



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

Mid-America Regional Council • 600 Broadway, Suite 200 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • 816/474-4240

January 23, 2024

Board Member Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

In-person attendees in MARC's Board Room with a remote option via Zoom

- **Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email McKenzie Neds at mnedes@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, for instructions to join the teleconference.**

AGENDA

1. Brief Self-Introductions
 - a. REPORT: Recognition of Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development, for fifty years of service and overview of reorganized responsibilities
2. HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
 - a. REPORT: Regional Landfill Capacity Study
 - b. REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council Priority Climate Action Plan and Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant.
3. QUALITY EARLY LEARNING
 - a. REPORT: Development of Early Learning System Strategic Action Plan
4. BRIEF REPORTS
 - a. REPORT/VOTE: 2024 Federal Policy Agenda
 - b. REPORT: Connected KC 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Public Opinion Survey
 - c. REPORT/VOTE: Election of 2024 MARC Board Officers
 - d. REPORT: Annual Board Review of Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and the Public Official Liability Advisory.
 - e. VOTE: Approve the Mid-America Regional Council joining area cities and counties as a SevenDays of Kindness® regional partner
 - f. REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council's 2024 Regional Assembly and Awards
5. Executive Director's Report

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

6. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the December 19, 2023, Board Meeting
 - b. VOTE: Approval of Local Government Dues for 2025
 - c. VOTE: Authorize an agreement with RubinBrown for the 2023 audit and review the 2023 Audit Plan
 - d. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of additional funds from the Hall Family Foundation for an energy conservation program to assist non-profit organizations.
 - e. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of grant funds from the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation for grant writing services.
 - f. VOTE: Authorize an agreement with Assel Grant Services for grant writing services, including



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research and partner facilitation.

- g. REPORT: Emergency purchase from Landmark Dodge of three vehicles for 911 technical staff.
- h. VOTE: Approve fiber connection agreements with United Private Networks between secure 911 router locations.
- i. VOTE: Authorize grant submission to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to support the update of regional stormwater engineering standards.
- j. VOTE: Approve amendment increase to the current catering agreement with Guadalupe Center.
- k. VOTE: Approve amendment increase to the current community center agreement with Excelsior Springs Senior Center.
- l. VOTE: Authorization to release request for proposal documents for State Fiscal year 2025 Services provided by the Department of Adult and Senior Services.
- m. VOTE: Authorize Senior Services Growth and Development Program contract amendment with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
- n. VOTE: Authorize contract with Area Resources for Individualized Services, Inc DBA: ARIS Solutions to provide financial management services for the Veteran-Directed Care Program.
- o. VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Health Foundation for \$1.75 million dollars to support the Double Up Food Bucks program.
- p. VOTE: 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program*
- q. VOTE: 2024 Unified Planning Work Program - Amendment #1*

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

MARC Board of Directors - Members and Alternates

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Fields, Vernon	Basehor, KS	Councilmember
Ross, Carson	Blue Springs, MO	Mayor
Stephens, Tom	Bonner Springs, KS	Mayor
Johnson, Ryan	Cass County	Commissioner - Designee for Commission Chair Bob Huston
Hurlbert, Victor	Clay County	Auditor
Nolte, Jerry	Clay County	Presiding Commissioner
Walker, Rick	De Soto, KS	Mayor
Caiharr, Carolyn	Edwardsville, KS	Mayor
Hobart, Dan	Independence, MO	Mayor Pro Tem
McCandless, Bridget	Independence, MO	Councilmember – Designee for Mayor Rory Rowland
Anderson, Jalen	Jackson County	County Legislator - Designee for County Exectuive Frank White
Marshall, Megan	Jackson County	Legislator
McGee, DaRon	Jackson County	Legislator
Fast, Becky	Johnson County	Commissioner - Designee for Commission Chair Mike Kelly
Hanzlick, Janee	Johnson County	Commissioner
Kelly, Mike	Johnson County	Commission Chairman
Bunch, Eric	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Lucas, Quinton	Kansas City, MO	Mayor
Duncan, Johnathan	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Willett, Nathan	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Jarrod, Dick**	KCATA	Vice President
White III, Frank**	KCATA	President/CEO
Koehn, Leroy**	KDOT	District Engineer
Moriarty, Michael**	KDOT	Chief of Transportation Planning
Pogue, Randy	Kearney, MO	Mayor
Culbertson, Jeff	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Smith, Doug	Leavenworth County	Commission Chairman
Lopez, Beto	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor Pro Tem – Designee for Mayor Bill Baird
Roberts, Rob	Miami County	Commissioner
Vaughan, Tyler	Miami County	Commissioner
Dickey, David	Mission Hills, KS	Mayor
Hardy, Jeff*	MoDOT	Asst. District Engineer
Redline, Chris**	MoDOT	District Engineer
Vogt, Marge	Olathe, KS	Councilmember - Designee for Mayor John Bacon
Grummert, Holly	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember
Heley, Logan	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember - Designee for Mayor Curt Skoog
Fricke, Scott	Platte County	Presiding Commissioner
Wood, Dagmar	Platte County	Commissioner
Mikkelsen, Eric	Prairie Village, KS	Mayor
Gaines, Billy	Ray County	Presiding Commissioner
Turnbow, Kristofer	Raymore, MO	Mayor
McDonough, Mike	Raytown, MO	Mayor
Poppa, Michael	Roeland Park, KS	Mayor
Sandifer, Mickey	Shawnee, KS	Mayor
Boley, Damien	Smithville, MO	Mayor
Kane, Mike	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner - Designee for Mayor/CEO Tyrone Garner
Ramirez, Christian	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Hill, Evelyn	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Burroughs, Tom	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner

*Public Transit Representatives (Voting) **Public Transit Advisory Representatives (Non-Voting)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 1

ISSUE:

Introductions and Board Sharing Time

BACKGROUND:

Time has been reserved on the agenda for introductions and items of interest to Board members. The Board Chair encourages board members to raise matters for discussion at future meetings or other issues of general concern or interest.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 1b
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Recognition of Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development, for fifty years of service and overview of reorganized responsibilities

BACKGROUND:

Marlene Nagel joined the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) staff in January 1974, two years after MARC was incorporated. She began her service at MARC as an Economist Aide and was soon advanced to other positions. In March of 1984 Marlene became Director of Community Development, a position she has held since. Marlene has led and supported countless initiatives at MARC since their inception, including MARC's work in public safety and emergency response, environmental planning and services, early education and childcare, competitive federal investments, among others. Her influence on the culture, capacity and impact of MARC is profound and her contributions to the progress of the Kansas City region are unparalleled.

As Marlene celebrates her distinguished tenure at MARC, several of her programmatic responsibilities have been realigned within other departments. Marlene is now focusing her time on assisting MARC staff and partners in working collaboratively to identify and pursue external funding opportunities, particularly federal investments in areas where MARC has a programmatic responsibility. Marlene will continue to be a valuable resource to our team, local governments and community partners.

We look forward to sharing Marlene's important milestone and sharing more about her new responsibilities at the upcoming board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report Only. No Action Needed (Other than a BIG thank you to Marlene).

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 2a
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

REPORT: Regional Landfill Capacity Study

BACKGROUND:

In January 2024, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) concluded a study led by Burns and McDonnell to forecast regional landfill capacity. The study is intended to inform solid waste planning, programming, and permitting activities, at the state, regional and local levels and to serve as a prelude to a future regional solid waste plan.

This study is not an evaluation of any specific landfill expansion or proposed landfill. MARC and the MARC Solid Waste Management District are non-regulatory entities and have no formal role in the development, siting or expansion of landfills or waste transfer stations. These sites are governed by state and local permitting and zoning processes overseen by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and individual city and county governments.

The MARC Solid Waste Management District guided the study's development. Industry representatives along with public sector officials from both Kansas and Missouri participated in focus groups to review and validate the study's approach, assumptions, and draft findings. All focus group participants concurred that the approach and findings were reasonable.

The scenarios within the study indicate that the region has a range of 19 to 37 complete years of remaining landfill capacity. Variables contributing to the range in estimates include population growth, additional landfill capacity, operation of Presidio landfill, waste diversion, and waste generation rates. While the need for new landfill capacity is not imminent, the study recommends that the region initiate the development of a regional solid waste management plan to begin addressing relevant issues in a timely manner.

The study was shared with the MARC Solid Waste Management District Executive Board meeting on January 17, 2023. A public engagement session will be held on January 24, 2024 at 6 p.m. at MCC-Longview Education Center. More information can be found [here](#).

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None

EXHIBITS:

[Regional Landfill Capacity Study](#)

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 2b

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council Priority Climate Action Plan and Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a variety of major climate protection initiatives through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). In April 2023, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors authorized receipt of a \$1 million formula grant from the [EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant](#) (CPRG) program to update the current [Regional Climate Action Plan](#). The EPA recently announced [implementation grants](#) due April 1, 2024, with potential funding levels for the Kansas City region ranging from \$50 - \$200 million. The planning grant requires submission of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) to the EPA on March 1, 2024, which will largely mirror the implementation grant. A next generation Comprehensive Climate Action Plan will be due to the EPA in the summer of 2025. This presentation will provide an overview of the PCAP and CPRG implementation grant strategies and a summary of next steps.

The EPA created funding for the development of PCAP to support initial work in communities in which no climate planning had been initiated, and to allow regions like Kansas City to refine existing plans, with an eye to action and implementation. The PCAP will articulate regional priorities at a high level, describing opportunities that were shared by local communities and stakeholders during an extensive set of community engagements during September - December 2023. All measures included in the CPRG Implementation Grant must also be included in the PCAP.

The CPRG implementation grant creates a highly competitive national program through the IRA to implement priority elements in the regional plan. The top criteria the EPA will employ to evaluate grant applications are:

- 1) the amount and cost-effectiveness of short and long-term GHG emissions reduction,
- 2) benefits to disadvantaged communities, and
- 3) the project's transformative impact.

Additional review criteria include: collaboration and partnerships, leverage of federal and other resources, sustainability co-benefits, replicability, scalability, and inclusivity.

The grant application currently is conceptualized as a two-phased process. During the first year, specific subawards will be given to a small number of instigative, investment-ready projects to demonstrate rapid success and community impact and in ways that align with grant criteria. The Climate and Environment Council (CEC) will vet proposed subawards. In the second phase, MARC will work at a programmatic level with community partners and stakeholders to refine investment decision processes and criteria across all grant areas: buildings, clean energy, transportation, green infrastructure, food systems, and circular economy. In addition to listing instigative projects in each area, projects proposed by community stakeholders will help illustrate need, capacity, opportunity, and collaboration.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

MARC's application will advance three main goals to create significant short-term benefits while building civic capacities that catalyze transformational change over the long term.

1. *Leveraging public leadership.* Fourteen local governments representing 83% of the region's population have taken formal actions to embrace the Regional Climate Action Plan since it was adopted in March 2021. Since that time, plan implementation has proceeded through regional and local policies, plans and investments. Local governments proposed a variety of projects, including community facility and fleet improvements, electric vehicle charging stations, electric bicycles and cycling facilities, and more. Grant resource allocation will enable local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address environmental justice, and create new opportunities to lead by example.
2. *Neighborhood resilience.* Community and stakeholder input in 2023 focused primarily on neighborhood resilience through investments in resilience hubs (e.g., in community centers, libraries, schools, health centers), and energy efficiency improvements in low-income single and multi-family residential units. Building improvements (which will likely provide the greatest emissions reduction benefits) will be complemented by neighborhood-scale nature-based solutions to ameliorate urban heat islands, improve walkability and conserve air and water quality; alternative transportation and technology investments; urban agriculture and food waste reduction.
3. *Critical infrastructure resilience.* Multiple proposed investments create opportunities to strengthen regional infrastructure systems related to solid waste, transportation, clean energy, and water resource management in ways that build resilience and sustainability. These include green on and off-road transportation corridors, restored streamway corridors, district-scale clean power, and regional composting facilities.

In addition to delivering a slate of impactful projects, this grant seeks to facilitate transformational change by building the neighborhood, civic and institutional capacity to embed climate action and sustainability in community decision making. Several cross-cutting elements will facilitate transformational, enduring outcomes, including:

- building local capacity through high-quality professional development, technical assistance, outreach and applied learning.
- capacity building for community-based organizations serving disadvantaged neighborhoods and populations dispersed across the region
- regional climate communications
- workforce development
- cooperative procurement
- local and regional policy development, and
- MARC project management and administration.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Next steps

With consulting support, MARC is evaluating the cost effectiveness of greenhouse gas reduction associated with all proposed measures, along with an assessment of other relevant metrics. A subcommittee of the CEC will then review all grant elements, with recommendations forwarded to the full CEC. Staff will then bring a final draft PCAP to the MARC Board for adoption at its February meeting, along with more detailed information regarding the CPRG Implementation Grant.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Board authorization to submit the PCAP and CPRG implementation grant will be requested at the February board meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 3a
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

REPORT: Development of Early Learning System Strategic Action Plan

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in early 2024, The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, Kids Win Missouri, Kansas Action for Children, and others, with coordination from the Mid-American Regional Council (MARC) are collaborating with community leaders throughout the bi-state Kansas City region to build an actionable road map toward a sustainable and high-quality early learning system.

MARC secured funding for the project, conducted research on early childhood systems building frameworks, and is spearheading the recruitment of members for a steering committee. The work will be led by the steering committee of families and professionals from early care and education, including members from Partners in Quality (PIQ), public schools, higher education, area non-profits, and business and civic leaders. This diverse group of stakeholders will engage in a comprehensive, action-oriented strategic planning process. The plan will result in a road map for the region around early learning that includes specific actionable goals and metrics for measuring our progress toward each goal.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC Region.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Toni Sturdivant, Ph.D., Director of Early Education

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 4a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

BRIEF REPORT: 2024 Federal Policy Agenda

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors adopts a federal policy agenda, reflecting issues of importance to the Kansas City region. The issues come forward from MARC-convened working committees, member local governments, and community partners.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

[2024 Federal Policy Agenda](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2024 Federal Policy Agenda.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 4b

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Connected KC 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Public Opinion Survey

BACKGROUND:

In support of the Connected KC 2050 long range transportation plan update, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) will be undertaking a random sample surveying process that will survey all nine counties of the MARC Metropolitan Planning Organization area. ETC Institute, a local research company, was selected to conduct the survey through a competitive RFP process. ETC Institute is well established in our region and has provided research services to many of our member jurisdictions. The decision to undertake this survey is two-fold:

1. Transportation needs are evolving and securing research that offers a snapshot of a representative sample of our region will improve understanding of the region's priorities and needs. In particular, the recent addition of Ray County into the Metropolitan Planning Organization heightens our need to better understand the needs of outlying communities in our region.
2. The survey will gather perspectives on a variety of transportation modes, transportation needs, funding priorities, and other issues. The results will inform Connected KC 2050 and other planning initiatives including our regional Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, currently underway.

ETC Institute is anticipated to start mailing surveys with cover letters by early February. A report to the Total Transportation Policy Committee and MARC Board will be provided once the survey collection process, analysis and final report are completed.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The funding for this study is derived from 2023 and 2024 Consolidated Planning Grant - Long Range Transportation Plan for a total amount of \$49,815.87.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

None. Information only.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Beth Dawson, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 4c
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT/VOTE: Election of 2024 Mid-America Regional Council Board Officers

BACKGROUND:

As announced at the December 2023 Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board meeting, Board Chair Carson Ross, appointed Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, KS (past chair) and Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS (past chair) to join him to serve as a Nominating Committee for MARC 2024 Board Officers.

MARC Board Officers are elected for one-year terms, but typically serve at least two years. The current officers are concluding their first year in their roles and would normally continue through next year. However, current MARC Chair, Mayor Carson Ross, is not seeking re-election, so he will leave office in April. All the other officers are able to continue in office through 2024.

As a result, the Nominating Committee is nominating the following slate of officers to be considered by the MARC Board in January, with those officers to take effect April 1, 2024 and to serve for the remainder of 2024:

2024 Officer Nominations:

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS, Chair
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO, First Vice-Chair
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO, Second Vice-Chair
Councilmember Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS, Treasurer
Mayor Pro Tem Dan Hobart, Independence, MO, Secretary

All nominees other than Mayor Pro Tem Hobart were previously serving as Officers and were advanced forward through the officer roles.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Elect the above slate of officers for 2024 as recommended by the Nominating Committee to take effect April 1, 2024.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 4d
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Annual Board Review of Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and the Public Official Liability Advisory.

BACKGROUND:

As a best practice for high functioning boards, the above three documents are reviewed with the MARC Board members on a regular basis. These documents include important guidance related to decisions board members make.

Conflict of Interest Policy

MARC strives to operate in an open and transparent way that inspires confidence that the organization is an effective steward of public resources. The MARC Board of Directors and a number of MARC committees are responsible for authorizing grants and funding allocations that benefit local governments, public agencies and other organizations in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The committee processes ensure that federal, state and local funds available to the metropolitan area are invested in ways that benefit the region and local communities. The purpose of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy is to ensure that participants on the MARC board and committees have clear guidance when a participant in any MARC decisions-making process could have a conflict of interest and what the appropriate action would be in those circumstances.

The policy is designed to help directors, officers, employees and volunteers identify conflicts of interest and disclose them to the appropriate authority. It is also designed to provide a procedure to appropriately manage conflicts in accordance with legal requirements and the goals of accountability and transparency in all MARC operations. The policy is intended to supplement but not replace any state or federal laws that govern conflicts of interest in public, non-profit, and charitable organizations. MARC boards and committees involved in making decisions or recommendations regarding funding awards also have this topic on their agenda regularly.

Whistleblower Policy

Since the enactment of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, organizations have developed policies that focus on protecting whistleblowers and providing mechanisms for employees to raise concerns realizing “...it is better for an organization to learn about unethical or unlawful conduct internally than to find out about the conduct from a news article, a subpoena from law enforcement, or an investigation for a regulatory agency.”

Nonprofits are now required to answer a question on the IRS 990 form to indicate whether or not the nonprofit has a whistleblower policy. Some grants require MARC to have a whistleblower policy.

A good whistleblower protection program should:

- Provide employees multiple ways to report concerns
- Establish a forum where employees can raise concerns
- Prohibit retaliation
- Train managers and supervisors
- Take disciplinary action against those who engage in retaliation

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

The attached policy incorporates the use of an external hotline program called “WeTip,” which is provided free of charge by Midwest Public Risk, MARC’s insurance carrier. Any reports submitted to the WeTip program will be forwarded to the Executive Director, Director of Finance and Administration, Human Resources Manager and MARC Board Chair.

Board Liability Advisory

Midwest Public Risk (MPR) provides employee health and dental, workers’ compensation, property and casualty (liability) coverages for MARC. As part of its loss control program, MPR recommends that each of its members with public official liability coverage to participate in an annual refresher.

Attached is a copy of MPR’s risk prevention advisory on public official liability. MARC does not have the same types of public official liability risks as cities and counties and has never had this type of claim. However, it is always important to be aware of those situations that might have potential for claims and/or lawsuits. The advisory includes general but effective rules to follow that will help avoid potential problems.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

[Whistleblower Policy](#)

[Public Official Liability Bulletin](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 4e

Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the Mid-America Regional Council joining area cities and counties as a *SevenDays of Kindness*® regional partner

BACKGROUND:

SevenDays of Kindness is a Kansas-City based nonprofit organization that promotes kindness and understanding through education and dialogue. The group was formed out the tragic murders in 2014 at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park to connect communities and encourage citizens to increase kind actions. Fourteen cities in the region have signed on as *SevenDays of Kindness* Cities: Independence, Kansas City, North Kansas City and Parkville, Missouri, and Bonner Springs, the Unified Government of KCK/Wyandotte County, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village and Shawnee, Kansas. Johnson County, KS is in the process of becoming the first county in the network.

As the group approaches the 10th anniversary of the tragedy, *SevenDays* has invited MARC to become its first regional kindness partner to promote cross-awareness among participating jurisdictions and to support broader regional awareness and participation. There is not a financial obligation to participate, but the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) would express its commitment to promote kindness and mutual understanding throughout the community, to help promote *SevenDays* activities through our networks and social media, and to undertake activities consistent with our mission and programs that help promote a sense of community connection and kindness.

We expect MARC can be notably helpful in supporting participating jurisdictions in their individual and collective activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Given the consistency of *SevenDays* mission and message with MARC's values and policies, staff recommends accepting this invitation to become a regional kindness partner.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Kristin Johnson-Waggoner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 4f
Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council's 2024 Regional Assembly and Awards

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) recognizes individuals, organizations and initiatives that have made outstanding contributions to the region with Regional Leadership Awards at its annual Regional Assembly. MARC is now accepting nominations for the 2024 awards, which will be presented at the annual MARC Regional Assembly on June 14.

The nomination period opens Jan. 23 and closes on March 1. MARC is looking for individuals, organizations and initiatives that have made outstanding contributions to the Kansas City region — those who have gone above and beyond their jobs and their work in their own communities to advance a regional vision of excellence. Past recipients have included elected officials, local government professionals, civic leaders or organizations, nonprofit leaders or agencies, volunteer leaders or groups, and educators or educational institutions.

The awards recognize leadership in:

- Advocating regional concepts, approaches, and programs.
- Advancing the vision of the region as a community of excellence.
- Addressing regional challenges.
- Applying innovative solutions to regional problems.
- Achieving improved quality of life and equitable opportunity for the region's residents.

MARC Board members are encouraged to submit nominations and disseminate information about the awards to colleagues to encourage them to submit their nominations.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Please submit award nominations online at marc.org/awards starting on Jan. 23 or email a MARC staff member. The nomination period will close March 1.

A save-the-date for the June 14 MARC Regional Assembly will be issued in the coming weeks.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, Public Affairs Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 6a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the December 19, 2023, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the December 19, 2023, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant



MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

December 19, 2023

12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Carson Ross, Blue Springs, MO - MARC Board Chair
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Councilmember Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - MARC Board Secretary
Auditor Victor Hurlbert, Clay County, MO
Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, MO
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS
Commissioner Becky Fast, Johnson County, KS
Councilmember Johnathan Duncan, Kansas City, MO
Mayor Randy Pogue, Kearney, MO
Commissioner Jeff Culbertson, Leavenworth County, KS
Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, KS
Councilmember Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS
Presiding Commissioner Scott Fricker, Platte County, MO
Mayor Eric Mikkelsen, Prairie Village, KS
Commissioner Billy Gaines, Ray County, MO
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO
Mayor Mike McDonough, Raytown, MO

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

Jeff Hardy, Missouri Department of Transportation

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Mayor Carson Ross called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Due to the meeting being held remotely and in-person, Mayor Ross provided instructions for participation. He reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item, and ask for approval of all agenda items, as well as the consent agenda, with one vote at the end of the meeting. Members will have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during the final vote.

Self-introductions were made, and members shared items of interest from their jurisdictions.

REPORT: KCI Airport Public Transit Action Plan Update

Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Land Use, introduced Jeff McKerrow a consultant from Kimely Horn, the firm that produced the KCI Action Plan. Mr. McKerrow explained that one of the main objectives was to identify regional transit service investment strategies to provide access to KCI with a focus on short term implementation. We know there's been conversations about fixed rail routes potentially to KCI, however, those take

many years to move to completion. What we focused on is what could be stood up in a relatively short time frame, potentially even by the time the World Cup comes to town. The process began roughly 6 months ago and hit the ground with information gathering and interviewing the public and visitors that came to town for the NFL Draft. We also looked at different market opportunities and needs as well as evaluating those potential service alternatives and implementation strategies to move forward.

This was a data-driven process driven by stakeholder and public outreach feedback that was received. And we also looked at peer cities infrastructure as it relates to the airports located near them and how it compared to KCI. Mr. McKerrow noted that there is a difference between what travelers and employees need from the transit corridor. The service provided currently to KCI, the 229 service, runs once an hour and it takes a little over an hour to get from downtown Kansas City to KCI. Some of the main feedback that we heard from employees and travelers is the needs for more frequent stops and even extend routes into the evening and earlier hours to better align with flights and work shifts.

To accomplish this, the team looked at several different modes, from local buses, express buses, and even micro transit as an option. The evaluation came down to travel time, competitiveness to driving by yourself, as well as the potential ridership. Thinking about the beginning or the ending of the route, how close are the riders to their residence / hotels and employees to jobs. Mr. McKerrow showed slides of different routes, stops, and transit options outlined in the plan and explained that the cost estimates range anywhere from \$50 to \$80 million for the routes identified and the number of buses that may be needed. Another factor to consider is scalability. If Kansas City brings in major conferences or events, like the NFL draft, The World Cup, political conferences, etc. these routes need to be able to handle the increase flow of users.

The next step of the action plan is to identify leading agencies who would take the reins on these programs. There are several transit providers here in the metro area that can work on funding, service operations, and the procurement of vehicles. Currently, very few have access to vehicles that could be used for this plan, and it can take years to acquire those diesels or compressed natural gas. The team did explore electric buses but the length of route that is needed doesn't match the technology in existence today.

Mr. Victor Hurlbert asked for Mr. McKerrow to address the issue of the current "no fare" bus services. He believes it would be a bad idea to expand the current bus services under the expectation that there would be no fares for riders. Mr. McKerrow indicated that there was general acceptance from those that were interviewed that a fare-based structure would be appropriate for this type of service.

Mayor Eric Mikkelsen asked how many proposed terminals would touch Johnson County? Mr. McKerrow responded that the Overland Park Conference Center and Lenexa City Center were two locations that showed in the study. There is also potential to merge with stops along State Ave and tie into service in the Unified Government in Kansas City, KS as well.

Commissioner Scott Fricker asked if there had been a study of the actual demand for these services. Mr. McKerrow said that while actual demand is hard to quantify, the team did study where residents live and work, the demographics of who is traveling to and from KCI, the number of hotel rooms being booked in transit areas, and population densities around the residences and employment centers. There are several factors when modeling demand and a large unknown factor is communication and advertising the routes and travel opportunities.

Councilmember Johnathan Duncan asked what were the results of who is utilizing KCI? Where are they coming from? Mr. McKerrow said that there are clusters around Johnson County, downtown Kansas City, and the Plaza area for people traveling in and out. Interestingly, the Overland Park Convention Center seems to draw more car ridership of local travel than persons coming from KCI.

REPORT: 2024 Regional Economic Forecast

Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services, gave an update of the 2024 economic forecast that shows the region will continue to grow but at a slower rate. Mr. Lenk showed various Kansas City industry growth and pointed out that state and local governments seemed to rebound in 2023. The construction, professional services, and health care industries remained strong in our region and are forecasted to continue. The main factor in the slowdown is tied to the domestic labor supply, where we are experiencing a lack of workers creating a sluggish economy. The employment forecast for both the Kansas City region and the United States is expected to flatten, with Kansas City continuing to underperform against the national average.

Mr. Lenk took time to review Kansas City's largest exporting industries, things that are made in Kansas City and sent elsewhere in the country to compare how much of our economy is devoted to the United States as a whole. Regions grow when they produce value for the larger economy. When compared to 10 other regions, Kansas City falls last in its share of total employment to the larger economy.

To accelerate the local economy of Kansas City, Mr. Lenk pointed to innovation as a way to add value and bring larger growth. Most innovations are being done by young firms incorporating technology and there is a role for all stakeholders because no one oversees entrepreneurship. It takes entrepreneurs, risk capital, universities, existing corporations, and governments to provide a strong framework. He concluded that local governments have a role in promoting two main takeaways: 1) workforce development and upskilling the workers we already have to increase their value created and 2) generating more new businesses, especially innovation-driven enterprises (IDEs).

REPORT: Updates on Regional Generative Artificial Intelligence Efforts

Amanda Graor, Deputy Director of Research Services/Chief Innovation Officer, presented the MARC Generative AI policy meant for internal use. Ms. Graor and the MARC staff seek to share this policy with the board as the use of these technologies becomes more widespread. The MARC policy is specific to generative AI, the creation of new content through prompts. The approach is varied across the country right now, some states have limitations on the use and others are leaning into the technology to find new ways to use it for state purposes. The MARC team is tracking legislation and will update the Board as needed on new policies and best practices. The goal is to understand how generative AI can transform how we do things and not have it become the end goal itself. There is a level of understanding that is required about how technology works that will enable governments to develop policy and consider use cases.

Ms. Graor reviewed the internal MARC policy and told the Board that the document would be made available to them if they would like to review. The document will constantly be evolving and updating as more information becomes available or uses change. We are encouraging our staff at this point to use the built-in tools on existing platforms that we already have agreements with, but to not use standalone tools like ChatGPT that require separate accounts to use that functionality. There are tools that we have at our disposal with built-in AI assistance that terms and conditions that are being updated or agreed upon between us and the vendor. Within the policy, there is a section about disclosure of use. We are requiring our staff to disclose generative AI use in any kind of form for products, reports, or projects that we are putting forward. These sources will be cited using the appropriate citation format. The policy also requires our vendors, contractors, or consultants inform MARC when they are using generative AI on our behalf. The last section of the policy pertains to risk mitigation. It reminds folks that under no circumstances to put things like private information about themselves or the organization into the tool and to treat anything that you are putting into a generative AI tool as open record.

Commissioner Hanzlick thanked Ms. Graor and MARC for leading the charge on this policy because she believes we are going to see generative AI become more prominent.

Mayor Eric Mikkelsen asked if there were any jurisdictions present that have adopted a policy within their jurisdiction. There were no responses.

REPORT: Progress on development of a regional application for the upcoming EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant.

Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director, gave a brief update on the work to prepare a grant to EPA and that will be \$50 to \$200 million. MARC received a grant from the EPA earlier this year for \$1,000,000 through a program called Climate Pollution Reduction Planning grants. EPA's intention was for this money to prepare for what they call CPRG implementation grants (this \$50 to \$200 million opportunity). MARC has conducted significant community engagement events and more than a half dozen meetings with local government representatives and other community stakeholders trying to understand these questions: what are the needs, what are the opportunities, what are the priorities, and how might we want to conceptualize this whole opportunity?

A project portal was created in which local governments and community stakeholders could share their detailed thoughts on project ideas that surround 6 areas of focus: buildings and energy efficiency, clean power, transportation, green infrastructure, circular economy, and urban food systems. Using these focus areas, the application to the EPA will begin to form the narrative of the grant and what potential lies in the Kansas City region. The first criteria the EPA is looking for in the submission is how much greenhouse gas emissions do we reduce from our different projects? What is the cost per ton of CO₂ reduced in both short term (2030) and long term (2050). The second most important criterion is about environmental justice and how these projects create benefits for disadvantaged, frontline communities. MARC staff will bring forth a draft of the plan to the Board and then ask for approval prior to the April 1, 2024 submittal date.

Councilmember Logan Heley commented that because federal money has not been available like this before, this is the perfect opportunity for local jurisdictions to rethink their traditional pipelines for projects and start leaning toward climate resiliency goals. He encouraged MARC to help local jurisdictions plan and advocate for these types of planning initiatives so they can be ready when the funding comes to take action.

Commissioner Hanzlick asked how competitive this grant would be and if Kansas and Missouri were both applying. Mr. Jacobs answered that nationally, the total dollar amount is \$5 billion with a tier structure of awards. This will be an exceedingly competitive process but Kansas City is positioned very well to compete. Yes both Kansas and Missouri are planning to apply and the team is working hard to differentiate those applications.

BRIEF REPORTS:

REPORT/VOTE: Authorize an agreement for consultant services for the Kansas City Regional Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.

Karen Clawson, Principal Planner, presented that a consultant has been chosen to formulate an EV readiness plan for the region. She said that vehicle electrification is an important strategy that is a part of three regional plans: Connected KC2050, Clean Air Action Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. This strategy will help look towards ways of implementing and expanding our electric vehicle charging network. The draft scope of the project includes public and stakeholder engagement, assessment of existing conditions, identification of needs, and site suitability assessments. The site suitability assessment will be a valuable resource to local governments by providing a parcel level assessment to identify sites that can expand the electric vehicle charging network and close some of the gaps that we currently have.

MARC is working to assemble a steering committee that will include utilities, local governments, stakeholders, etc. throughout the region and she indicated that if a member of the board or a member of their staff would be interested, please contact her.

Councilmember Heley asked if this plan would outline any deliverables to include local policies that may be updated. i.e. if you are allowed to remain in an EV parking spot if you're not charging your vehicle. Ms. Clawson said that yes the scope will look at policies but also streamlined permitting processes and EV ready ordinances that are uniform across cities. Mr. Heley also mentioned that it would be very important to hear from the utility side (like Evergy) for advocacy at the state level and regulation is concerned. Ms. Clawson indicated that Evergy has been very involved in this process and will continue to do so.

Mr. Hurlbert asked if the site assessment was only concerning public property, local government property, or private property for the stations? Are there right of way concerns or partnerships being envisioned. Ms. Clawson said that the charging infrastructure would most likely be publicly accessible but there are opportunities for workplace charging as well.

REPORT: 2023 Ozone Season Report

Karen Clawson, Principal Planner, provided the 2023 Ozone season report. There were a total of 87 yellow days (moderate), 14 Ozone alerts issued, and 16 total exceedances. June was the most active month this year with the highest number of exceedances of any month on record and we had our first red day since 2018. These air quality issues stemmed from a persistent stagnant weather pattern throughout the month and was assisted by the wildfires from Eastern Canada that also impacted regions across the nation. During this period, the monitors violate the standard set forth by the EPA but MARC staff don't know what the implications are at this point. States are working with each other and with EPA to review the data and flag days that may have been impacted greatly by transported pollution from Canadian wildfires. EPA is currently reviewing the PM 2.5 values standard, and they are supposed to release a new standard for PM 2.5 this month which could put some of our monitors at risk and we are closely watching these regulations.

VOTE: Approve Revised 2023 and Proposed 2024 Budget

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration, gave a high level overview of the revised 2023 and proposed 2024 budget for the board and noted that a more detailed presentation was given at the Budget and Personnel committee meeting. The total projected revenues for 2024 is \$133,154,868 and total expenditures are expected to be \$133,015,121. Approximately 64% of our revenue comes from federal and state funding and approximately 66% of our expenditures flow out of the organization through contractual services and direct program expenses. Ms. Gonzales gave an overview of key highlights that happened between 2023 and 2024 as MARC received several new large grants to be spent down in the coming years, several in the Aging and Adult Services department. Local dues and fees were increased by 2% and staff salaries were budgeted to increase by 4% as is customary. She then outlined each of the 5 funds and stated their numbers for the group and explained that any of the MARC staff members would be happy to discuss the detail if the Board has questions.

Councilmember Johnathan Duncan asked why there was a decrease in the 911 Capital Fund from 2023 to 2024. Ms. Gonzales answered that it fluctuates based on the Public Safety Communications Board which has a four-year plan on Capital Projects where determine the highest priorities. From year to year, they may have more funding to do bigger projects in one year less projects. It is related to funding levels and to some degree the capacity of staff to manage those projects.

Commissioner Fricker asked how the 4% wage increase is distributed among staff. Ms. Gonzales said that it is merit / performance based but has not been determined yet how the pool will be split.

REPORT: Preliminary review and input on the 2024 Federal Policy Agenda

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development, reviewed the draft version of the 2024 federal policy agenda that allows MARC to communicate with members of our congressional delegation and their staff, committees, and community partners throughout the region. This

version is very similar to the 2023 federal policy agenda by using major category areas to encourage Congressional support for resources that will help communities and regions address important issues. Topics of the federal policy agenda can be defined under these categories: transportation, climate change/adaptation, environment, economic development, public health, early education, thriving older adults and communities, affordable housing, workforce development, and homeland security and emergency services. Ms. Nagel asked for any input that the Board might offer on issues that are important to your jurisdiction or to the region that are perhaps not included in our current draft policy positions.

REPORT/VOTE: Authorize federal subrecipient agreements with Burrell Behavioral Health and ReDiscover for the FY2023 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program grant for the Eastern Jackson County Co-Responder Program.

Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services, presented that there are funds allowing MARC to sustain and expand the eastern Jackson County Mental Health Co-Responder program. MARC helped launch this program in 2020 and since then, the program has expanded and these funds will allow us to continue that work. And one of our mental health partners will hire what they call a floater position that will provide support to some of the smaller police departments in eastern Jackson County, including Grain Valley and Oak Grove. MARC's contribution to this work is to be a convener, we are bringing these partners together on a regular basis to fulfill our federal grant requirements for reporting, but also this group has built a team that are sharing best practices and have agreed to create models for reporting and collecting data. This work is at the intersection of law enforcement and mental health and we are really excited about combining this work with what the team is doing with 988 and mobile crisis response.

REPORT: Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2024 board officers' approval.

Mayor Carson Ross announced that he has asked Mayor Curt Skoog and Commissioner Rob Roberts to serve on the 2024 nominating committee. They will meet and determine new officer appointments and bring those recommendations to the January board meeting for approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

David Warm wished the board happy holidays and reminded them that the next board meeting is January 23, 2024. Have a happy new year!

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: Approve Minutes of the November 28, 2023, Board Meeting

VOTE: Authorize entering into agreements with local governments participants in the 2024 Aerial Imagery Project

VOTE: Authorize amendment No. 3 with Social Impact Advising Group for project management services for 988 and mobile crisis response.

VOTE: Authorize increase in funding for Liberty Silver Center Transportation Services.

VOTE: Authorize approval to purchase property at 3707 East 14th Street, Kansas City, MO 64127 for a meal repack facility.

VOTE: Approve amendment increase with Hays Food Town, Inc for Double Up Food Bucks incentives at two store locations.

VOTE: Approve an agreement with Motorola Solutions to purchase VESTA 911 upgrades for 11 regional Public Safety Answering Points.

VOTE: Approve payment for the fifth year of cybersecurity monitoring and risk assessment for the MARC 911 Regional system with Seculore Solutions.

VOTE: Approve an agreement with TUSA Consulting Services to conduct the Jackson County Collaborative Dispatch Feasibility Study.

VOTE: Approve Congestion Management Policy & Toolbox Updates

VOTE: Approve Fall 2023 Functional Classification System Updates

VOTE: Approve 2024 Safety Performance Management Targets

VOTE: Approve and adopt an update to the Public Participation Plan for regional transportation planning.

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding to support agencies' cooperative efforts to address regional threats.

VOTE: Authorize a memorandum of agreement with the MO State Emergency Management Agency for professional planning services to update the Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

MOTION: Mayor Mike McDonough moved for approval of all agenda items and the consent agenda, and Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick seconded. Mayor Ross asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items.

The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6b

Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approval of Local Government Dues for 2025

BACKGROUND:

In January 2023, the Board approved local government dues for 2024. We bring these to the Board a year in advance to give local governments time to include them in their budgets.

Dues and voluntary contributions provide general support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) operations. Although they are less than 2% of MARC's overall budget, they are unrestricted funds that provide a foundation for a broad range of regional programs and initiatives, and they can be used as matching funds to leverage federal, state and private grants.

The nine counties and six largest cities in the region (named as incorporating members in MARC's bylaws) pay annual dues calculated on a per-capita basis. The five counties on the Missouri side of the region and the cities of Independence and Kansas City, Missouri, also pay an annual match (calculated per capita) as part of MARC's Area Agency on Aging. Other cities in the MARC region are asked to pay basic dues based on population. In addition, all communities are asked to make program-specific voluntary contributions to Emergency Services (calculated per capita), the Government Training Institute (based on number of employees) and the Government Innovations Forum (calculated per capita).

It has generally been our practice to request a 2% increase each year, which is what we are recommending for 2025. The activities supported by these funds increase in cost, and in some years, 2% is slightly more than inflation, in other years (such as this year) it is less.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Below is a summary schedule showing history of these dues.

2025 MARC LOCAL DUES SUMMARY	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Proposed 2025
Members' Dues	\$ 405,643	\$ 413,763	\$ 422,046	\$ 431,001	\$ 439,629	\$ 448,430	\$ 457,407
Aging Local Match - Missouri	73,637	76,731	78,265	79,830	81,427	83,055	84,716
Voluntary Dues	69,435	70,709	71,984	80,309	81,715	83,107	84,507
Government Innovations Forum	141,634	147,945	150,907	170,137	174,959	193,115	196,979
Government Training Institute	79,829	78,925	79,332	83,242	88,866	94,850	96,727
Subtotal	770,178	788,073	802,534	844,519	866,596	902,557	920,336
Emergency Services	423,214	365,919	437,189	442,335	448,335	454,455	460,683
Total	\$ 1,193,392	\$ 1,153,992	\$ 1,239,723	\$ 1,286,854	\$ 1,314,931	\$ 1,357,012	\$ 1,381,019
Summary of Increases	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Note to Emergency Services 2019 and 2020 - 2019 billings were not written off until 2020, thus the actuals for those two years are overstated and understated respectively.

Attached are detailed schedules showing the information by agency and program. Staff will send invoices around the first of April, with a goal of receiving payment by the end of May.

EXHIBITS:

[Proposed 2025 Local Dues](#)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a 2 percent increase in local government member and voluntary dues, emergency services, GTI and GIF membership dues, and the Aging match for 2025.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

Andrew Molloy, Finance Director

Darlene Pickett, Accountant III

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6c

Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an agreement with RubinBrown for the 2023 audit and review the 2023 Audit Plan

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2022, the Board approved extending the audit agreement with RubinBrown for annual audit services through fiscal year 2024, with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm each engagement on an annual basis. We are ready to begin the fiscal year 2023 audit so it is time to officially engage Rubin Brown. Below is a history and projection of fees.

			Base and	Each Addl'	
Fiscal	Base	Report	Report Prep	Major	Combined
Year	Fees*	Prep	Fees Billed	Program**	Fees Billed
2021	\$ 77,300	\$ 8,500	\$ 85,800	\$ -	\$ 85,800
2022	70,000	4,200	74,200	5,500	79,700
2023	72,800	4,400	77,200	5,720	82,920
2024	75,800	4,600	80,400	5,955	86,355
<i>*proposed, base fee includes one major program</i>					
<i>** only if needed, adjusted annually at same rate increase as the base fee</i>					

RubinBrown is beginning the planning process for the fiscal year 2023 audit. At this point in time, we anticipate that the audit firm will have to audit one major program, resulting in an estimated fee of approximately \$77,200. If additional programs require audit procedures, each additional program's fee will be \$5,720.

Kaleb Lilly, Partner, will discuss the planning process at the meeting, covering the following items, and answer any questions about the upcoming audit.

- 2023 Scope of Services
- Engagement Timeline
- Financial Statement Risk Assessment
- Required Discussion Items

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for the annual audit fees is included as an Indirect Cost in the Clearing Fund budget.

EXHIBITS:

[RubinBrown MARC Planning Communication 2023](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the RubinBrown audit engagement letter for FY 2023 at an estimated cost of \$77,200 with understanding that audit fees for additional major programs may be required at \$5,720 each.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

Andrew Molloy, Finance Director

Darlene Pickett, Accountant III

Lisa Santa Maria, Accountant III

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 6d
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize acceptance of additional funds from the Hall Family Foundation for an energy conservation program to assist non-profit organizations.

BACKGROUND:

Last August, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board authorized the submission of a grant application to the US Department of Energy (DOE) under the Renew America's Nonprofits Energy Conservation Grant program to assist 25-30 non-profit organizations serving disadvantaged residents with funds for energy conservation improvements to their buildings. DOE announced 9 grant recipients in late October, and the Kansas City area application was selected for \$4.7 million in federal funds.

In November, the board authorized the application for and acceptance of funds from four foundations, including Hall Family Foundation. The Hall Family Foundation awarded \$400,000 but the original board action only totaled \$300,000.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

With the Hall Family Foundation's \$400,000 award, three foundations have approved \$1,200,000; there is a pending request for \$300,000 with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. These foundation funds will meet the 20% local match requirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC, through its Community Services Corporation, to accept the additional \$100,000 for the purpose described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 6e
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize acceptance of grant funds from the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation for grant writing services.

BACKGROUND:

With the passage of federal bills creating special infrastructure and other funding opportunities to support full recovery from the pandemic and its economic consequences, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) solicited qualifications from firms that provide grant writing services.

Several responses were received, and Assel Grant Services (AGS) was selected. A modest contract of \$40,000 was initially executed in early 2022. The contract has been amended to include additional funds for 2023. To date, AGS has supported work with eastern Jackson County communities and organizations for several behavioral health and co-responder grants, energy conservation for school districts serving the Bistate Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor, USDA Nutrition Incentive, and regional proposals for Urban Areas Security Initiative grants and housing-related projects. Their assistance has resulted in MARC securing grants for \$14.4 million with another \$14 million of grants that are pending federal action. There are many federal infrastructure and behavioral health grants that MARC might bring partners together on in 2024.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The Kresge Foundation awarded a grant to MARC in late 2021 for \$75,000 to support work to seek and secure federal and other grant funds to advance important regional initiatives. The funds were used in part for MARC staff time (\$35,000) and grant writer consultant services (\$40,000). In 2022, the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation/H&R Block Foundation provided a grant of \$240,000 that has supported contractual support for continued efforts to secure federal and other grants. Recently, the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation renewed their commitment to support this work with a new \$100,000 grant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the acceptance of \$100,000 from the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation for grant services as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 6f
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an agreement with Assel Grant Services for grant writing services, including research and partner facilitation.

BACKGROUND:

With the passage of federal bills creating special infrastructure and other funding opportunities to support full recovery from the pandemic and its economic consequences, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, MARC solicited qualifications from firms that provide grant writing services. Several responses were received, and Assel Grant Services (AGS) was selected.

A modest contract of \$40,000 was initially executed in early 2022. The contract has been amended to include additional funds for 2023. To date, AGS has supported work with eastern Jackson County communities and organizations for several behavioral health and co-responder grants, energy conservation for school districts serving the Bistate Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor, USDA Nutrition Incentive, and regional proposals for Urban Areas Security Initiative grants and housing-related projects. Their assistance has resulted in MARC securing grants for \$14.4 million with another \$14 million of grants that are pending federal action. There are many federal infrastructure and behavioral health grants that MARC might bring partners together on in 2024.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The Kresge Foundation awarded a grant to MARC in late 2021 for \$75,000 to support work to seek and secure federal and other grant funds to advance important regional initiatives. The funds were used in part for MARC staff time (\$35,000) and grant writer consultant services (\$40,000). In 2022, the Marion and Henry Bloch Charitable Foundation/H&R Block Foundation provided a grant of \$100,000 that in part has supported contractual support for continued efforts to secure federal and other grants. The current agreement with Assel Grant Services is for \$155,000. The foundation funds have enabled AGS to assist MARC for 2021 and 2022. The additional \$100,000 will extend their services through 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an amended agreement with Assel Grant Services, increasing total compensation to \$255,000, as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6g

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Emergency purchase from Landmark Dodge of three vehicles for 911 technical staff.

BACKGROUND:

Each 911 technician requires a vehicle to respond to maintenance needs throughout the 11-county service area. Due to the periodic need to carry large equipment, staff opted to purchase the Dodge Durango model. The search to replace two older vehicles began in late 2021 and the process has been difficult due to limited availability related to the COVID-19 pandemic and high demand. The 2018 Ford Explorer has a trade-in value of \$4,000 and the 2014 Ford Explorer has a trade-in credit of \$2,500, resulting in a purchase price for two new vehicles of \$35,940 and \$37,319, respectively.

The Public Safety Communications Board approved hiring one additional technical services specialist for the 911 Maintenance Program at the Oct. 25, 2023 meeting and this new position also requires a vehicle. The third vehicle for the new tech position has no available trade-in; therefore, the cost will be \$39,819.

The three vehicles became available at Landmark Dodge and placed on a courtesy hold for the public safety department, and the MARC Executive Director expedited approval as an emergency purchase to secure the vehicles.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for the upgrade of the two 911 vehicles was contained in the 2023 911 Allocation Budget/Capital Projects approved on Oct. 26, 2022. The vehicle for the newly added technical position was included in the 2024 911 Allocation Budget approved Oct. 25, 2023. The purchase will be made using the Kansas City Regional Purchasing Cooperative joint bid program.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$113,078
Source	911 Allocation Budget/Capital Projects
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$113,078
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board approved the use of these funds with the 2024 Regional 911 Budget at the Oct. 25, 2023, meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This request supports the 11-county MARC regional 911 network.

EXHIBITS:

None

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Director

Nikki Thomas, Public Safety Operations Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6h

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve fiber connection agreements with United Private Networks between secure 911 router locations.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) 911 network is supported by two selective routers for call handling. Each router is capable of supporting the region's 911 call volume. However, a second router allows for redundancy, load balancing and better network reliability. The 911 routers are in secure locations and require installation of two fiber connections between each location.

The agreement with United Private Networks (UPN) will provide diverse connectivity to each location using dark fiber. Dark fiber is fiber that is managed by trained MARC 911 technical staff, not a service provider. Eliminating the service provider's need to manage the connection adds another layer of cybersecurity.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The UPN quote estimates a cost of \$5,000 per month over a five-year contract. Kansas Fiber Network (KFN) was the only other vendor offering similar services. KFN's quote was \$1.2 million for 60 months. The service through UPN is \$2,500 monthly for each of the two connections or \$300,000 for 60 months. Funding for the fiber connections was included in the 2024 911 Allocation Budget/Network Costs.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$300,000
Source	911 Allocation Budget/Network Costs
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$300,000
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board approved the use of these funds with the 2024 Regional 911 Budget at the Oct. 25, 2023, meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This request supports the 11-county MARC regional 911 network.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve five-year, fiber connection agreements with United Private Networks (UPN) for the regional 911 system in the amount of \$300,000.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Director

Nikki Thomas, Public Safety Operations Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024
Item No. 6i
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve grant submission to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to support the update of regional stormwater engineering standards.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2022, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board authorized receipt of approximately \$740,000 in funds from 22 local governments to support the update of regional engineering standards for stormwater management (i.e., APWA 5600 and the MARC/APWA BMP Manual). In April 2023, the Board authorized a contract with Burns and McDonnell to provide consulting services for this project for \$676,400. These actions were preceded by approval from the Executive Committee of the APWA - Kansas City Chapter for MARC to facilitate and manage this initiative.

The project will have completed phase one by February 2024, providing a detailed framework outlining the overarching approach to updating standards. The initial project phase included extensive community and stakeholder input, including a survey of over 350 community stakeholders, three focus groups, and eight technical work group meetings.

Based on community input, it is evident that additional funds will be required to achieve all the project objectives during phase two, with an overall consulting budget of \$1.2 million. MARC and project stakeholders will finalize the additional scope and budget required to complete this project in late January 2024.

To help offset increased funding needs for this project, MARC is applying for a total of \$120,000 in funds from KDHE's EPA 604(b) Water Quality Management Grant. The MARC Board previously approved a grant request for \$50,000 of these funds in November 2023. Since that time, KDHE found additional resources within the grant program to support the project.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES - KDHE via EPA 604(b) Water Quality Management Grant	
Amount	\$120,000
Source	Grant funds
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$10,000
Contractual	\$110,000

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an application to KDHE - EPA 604(b) for \$120,000 to support the update of regional stormwater management standards, and to execute agreement with KDHE if the application is successful.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item 6j

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve amendment to increase the current catering agreement with Guadalupe Center

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Aging and Adult Services contracts with Guadalupe Center to provide catering services to KC Shepherd's Center's hot home delivered meal participants, funded through the Older Americans Act (OAA). KC Shepherd's Center requested MARC to allow them to add up to 108 additional OAA eligible clients at the beginning of January to the MARC system. These persons had been served under another of KC Shepherd's Center funding programs that sunset on December 31, 2023. Based on eligibility determinations MARC's agreement with the Guadalupe Center will need to be amended to reflect the increase.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

To provide services to the original participants, as well as the newer additional participants, and to complete the full twelve months of the program year (June 30th), we need to increase the amount within this agreement as follows:

	Current	Increase	Total
Home Delivered Nutrition - @ \$5.90	\$53,100	\$117,044	\$170,144

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Commission on Aging considered this at its January meeting and recommended Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize amendment to the current catering agreement between MARC and the Guadalupe Center to reflect an increase of \$117,044.

STAFF CONTACT

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

Melody Elston, Integrated Care Program Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item 6k

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize amendment increase to the current community center agreement with Excelsior Springs Senior Center.

BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) awarded the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Aging and Adult Services (AAS) American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) funds in the spring of 2022, to supplement Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2024. As was done with other contracted MARC-funded community centers, those that requested it, this funding was used to address upkeep and other operational costs.

The Excelsior Springs Senior Center requested funding in the amount of \$23,182 for appliances to accommodate their rapidly growing attendance, maintenance supplies and equipment, volunteer appreciation and retention, and on-site testing equipment.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

	Current	Increase	Total
Excelsior Springs Senior Center Contract Amendment	\$39,492	\$23,182	\$62,674

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its January meeting and recommended Board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Ray County in Missouri

EXHIBITS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize amendment to the current Excelsior Springs Senior Center agreement with increased funding to support proposed purchases.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

Melody Elston, Integrated Care Program Director

Bob Hogan, Aging Administrative Services Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item 6l

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorization to release request for proposal documents for State Fiscal year 2025 Services provided by the Department of Adult and Senior Services.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) department of Adult and Senior Services must begin planning for the next program year, which begins July 1, 2024. This process includes determining service providers/vendors and costs of the services to be provided. The staff and Commission on Aging (COA) are developing six "Request for Proposal" documents to incorporate the range and variety of services being sought: community center services, in-home health services, care management services, family caregiver support programs, information & assistance services, and legal services.

These RFP documents will be released on Friday, February 2, 2024. Proposals submitted in response to these documents will be due electronically at the MARC office no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 4, 2024.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

MARC policies and procedures require a formal bid process if the amount to be spent is \$50,000.01 or higher.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Commission on Aging, at its January 10th meeting, recommended that the MARC Board authorize the release of request for proposal (RFP) documents that would encompass community center services, in-home health services, care management services, family caregiver support programs, information & assistance services, and legal services.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the MARC board authorize the release of the above-specified SFY 2025 RFP documents.

STAFF CONTACT

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services
Melody Elston, Integrated Care Program Director
Bob Hogan, Aging Administrative Services Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6m

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Senior Services Growth and Development Program contract amendment with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services established the Senior Services Growth and Development Program (SSGDP) to provide additional funding for older adult programming through the Area Agencies on Aging. SSGDP was created in 2019 to provide funding to enhance services for the development and expansion of senior center programs, facilities, and services. In addition, it is intended to be utilized for any activities related to services for older adults in the MARC's planning and service area (PSA). However, no funds were appropriated to the project until the 102nd General Assembly.

The total amount allocated for MARC has been increased from \$2,571,960 to \$3,942,681, now includes a one-time arrears appropriation, for the period September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Fifty percent of these funds are designated for the development and expansion of the senior multipurpose center programs and facilities. The other fifty percent shall be used for any activities and programs that enhance services for older adults in MARC's planning and service area (PSA), Jackson, Clay, Cass, Platte, and Ray Counties in Missouri.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Total Amount of Agreement (<i>revised</i>)	\$3,942,681
Source	DHSS Senior Services Growth and Development Fund

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its January meeting and recommends board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri.

EXHIBITS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contract amendment from the Department of Health and Senior Services for Senior Services Growth and Development Award.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services
Bob Hogan, Aging Administrative Services Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6n

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a contract with Area Resources for Individualized Services, Inc DBA: ARIS Solutions to provide financial management services for the Veteran-Directed Care Program.

BACKGROUND:

A request for proposal was released on December 7, 2023, for financial management services for the Veteran-Directed Care (VDC) program, with the intention to increase program capacity. These services include activities that help veterans employ a care worker of their choice, payroll processing, tracking of expenditures and assisting the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in the monthly submission of invoices and reports to the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Two responses were received by the proposal deadline and outlined in the table below.

RESPONDENT	Financial Management Services
ARIS Solutions	\$150 per active enrolled client/month
Allied Community Resources	\$80 set up fee and \$70 per active enrolled client/month

Among the respondents, ARIS Solutions was scored the highest by a staff and Commission on Aging (COA) review committee on factors that include evidence of customer service capacity, demonstrated proficiency in program functions and requirements, and experience with VDC providers. ARIS Solutions has worked with the VDC program since 2011 and currently serves 11 states, including Missouri. Our sister Area Agency on Aging in the St. Louis region has used ARIS Solutions for over two years and are very satisfied with their service. Their proposal included three letters of recommendation, one from Dr. Susan Flanagan who is the financial management services (FMS) lead for VA's Veteran-Directed Care program. Dr. Flanagan reports ARIS to be a top FMS entity for the VDC program and considers them her "go to" in the field.

Allied Community Resources, while much less expensive, has not worked in Kansas or Missouri, and has only worked with one VDC program in the nation.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Costs are based on \$150 per active enrolled client per month. Based on anticipated enrollment of 75 veterans, estimated annual total is \$135,000. Revenue from the VA is estimated at \$736 per active enrolled client per month, totaling \$662,400 per year.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this electronically following its January meeting and recommends board approval.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Missouri: Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties

Kansas: Johnson, Miami, Leavenworth, Wyandotte counties

EXHIBITS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contract with ARIS for 2024 with option to renew up to three years, to provide Financial Management Services for the Veteran-Directed Care program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

Shannon Halvorsen, Integrated Care Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item 6o

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Health Foundation for \$1.75 million dollars to support Double Up Food Bucks program.

BACKGROUND:

The Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program is currently supported by two grants from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- One is a grant awarded from the normal RFA process managed by the USDA's Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (\$8.1 million). This annual request for applications has a 50% match requirement. The Kansas Health Foundation currently provides funding that contributes to that match requirement.
- The other USDA grant awarded to support the DUFb program is related to COVID Response and Relief funds (\$4.35 million). It did not require match funding.

Both grants will be ending December 31, 2024.

To continue the DUFb program, the Double Up Heartland Collaborative, led by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), would like to pursue another USDA GusNIP grant. The RFA for 2024 is expected to be released in January 2024. This RFA will have a 50% match funding requirement. In anticipation of that requirement, MARC staff are having conversations with current funders and prospective new funders.

In a conversation with the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) before the holidays (December 21), MARC's program officer recommended that an application be completed and submitted to them by January 2, 2024, so that it could be reviewed internally and presented to the KHF board at their March meeting. The program officer recommended the amount of \$1.75 million. Staff completed the application and submitted it by January 2, 2024.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,750,000
Source	Kansas Health Foundation Grant Application
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Media	\$20,000
Incentives	\$1,630,000
Postage/Printing	\$80,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$20,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its January meeting and recommended Board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Kansas communities with a participating Double Up Food Bucks location - currently 40 counties in Kansas have participating DUFb locations.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an application and accept funds if awarded for \$1.75 million to the Kansas Health Foundation to support Double Up Food Bucks after 2024. This funding will be included as part of the match for an upcoming application to the USDA for a healthy food incentive grant.

STAFF CONTACT:

Donna Martin, Public Health Senior Planner

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6p

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the region's short-range program, identifying projects to receive federal funds and projects of regional significance to be implemented over the next three to five-year period. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) amends the TIP on both a quarterly cycle and as needed to accommodate changes to projects in the TIP.

The proposed 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Programs includes 15 projects:

- 6 new projects to be added, including but not limited to:
 - #163018 - K-7 Mill & Overlay from Rees St to Poplar St
 - #590347 - RT A: Replace culvert 0.2 mile south of 120th Street
 - #990380 - Various: Job Order Contracting for signage repairs on various major routes in the urban Kansas City District.
- 9 modified projects
 - Scope
 - Schedule
 - Budget

Details of these projects are available for review at: www.marc.org/TIP

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

MARC's Public Involvement Plan requires that the TIP be released for public review and comment prior to adoption. One comment from the public was received. The comment and a proposed response from MARC are included for your review.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Active Transportation Programming Committee approved the modifications to #350234 at their meeting on December 6, 2023. TTPC approved this item on January 16, 2024.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the FFY 2024-2028 TIP.

STAFF CONTACT

Marc Hansen, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program 2024 1st Quarter Amendment Public Comment and Response

Comment #1

“Project 611200, the “I-670 South Loop Project,” should NOT be included in this TIP Amendment. The project was added to the proposed TIP Amendment at the last minute, and has NEVER been discussed in TTPC, or in any other MARC committee to my knowledge. By including it in this proposed TIP Amendment you confer upon it a sense of legitimacy that it DOES NOT DESERVE. MARC staff knows this to be the case, yet they included it in the proposed TIP Amendment anyway. The project should, at minimum, demonstrate that it is both viable and feasible before it is added to the TIP at some future date, if at all. Project sponsors will claim that they have held public meetings, but those meetings have not included any meaningful PUBLIC questioning.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THIS PROJECT IN THE 2024 FIRST QUARTER TIP AMENDMENT. If you do include it, the legitimacy of MARC’s transportation planning and programming processes can and should be called into question.”

Response to Comment #1

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. We shared your comments with the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration.

We appreciate your concerns regarding the update of the existing record in the Transportation Improvement Program for project #611200 in the 2024 1st Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. However, we would note that the process to update the record was in accordance with the MARC Public Participation Plan and that TTPC was specifically informed of the inclusion of this project in the draft amendment prior to their approval to release the amendment for public review and comment at their meeting on December 19, 2023.

Sincerely,

Marc Hansen, AICP
Principal Planner
Mid-America Regional Council

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2024

Item No. 6q

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: 2024 Unified Planning Work Program - Amendment #1*

BACKGROUND:

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 1) describes the transportation planning activities MARC and other agencies will undertake during the year; 2) documents the proposed expenditures of federal, state and local funds in support of applications for various planning grants; and 3) provides a management tool for MARC and the funding agencies in scheduling major transportation planning activities, milestones and products.

Periodically, the UPWP is amended as needs are identified. The proposed 2024 UPWP Amendment #1 will make the following modifications:

- Add a new project (5.16) funded through the FTA 5307 program
 - Short Range Transportation Planning: Johnson County Transit Strategic Plan-
Lead Agency: Johnson County Transit
- Add a new project to the Related Activities appendix (F.6) funded through the MoDOT Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)
 - Harry S Truman & Food Lane/Byars Road intersection and Corrington Avenue & 132nd Street intersection Traffic Study - Lead Agency: City of Grandview, Missouri
- Revise Appendix D as necessary to account for the inclusion of these projects.

The revisions are attached for review.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

These revisions add federally funded activities to the UPWP and should be released for public review and comment. No comments from the public were received during the comment period.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Total Transportation Policy Committee approved this item on January 16, 2024.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This amendment adds federally funded transportation planning work in Johnson County, KS and Grandview, MO.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Amendment #1 to the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.

STAFF CONTACT

Marc Hansen

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

5.16 Short Range Transportation Planning: Johnson County Transit Strategic Plan - Lead Agency: Johnson County Transit

Program Objectives

The Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document, updated annually to reflect changing realities and changing demographics. A vision statement; Johnson County Transit is committed to providing convenient, reliable and safe regional mobility options. The JCT team strives to deliver responsive, environmentally friendly and efficient transit services that constantly exceed customer expectations, is supported by six strategic points:

1. The focus of transit must be broader than the downtown commuter market.
2. The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) supports the concept of dedicated funding for transit services.
3. The BoCC supports collaboration among the Region's transit systems.
4. Enhance the quality and utility of services for seniors and persons with disabilities.
5. Management systems for effective transit services will be developed.
6. JCT is committed to work with cities planning transit supportive development.

Background/Previous Work

Multiple objective statements were developed to support the six strategic points. As voiced at the Committee of the Whole meeting, JCT staff and the Council will utilize the Five Year Plan as a guide in the development and maintenance of transit services. Annual updates to the Plan will be completed by staff to reflect departmental and county transit-related goals.

Staff will also utilize the Plan while planning grant applications that support current and planned transit services. The adoption of the Five Year Plan will provide direction on service and funding strategies for the transportation staff and the Transportation Council. The plan will provide additional leverage for federal, state and local funds.

JCT staff will utilize this document as a guide for future services, operating plans, and service maintenance priorities. Staff will also use the Plan to support applications for grant funding, exploration and development of a transit funding source, and to prepare annual budget requests.

The plan will provide transit staff the ability to focus on planning objectives beyond a one-year horizon. The Five Year Plan will guide the development of transit services in Johnson County, and in the County's regional efforts related to transit activities. Implementation of specific components of the plan will be incremental with the Board of County Commissioners' consideration of funding availability and annual budget issues, available grant funds, and agreements.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Program Activities and Products (Estimated Completion Dates)

1. *ACTIVITY: Strategic Plan Management and Coordination:* JCT Team discussion and coordination efforts (Jan-Feb 2024)
2. *ACTIVITY: Strategic Plan Procurement Process:* Requests for proposals commence and project selection (March-May 2024)
3. *ACTIVITY: Strategic Plan Contract Awarded* (June 2024)
4. *ACTIVITY: Engage project partners and stakeholders to refine proposed Plan based on common goals and objectives* (April 2024).
5. *ACTIVITY: Strategic Plan Developed/Finalized* (November 2024)
6. *PRODUCT: Completion of Strategic Plan for Board approval* (Dec 2024)

Funding

Federal \$120,000 FTA-5307

Local \$ 30,000

Activity Total \$150,000

F.6 Harry S Truman & Food Lane/Byars Road Intersection and Corrington Avenue & 132nd Street Intersection Traffic Study - Lead Agency: City of Grandview, Missouri

Program Objectives

To review existing conditions and identify improvements that address safety and operational efficiencies at each intersection.

Background/Previous Work

The city previously conducted a TEAP study in 2019. Based on the results of that study, the city added the intersections to the 5-year Capital Improvements Program to construct long-term improvements at the examined site. Presently, the city has identified two intersections with safety and/or operational deficiencies that could benefit as a result of a traffic study.

Program Activities and Products (Estimated Completion Dates)

1. *ACTIVITY: Data Collection* (March 2024)
2. *ACTIVITY: Public Involvement Process* (March 2024)
3. *PRODUCT: Conduct safety and operational studies for two identified intersections* (April 2024)

Funding

Federal \$11,200 FHWA-TEAP-MO

Non-Federal \$ 2,800

Task Total \$14,000

APPENDIX D – SCHEDULE 1
FY 2024 FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

Work Element		STATE and LOCAL				Federal				Total
		MARC	KDOT	MoDOT	Other	CPG Funds		Other		
						KDOT ⁽²⁾	MoDOT ⁽³⁾	Amount	Agency	
1.1	Transportation Administration	\$62,901				\$218,009	\$279,472			\$560,382
1.2	Public Participation	\$28,828				\$99,914	\$128,088			\$256,830
2.1	Land Use, Demographic & Comprehensive Planning	\$61,071				\$211,666	\$271,348			\$544,085
2.2	Metropolitan Transportation Plan	\$38,793				\$134,452	\$172,363			\$345,608
3.1	Transportation Modeling/Forecasting	\$98,650				\$341,911	\$438,319			\$878,880
3.2	Transportation Research & Database Management	\$67,707				\$234,667	\$300,835			\$603,209
3.3	Air Quality Planning	\$12,266				\$42,510	\$54,497			\$109,273
3.4	Safe and Accessible Transportation Options	\$56,617				\$196,226	\$251,557			\$504,400
3.4b	2.5% Set-Aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options ¹					\$32,558	\$49,358			\$81,916
3.5	Transportation Technology	\$4,868				\$16,871	\$21,629			\$43,368
3.6	Transportation Safety Planning	\$12,055				\$41,784	\$53,566			\$107,405
3.7	Congestion Management System	\$7,226				\$25,042	\$32,103			\$64,371
3.8	Performance Measurement & Target Setting	\$9,714				\$33,666	\$43,160			\$86,540
4.1	Transportation Improvement Program	\$23,201				\$80,412	\$103,086			\$206,699
5.1	RideKC Short-Range and Ongoing Transportation Planning				\$80,000		\$0	\$400,000	FTA 5307	\$480,000
5.2	RideKC Long-Range Transit and Capital Planning				\$130,000		\$0	\$650,000	FTA 5307, 5309	\$780,000
5.3	Goods Movement/Freight Planning	\$10,067				\$34,889	\$44,727			\$89,683
5.4	Corridor Studies	\$1,374				\$4,763	\$6,107			\$12,244
5.5	Aviation Planning	\$300				\$1,039	\$1,332			\$2,671
5.6	MoDOT Traffic Studies			\$370,933						\$370,933
5.7	Economic Value Atlas ⁴				\$80,000					\$80,000
5.8	RideKC Bi-State Green Corridor Planning Investments ⁴							\$514,045	FTA Route Planning Restoration	\$514,045
5.9	RideKC Funding for Zero-Fare: Evaluating the Health and Economic Impacts ⁴				\$55,555			\$500,000	FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty	\$555,555
5.10	Building Climate Resilience in the Transportation System (Phase 1) ⁴				\$21,025	\$76,269	\$97,706			\$195,000
5.11	Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan ⁴				\$21,025	\$76,269	\$97,706			\$195,000
5.12	Regional Freight Plan ⁴				\$92,183	\$334,412	\$428,405			\$855,000
5.13	Bi-State Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor ⁴				\$500,000			\$2,000,000	RAISE	\$2,500,000
5.14	Reconnecting Kansas City: Repairing Connections for Kansas City's Westside Neighborhood				\$264,655			\$1,058,620	FHWA Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	\$1,323,275
5.15	Stormwater Engineering Standards Update ⁴				\$600,000					\$600,000
5.16	Short Range Transportation Planning: Johnson County Transit Strategic Plan				\$30,000			\$120,000	FTA 5307	\$150,000
F.1	Operation Green Light				\$700,000			\$700,000	FHWA STBG	\$1,400,000
F.2	Air Quality Public Education				\$138,750			\$555,000	FHWA CMAQ	\$693,750
F.3	WAY TO GO							\$300,000	FHWA CMAQ	\$300,000
F.4	Active Transportation Programs				\$18,000			\$72,000	FHWA CMAQ	\$90,000
F.5	Planning Sustainable Places Program				\$375,000			\$1,500,000	FHWA STBG	\$1,875,000
F.6	Harry S Truman & Food Lane/Byars Road Intersection and Corrington Avenue & 132nd Street Intersection Traffic Study				\$2,800			\$11,200		\$14,000
		\$495,637	\$0	\$370,933	\$3,108,993	\$2,237,329	\$2,875,366	\$8,380,865	\$0	\$17,469,123

(1) Federal funds in this subtask are 100% federal and are not factored into match requirement calculations.

(2) Kansas CPG funds assume \$2,004,164 in 2024 allocated funding. MARC anticipates using the federal prorate share (\$200,000) of the direct cost value of \$250,000 to match Kansas CPG funds and increase Kansas CPG to \$2,202,164 as detailed in Appendix C - Schedule 2.

(3) Missouri CPG funds assume \$2,526,355 in 2024 allocated funding. MARC anticipates using a portion of the federal prorate share (\$296,746) of the direct cost value of \$370,933 to match Missouri CPG funds and increase Missouri CPG to \$2,823,102 as detailed in Appendix C - Schedule 2.

(4) Study was initiated in a prior year and extends into 2024.