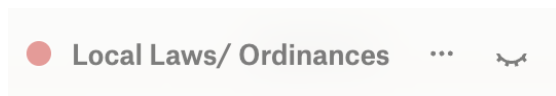
Understanding the Database:

Aunt Dottie is a map utilizing multiple layers so information can be viewed in relevant categories and at the user's discretion.

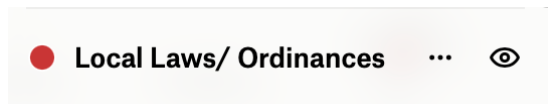
Opening a Layer:

To turn on a layer, hover over the right side of a category and click on the 'closed eye' until it 'opens.'

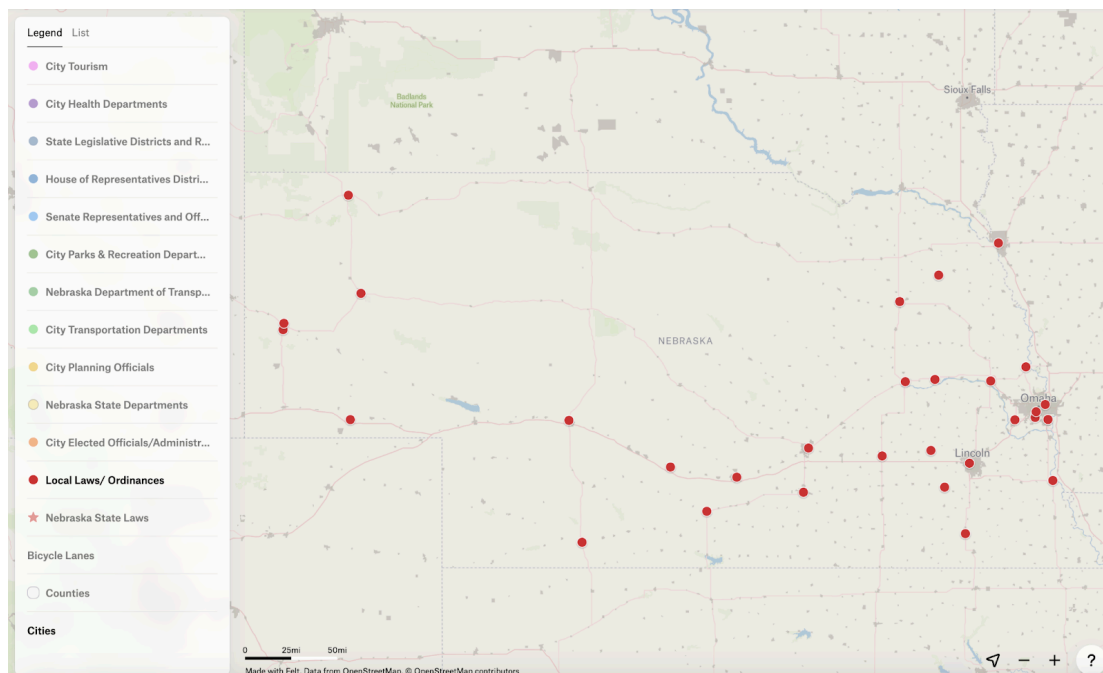
This is what it should look like when you hover over a category:



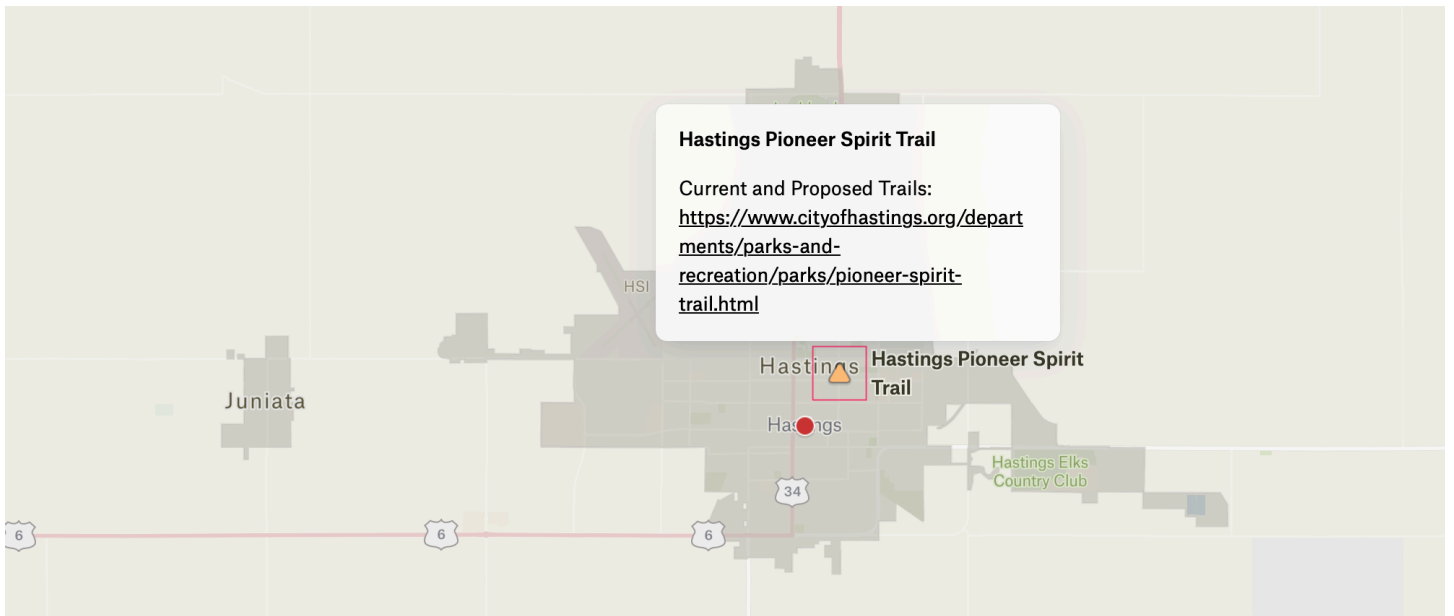
And this is what it looks like when the layer is active:



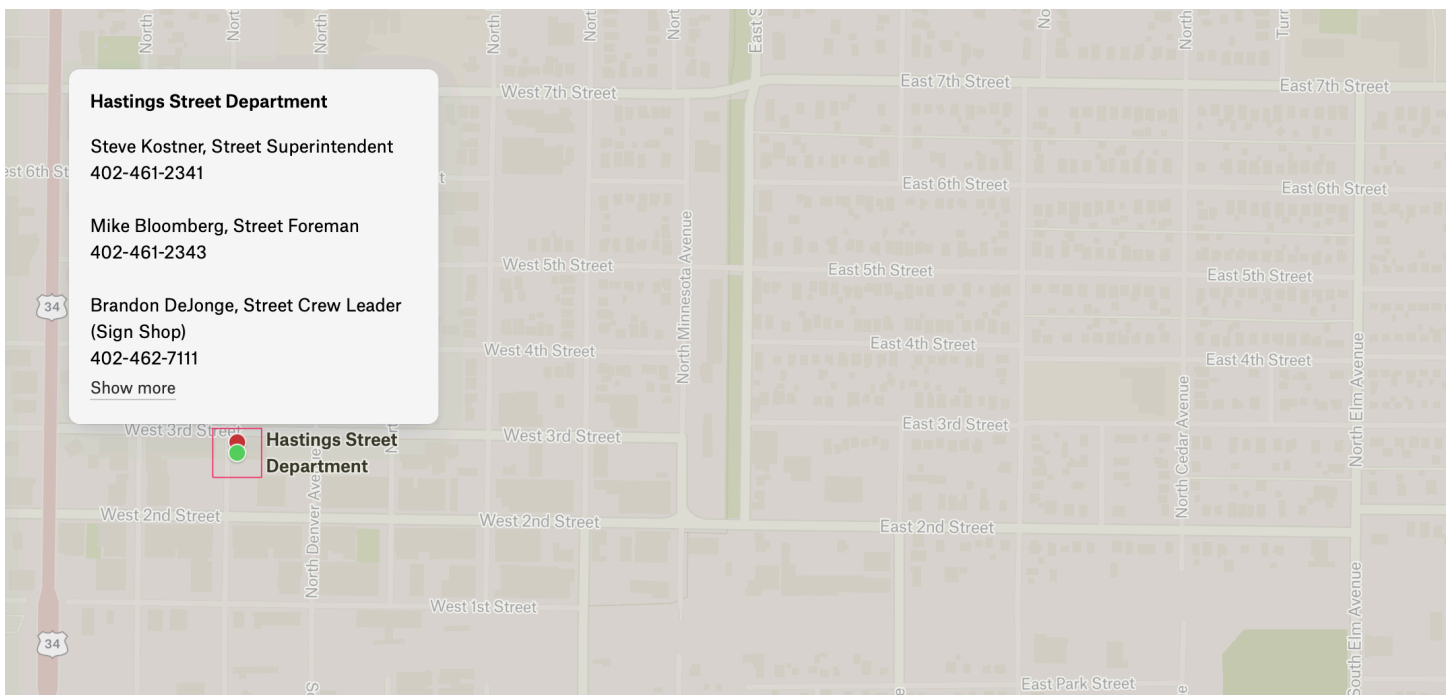
Once you 'open the eye,' dots corresponding to that category in that category's color will appear on the map and look like this.



By clicking on a dot in your community, you will find information relevant to that community. To close the information box, click on the beige area outside of the city boundaries or simply close the 'eye' on the legend.



If you have multiple layers open at the same time, especially within the same city, the dots may overlap until you zoom in. *Each dot is placed where the office is headquartered.* Many city officials and departments have offices in the same building, hypothetically making it more convenient to schedule meetings with offices invested in your projects and concerns (*wink wink*).



Here's an example of how Aunt Dottie can be used:

Meet Cait. She's a cyclist living in Hastings, Nebraska. She notices a lack of infrastructure, connectivity, and routes to safely make it to work, downtown, grocery stores, or friends' houses. *What does she do to start figuring out how to address these active transportation needs within her community?*

With the help of 'Aunt Dottie', a resourceful online platform, Cait delves into the city ordinances and laws that might hinder bike-friendliness *[using the "Local Laws/Ordinances" layer]*.

She then takes the initiative to contact her city council member *[using the "City Elected Officials" layer]* to discuss the outdated ordinances. Also, she reaches out to the head of the Streets or Public Works Department *[using the "City Public Works Department" layer]* to initiate a dialogue.

At this point, Cait can look to model law examples with her city officials to identify how Hastings can move forward with safe and accessible active transportation.

Note: To compare your community's ordinances to state ordinances, you must open both the "Nebraska State Laws" layer and the "Local Laws/Ordinances" layer.

We currently have information for the 34 cities in Nebraska with over 5,000 residents. There may be missing 'dots' or information in your community if the service is not accessible, not updated, or does not exist. This is a living map after all; it is made to constantly be updated and evolve.

[Help us keep the database updated by requesting edits here.](#)

We hope this tool is helpful in all your advocacy efforts. Bike Walk Nebraska is enthusiastic about the progress we can make when we're all equipped with the knowledge to do better and connect with the people who can help make it happen.

Say hi to Aunt Dottie for us!