

# MEETING SUMMARY

## AIR QUALITY FORUM

June 11, 2024

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

MARC Board Room (Hybrid)

### Members and Alternate in Attendance:

Nicole Weidenbreren, MDNR  
Tiffany Le, KC  
Rollin Sachs, Johnson County Health  
Justis Welker, Johnson County Transit  
Josh Wood, Olathe  
Carol Adams, KCMO Environmental Management  
Sullivan Brown, Weather or Not  
Allison Smith, KDOT  
Jeniffer Stewart, Unified Government Health Dept.  
Mark Leath, MDNR  
Kelly Doberman  
Richard Rocha, Bayer  
Dan Williams, KCMO  
Jody Gooseman, KCMO  
Wes Minder, Platte County  
Melissa Bybee, Evergy  
Jim Starcev, KC Digital Drive  
Kelly Gilber, Metro Energy Center/ Clean Cities  
Doug Watson, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

### MARC Staff:

Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Doug Norsby, MARC  
Rachel Krause, MARC  
Karen Clawson, MARC

#### 1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum

#### 2. Approval of April Meeting Summary

April Meeting Summary Approved

#### 3. PM2.5 Designation Recommendation Processes

Doug Watson presented about the New PM2.5 standard and designation process.

- PM2.5 are the smallest particulate matter particles that are regulated.
- More monitoring stations are located in large population centers, but stations also monitor in rural areas of Kansas.

- Monitoring sites need to have 3 years of monitoring data. EPA is strengthening the annual standard from 11 micrograms per cubic meter to 9 micrograms per cubic meter.
- The EPA is not changing any other PM standards.
- The EPA is reviewing the Air Quality Index to better communicate about the PM2.5 risks.
- One issue that Kansas is having is spearing the air quality information from wildfires or dust storms versus traditional exposures. The EPA can choose to not include data that has been influenced by exceptional events to see if the data will not be held to the new standard.
- Some data from the reporting machines had a high bias and were recalculated to address this issue. The corrected data has a lower PM2.5 reporting. 5 sites currently do not meet the standard.
- Exceptional events are not currently factored into the data. The state will use the EPA recommendations by using 5 factors including current monitoring data. New standards came out in February 2024 and the state will have a year to submit their new data.

Nichole Weidenbreren presented about the PM2.5 standard for 2024.

- Only one monitoring station in Missouri violated the updated PM2.5 standard.
- Missouri is still evaluating whether to submit an exceptional event for the Canadian wildfires which may have affected the monitoring stations.
- Several monitoring stations in Illinois and Kansas violates the standard. The monitor that violates the standard is located in Saint Louis.
- Public comment regarding the standard will open on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A public hearing will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **4. Connected KC 2050 Regional Survey**

Karen Clawson presented about the findings from the Connected KC 2050 regional survey.

- A statistically valid survey was conducted to accurately represent the needs of citizens. The goal was to have 1,500 respondents and that goal was exceed with 1,770 respondents.
- The survey focused on the importance/satisfaction of transportation, priorities for transportation funding, support for potential new finding sources, electric vehicles interest and barriers, and demographics.
- Demographics included 21% of non-white respondents, 10% are Latino, 50% have an income of less than 100,000 and 50% use transit (weather it is rarely or frequently).
- Very high priorities include affordable housing options and access to jobs via public transit. High priorities include road and bridge construction, housing choices, walkable and bikeable communities, and a healthy environment. Medium priorities include transportation choices, safety, travel time, bikeways, resilient infrastructure, and travel time for freight trucks.
- Most important categories of service include support projects and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged populations, reducing climate pollution and greenhouse gases, and increase in alternative transportation.
- High priority for funding projects included bike paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks and maintenance of highway systems.
- Over 50% of respondents said they have no interest in buying an electric vehicle. The greatest barriers include vehicle purchase price, insufficient driving range, and lack of charging stations.

**5. Transportation and Partner Updates**

a. Update on Programming Process for the Carbon Reduction and Congestion Mitigation Programs

Karen Clawson presented about the programming process and the updates from the Total Transportation Policy Committee. A new committee was created, and membership structure and bylaws are currently being planned. The committee will be called TEC.

**6. State Rules in Progress**

Doug Watson spoke about the Kansas state legislature who passed a law that requires all state agencies to make reports regarding air quality. Nichole Weidenbreren spoke about the new rules that are being worked on. Additionally, the DERA application process is opened.

**7. Other Business**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**8. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**