

Sustainable Places Policy Committee | Guiding Document

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) serves local governments in the Kansas City metropolitan area through leadership, planning and action to address interjurisdictional issues that impact the growth and development of the region. MARC has significant formal roles in regional transportation and environmental planning as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization and Air Quality Forum. While land use planning and zoning authority is reserved for local governments, MARC supports this role by integrating local land use strategies into regional plans and programs and by providing tools and resources to assist local governments in sustainable land use planning and development.

Since 2010, MARC and its members have pursued a strategy of promoting sustainable growth and development focused on locally identified activity centers and corridors that connect them throughout the region. The Sustainable Places Policy Committee (SPPC) was created and authorized by the MARC Board in 2014 to lead MARC's work in promoting a regional framework for integrated land use, transportation and environmental planning and policy development.

The role of the Sustainable Places Policy Committee is to:

- Promote sustainable growth and development in centers and corridors as the foundation for the region's integrated transportation and environmental planning,
- Advise the MARC Board of Directors and other MARC committees on land use implications for regional plans and programs, and
- Provide tools and resources to local governments (including but not limited to the Planning Sustainable Places' grants) to plan and develop successful centers and corridors at all scales that also preserve and value the unique local contexts of individual communities.

To further this role the committee's membership roster will include individuals who represent perspectives that are important to informing decisions and activities undertaken by the committee. The perspectives that will be represented are as follows in alphabetical order:

- Architecture/Landscape Architecture: insight regarding the built environment and understanding of relevant processes.
- Centers: insight regarding the activities for vibrant centers and evolving needs. Representatives could come from downtown councils/business organizations.
- Community Development: insight regarding disadvantaged community needs and insights for effective community outreach and engagement. Representative could come from Community Development Corporations or Community Development Finance Institution.
- Corridors: insight regarding the activities for vibrant corridors and their evolving needs. Representatives could come from business organizations or CIDs.
- Department of Transportation: insight to regional and state priorities in addition to advisory role for Planning Sustainable Places regulatory requirements. A representative from each state DOT will serve on the committee.
- Developers: insight regarding local market realities and trends.
- Economic Development: insight regarding the local market and its realities. Representatives could come from economic development agencies, jurisdiction economic development departments or local chambers of commerce.
- Elected Officials: insight to the political realities of the region. An elected official from each state will serve as the co-chairs of the committee.
- Environment: insight regarding the natural environment, local conditions and needs. Representatives could come from jurisdiction sustainability staff, local conservation professionals or other natural resource professionals.

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- Housing: insight regarding local housing market and its needs.
- Jurisdiction Administrators: insight regarding local communities and coordination of multiple factors affecting communities.
- Nonprofits: insight regarding local community needs, particularly those addressing the needs of Justice 40 populations.
- Planning Professionals: insight regarding local planning and zoning. Representatives will come from local jurisdiction staff.
- Public Health: insight regarding local health and wellness needs. Representatives could come from jurisdiction health departments, local hospitals or other public health focused entities.
- Public Works: insight regarding infrastructure and relevant processes. Representative will come from local jurisdiction staff.
- Active Transportation: insight regarding transportation issues and needs. Representatives could come from transportation advocacy organizations, transit agencies, or other mode organizations.
- Universities: insight into current practice and emerging trends in land use. Representatives could come from departments focused on planning, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, or environmental studies.

The committee will seat a maximum of two representatives for each of the perspectives listed above for a maximum total of 34 members. In some instances, a member may satisfy more than one perspective. At a minimum the committee will have 17 members. The co-chairs will be appointed by the MARC Board. Responsibilities of the committee co-chairs include recruitment and invitation of committee members.

Members are expected to serve at least three years but may choose to extend their membership. The only exception would be the committee co-chairs whose service is predicated upon maintaining their elected office.

Meeting attendance is considered a duty of committee membership. Regular attendance promotes issue understanding and improves the working relationship between committee members. In order to retain membership, attendance of at least 67% in a 12-month period is required.

The committee will meet in even numbered months, typically on the second Friday. The committee reserves the right to shift the meeting date where doing so would better align a meeting with activities that would impact its work. Examples include but are not limited to awaiting an outside funding award decision, coordination with other committees, or opportunities to hear reports on timely topics from external speakers. The committee also reserves the right to call a special meeting. Examples include special work sessions or meetings in support of Planning Sustainable Places funding awards.

The committee will be governed by the whistleblower policies and conflict of interest policies adopted by the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors.