

SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE

November 8, 2024 Meeting Summary

Committee Members

Mayor Dean Katerndahl, Parkville, MO Co-chair
Councilmember Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS Co-chair
Brian Alferman, Johnson County, KS
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Maddie Bouton, Basehor, KS
Cathy Justice, Bridging the Gap
Janet McRae, Miami County, KS
Erin Ollig, Overland Park, KS
Michael Park, Lee's Summit, MO

Guests

Davonna Moore-Edeh, CDM Smith
Sean Partain, Olsson
Triveece Penelton, Vireo
Gerald Williams, Kansas City, MO
Juan Yin, MoDOT

MARC Staff Present

Beth Dawson, Ron Achelpohl, Megan Broll, Frank Lenk, Marlene Nagel, Martin Rivarola, Cy Smith, Patrick Trouba, Anna Van Brunt

Welcome and Introductions

Missouri Co-Chair Mayor Dean Katerndahl called the meeting to order. Introductions in-person and online followed.

Approval of September 13, 2024 Meeting Summary

Kansas Co-Chair Councilmember Logan Heley called for any additions or corrections to the meeting summary draft; none were suggested. Missouri Co-Chair Mayor Dean Katerndahl motioned to accept the meeting summary; Erin Ollig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting summary was approved.

Connected Freight KC 2050 Study Report

Davonna Moore-Edeh of CDM Smith reviewed the ongoing freight plan. The plan has completed its first phase (which assesses current conditions), and is now focusing on proactive planning during phase two of the study. This includes defining roles and responsibilities of planning agencies, integrating freight planning into the regional transportation planning process, and supporting regional, state, and federal freight goals. Regional goals extend beyond the MARC boundaries, as the study encompasses fourteen counties, including rural and urban areas.

Central points of discussion included how freight should impact corridors and activity centers, how freight should integrate with other modes of transportation, and how a "freight-focused" atlas layer could be developed and what it would include. Ms. Moore-Edeh acknowledged Kansas City's centralized geographic location being desirable to certain industries, and how economic impacts and infrastructure investments need to be balanced with environmental needs

(such as proactively planning freight facilities with consideration for utilities, workforce, and associated residential and transportation development). The committee discussed challenges in how freight centers can create vibrancy, and be in close proximity with centers and corridors without conflicting with one another, with particular attention to safety in train/highway crossings and air quality. The conversation also included housing/workforce needs and how to integrate last mile delivery with bikeability and walkability. The committee discussed land use considerations and potential strategies, and Ms. Moore-Edeh noted that the plan intends to work with MARC's Goods Movement committee to develop guidelines to share with local municipalities. Additionally, creating a freight data layer in the PSP Atlas may help understand how housing, jobs, and industry centers relate, and provide opportunities to mitigate issues like heat island effects, energy consumption, or air/noise pollution.

Next steps in the study include scenario planning workshops, and Ms. Moore-Edeh invited committee members to attend and participate in other public engagement efforts. More information on the study is available at: bit.ly/ConnectedFreight-2050.

Presentation of small-area/census tract level forecast

Director of Research Services Frank Lenk presented the first draft land use forecasts for the long-range transportation plan update. The forecast shows population change by census tract, and while household sizes have declined for 2020-2050, neighborhood strength is measured on occupied households and appears less affected. The employment forecast includes development projects in progress, and shows some significant growth in certain areas. The Technical Forecast Committee is still reviewing data and has asked committee members to share any projects in their respective development pipelines that may not currently be included in the forecast to help improve the model.

Connected KC 2050 Project Prioritization, Upcoming Engagement and Next Steps

Assistant Director of Transportation and Land Use Martin Rivarola shared the latest report on the update to the long range metropolitan transportation plan (Connected KC 2050). Mr. Rivarola reviewed progress on the update up to this point, and shared feedback received from SPPC and other committees, including proposed language revisions and adjustments to the plan. The plan is currently structured with five goals and five broad overarching strategies, and Mr. Rivarola specified the proposed changes to the goals centered around access to opportunity, healthy environment, and transportation choices, and the proposed new goal around housing. Proposed updates to two of the five overarching strategies apply to climate protection and resilience and data and technology, and there are proposed changes for several of the detailed strategies (including newly added strategies). Mr. Rivarola outlined next steps, including an open house scheduled for Thursday, November 14th.

The committee noted that some strategies would be outcomes of other strategies, and discussed prioritizing certain strategies to maximize benefits; Mr. Rivarola noted that feedback frequently sought from stakeholders showed reluctance to weight certain strategies over others, but that it is an ongoing consideration. The committee also shared comments on digital connectivity, broader language to apply to multi family housing, and advocacy for revenue streams to support transit and bicycle/pedestrian development.

2025 Committee Work Plan Discussion

The Co-Chairs discussed committee goals for 2025, with special attention to developing

definitions for a successful center or corridor, and how it may vary depending on setting. The committee also expressed interest in recruiting more members and building engagement.

Other Business

Committee members were invited to share local projects and events. Jon Birkel shared about the new Ace Hardware industrial building off I-29, which will employ thousands of people and prompt local investments to support housing and transportation for that workforce.

No further business was called. The next SPPC meeting will be on January 10th. The meeting was adjourned.