

SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE

January 26, 2024 Meeting Summary

Committee Members

Mayor Dean Katerndahl, Parkville, MO Co-chair
Councilmember Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS Co-chair
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Edwin Lowndes, Kansas City, MO
Janet McRae, Miami County, KS
Erin Ollig, Overland Park, KS
Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Westside Housing Organization
Michael Park, Lee's Summit, MO
Allison Smith, KDOT
Commissioner Scott Wagner, Clay County, MO
Maddie Waldeck, Basehor, KS
Gerald (Bo) Williams, Kansas City, MO

Guests

Krystal Jolly, MoDOT
Jen Jordan-Spence, Gardner, KS

MARC Staff Present

Beth Dawson, Megan Broll, Taylor Cunningham, Tom Jacobs, Marlene Nagel, Patrick Trouba

Welcome and Introductions

Missouri Co-chair Mayor Dean Katerndahl called the meeting to order. Introductions in-person and online followed. Gerald Williams noted he was attending on behalf of Jeff Williams.

Approval of November 3, 2023 Meeting Summary*

Co-Chair Katerndahl called for any additions or corrections to the meeting summary draft; none were suggested. Erin Ollig motioned to accept the meeting summary, Jon Birkel seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting summary was approved.

Activity Center Map Update

Principal Planner Beth Dawson with MARC reminded the committee of recent data updates to the Activity Center Map, and reviewed comments received. The Activity Center Map (available on the MARC website at <https://marc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=948661000b344dd2a1456f3f4f7d19b8>), helps identify areas of intensity at a parcel level across the region. The resource was shared across the region and opened for comments, and feedback was divided into categories of land use classification issues, data lag issues, current projects under construction, parcel focus versus larger area, and methodology limitations. Beyond methodology constraints, Ms. Dawson noted a consideration for improving the map is to better refine the definition of centers and corridors. Currently, population density, employment density, multi-family housing present, and schools present determine centers and corridors; as a result, some parcels may be classified on the map as low level activity centers but may experience a

high volume of traffic/activity, such as Ikea. Committee members asked about other transportation data, and Ms. Dawson noted transit routes, multi-use paths, bike paths, etc. are not included in the map. Sales and land tax were also discussed, but the geography level of data available can be limiting for the kinds of analyses intended by the map. After MARC responds to feedback received and evaluates the methodology for improvements, the map will be available for use.

Long Range Transportation Plan Regional Survey

Beth Dawson shared information about the regional transportation survey being conducted by ETC Institute, which will be mailed to all nine MARC counties. This random survey will oversample, offer multiple ways to submit answers (including Spanish options), and offer gift card drawings to improve response rates. The survey is intended to help demonstrate the region's priorities and needs (particularly in outlying communities), and will inform the Connected KC 2050 regional transportation plan, programs, and future activities. The survey is expected to take three months to complete, at which time SPPC will receive a report on survey results. MARC also recently offered a self-select survey, and will compare those results to that of the random sample survey. The committee discussed details about the demographic information that will be requested in the random sample, as well as questions about commuting for work.

Priority Climate Action Plan and EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant

Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director Tom Jacobs updated the committee on progress towards MARC's regional application for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant. The proposal is divided into three parts; leveraging public leadership, neighborhood resilience, and critical infrastructure resilience. Mr. Jacobs went more in depth on each component, speaking to collaboration with local government/communities, examples of neighborhood resilience at the single family, multi-family, and community levels, and projects at a higher level of scale that connect neighborhoods and restore natural areas. Mr. Jacobs also discussed supporting the circular economy of compost infrastructure and the solid waste management system.

Calling back to previous discussions, Mr. Jacobs addressed the hyper-local nature of some of these investments relative to PSP projects, and how resources can fit into corridors and larger areas of project investment in ways that weren't invested in previously (such as heat islands or green infrastructure). The committee also discussed retro-fit housing versus new construction, location of housing and transportation needs, and how to create the biggest impact on greenhouse gas emissions (and produce a competitive grant application) in relation to those concerns. The EPA's requirements to demonstrate a certain amount of impact within a five year period also have implications for short-term versus long-term goals.

Committee Guiding Document and Work Priorities Discussion

Beth Dawson reviewed the draft guiding document provided to the committee prior to the meeting, sharing components of the document on background, the committee's role, membership type and terms, meetings, and governing policies. The committee discussed how the context provided in the background section could inform the section on the committee's role, and how word choice such as "promote" was intentionally broad to allow for some flexibility. The membership section outlined the roles and perspectives of committee members, split across 17

categories. With two representatives desired for each category, the maximum number of members would be 34; Ms. Dawson acknowledged that some members may overlap categories, so the committee minimum would be 17 members. While term lengths are not intended to limit membership, a membership term of three years was recommended to allow opportunities to revisit roles to ensure active participation among members. Co-Chairs would be elected for each state, and their roles would be defined in the document. The committee chose not to set an attendance requirement, but did wish to include a policy to determine cause for review and dismissal of a member.

The committee discussed work priorities, revisiting clarifying the definition of centers and corridors. Definition would include the importance of centers and corridors, how it applies across the region, what determines their success, and their potential benefits. Members suggested reviewing locations and density of centers and corridors, and establishing priority centers and corridors for investment that would maximize sustainability and equity benefits. The committee also discussed determining and providing tools beyond funding that communities need to inform sustainable decision making and development (such as development pattern planning, tools for measuring costs/impacts, etc.).

Co-Chairs Heley and Katerndahl encouraged the committee to consider the feasibility of work priorities over the course of the year, noting that establishing the definition of centers and corridors for the region can help provide a base for other related efforts. Later this year the committee will also review and program funding for 2025 PSP projects. Engaging with previous PSP grantees to self-identify centers and corridors as well as provide feedback on the PSP application should be considered in anticipation of future calls for projects. The committee expressed interest in a panel of PSP grantees, survey, density analysis, and case studies/local examples to inform the definition of centers and corridors. Filling committee members roles in various perspectives would also help evaluate and establish priorities and definitions.

Updated Whistleblower Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy

Director of Community Development Marlene Nagel introduced and reviewed the Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest Policies, designed to provide guidance when committee members may personally financially benefit from funding decisions. Ms. Nagel clarified when committee members should vote or discuss projects they may have involvement in and when they should abstain, depending on their relationship to the project.

Other Business

Co-Chair Heley announced the Call for Nominations for the 2024 Regional Leadership Award is currently open, with nominations due by March 1st.

The next SPPC meeting will be Friday, March 8, 2024, and will review the Work Plan Adoption, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Concept, Connected KC 2050 Project Submissions Presentation, and PSP Scoring Recommendation.

Marlene Nagel shared that MARC was one of nine grant recipients nationally by the US Department of Energy to help nonprofits that own their buildings to do energy conservation

work. Later this spring MARC will announce an application process for non-profits to program roughly \$6m.

Erin Ollig shared Overland Park's draft comprehensive plan will be presented to the public and public engagement efforts will continue into the spring.

Co-Chair Heley adjourned the meeting.