

SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2022 Meeting Summary

Committee Members

Logan Heley, City of Overland Park, Kansas Co-chair
Mayor Dean Katerndahl, City of Parkville, Missouri Co-chair
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Katie Jardieu, City of Raymore
Mark O'Hara, Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects
Erin Ollig, City of Overland Park
Michael Park, City of Lee's Summit
Allison Smith, KDOT
Marisela Ward, MoDOT

Guests

Noel Bennion, City of Riverside
Nicolas Bosonetto, City of Kansas City, Missouri
Sara Copeland, Burns & McDonnell
Matt Davis, Jackson County
Bobby Evans, City of Kansas City, Missouri
Leslie Herring, City of Westwood
Chase Johnson, Port KC
Karrie Kneller, City of Mission
Sean Partain, WSP
Jayne Siemens, Venice Communications
Krystal Voth, Leavenworth County
Maddie Waldeck, City of Basehor
Doug Wesselschmidt, Grandview
Deanne Winkelmann, TranSystems
Xue Wood, City of North Kansas City

MARC Staff Present

Ron Achelpohl, Megan Broll, Erin Cardwell, Taylor Cunningham, Beth Dawson, Tom Jacobs, Marlene Nagel, Martin Rivarola

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 9:00am, with Kansas Co-chair, Logan Heley asking all those in the MARC Board Room to introduce themselves, then asked those on Zoom to introduce themselves.

Approval of August 12, 2022 Meeting Summary

There were no edits to the meeting summary. Erin Ollig moved that the meeting summary be approved. Jon Birkel seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved unanimously.

Planning Sustainable Places Project Funding Recommendation

Beth Dawson presented on funding recommendations, starting with how she contacted Missouri applicants to see how scope would be affected by reduced level of funding. Four plans increased their local match so there is no change to their budget/project (Independence Transportation for All Plan, Multi-County Regional Bike/Ped Highway Barrier Removal Project, Southwest Boulevard Transportation Study, and Riverfront Levee Trail). The Vine Street with Greenline Connector and Harry Truman Drive and Presidential Trail Enhancement projects had no change in scope due to reduced funding. The remaining three projects adjusted their scope;

The Parkville ADA Transition Plan reduced their pilot area and will focus on downtown based on the reduction of funds awarded. The Greenwood Connected project would remove stormwater elements but will address that outside their PSP project; they originally planned on a larger area for public engagement, but will continue with original extent of public engagement through their Comprehensive Plan in 2023. The Berkley Riverfront Connectivity Study will remove small-scale automated transit, and scale engagement and scenario development.

Comments from the committee included concern about the requirements of an enriched community engagement process not being specific enough. Beth Dawson mentioned the link in the application to the public participation plan, but would be more explicit in future applications. Logan Heley asked about small scale transit for the Berkley Riverfront project and if that would be included in the future; Chase Johnson answered they would look into a project parallel to the PSP grant in the next couple of years.

Jon Birkel moved to approve funding recommendations for Missouri project as presented by MARC staff. Erin Ollig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Housing Data Hub Update

Logan Heley introduced MARC data analyst Erin Cardwell and asked committee members to consider what data and information would be important to planning into integration of housing and transportation. Erin Cardwell introduced the Housing Data Hub tool (www.marc.org/housingdatahub) and mentioned its continuous design process, with more users and use cases added and more features and functionality added based on feedback. Ms. Cardwell walked committee members through various functions of the site, filtering various levels of income and property ownership among selected geography tracts.

The committee discussed looking at data across areas (specifically around transportation corridors and densities around those corridors), and while that isn't a current feature, Ms. Cardwell encouraged requests to be submitted to the feedback form to further improve the hub. Data utilized is based on what is available and will be automatically updated, with the potential to pull data from other sources (such as Zillow) in future updates.

Transportation Planning Work Development

Logan Heley introduced Ron Achelpohl to present the transportation planning program for next year. The document used for this planning is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and is updated annually to include all FHWA and FTA planning activities, as well as other regionally significant plans. Mr. Achelpohl described some major activities included in the plan, such as the Connected KC 2050 update, developing a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), planning requirements for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act, MARC directed plans and studies (including the Bi-State Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor Plan), planning around major events in the region, and plans and studies conducted by partner agencies.

The UPWP schedule is in the draft stage, with presentation to the Total Transportation Policy Committee and release for public comment in October, and review and approval following in November. Mr. Achelpohl asked if any of the planning initiatives described were of particular interest to the SPPC, and if any regional planning work being accomplished without federal funds needed to be added to the UPWP.

Committee members asked if data could be evaluated to study commuting and density around traffic corridors, and how it relates to housing affordability. Mr. Achelpohl said that data is available, and agreed that these were important issues to consider. What transportation investments can be made along corridors while considering gentrification?

Information about communities that would benefit from high capacity transit was also discussed, especially with regard to Kansas residents' access to the airport.

Committee Work Plan Discussion

Mayor Dean Katterndahl proposed discussion topics for agenda items in 2023, and how this committee can prioritize those topics and have a greater impact on MARC planning. What should the Long-Range Transportation Plan Land Use priorities be? What work will we do as an organization to integrate these topics (housing, workforce, transportation, child care, environment)? Mayor Katterndahl would like to see the committee do a better job of integrating economic development and sustainable places.

Since the next round of PSP will occur in 2024, the committee discussed engaging with the long range transportation plan, working on developing the Housing Data Hub (and possibly incorporating that into the transportation plan update), and providing input on sustainability to the regional economic development plan. Discussion followed about studying other cities and corridors to evaluate housing equity and affordability, multimodal transportation options, creative public land usage, and revenue generated by parking/car-specific land use. Committee members discussed watching market investments and trends with special attention to housing.

The committee expressed interest in providing input to the public participation plan update to better understand barriers faced in the community with regard to the long range transportation plan.

Committee members from smaller municipalities requested advice about applying sustainability lens to smaller/more rural environments lacking some infrastructure. The committee showed interest in creating a guide for developing nodes (small areas that can exist in multiple urban or rural environments), how different concepts can be applied to different environments and scales, and how it can be discussed within the community. Members discussed reevaluating potentially outdated or less relevant viewpoints on the connection between housing density and transportation quality. The book “Transport for Suburbia” by Paul Mees was recommended to expand on the topic.

Committee Member Updates

Mayor Katterndahl updated that the City of Parkville had just completed the first leg of their Complete Streets project on Highway 9. Community reception has been positive and the project has improved community walkability.

The comprehensive plan in the City of Overland Park has just begun.

Other Items

MARC is accepting submissions for resilience success stories that align with Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan until September 20th. The next SPPC meeting will be November 4th, with plans to approve the 2023 Committee Work Plan as well as the Regional Updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan (CEDS). MARC is hosting in-person and virtual workshops on regional broadband infrastructure and digital equity strategy, and will send out more information. For anyone invited to participate in upcoming focus groups to help refine priorities for Housing Data Hub developments, please email Erin Cardwell (ecardwell@marc.org) with your name, role, and contact information. The SPPC helped review the first phase of project applications for suballocated federal transportation funds for the region; the second phase applications are up on the ConnectedKC.org website under the funding tab, and we are currently soliciting public comments on applications.

Adjournment

Seeing no further discussion items, Logan Heley adjourned the meeting.