



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

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

January 26, 2021
Board Member Meeting: 12:00 p.m.
Remotely via Zoom

- Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email Karina Bielecki at kbielecki@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 for instructions to join the teleconference.

AGENDA

1. VOTE: Election of 2021 MARC Board Officers
2. REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives
3. CORE CAPACITIES
 - a. VOTE: Authorize an Agreement with RubinBrown and Review the Plan for the 2020 Audit
 - b. VOTE: Approve Minor Updates to the Whistleblower Policy and Review the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Board Liability Advisory
4. EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 - a. VOTE: Approve the 2021 Federal Policy Agenda
5. COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. REPORT: Update on Regional Economic Forecast
6. SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES
 - a. REPORT: Update on the Regional Public Safety Work Plan and Budget

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

7. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting
 - b. Authorize Contracts to Support Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery
 - c. Authorize an Application to the Health Forward Foundation to Support the Regional Community Health Worker Program
 - d. Authorize the Acceptance of Additional Private Foundation Funds for the Double Up Heartland Program
 - e. Approve an Agreement with GeoComm, Inc. for 911 Mapping Services
 - f. Authorize Payment for Regional 911 System Cybersecurity Monitoring and Risk Assessment from Seculore Solutions
 - g. Authorize a Contract with Affinis for Traffic Engineering Services for Operation Green Light



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

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- h. Authorize Receipt of Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds to Support **MARC's** Active Transportation, Air Quality Public Education, and Rideshare Programs
 - i. Authorize Agreements for Federal and Local Matching Funds for Various 2021 Planning Sustainable Places Studies
 - j. Approve the 2021 First Quarter Amendment to the 2020-24 Transportation Improvement Program
 - k. Accept Funds from Local Governments for the Regional Water Quality Public Education Program
 - l. Authorize MARC to Contract with Partner Agencies to Provide Medically Sensitive Home-Delivered Meals
 - m. Authorize RFPs and Extend Contracts to Support Aging and Adult Services
 - n. Authorize a Contract with Johnny Lightning Strikes Again for **Redesign of MARC's** Website
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

MARC Board of Directors — Members and Alternates

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Allen, Jim	Johnson County	Commissioner
Allen, Perry**	MoDOT	Asst. District Engineer
Alvey, David	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Mayor/CEO
Baird, Bill	City of Lee's Summit	Mayor
Boehm, Mike	City of Lenexa	Mayor
Boley, Damien	City of Smithville	Mayor
Bunch, Eric	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Burnett, Scott	Jackson County	Legislator
Culbertson, Jeff	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Eilert, Ed	Johnson County	Commission Chairman
Ellington, Brandon	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Elliott, John	Platte County	Commissioner
Fields, Vernon	City of Basehor	Councilmember
Gallagher, Danny	Miami County	Commissioner
Gerlach, Carl	City of Overland Park	Mayor
Hall, Heather	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Hanzlick, Janee	Johnson County	Commissioner
Harrington, Jeff	City of Bonner Springs	Mayor
Jarrold, Dick**	KCATA	Vice President
Johnson, Harold	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
King, Bob	Ray County	Presiding Commissioner
Koehn, Leroy**	KDOT	District Engineer
Lucas, Quinton	City of Kansas City	Mayor
Lopez, Beto	City of Lee's Summit	Mayor Pro Tem
Makinen, Robbie**	KCATA	President/CEO
Markley, Angela	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Martin, Jeremy	City of Oak Grove	Mayor
McKiernan, Brian*	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
McTaggart, John	City of Edwardsville	Mayor
Medsker, Mike	Cass County	Recorder of Deeds
Moriarty, Michael**	KDOT	Chief of Transportation Planning
Nolte, Jerry	Clay County	Presiding Commissioner
Owen, Gene	Clay County	Commissioner
Pogue, Randy	City of Kearney	Mayor
Preisinger, Mark	City of Leavenworth	City Commissioner
Ridgeway, Luann	Clay County	Commissioner
Roberts, Rob	Miami County	Commission Chairman
Ross, Carson	City of Blue Springs	Mayor
Schieber, Ron	Platte County	Presiding Commissioner
Schwach, Paula	City of Westwood Hills	Mayor
Shute, Steve	City of Gardner	Mayor
Silvester, David**	MoDOT	District Engineer
Skoog, Curt	City of Overland Park	Councilmember
Smith, Doug	Leavenworth County	Commission Chairman
Spears, Fred	City of Overland Park	Councilmember
Turnbow, Kristofer	City of Raymore	Mayor
Vogt, Marge	City of Olathe	Councilmember
Walker, Rick	City of De Soto	Mayor
Walters, Jim	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Weir, Eileen	City of Independence	Mayor
White, Frank	Jackson County	County Executive
Wood, Dagmar	Platte County	Commissioner

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 1

ISSUE:

VOTE: Election of 2021 MARC Board Officers

BACKGROUND:

MARC Board Officers are elected annually, although officers typically serve for two terms, occasionally longer. Current officers are as follows:

2020 Officers:

- Chair: Rob Roberts, Commissioner, Miami County, Kansas (served two terms in this role)
- First Vice Chair: Jimmy Odom, Associate Commissioner, Cass County, Missouri (served two terms in this role)
- Second Vice Chair: Harold Johnson Jr., Commissioner, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/ Kansas City, Kansas (served two terms in this role)
- Treasurer: Eileen Weir, Mayor, Independence, Missouri (served two terms in this role)
- Secretary: Carson Ross, Mayor, City of Blue Springs, Missouri (served three terms in this role)

At the December 2020 MARC Board meeting, Commissioner Rob Roberts appointed the following MARC Board members to join him in serving as the Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers: Councilmember Curt Skoog and Commissioner Jimmy Odom. The Committee has nominated the following slate of officers for election by the MARC Board of Directors.

2021 Officer Nominations:

- Chair: Harold Johnson Jr., Commissioner, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
- First Vice Chair: Carson Ross, Mayor, City of Blue Springs, Missouri
- Second Vice Chair: Janeé Hanzlick, Commissioner, Johnson County, Kansas
- Treasurer: Eileen Weir, Mayor, City of Independence, Missouri
- Secretary: **Beto Lopez, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lee's Summit, Missouri**

RECOMMENDATION:

Elect the above slate of officers for 2021 as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Karina Bielecki

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 2

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives

BACKGROUND:

MARC Staff will give short updates on regional efforts in which we are engaged to support and coordinate regional response and recovery to the COVID-19 crisis, including:

COVID-19 General Updates

- MAC-G - Meeting Schedule/Focus
- Vaccine Plans/Distribution
- Public Health Orders and Hospital Capacity

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Lauren Palmer
Erin Lynch
Marlene Nagel

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 3-a
Core Competencies

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Agreement with RubinBrown and Review the Plan for the 2020 Audit

BACKGROUND:

During the fall of 2016, MARC staff conducted a request for proposals (RFP) process for the audits of fiscal years 2016 through 2020. The MARC Board of Directors approved the selection of RubinBrown for annual audit services with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm the engagement on an annual basis. It is now time to engage the audit firm for the audit of fiscal year 2020.

A summary of the actual and estimated fees is **below. The audit firm's 2016 to 2020 proposal included** a provision for fees of \$5,000 for each additional major Type A federal program above the three programs included in the base fee amount. Depending upon the variety and dollar amounts of actual federal grant funds expended during the calendar year and applying the Uniform Grant Guidance single audit selection criteria, it is uncertain how many major Type A programs will be audited until the final expenditures are known.

Fiscal Year	Base Fees	Additional Major Programs Audited (\$5,000 each)		Aging Program - State Procedures	Combined Fees Billed
		Number	Fees		
2016	66,700	1	5,000		71,700
2017	68,700				68,700
2018	70,760				70,760
2019	72,800	1	5,000		77,800
2020 Est.	75,100	1	5,000		80,100

RubinBrown is beginning the planning process for the FY 2020 audit. At this point in time, we anticipate that the audit firm may have to audit four major Type A programs (like 2016), resulting in estimated fees of approximately \$80,100.

Kaleb Lilly, Partner, will discuss 2020 scope of services, an engagement timeline, financial statement risk assessment, and required discussion items at the meeting. He will also answer any questions about the upcoming audit.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the RubinBrown audit engagement letter for FY 2020 at an estimated cost of \$80,100.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales
Katelyn Click

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 3-b
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve Minor Updates to the Whistleblower Policy and Review the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Board 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.

A few minor updates have been made to the Whistleblower policy to eliminate reference to the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which is no longer applicable. The changes are shown with strikethroughs.

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 several 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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

- Take disciplinary action against those who engage in retaliation

The attached policy incorporates the use of an external hotline program called “WeTip,” which is provided free of charge by Midwest Public Risk (MPR), **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

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 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve minor revisions to the Whistleblower Policy.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Carol Gonzales



CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Governing all Boards, Commissions, Committees and Subcommittees

PURPOSE

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is dedicated to building a stronger metropolitan region by promoting regional cooperation and developing innovative solutions to regional challenges. MARC strives to operate in an open and transparent way that inspires confidence that the organization is an effective steward of public resources. The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to ensure that participants on the MARC board and committees have clear guidance when a participant in any MARC decision-making process could have a conflict of interest and what the appropriate action would be in those circumstances.

It is in the best interest of the MARC Board of Directors, Mid-America Head Start and all other boards, commissions, committees and subcommittees to be aware of and properly manage all conflicts of interest and any appearances of conflicts of interest. This conflict of interest 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 MARC Board, and boards that work through MARC such as the Mid-America Solid Waste Management District, make decisions in a number of program areas that impact the availability of federal, state and local government funds and private contributions. This conflict of interest policy is intended to support those decision-making processes.

This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any state or federal laws that govern conflicts of interest in public, nonprofit, and charitable organizations.

1. Interested Person

Any member of a MARC board, commission, committee or subcommittee charged with decision-making or making recommendations for funding, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest Defined

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which MARC has a transaction or other financial arrangement,
- A compensation arrangement with MARC or with any entity or individual with which MARC has a transaction or arrangement, or
- A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which MARC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

For purposes of this policy, “family members” includes spouses, parents, children, and siblings (including those related by marriage), as well as significant others and any other person who resides with the committee/board member.

3. Procedure

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the conflict of interest to members of the committee considering the proposed action or recommendation.

A person who has a conflict of interest in a certain matter shall not participate in the discussion of that matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. Such person shall not attempt to exert his or her personal influence with respect to the matter, either at or outside the meeting.

The interested person shall abstain from any votes on funding recommendations, contracts or transactions in which there is an interest as defined above, and shall abstain from any votes for all meeting minutes or other records of the meeting.

4. Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment

MARC committee members and directors shall avoid accepting, directly or indirectly, any rebate, gift, money or anything of monetary value from an organization or vendor that could benefit from a MARC committee action regarding funding recommendations, vendor selection or other transactions. From time to time, vendors may pay for meals apart from a bid process.

5. Committee Representation


MARC makes decisions on federal and state funding that benefits local communities within the Kansas City region. The MARC Board and many of its committees are composed of local officials representing the communities that may benefit from MARC Board decisions. It is not a conflict of interest for a board member or a committee member, who are also elected officials or local government staff members, to advocate for or vote on issues that will affect their jurisdiction. If an elected official serves on another public board by virtue of their elected office, it is not a conflict of interest for that elected official to participate in discussions and vote on matters affecting that other public body.

In the past, smaller communities have at times been represented by consulting engineers on committees which rely on both technical and community considerations to make funding recommendations. Private consultants or other private parties shall abstain from any discussion or vote on all matters before the committee that might pose a conflict of interest due to a relationship between the project applicant and the private consultant. The private consultant or party should limit any participation in discussion to answering questions asked by other committee members. Individual committees may adopt specific procedural requirements for participation by members and others present at meetings.

BOARD APPROVAL AND REVISION DATES

Approved: August 25, 2009

**Revised: September 24, 2013
October 15, 2013
May 23, 2017**

	<p style="text-align: center;">MARC AGENCY POLICY: WHISTLEBLOWER</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Policy No: 2</p>
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WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

PURPOSE

MARC is committed to lawful and ethical behavior in all of its activities and requires all staff to act in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies and to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities.

This policy is intended to:

- Encourage individuals to bring ethical or legal violations to the attention of an internal or external authority so that action can be taken to resolve the problem.
- Establish guidance and procedures for staff (paid and volunteer) or others to report illegal, unethical or inappropriate behaviors or practices, in good faith, without fear of retribution.
- To provide a constructive process for individuals to report issues of concern.
- Emphasize the importance of adherence to MARC’s standards of conduct.

1. Overview

A whistleblower is a person (often an employee) who raises a concern about serious wrongdoing occurring in an organization. Examples of misconduct that might lead to whistleblowing include the violation of laws, rules or regulations; fraud, mismanagement or corruption; or direct threats to the public interest, such as health or safety violations.

In general, whistleblowing refers to reporting misconduct outside the normal chain of command. Most workplace issues are, and to the extent possible, should be resolved by working with direct supervisors and department directors as described in the Issues Resolution policy. However, if an individual, acting in good faith, has reasonable grounds for believing that serious wrongdoing is taking place that has not been addressed or cannot be addressed through normal channels, he or she has the option of “whistleblowing” without fear of retribution.

Examples of the types of situations a whistleblower might report may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- A violation of law.
- Questionable accounting or monitoring practices.
- Discrimination based on protected classes.
- Fraud, waste or mismanagement.

Examples of problems that can be addressed through normal issues resolution procedures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Disagreements or misunderstandings between employees.
- Issues related to employment or working conditions.
- Personality conflicts.

- Working relationships between employees or employees and supervisors.

2. Reporting Procedures

Individuals may report misconduct, without fear of retribution, through the following procedures:

- For internal employee relations issues, **employees should** seek assistance from supervisors, department directors or Human Resources staff as described in the Issues Resolution policy. For issues related to harassment, immediately report to a supervisor, department director, executive director or Human Resources as described in the Harassment-Free workplace policy.
- For all other issues related to suspected fraud, theft, harassment or other illegal activity, contact a supervisor, department director, executive director or call the “WeTip” hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or go online to www.wetip.com.
- ~~For issues related to suspected mismanagement or waste of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, call 1-877-392-3375 or go online to www.recovery.gov.~~

3. After the Report

Response procedures for whistleblower reports will vary according to how the report was made.

- ~~Reports related to ARRA funding will be addressed by the U.S. Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board.~~
- Reports to the “WeTip” hotline are forwarded to designated members of MARC’s management team (i.e., the Executive Director, Finance and Administration Department Director, Human Resources Manager, and MARC Board Chair) for review and resolution.

All reports will be acknowledged promptly and handled with due care and diligence. Those who receive the reports have the full authority to investigate all concerns raised, and may use other resources such as legal counsel, accountants, private investigators or others as reasonably necessary to conduct a full and complete investigation. Reports and concerns will be kept confidential to the extent possible.

If a report is found to be of merit or is substantiated, MARC management will take appropriate steps and will adhere to the federal rules for that grant, if applicable. No employee who, in good faith, makes a whistleblowing report will be threatened, discriminated against or otherwise subject to any retaliation or adverse employment consequences. Any staff member who attempts to retaliate against someone who reported a concern in good faith may be subject to discipline.

Allegations that prove to have been made maliciously, recklessly, with gross negligence, or with the foreknowledge that the allegations are false, will be viewed as a serious offense and may result in disciplinary action against the reporting employee.

Any situation involving an issue relating to harassment should be reported immediately to the employee’s supervisor, department director, executive director or Human Resources. Specific information relating to MARC’s policy regarding a harassment-free workplace can be found on the MARC intranet under Policies. Complaints of this nature are taken very seriously and will be fully investigated.

BOARD APPROVAL AND REVISION DATES

Approved: January 25, 2011

Proposed: January 26, 2021



Risk Prevention Advisory

Midwest Public Risk
19400 East Valley View Parkway
Independence, MO 64055

Public Official Liability

The potential exposures for public officials are vast and can come from internal or external sources. Much of this increased exposure has been the result of various court decisions that have greatly expanded the area of civil rights litigation for elected and appointed officials.

Lawsuits may be filed against individual officials, a public entity, or both. Suits stem from both action and inaction. Injuries or property damage resulting from the careless actions or inaction of public officials, employees or agents often involve claims of negligence under state law. For Cities and Counties, claims resulting from land use regulation, emergency powers of law enforcement, limitations placed on a citizen or business may involve federal statutory or constitutional rights and are normally tried in federal court.

The potential list of areas of exposure for public officials is considerable. This advisory is offered as a guide to key issues that have occurred frequently or have resulted in significant losses. Some of the areas of exposure facing public officials include:

- Discrimination in the selection, promotion, discipline, or dismissal of employees.
- Improper training or supervision of employees.
- Administration of grants.
- Granting or denying franchises, permits, or licenses.
- Unequal provision of public services, or the failure to provide a service.
- Failure to protect public trust, including failure to attend meetings, or to examine documents.
- Use of inside information for personal benefit.
- Keeping silent about improper conduct of fellow officials.
- Making unauthorized payments.
- Failure to take advantage of legitimate financial opportunities presented to the public entity.
- Harassment of a business or employee.
- Failure to conduct inspections properly.
- Bidding and purchasing practices.
- Disclosure of personnel records.
- Denial of due process.
- Issues with implications for Cities and Counties include, but are not limited to:
 - Land use claims.
 - Assessment of taxes.
 - Improper treatment of suspects or criminals.

With all the exposure issues previously listed, it may seem quite a challenge to avoid liability. Some general but effective risk management practices to follow include:

- **Never hesitate to consult with your legal counsel.**
- Ensure your policies and practices regarding employment practices are effective, especially in areas related to employee selection, promotion, discipline and firing.
- The amount, topics and quality of training for your employees is a critical factor and should be a priority. This is a common area attacked by plaintiff attorneys.
- Ensure that your entity complies with the Sunshine Law.
- Avoid any issues that may be considered a conflict of interest. If the governing body discusses a conflicting issue, applicable individuals should refrain from voicing an opinion and abstain from voting on an issue of this nature.
- Assess past and potential public official liability exposures. Ensure that critical areas are addressed by an ordinance and/or policy when practical.
- Make every effort to ensure that all ordinances, practices and regulations are uniformly enforced and make sure they are Current, Clear, Comprehensive, Constitutional, and Consistent. Key terms should be defined.
- When speaking publicly, do not make assumptions, do not speculate, and make no empty promises.
- Try to ensure any ordinance, policy, or practice does not deprive a person of a “liberty” or “property” interest. If this is a possibility, make sure that any affected individual or group is given due process.
- When appropriate, ensure that any member of the public that may be affected by the outcome of a new ordinance, policy, or regulation is given adequate notice to ensure that such persons will be given the opportunity to be heard before implementation.
- Any time a potentially negative action or decision affects an individual or organization, a written statement containing reasons for the decision should be made available to the affected parties. This applies to both internal and external issues.
- Be very cautious if a request for a reference regarding a former employee is made – you should have a policy on this matter.
- Be sure any license or permit applicant has access to necessary information pertaining to all items required as part of the application process. Requirements and fees should be reasonable and consistently applied.
- Keep good minutes of board, commission or council meetings.
- Remember that documentation, both as a governing body and as an individual, can be very important.
- When applicable, Cities and Counties must:
 - Ensure your policies and practices regarding law enforcement liability are effective, especially in areas related to use of force, vehicle operations, search and seizure and the care, custody and control of prisoners
 - Have a comprehensive land use plan

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 4-a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the 2021 Federal Policy Agenda

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the MARC Board of Directors adopts a federal policy agenda, reflecting issues of importance to the Kansas City region. The issues come forward from committees, member local governments, and community partners. Staff will provide additional detail at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2021 Federal Policy Agenda.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel

PRIORITIES

Respond and Recover from COVID-19

Congress passed the CARES Relief Act in March 2020 to support residents who faced loss of income and unemployment, small businesses closed due to the pandemic, and state and local government needs. While states and local governments continue to invest these funds to respond to the public health and economic crisis, needs remain to be addressed for 2021. A new relief act was passed by Congress in late December 2020; however, general funding was not included for local governments. The proposed Economic Recovery Plan would broaden funding approved by Congress in late 2020 and further support recovery in the Kansas City region. The area's Congressional delegation is asked to support these provisions identified as priorities for the Kansas City region:

- Public Health funding for local testing and contact tracing and vaccine implementation, particularly for at-risk populations.
- Funding for local governments to address public safety, infrastructure and other critical needs, with funding awarded directly to cities and counties of at least 100,000 population.
- Support for K-12 and higher education to enable students to resume their studies and enable districts and higher education institutions to operate safely.
- Direct relief for struggling families and small businesses to help rebuild our economy.
- Address health disparities by supporting nutritious food through SNAP and WIC; extend the eviction moratorium and provide more support for rent and utility assistance.
- Aid for early education and tax credits to working families to enable low-income parents to return to work.

Public Health

Funding: Although dollars were included in the December relief legislation, there continues to be a need to fund local public health both to respond to the pandemic and to support public health for the long-term. ***A priority for further relief funding is to support the public health infrastructure needed to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 disease and support full vaccination of our population.*** Local public health departments need resources for staffing to support testing, disease investigation/contact tracing, communications, data systems and analytics, and vaccination.

Vaccine Distribution: A priority for the new administration should be to ensure the timely distribution of all available vaccines and to review and approve all vaccines that have completed protocols for review by the FDA as being safe for public use. While populations and experiences differ by state, federal guidance to ensure the timely and appropriate implementation of all available vaccine is essential. It is important to recognize that bi-state areas like the Kansas City region require coordination across state lines.

New Funding for Infrastructure, including Transportation and Broadband

Past federal investment in infrastructure has demonstrated the return on the expenditures. After years of under investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure, a significant increase in federal funding could aid in the nation's economic recovery and position communities for long-term economic success. A critical part of the nation's and community's infrastructure is high speed broadband technology, which enables better service for business, education, health care, and employment sectors.

Role of Local Governments in Metropolitan Areas

The federal government has transitioned funding for several programs from direct grants to local communities to block grants to the states. States often do not recognize the important role of urban, suburban, and rural communities within large metropolitan areas, both in terms of their unique needs and in terms of the size of their population and their economic contribution to the state and the nation. ***Congress should design federal programs to consider the unique needs of local governments in metropolitan areas, and local leaders should have a meaningful voice in decisions about federal investments and program implementation. Congress should consider direct allocations of federal funds to local communities within metropolitan areas or require states to pass through appropriate amounts based on specific criteria such as size or economic base of local communities.***

Federal Transportation Funding

The current federal transportation law was passed by Congress in 2015 and extended in 2020. The FAST Law will expire in 2021. Significant and stable federal infrastructure investment is essential to the Kansas City region's unique transportation and logistics systems. ***Federal policy should provide adequate and predictable funding for surface transportation programs to allow effective planning and project delivery for state and local governments. The reauthorization should consider the following principles.***

- Increase the level of federal resources in the Highway Trust Fund and include new revenue sources beyond the current federal gas tax of 18.4 cents. Increased and indexed federal fuel taxes can accomplish this in the near-term, while a long-term solution - such as a mile-based user fee - is identified and implemented.
- Implement a multi-year bill to provide stability and predictability to states and local governments and build on the current law's performance-based approach to transportation decisions.
- Recognize the economic value of and allocate resources for the nation's metropolitan areas and emphasize the role of local governments in decisions on funding allocations.
- Accelerate progress for non-highway modes of transportation - ensuring a balanced system.
- Encourage public-private partnerships and new bond financing authority to support large-scale projects of regional and national significance.

Funding to Support Quality Early Education

One of the greatest challenges that essential workers and those hoping to return to the workforce after losing their jobs face is access to affordable quality care and education for their children. Data is showing that many women who were in the workforce prior to the pandemic have not been able to return due to the lack of childcare and school districts moving to virtual learning. Research has shown that the Head Start program and its comprehensive approach to child development and family support have the greatest long-term impact on helping low-income families succeed. However, fewer than half of eligible children participate in Head Start and less than eight percent participate in Early Head Start. ***The federal government should support increased funding for Head Start and Early Head Start and full funding for the Child Care and Development Grant Program to help low-income working households to remain in the labor force.***

Adequate Funding and Use of Scientific and Objective Methods to Prepare Census Surveys

The 2020 decennial census and other census surveys are important for apportionment, allocation of federal funds, and other public policy. A count of all residents, including those who are not citizens, is fundamental to our principles outlined in the Constitution. Adequate

funding and the use of objective scientific methods are necessary to ensure the integrity of the data provided to the President, Congress, and others. Due to challenges with a complete and accurate count, the Census Bureau uses other public and private data to make modifications to the counts received. The methods used are scientific but have produced estimates biased toward small municipalities and small population groups. Only population counts are guaranteed to represent the actual enumeration from the Census. Housing unit counts are not guaranteed, even at the state level. ***Ensure adequate ongoing funding for the Census Bureau. Encourage the Bureau to resolve the issues involved with applying differential privacy so that there is no bias between small and large communities or populations, and there aren't small areas like blocks or tracts where population and housing estimates produce unrealistic estimates of persons per household.***

Resources to Fully Implement the Older Americans Act

This program provides resources to support vulnerable older adults in urban, suburban, and rural areas to keep them in their homes and avoid expensive institutional care. No one population segment was impacted more by the onset of the pandemic than older adults. The need for home delivered meals, in-home services, and other supports are critical to address the needs of this large and growing population group. ***As the nation's number and needs of older adults continue to increase, additional funding is needed to serve this population through the Older Americans Act.***

Affordable Housing

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis has impacted thousands of households across the nation and many in the Kansas City area. With loss of jobs and income, many households have been unable to pay rent, mortgages, and utilities. The lack of affordable housing was already at crisis levels in many places, and those on limited incomes have been hit hardest by the pandemic. Federal and foundation funds have been allocated to support eviction prevention, but funds are limited and many expire at the end of December 2020. While the federal government called for a moratorium on evictions, many landlords continued to file cases in local courts. MARC is working with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to build a housing partnership to enhance the regional system for creating and preserving affordable and accessible housing. The regional housing partnership will help us leverage the resources that have enabled millions of low-income households to secure safe and adequate housing, such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Historic Preservation Tax Credit, public housing, and housing vouchers. Emergency Shelter and Continuum of Care grants enable local agencies to serve homeless veterans, other individuals, and families. Congress is urged to continue to appropriate funds for housing for low-income persons and families, particularly those most affected by this pandemic, and to encourage cross-jurisdictional collaboration and innovation for housing programs.

Workforce Development

Prior to the pandemic, the region's business, government, and civic sectors recognized the need to increase the skills of the workforce to meet the needs of what was an expanding economy. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the need to increase opportunities for many disadvantaged students and adults to secure the education and training needed to fill in-demand jobs remains.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA): Fund the workforce system at the level authorized in WIOA in 2014. The program has not been fully funded and has impacted growing jurisdictions. Include business engagement and services metrics in the WIOA funding

formula in order that business services work is taken into consideration when allocating funds. The reauthorization should help Workforce Boards assist businesses in finding and training potential job seekers.

Higher Education: Invest in community college-business partnerships as part of Higher Education Act reauthorization. Modernize and expand apprenticeship programs and ensure sufficient funding for workforce systems to assist businesses in development and implementation of such programs. Expand Pell grant eligibility to cover high quality short-term credential programs. Increase funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Basic Education.

Climate Change and Adaptation

The Kansas City region will confront a variety of risks and vulnerabilities from climate change, including flooding, drought, and extreme heat. ***The congressional delegation is urged to work with the new Administration for continued and new federal support for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience initiatives tied to energy efficiency, renewable energy, public and active transportation, fleet electrification, sustainable agriculture and food systems, integrated watershed management, innovation and finance, open space protection, and affordable housing.***

OTHER POLICY ISSUES

Local Government Finances and Operations

- ***Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds***
Oppose attempts to eliminate or limit the tax exemption for municipal bonds. Affordable financing is the single greatest tool that cities and counties have to fund critical infrastructure needs.

- ***Protect Internet Sales Tax***
Support state and local governments' ability to collect internet sales taxes. As many residents have transitioned to online purchases due to the pandemic, the loss of sales tax revenues has hit local governments hard. As the country and the region work to recover from this pandemic, the ability to support local businesses is critical to a strong economy and workforce. The ability to collect sales tax revenues from online sales is an important factor in equity for local retail businesses.

Transportation

- ***Transportation Choices***
Federal policy should support public transportation, walking, bicycling, and other modes as essential elements of comprehensive metropolitan transportation systems.

- ***Transportation Technologies***
Federal policies affecting new transportation technologies should be developed in a broad context that encourages innovation in local and metropolitan networks, maintains the integrity of local transportation systems, and is compatible across state lines.

Environment

- ***Water Quality, Stormwater Management, and Green Infrastructure***

Federal support for water and wastewater system improvements is essential for local communities to ensure water quality and achieve the multiple benefits that accrue from effective water resource management.

- **Missouri River Management and Watershed Planning**
Federal management of national waterways and investment in key flood control and ecosystem restoration projects are critical to the Kansas City region. **Support funding and authorization requests for flood control and watershed planning and projects in the Kansas City area.**
- **Air Quality**
Federal air quality policies should support the Kansas City region's efforts to ensure public health and community economic development.
- **Energy Conservation**
Federal support for energy conservation and renewable energy sources enhance our region's quality of life and lower costs for residents and businesses.
- **Rate Payer Assistance for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Charges**
Legislation has been introduced annually since 2016 to establish a federal assistance program for water, sewer, and stormwater system ratepayers. The proposed program is similar to the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program and would allow the federal government to offer assistance to communities and low-income ratepayers in paying water and sewer rates. Such assistance would reflect the fact that federal mandates frequently drive water, wastewater, and stormwater rate increases and that many communities are challenged in charging the true cost of service and compliance because of the inability of lower-income ratepayers to pay increased rates. **Support legislation that helps low-income households cover their costs for water, sewer, and stormwater fees.**

Health and Human Services

- **Social Health Support Interventions**
Federal agencies should develop policy and funding to meaningfully support social health interventions, allow for braiding of funding sources, and support the creation and sustainability of networks of community-based organizations to deliver these services.
- **Emergency Medical Services**
Federal health care programs should utilize the capacity of local EMS agencies to provide cost-effective emergency response, preventive care, and non-emergency services.

Self Sufficiency/Family Support

- Federal income assistance programs are important in serving the most vulnerable in our communities. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is an important source of family stability and health. The Earned Income Tax Credit has become one of the nation's most effective tools for lifting low-income workers and their families above the poverty line. **Federal policy should ensure support for programs such as these that serve disadvantaged residents of our communities and enable them to provide for their families.**

Emergency Services and Public Safety

- **Homeland Security**

Federal policies should support the Kansas City region's capacity to respond to evolving threats, to maintain a coordinated operational structure for effective preparedness and response, and to foster strong public safety communication networks. The Kansas City region was designated as an Urban Area Security Initiative region from 2003 through 2012, with the federal government recognizing the threats facing our region and other large urban regions. This designation is especially important to increase the capacity for local jurisdictions to continue to serve in a bi-state metro area. **Re-designation as a UASI region is needed to ensure the area's ongoing capacity to protect, respond to and recovery from man-made and natural disaster events.**

- **Resilient Communities**

Federal support is critical to address both man-made and natural hazards, as well as public health emergencies, and create a nation of safe, prepared, and resilient communities. **Reauthorization of the Federal Flood Insurance Program is an important step for 2021 policy action.**

- **Reclassify Public Safety Telecommunicators**

H.R. 1629, the 911 SAVES Act, was introduced in 2019 to reclassify public safety telecommunicators from clerical to a protective service occupation within the standard occupation classification system.

- **Next Generation 911**

Federal grant funds have supported state, regional, and local 911 systems and continued support will be important to ensure high quality emergency systems are available in all parts of the nation. The Next Generation 911 Act of 2019 had strong support in Congress.

Housing and Neighborhoods

- **Community Revitalization**

The Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs provide important leverage for public and private investments to support low-and-moderate income persons and families and revitalize distressed communities. The Economic Development Administration and EPA's Brownfields program support economic revitalization and business growth.

Congress should support federal partnerships and programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Economic Development Administration (EDA), which are important to local initiatives to revitalize communities.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 5-a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Regional Economic Forecast

BACKGROUND:

MARC has been regularly preparing forecasts of the path of the region's economy since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to funding from the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, MARC receives monthly updated national economic forecasts from **Moody's Analytics, which provides the necessary inputs to drive a model of the metro economy from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI).**

On January 12, MARC provided an update to its 2021 forecast to local public officials. This forecast compared a December baseline forecast against the performance expected once the Democrats won both houses of Congress in addition to the presidency. The latter assumes a more expansionary fiscal policy over the forecast period, boosting both national and local job growth compared to the prior baseline.

Highlights from this forecast presentation will be presented at the meeting.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This work is largely being conducted **as part of MARC's ongoing monitoring and forecasting of local economic conditions as part of its role in long-range transportation planning.** Funding from the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City paid for the additional expense of acquiring monthly U.S. economic **forecast updates from Moody's Analytics.**

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Frank Lenk

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 6-a
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on the Regional Public Safety Work Plan and Budget

BACKGROUND:

MARC provides support for the region's public safety communications, including the regional 911 system. Each year, the Public Safety Communications Board (PSCB) reviews and approves the work plan and budget. The PSCB oversees the operation and maintenance of the 911 system, including the budget to cover expenses.

Annual Budget: The proposed budget for 2021 for the 911 system is \$8,919,029, which is a small decrease compared to the 2020 budget.

Douglas County: Douglas County has elected to terminate their contract with the MARC 911 system and move to the Kansas State 911 System. This will require an adjustment to the budget by the PSCB. MARC 911 staff have identified a combination of budget items (savings that will occur when Douglas County leaves the system, cuts and reductions to items in the 2021 budget that will not impact the quality of services or the integrity of the system, and potential carryover from the 2020 budget) which will balance the 2021 budget so there are no cost increases required. These proposed changes will be presented to the PSCB prior to Douglas County leaving the system on March 31, 2021.

Atchison County: Atchison County has been connected to the MARC 911 system.

Use of Census Data to Allocate Expenses: PSCB by-laws require that the decennial census be used to determine the costs charged to each county for 911 services. The costs for each county will be adjusted for 2021. As 2020 census data is not yet available, the PSCB voted to use the estimated 2019 census figures for the 2021 budget until the 2020 census data is released.

Maintenance Program for 911 System: MARC 911 staff will take over most of the maintenance for the 911 system and reduce the reliance on outside contractors for this service. This change was approved by the PSCB. MARC will hire two additional technical services members to handle the 24/7 operations. A study of contracted maintenance costs vs. in-house maintenance costs indicated that a substantial amount of money could be saved by utilizing MARC technicians for 24/7 maintenance of the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) equipment instead of contracting this service.

Capital Projects for 2020: The selective router installation is 70% complete. The selective router, which is currently located at MODOT, will be moved to a secure data center in Clay County. The second selective router will stay in its current location in Johnson County. Upon installation and transition to the new selective routers, the old routers will be discontinued and disposed.

Capital Projects for 2021 include:

- a. The microwave system that supports the 911 network will be upgraded with new radios in 2021. \$800,000 in 911 grant money has been secured to assist in paying for this project (\$500,000 from Missouri, \$300,000 from Kansas). Cost for this project is \$1.5 million.
- b. 2021 is year two of planned PSAP equipment upgrades, with 60 workstations in line for replacement. Estimated cost for these upgrades is \$1,300,000.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

- c. As part of the 911 systems cybersecurity efforts, a Disaster Recovery System will be installed. If a cyber-attack were to disable the 911 system, the Disaster Recovery System will allow for the 911 system to be rebuilt from a recent backup, resulting in a faster return to service. Estimated cost is \$144,210.
- d. 911 system host servers at KCPD and KCPD South Patrol will be replaced due to age. These servers were installed in 2013.

Training: MARC continues to offer 911 training to the 700+ dispatchers in the region. Due to COVID, all training is now conducted remotely online.

911 Data and Mapping: Aerial imagery, pipeline, and hazmat data for all counties will be refreshed for the 911 maps in the Dispatch Centers.

Recognition of 911 Personnel: The Telecommunicators Appreciation Celebration in-person events for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. 2020 and 2021 TAC award recipients will be honored in a virtual ceremony currently being planned.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board has approved the 2021 Work Plan and Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner
Mike Daniels

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Karina Bielecki



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING SUMMARY
December 15, 2020
12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, Kan. - MARC Board Chair
Commissioner Jimmy Odom, Cass County, Mo. - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Mayor Carson Ross, Blue Springs, Mo. - MARC Board Secretary
Councilmember Curt Skoog, Overland Park, Kan.
Councilmember Vernon Fields, Basehor, Kan.
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, Mo.

Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Commissioner Angela Markley, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kan.
Councilmember Fred Spears, Overland Park, Kan. *Councilmember Eric Bunch, Kansas City, Mo.
Commissioner Dagmar Wood, Platte County, Mo.
Commissioner Doug Smith, Leavenworth County, Kan.
Councilmember Brandon Ellington, Kansas City, Mo.
County Legislator Scott Burnett, Jackson County, Mo.
Councilmember Marge Vogt, Olathe, Kan.
Mayor Paula Schwach, Westwood Hills, Kan.
Mayor Randy Pogue, Kearney, Mo.
Mayor Michael Boehm, Lenexa, Kan.
Mayor Steve Shute, Gardner, Kan.
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, Kan.

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

Dan Manley, Lee's Summit

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Commissioner Rob Roberts called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Due to the meeting being held remotely, Commissioner Roberts 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. Board sharing was emitted due to the amount of COVID-19 activity currently underway in all counties.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Member

Commissioner Roberts recognized Commissioner Jimmy Odom for his ten years of service on the MARC Board, noting his great commitment to regional coordination and inter-governmental **cooperation. In his time with MARC, Commissioner Odom has served on MARC's transportation, budget & personnel, and executive committees.** Commissioner Roberts also noted Commissioner **Odom's history of leadership and service** on numerous community boards. Commissioner Odom also holds a leadership certificate from the National League of Cities and has been involved with the Missouri Municipal League as the Vice Chair of the Policy Committee for Economic Development. Commissioner Roberts shared that all who worked with Commissioner Odom enjoyed his friendly and approachable manner. Commissioner Roberts noted his dedication to the success of the entire region and to building bridges between jurisdictions. Commissioner Roberts thanked Commissioner Odom for his service.

Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2021 Board Officers

Commissioner Roberts noted that every other year, the MARC Board establishes a nominating committee to consider the next slate of board officers. Commissioner Roberts noted he is finishing a two-year term as Board Chair. He asked past Board Chair Councilmember Curt Skoog and current First Vice Chair Commissioner Jimmy Odom to serve with him as the nominating committee. A recommended slate of officers will be brought before the board at the January 26, 2021 meeting.

REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives

Ms. Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development at MARC, shared that the Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC-G) met the same morning to review the regional operating picture and regional dashboard. Ms. Nagel invited any board members interested in the data to participate in future MAC-G meetings. COVID cases in the region are down slightly, but hospital capacity trends are still troubling. Staffing issues continue to be the most concerning for hospitals. Vaccination metrics will soon be reported on the data dashboard along with other metrics. Ms. Nagel noted that due to cold weather and the continued spread of the virus, those without stable housing will need additional support. Finally, the MAC-G discussed advocacy efforts to help **the region's** congressional delegation and others understand the need for more local public health resources. Ms. Nagel also shared that the Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund will soon be allocating resources for several program areas: behavioral health, domestic violence, and food insecurity.

Ms. Jennifer Sutherlin, Senior Planner and Exercise Coordinator at MARC, re-emphasized concerns around hospital staffing. Ms. Sutherlin noted that issues include staff who need to quarantine and contracted positions that pay higher and lead staff to leave. Ms. Sutherlin shared that the post-Thanksgiving spike in cases is lower than anticipated and expressed hope that this meant pre-holiday public health messaging was effective. Ms. Sutherlin expressed concern about the longer **holiday season ahead in December. She noted many hospitals are still in "contingent mode"**, which includes altered staffing models, and some facilities are requiring mandatory overtime. MARC staff are examining crisis standards of care for the region and maintaining situational awareness to support facilities. Ms. Sutherlin noted that while vaccine preparation is underway, messaging should emphasize precautions such as masking, hand-washing, etc. that will continue to be necessary.

Mr. Dan Manley with the Lee's Summit Fire Department (LSFD) shared an overview of the region's vaccine planning and coordination process. Mr. Manley noted that congruent planning is occurring at the regional, state, and federal levels. Mr. Manley shared that Operation Warp Speed, to develop a vaccine and distribution plan, began in May 2020. Focused planning at the national and

state level for distribution of vaccine doses began in August. A regional vaccination workgroup was formed in September, led by representatives from both Kansas and Missouri. The workgroup engaged in state-level planning discussions and was able to provide information about next steps in the process of operationalizing distribution of the vaccine. To aid with state plan development, the CDC released a vaccination program interim playbook in September. State plans for Missouri and Kansas were approved in October and November. Vaccine providers across the region became involved in October, enrolling to receive the vaccine and administer it to various community populations. Regional implementation is currently being developed based on existing plans, adjusted for the current environment and state and federal plans.

Mr. Manley emphasized that vaccine supply does not ensure vaccine success. Vaccine success is influenced by individual behaviors and the willingness of the population to stay vigilant about mitigation efforts. Key variables in operational success include vaccine efficacy, public adoption, communication, supply chains, tracking safety, and individual behavior. Mr. Manley noted that these variables are addressed in the various regional plans. Mr. Manley also provided a short overview of the vaccine approval process. Once vaccine safety data from trials is finalized, the maker applies for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA releases their findings to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), who begin a review process. Once ACIP files approval, the vaccine maker can begin distribution through the EUA. For reference of how quickly the approval process can move, Mr. Manley noted that the Pfizer vaccine was reviewed by ACIP on December 10, approved on December 12, and arrived in the Kansas City region on December 14. Mr. Manley shared that states had to submit initial allocation orders by December 4 for inventory to arrive on December 14. The Moderna vaccine is still in the approval process, and allocation orders in both states have already been submitted.

Mr. Manley noted that due to limited availability of resources, it's important to prioritize how resources can be used most effectively. In the first phase the goal is to reach those at the greatest risk, such as residents of long-term care facilities and health care providers. Other high priority groups include essential workers, those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness, and those 65 years and older. Vaccine providers who have enrolled to distribute vaccine include major health systems, large and small chain pharmacies, independent hospitals and physicians, local health departments, independent long-term care facilities, independent pharmacies, and volunteer mobile vaccinators. Each vaccine provider has the capability to store the vaccine inventory and administer vaccine doses in accordance with state and federal standards.

Mr. Manley emphasized the importance of communication and outreach. The vaccine approval and distribution process is fast-moving, and clear and accurate information is vital for public confidence. He also noted that due to misinformation, being able to address rumors and provide correct information is incredibly important. Mr. Manley shared several reliable sources for vaccine information, including the CDC, Missouri, and Kansas websites.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there were any questions for the presenters, but there were none.

CORE CAPACITIES

VOTE: Approve Revised 2020 and Proposed 2021 Budget

Ms. Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration at MARC, provided a brief overview of the 2021 Budget and Work Plan. The work plan focuses on eight policy goals as well as internal organizational goals. Ms. Gonzales invited directors to briefly address the board regarding key priorities in their respective policy areas.

Mr. Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment at MARC, shared that Connected KC 2050, which was approved this year, will guide much of the transportation work for the next few years. Goals for 2021 include assessing other funding opportunities, raising resources for public transportation services and investments in the region, adopting a new transportation improvement program which guides federal funding for the next five years, and assessing progress the region is making on complete and green streets.

Environmental priorities in 2021 include the adoption of the Climate Action Plan, adjusting committee structures, pursuing additional resources for the region at the federal level, working with changing recyclables markets, and integrating green infrastructure into transportation planning and local communities.

Mr. Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services at MARC, highlighted economic priorities including an economic recovery plan in cooperation with KC Rising, inclusive prosperity, the Economic Value Atlas, working with new data from the 2020 Census, and the KC Degrees program.

Ms. Nagel shared local government priorities for the year, which include bolstering shared services across the region, a new Department of Justice (DOJ) grant on co-responders for eastern Jackson County, retooling the Government Training Institute (GTI) to respond to demands for online courses, working in partnership with local universities through the Government-2-University (G2U) initiative, and workforce housing.

Public safety and emergency services goals for the year include pandemic response and recovery, completing a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to prepare for Complex, Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTAs), important microwave and router upgrades for the 911 system, and an expanded maintenance program to ensure high quality 911 service in the region.

Mr. James Stowe, Director of Aging and Adult Services at MARC, **shared that the department's** 2021 focus is on continuing to deliver innovation and refreshing services and programs, with a central focus on consumer appeal, satisfaction, and quality. Mr. Stowe noted the importance of the systems supporting delivery of services, including integrated care.

Ms. Jovanna Rohs, Director of Early Learning and Head Start at MARC, highlighted key early learning priorities for 2021 such as quality enhancement and support for family child care providers, school readiness, and expanding mobile medical unit and telehealth opportunities.

Ms. Gonzales noted priorities for MARC's core capacities: increased emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion; a web page upgrade, and procedure and process automation. Ms. Gonzales also shared the total expenditures for the revised 2020 budget and proposed 2021 budget. Ms. Gonzales paused for questions, but there were none.

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REPORT: Preview of 2021 Federal Legislative Agenda

Ms. Nagel reminded the board that every year in December, they provide input on a federal legislative agenda which is then brought for approval in January. Ms. Nagel noted that MARC worked closely with community partners to draft the 2021 federal legislative agenda. Legislative priorities for 2021 include COVID-19 response and recovery, transportation and broadband infrastructure, quality early childhood education, the 2020 Census, support for older adults, affordable housing, workforce development, and climate change. Mayor Mike Boehm asked to

include suburban and rural communities in the priority item on the role of local governments and metropolitan areas. Mayor Boehm also asked Ms. Nagel to expand on census issues caused by estimate bias. Ms. Nagel invited Mr. Lenk to answer the question. Mr. Lenk noted that due to privacy concerns, the census bureau has implemented new restrictions which have created bias in the results. A mathematical adjustment is made to the data to avoid revealing too much about an individual person, but the effect of the adjustment can distort numbers. Mr. Lenk emphasized that the bureau is working to strike a balance between privacy and accuracy, but the work is ongoing. Ms. Nagel paused for further questions, but there were none.

COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

REPORT: Update on the Technology Sector Talent-to-Industry Exchange Study and the 2020 Workforce and Education Summit

Mr. Lenk shared some highlights from the labor market analysis performed for the technology sector Talent-to-Industry Exchange (TIE) study. The tech sector is defined as those in tech industries or tech occupations. Mr. Lenk noted that some industries, such as computer systems design services and components manufacturing, are outperforming in Kansas City compared to the **US due to the presence of companies like Cerner and Garmin. The proportion of the region's employment in tech industries is 24% higher than the national average. Compared to KC Rising peer metros, Kansas City is in the middle of the pack. However, Kansas City's wage was much lower in comparison to other cities.** Mr. Lenk pointed out a mismatch between post-secondary degrees awarded and tech jobs available. Over half the awards are related to engineering and architecture, yet only one in seven tech jobs are in those fields. Conversely, nearly two-thirds of tech jobs are computer-related, but only one third of awards are in fields related to computer jobs. Mr. Lenk also noted a large gender gap in employment, with the tech workforce nearly 30% more male than the metro average, and an underrepresentation of African Americans in the sector.

Ms. Anita Davis, Workforce Development Program Director at MARC, shared that during the second quarter of 2020, MARC convened tech sector leaders, educators, and trainers to better understand challenges and opportunities for developing talent in the tech sector. Participating organizations included Cerner, Amply Media, Sellozo, and more. Ms. Davis emphasized how fast things are changing in the technology industry, with some predicting a move into a fourth industrial revolution. The group categorized where challenges and opportunities lie in the sector within four quadrants: Career Pathways, Education Programs, Growth Opportunities, and Job Opportunities. **One changing perception is that a bachelor's degree or more in computer science is necessary to enter the industry.** However, Ms. Davis noted that employers are increasingly aware and accepting of non-traditional training programs, boot camps, apprenticeship models, and more. The most in-demand skills in conversation with employers were adaptability, problem solving, communication, lifelong learning, detail-orientation, critical thinking, creative thinking, and cooperation.

Ms. Davis also provided an update on the tenth annual Workforce and Education Summit, which was held on December 3, 2020. National keynote speakers were Matt Sigelman, the CEO of Burning Glass, and Danette Howard, the Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer for Lumina Foundation. Local experts spoke on topic across workforce and education. Over 200 people claimed profiles and participated in the virtual event. Ms. Davis shared a link to a recording of the **summit's general session. Ms. Davis paused for questions, but there were none.**

EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES

REPORT: Update on Vision Zero Traffic Safety in Kansas City, Missouri

Councilmember Eric Bunch shared that Kansas City, Missouri is undergoing a planning process to

create a Vision Zero policy and action plan. The process grew out of a resolution passed in the summer with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities on Kansas City streets by 2030. Public works and planning staff are working hard on the plan, using crash data from MARC to understand where the most serious injury or fatality crashes occur in the city. Councilmember Bunch shared that in Los Angeles, for example, approximately 80% of serious crashes in the city occurred on just 5% of city streets. Identifying which streets are trending the most dangerously helps the city prioritize capital improvement funding to ensure safety is a main focus of the transportation system. The next step in the process is to see which streets are the most dangerous and create a path forward for making necessary improvements. Vision Zero is about a systemic change to traffic safety, asserting that serious injuries and fatalities are unacceptable. Councilmember Bunch also noted that Vision Zero gives more consideration to all users of a transportation network, whereas old safety paradigms only considered those within vehicles. He emphasized a holistic view of safety in transportation networks. Councilmember Bunch paused for questions, but there were none.

VOTE: Approve Updated 2021 Vision Zero Safety Performance Targets

Ms. Amanda Horner, Safety and Mobility Planner at MARC, noted that states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are required to set five-year targets for the following measures each year: fatalities, fatality rate, serious injuries, serious injury rate, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. MPO safety targets are formed considering state targets, the five-year regional safety blueprint, crash data and trends, and input from the Destination Safe Coalition. Ms. Horner shared a trend line graph for crash fatalities in the region, along with the 2021 safety performance targets for board approval. Ms. Horner paused for questions, but there were none.

BRIEF REPORTS

VOTE: Approve 2020 Federal Transportation Sub-allocated Funding Recommendations

Mr. Ron Achelpohl reminded the board that a new transportation plan was adopted in June 2020. Quickly afterwards, MARC began using the plan to help allocate federal transportation funds for the region. The current funding cycle is for 2023-2024 with a total of about \$67 million to distribute across both states. After issuing a call for projects, MARC received project applications worth a total of \$185 million. New to the process this year was a two-step application process, which provided an opportunity for staff and planning committees to provide feedback to project sponsors between application rounds. When making final recommendations, committees considered project scores, programming projects in all eligible categories, jurisdictional priorities, geographic equity, providing adequate funding to advance recommended projects, alignment with Connected KC 2050, funding for bridges, and funding for as many agencies and projects as possible. MARC was able to fund 34% of Surface Transportation Program (STP) applications, 76% of Transportation Alternatives (TAP) applications, and 39% of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) applications. Mr. Achelpohl noted that applications funded generally scored above average and aligned with Connected KC 2050. Mr. Achelpohl shared graphs of the distribution of programming by county and by project type, noting roadway operations was the largest category funded. Next steps are to allocate projects to years and bring a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) amendment to the board in February 2021. One board member inquired how the committees decided to fund the few plans that were not aligned with the Connected KC 2050 plan. Mr. Achelpohl noted that this was the first time applications were evaluated for alignment with the plan, and that the committees will debrief on the selection process and improve it for the next call for projects in 2022. The planning committees were asked if projects not aligned with the plan should be eliminated from consideration, but the consensus was to keep non-aligned projects in consideration since it was the first time evaluating for alignment. Mr. Achelpohl did not anticipate eliminating non-aligned projects from consideration in the future. Councilmember

Bunch inquired if applications were considered with regard to Operation Green Light (OGL) policy on light synchronization for safety and speed purposes. Mr. Achelpohl shared that OGL strikes a balance between regional work and respecting local traffic signal autonomy. Traffic systems are not designed to maximize speeds, but throughput at peak hours. Mr. Achelpohl noted that timing must also take into account pedestrians and bicycles. Councilmember Bunch noted that the speed of traffic is a very clear indicator for safety. Councilmember Bunch expressed caution for using a tool like synchronization counter to safety goals and agreed to continue the conversation with Mr. Achelpohl at a later time. Mr. Achelpohl paused for additional questions, but there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the November 24, 2020 Board Meeting
- b. VOTE: Approve Purchases of Data and Equipment to Respond to Issues Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- c. VOTE: Authorize Agreements with ETC Institute for Public Health Surveys
- d. VOTE: Approve a Contract with Motorola to Provide VESTA Managed Services and VESTA Software Firmware Support
- e. VOTE: Approve the Purchase of VESTA Call-taking Hardware for the Annual Workstation Replacement Program
- f. VOTE: Approve an Update to the Public Participation Plan
- g. VOTE: Authorize Contracts for Consultants for Three Planning Sustainable Places Projects
- h. VOTE: Approve an Amendment to Connected KC 2050
- i. VOTE: Authorize Agreements with Project Coalition Members to Implement a Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant
- j. VOTE: Authorize Subrecipient Administrative Activities under a Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging Grant Proposal to Support Chronic Disease Self-Management Education

MOTION: Councilmember Curt Skoog moved for approval of all agenda items and the consent agenda, and Councilmember Marge Vogt seconded. Commissioner Roberts asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items. All were in favor of approving agenda items 4-a through 9-j. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY APPROVED:

Rob Roberts, Chair

Date

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-b
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Contracts to Support Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Public Health Testing Plan includes engaging community organizations to support vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19 and to provide support to them if they must stay home and quarantine or isolate. MARC has worked with the REACH Healthcare Foundation and the Independence Health Department to identify community assistance organizations to help residents in Independence and other parts of eastern Jackson County, Ray County, and Lafayette County.

Community Services League provides emergency assistance to at-risk households in eastern Jackson County and will assist residents impacted by COVID. The Healthcare Coalition of Rural Missouri will help residents impacted by COVID in Ray County, eastern Jackson County, and Lafayette County. The Raymore-Peculiar School Educational Foundation will assist at-risk households affected by COVID in portions of northern Cass County. Each agency will be compensated up to \$75,000 for their services. Private foundation funds will support these costs.

Additionally, the city of Independence has received approval from the state of Missouri to reinstitute its local public health department. The city began providing public health services in late 2020 and has conducted COVID-19 testing events with CARES Relief Act and city funding. MARC will provide the city with \$80,000 from private foundation funds to support four testing events in January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contracts as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-c

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Health Forward Foundation to Support the Regional Community Health Worker Program

BACKGROUND:

MARC's regional health care access initiative supported a focus on developing community health workers (CHWs) as a key part of the health care system. CHWs are trained to work with patients to connect them to needed health care and community services to improve their health outcomes, including reducing re-admissions at hospitals. MARC received funding over the past five years to **support the committee's work and has identified ongoing work to continue to advance the** development of a trained workforce. The work over the past year has focused on support for increased training and a state credential for CHWs in both Missouri and Kansas, advocacy to encourage agencies to consider adding CHWs to their workforce, and encouragement by state agencies and private health payers to reimburse agencies for CHW services related to improving patient health outcomes.

Activities for 2021 include regular meetings of the CHW Collaborative and various subcommittees and work groups, a new supervisory training program for CHW supervisors, new trainings for those securing a credential, and implementation of a train-the-trainer for those delivering CHW training. The state of Missouri (and possibly Kansas) is expected to adopt the training developed for the KC area as the standard for the state. Other work includes preparing a sustainability toolkit looking at various reimbursement mechanisms by public and private payers to cover the cost of CHW services.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Health Forward Foundation funds will be used to cover MARC salaries, fringe benefits, overhead, and rent; consultant costs to support the work; meeting and training costs; and travel for 2 CHW Collaborative members to attend national meetings. MARC has worked with two consultants and would continue their engagement over the next year. Erika Saleski with ES Advisors would support facilitation with the Collaborative, working to address sustainability by partnering with a St. Louis health organization. The second consultant, Caitlin Allen with CGA Consulting, will continue work to support advancing CHW training.

REVENUES	
Health Forward Foundation	\$150,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
MARC Personnel (salary, fringe, indirect, rent)	\$50,000
Contractual	\$70,000
Meeting, Printing, Other	\$5,000
Training (for Community Health Workers and those that provide training to CHWs)	\$25,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an application to the Health Forward Foundation for the regional community health worker program, in the amount of \$150,000. If funds are awarded, authorize an agreement with ES Advisors LLC, for \$35,000 and an agreement with CGA Consulting for \$35,000.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel

Hannayd Ruiz

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-d

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize the Acceptance of Additional Private Foundation Funds for the Double Up Heartland Program

BACKGROUND:

In April 2020, the MARC Board authorized an application to the USDA for a new three-year grant for the Double Up Heartland Program. The USDA awarded the grant with additional funds in October 2020. The MARC Board authorized acceptance of the additional federal funds and a commitment to match the federal dollars with non-federal resources, both private foundation funds and in-kind support.

SNAP households may shop at any participating farmers market or grocery store. The program provides a dollar for dollar match on SNAP purchases (up to \$25) and the match allows SNAP customers to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. The program evaluation for the program that ended in 2019 showed that SNAP households that participate in Double Up Food Bucks were more likely to be able to afford and consumer healthier food and have better health outcomes. Nearly \$2.5 million of nutrition incentives **were redeemed by SNAP households over the program's** three and a half years.

Private foundation funds secured or requested include:

Health Forward Foundation	\$600,000
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas	\$300,000
Hall Family Foundation	\$300,000
Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation	\$150,000
Sosland Foundation	\$25,000
Blue KC	\$150,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to accept all funds offered to meet the match requirements.

STAFF CONTACT:

Donna Martin

Marlene Nagel

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-e
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve an Agreement with GeoComm, Inc. for 911 Mapping Services

BACKGROUND:

GeoComm, Inc. **is the provider of the region's 911 mapping software, GeoLynx, which resides on every 911 position at each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).** Along with providing software maintenance and support for GeoLynx, the company maintains map data related to cell towers and sectors and is responsible for pushing updated map data out to PSAPs on a weekly basis.

In 2017, the Public Safety Communications Board approved a new five-year agreement with GeoComm. The agreement included a mapping upgrade for all positions in the region. The contract scope included changing from a desktop-based mapping system to a web-based server system, which allows upgrades to the mapping software to occur simultaneously throughout the region. The mapping system also includes a satellite view that dispatchers and call takers use to locate all 911 calls in the region.

Year four of this agreement (for calendar year 2021) covers ongoing support and maintenance, including support desk services, remote connection services, and software updates and enhancements. MARC has been utilizing GeoComm mapping software in the region since 2002, and the current agreement will expire in 2022.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost for year four of the agreement will be \$123,754. This expenditure is included in the 2021 Regional 911 Allocation Budget.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$123,754
Source	911 Allocation Budget
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$123,754

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board approved the use of these funds in the 2021 Regional 911 Allocation Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize funds for the fourth year of the agreement with GeoComm to provide 911 mapping services, for the total amount of \$123,754.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-f
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Payment for Regional 911 System Cybersecurity Monitoring and Risk Assessment from Seculore Solutions

BACKGROUND:

Seculore Overwatch offers next level monitoring by implementing behavioral-based cybersecurity that is customized specifically for public safety. Designed to identify threats that are often missed by other layers of security, Seculore Overwatch includes a dedicated cyber analyst, daily network checks, weekly cybersecurity reports, and automated cybersecurity alerts.

Seculore Cyberbenchmark is the only cybersecurity risk assessment built specifically for public safety and based upon Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) best practices. Seculore will provide passive data capture and in-depth data analysis. Seculore will provide a cyberbenchmark report, vulnerability reports, NIST risk analysis checklist, key cybersecurity policies, a cyber incident response plan, and a master IP list.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost for Seculore Overwatch and the CyberBenchmark is \$116,500 per year. These costs will be billed quarterly and paid for with 911 cybersecurity budget allocations. Discounts on this service are provided using the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) cooperative purchasing contract.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$116,500
Source	911 Cybersecurity Allocation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$116,500

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board approved the use of these funds in the 2021 Regional 911 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize payment for the second year of cybersecurity monitoring and risk assessment for the regional 911 system from Seculore Solutions.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-g

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a Contract with Affinis for Traffic Engineering Services for Operation Green Light

BACKGROUND:

Operation Green Light (OGL) is a regional traffic signal coordination and operations program involving local governments and the State Departments of Transportation in Kansas and Missouri. This initiative improves regional traffic flow, air quality, and fuel consumption. As a key part of this work, OGL develops and implements traffic signal timing plans in cooperation with participating state and local governments and monitors real-time operations on roadway intersections in the system. Continued traffic signal timing and engineering support services are integral to the successful operation of the OGL program.

Engineering responsibilities include design plans and contract documents, assisting with the bidding process, construction support/construction inspection, utility coordination/permits and traffic controls including the preparation of plans, specifications and estimate (PS&E) and final documents using MoDOT, KDOT and agency processes and standards.

Project improvements will enhance the regional OGL communications system with fiber optic communications, CCTV design, procurement of traffic signal controllers and traffic signal detection design. Jurisdictions with agencies involved in the project include: Leawood, North KC, Gladstone, Kansas City Kansas and Missouri, Merriam, Lee's Summit, Belton, Raymore, Independence, and Leavenworth.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost of services is not to exceed \$150,000 and will be covered by Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and local funding agreements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a contract with Affinis to assist with the planning, design, and construction of the above improvements for the Operation Green Light Program, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl

Ray Webb

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-h

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Receipt of Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds to Support **MARC's** Active Transportation, Air Quality Public Education, and Rideshare Programs

BACKGROUND:

One of MARC's fundamental roles as a Metropolitan Planning Organization is to provide a forum and facilitate processes for cooperative decision-making about the use of federal transportation dollars for projects and programs in the Kansas City area.

In October 2018, the MARC Board approved programming recommendations that included Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) **funding for MARC's** Active Transportation, Air Quality Public Education, and Rideshare programs in FFY 2021 and 2022. MARC staff is seeking authorization to secure funding to support these projects as detailed below:

- Active Transportation

This program includes three components: public outreach to educate and encourage human-powered transportation, monitoring to evaluate shifts in active transportation traffic counts, and focused technical assistance for walking and bicycling programs. This request would extend the current Active Transportation Program.

Authorize receipt of \$72,000 in federal CMAQ funds via the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), \$72,000 in federal CMAQ funds via the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and up to \$36,000 in cash and/or in-kind matching funds from local Missouri and Kansas agencies.

- Air Quality Public Education

MARC provides information to the region regarding ground level ozone pollution and transportation-related strategies that businesses, local governments, and residents can take to improve air quality.

Authorize receipt of \$500,000 in CMAQ funds via MoDOT, \$500,000 in CMAQ funds via KDOT, and \$250,000 in cash and/or in-kind matching funds from local Missouri and Kansas agencies.

- Rideshare

This program provides information to employers and commuters about alternatives to driving alone. The program also provides free ride-matching services to area residents who wish to carpool for some of their trips as a strategy to reduce ozone precursor emissions.

Authorize receipt of \$250,000 in CMAQ via MoDOT and \$250,000 in CMAQ funds via KDOT for a total of \$500,000. No non-federal matching funds are required for this grant.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
CMAQ and matching funds	\$1.93 million
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Active Transportation program	\$180,000
Air Quality Public Education program	\$1.25 million
Rideshare program	\$500,000

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize receipt of federal CMAQ and matching funds as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl

Karen Clawson

Alex Rotenberry

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-i

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Agreements for Federal and Local Matching Funds for Various 2021 Planning Sustainable Places Studies

BACKGROUND:

In 2012, MARC launched the Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) program, a combined initiative to provide communities with pre-development resources to advance sustainable projects in their corridors and centers. In 2020, the Sustainable Places Policy Committee (SPPC) worked with MARC staff for the deployment of this program in 2021. MARC staff conducted an initial review and scoring of 30 applications and worked with the SPPC to develop a recommended list of awardees. This list of 2021 funding awardees was approved by the MARC Board of Directors in September of 2020.

Federal funds and local matching funds are received by MARC in order to advance each one of the PSP studies. Local sponsors are responsible for local match requirements. The consultant contracts for the projects will be held by MARC; authorization for those individual contracts will be brought to the MARC board after they have been negotiated.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

PROJECTED REVENUES	
KS Surface Transportation Program	\$ 600,000
MO Federal Transportation Admin.	\$ 349,000
Local Match from Project Sponsors	\$ 536,700
Transportation Fee	\$ 9,490
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$ 71,175
Contractual	\$ 1,371,940

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to enter into agreements with KDOT, Missouri Federal Transit Administration, and various local sponsors as indicated in attached table for the receipt of funds to deploy 2021 Planning Sustainable Places studies.

STAFF CONTACT:

Darryl Fields
Patrick Trouba
Martin Rivarola
Ron Achelpohl

2021 Planning Sustainable Places |

State	Project Number	Sponsor	Project Title	Federal Amount	Local	Total
KS	29	Unified Government	Countywide Mobility and TOD Strategy	\$ 135,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 300,000
KS	52	Unified Government	Going Green with Groundwork + UG: Developing a NE KCK Heritage Trail and GI Project	\$ 108,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 138,000
KS	33	City of Overland Park	Merriam Drive Gateways Corridor Study	\$ 100,000	\$ 36,200	\$ 136,200
KS	5	City of Osawatomie	OZ Commons - Downtown Osawatomie Redevelopment	\$ 42,500	\$ 25,000	\$ 67,500
KS	22	City of Westwood	47th Place Complete Streets Planning	\$ 35,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 50,000
KS	30	City of Merriam	Downtown Merriam Corridor	\$ 59,500	\$ 60,500	\$ 120,000
KS	45	City of Basehor	Basehor Active Transportation Master Plan	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 55,000
KS	9	City of Overland Park	College & Metcalf Walkability Study	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 75,000
MO	50	RideKC Development Corporation	Station Area Plan: 35th and Prospect	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000
MO	8	City of Kansas City	Transportation Element of the KC Spirit Playbook	\$ 94,500	\$ 40,000	\$ 134,500
MO	17	City of Grandview	Blue Ridge Blvd. Corridor Study - I-49 to Grandview Road	\$ 55,250	\$ 25,000	\$ 80,250
MO	39	City of Kansas City	West Pennway Street Redesign Plan	\$ 38,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 48,000
MO	28	City of North Kansas City	East-West Connectivity Study	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000
MO	26	City of Kansas City	Blue Parkway/Swope Parkway Pedestrian Facilities	\$ 25,075	\$ 45,000	\$ 70,075
			Grand Total	\$ 877,825	\$ 536,700	\$ 1,414,525
			KS Total	\$ 555,000	\$ 386,700	\$ 941,700
			MO Total	\$ 322,825	\$ 150,000	\$ 472,825

Funds to Program: KS - \$555,000 MO - \$322,825

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-j
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the 2021 First Quarter Amendment to the 2020-24 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. MARC amends the *TIP* on a quarterly cycle and as needed to accommodate changes to projects.

The proposed 2021 First Quarter Amendment to the *2020-24 Transportation Improvement Programs* includes 30 projects:

- 20 new projects to be added, including but not limited to:
 - #280171 - I-70; Bridge replacement at I-635
 - #380195 - Prairie Star Parkway and K-7 Ramp Signalization
 - #490216 - I-29; Scoping for bridge replacement over 72nd Street
 - #690597 - I-435; Scoping for bridge replacement over 87th Street
 - #995211 - Advance Drive Assistance System for ADA Compliant Level Boarding for BRT
- 10 modified projects
 - Scope
 - Schedule
 - Budget

Details of these projects are available for review on the Internet at:

<http://www.marc.org/Transportation/Plans-Studies/Transportation-Plans-and-Studies/TIP/TIP-Amendment-Archive/Archive-assets/21Q1amend.aspx>

MARC's Public Involvement Plan requires that proposed amendments to the TIP be released for public review and comment prior to adoption. No comments from the public were received.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Total Transportation Policy Committee approved this amendment on January 19, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2021 First Quarter Amendment to the *2020-24 Transportation Improvement Program*.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl
Marc Hansen

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-k
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

VOTE: Accept Funds from Local Governments for the Regional Water Quality Public Education Program

BACKGROUND:

Since 2003, MARC has assisted area communities in complying with state and federal storm water permit requirements. As a part of those efforts, MARC convenes a Water Quality Education Committee, which develops and implements a coordinated public education campaign about the importance of clean water. The committee is comprised of representatives from local government and environmental groups with expertise in water quality. Funding for the committee and related water quality education and outreach activities is contributed by area local governments.

The Water Quality Education Committee will begin its eighteenth annual public education campaign in 2021. The yearlong campaign will support a combination of regional events, training programs, posters and brochures, media spots, giveaways, online and print materials, and staff time. The program budget for 2021 is \$146,000. Communities anticipated to contribute to the 2021 program include:

- Clay County, Missouri
- Excelsior Springs, Missouri
- Gladstone, Missouri
- Peculiar, Missouri
- Platte County, Missouri
- Sugar Creek, Missouri
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Lake Lotawana, Missouri
- Liberty, Missouri
- Lenexa, Kansas
- **Lee's Summit**, Missouri
- Overland Park, Kansas
- Independence, Missouri
- Jackson County, Missouri
- Johnson County, Kansas
- Raymore, Missouri
- Raytown, Missouri
- Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas
- Weatherby Lake, Missouri

Member contributions are at the rate of 10 cents per capita with Kansas City, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas being the largest contributors at \$45,000 annually. Johnson County, Kansas provides funding on behalf of the county and many of the smaller communities in Johnson County. Additional communities may join the program during the program year.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Expenditures have been planned and approved by the committee and will be limited to match available resources from participating communities.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$146,000
Source	Member Fees
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$75,000
Contractual (workshops/conference)	\$20,000
Other (educational supplies, printing, etc.)	\$26,000
Grant Program	\$25,000

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to accept approximately \$146,000 in funds from participating local governments to support the 2021 water quality education program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tom Jacobs

Synthia Isah

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021

Item No. 7-I

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize MARC to Contract with Partner Agencies to Provide Medically Sensitive Home-Delivered Meals

BACKGROUND:

MARC accepts responses to its Integrated Care Network Partner Services RFP on a rolling basis. MARC previously issued an SFY 2021 RFP for Medically Sensitive Home-Delivered Meals and received several responses for the Kansas City metro area. MARC received responses from two Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs): Care Connections for Aging Services in Warrensburg, MO and Young at Heart Resources in St. Joseph, MO. MARC also received a response from Metro Lutheran Ministries.

Under new Managed Services Network (MSN) integrated care contracts, service provision is needed for the following services. The AAAs have proposed services only outside of the metro area:

AAAs and Metro Lutheran Ministries

- Assessment
- Community Care Management
- Evidence-Based Programs

AAAs

- Food Sourcing
- Food Packaging/Re-Packaging
- Food Delivery

Rates for Integrated Care Network Partner Services are delineated in the posted RFP and are occasionally altered according to health care contract specifications. Assessment is generally a part of community care management, but a telephonic Social Determinants of Health screening will be reimbursed at \$20/completed assessment due to a high number of assessed clients not converting to the community care management service. Without assessment compensation, lack of conversion places community-based organizations at risk of financial loss.

Rates for medically sensitive home-delivered meals will be negotiated with the AAAs but should not exceed a maximum of \$6.50 per meal.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
BlueKC Covid Initiative - Sister AAAs, outside of KC Metro	\$50,000
Source - BlueKC, grant funding, and other MSN sources	All plans and products - benefit has been established for all members who test positive for COVID-19
MSN revenues, Metro Lutheran Ministries	\$25,000
Source - BlueKC; Older Americans Act; grant funding, and other MSN sources	
PROJECTED EXPENSES (outside of metro region)	
Contractual	\$75,000

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The MARC Commission on Aging recommended authorization to contract with MSN partners at its January 13 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to contract with selected MSN partners.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-m
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize RFPs and Extend Contracts to Support Aging and Adult Services

BACKGROUND:

To strategically plan for the next program year, the Department of Aging and Adult Services and MARC Commission on Aging will develop several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for services to begin on July 1, 2021 and extend through June 30, 2022.

Services include:

- Grandparents-as-Parents programming under the National Family Caregiver Support program
- In-Home Services (Title IIIB and IIIE)
 - Including Financial Management Services for Consumer-Directed Services models

The RFP documents will be released on January 29, 2021. Proposals submitted in response to these documents will be due at the MARC office no later than March 5, 2021.

Due to program stresses under the global pandemic, the department recommends an additional year of contract renewal for the following service lines, and authorization to consider regular COLA increases, if applicable and requested by the provider:

- Case management
- Structured Respite
- Rural transportation (reserve transportation)
- Pre-plated HDM
- Catered Meals
- Community Center Services

Due to varying factors, the department has identified approximately \$2.78 million in unallocated funds that are at risk of expiration (\$817,013) or undesirable carryover (\$1,962,987) by September 30, 2021. Approval is requested to develop and issue special supplemental RFPs, if required, to expend these **dollars prior to expiration or carryover, under the funds' respective titles or program areas. Identified** projects or expanded services will be brought forward for final approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The MARC Commission on Aging recommended authorization to release SFY 2022 RFPs, extend selected contracts, and develop and release special supplemental RFPs for existing services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize release of **Aging's** SFY 2022 RFPs, extend selected contracts, and develop and release special supplemental RFPs for existing services.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

January 2021
Item No. 7-n
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a Contract with Johnny Lightning Strikes Again for Redesign of **MARC's** Website

BACKGROUND:

The current MARC website was launched in 2013 and has not undergone a significant upgrade in its lifetime. The site is managed using an outdated content management system, is not mobile responsive, and relies on cumbersome menus and rigid templates that make integrating media and other interactive content difficult. While the site contains an abundance of quality content, it needs a content audit to determine what information is outdated, redundant, or better suited to another content form. We also maintain several sites outside the main system because the current site cannot handle the content, scope, or design needs of these sites.

MARC needs a new website that delivers the right content to the right people in the right way. The new marc.org will be:

- Clean, modern, and visually pleasing
- Easy to navigate and search
- Mobile responsive and ADA compliant
- Easy to manage, including adding and editing pages and documents
- Able to organize and display a variety of content types including text, images, documents, events, and data
- Able to connect to other systems such as our event management system or contacts database
- Able to display embedded content such as maps, charts, and graphs

MARC Public Affairs staff drafted an RFP to find a web partner to help with this overhaul and redesign and received 31 proposals from agencies around the world. Using criteria outlined in the RFP – technical and documented approach, experience and personnel, proposed timeline and budget, and cost competitiveness – we narrowed the list down to 10 agencies. We shared the 10 proposals with a group of MARC staff representing programs and departments from across the agency. Based on the **work group's review and feedback, we narrowed the list down to three agencies to interview.** We conducted interviews the first week of January that included Public Affairs staff as well as eight available staff members from the internal work group. Based on feedback from the interviews, we checked references for two agencies.

Using all this input, we want to pursue a contract with Johnny Lightning Strikes Again (JLSA). We feel their knowledge and experience with auditing and organizing content as well as their approach to the underlying technology is well-suited to our organization. They presented a tailored approach that we feel will result in a custom website that will meet our current needs and allow us to grow. As a Kansas City-based agency, they bring an understanding of the history and culture of the region as well as a desire to contribute to its continued growth and success.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The website redesign project was included in Indirect in the 2020/2021 Budget. The intent is to have JLSA host the website. They also offer maintenance and disaster recovery services (\$4,290) and an ongoing support retainer (up to \$20,000) that we will most likely commit to upon completion of the project. Funding for these two options would be included in dollars budgeted for contractual services. We anticipate this project taking most of the year to complete.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

REVENUE	
Budgeted in Indirect for this Project	\$ 75,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Initial contract for strategy, planning, design, development and deployment of new website	\$60,000
Third-party web hosting	\$4,290/year

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to contract with Johnny Lightning Strikes Again for web redesign and web hosting, maintenance, disaster recovery, and ongoing support services, in a total amount not to exceed \$86,390.

STAFF CONTACT:

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