



Linking Environmental and Transportation Planning Advisory Group

Wednesday, June 10, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Broadway Room (note room change)
600 Broadway, Kansas City, MO

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Announcements and Up-Coming Events.
 - MetroGreen Forum
Thursday, June 18, 10 - 1 pm, MARC Conference Ctr.
RSVP to Jillian Hishaw at jhishaw@marc.org
 - Planning and Environment Linkages Training Webcast
Monday, July 27, 2 - 4 pm, MARC Conference Ctr.
3. *Transportation Outlook 2040*.
 - Draft project selection criteria
 - Presentation and discussion: Paint the Town (land use scenarios)
4. Identification of Top 5 Action Plan Priorities.
5. Dennis Murphey, KCMO Office of Environmental Quality, r.e. Sustainability Project Criteria
6. “Linking” Survey of Municipalities.
7. Other Business.

Parking: Free parking is available when visiting MARC. Visitors and guests should park on the upper level of the garage. To enter this level from Broadway, turn west into the Rivergate Center parking lot. Please use any of the available spaces on the upper level at the top of the ramp.

Special Accommodations: Please notify the Mid-America Regional Council at (816) 474-4240 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend this meeting (i.e., qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance). We will make every effort to meet reasonable requests.

MARC programs that receive federal funding may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color or national origin, according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

SUMMARY

Linking Environmental and Transportation Planning Action Plan Advisory Group

6/10/09

1. Welcome and Introductions

Group members introduced themselves.

2. Announcements and Up-coming Events

- MARC staff mentioned the up-coming MetroGreen Forum to be held Thursday, June 18, from 10 - 1 pm at the MARC Conference Ctr.
- MARC staff mentioned the Planning and Environment Linkages Training Webcast to be held Monday, July 27, from 2 - 4 pm at the MARC Conference Ctr.
- Harold Draper mentioned that he is convening an up-coming meeting of the Mid-America Association of Environmental Professionals. The next meeting will focus on sustainability and the stimulus.
- KC Healthy Kids, in conjunction with MARC, is hosting an Active Living Forum on July 24th with Mark Fenton.
- MARC staff mentioned that the Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC), Air Quality Forum, and MARC Board adopted the Linking Environmental and Transportation Planning Action.

3. Transportation Outlook 2040

a. Draft Project Selection Criteria

- Tom Gerend provided the group with an overview of the June 3rd *Transportation Outlook 2040* Open House and the draft scoring criteria for the up-coming call for transportation projects. The application questions and criteria are tied to the plan's adopted policy goals. After staff scores the projects, the relevant modal committees will have an opportunity to review the list prior to the LRTP Sub-Committee forwarding a recommendation to TTPC and, ultimately, the MARC Board.
- Mark Stuecheli said that the criteria need to have a proper balance. The current list gives greater weight to project location than value.
- Helene Miller asked if, for the environmental policy goal questions, mitigation plans are given consideration. Avoidance of natural areas should be given more weight than replacement of these areas.
- Tom G. said that the environmental assessment will be based on existing data sets, such as the natural resources inventory, but that we will address Helene's suggestion regarding mitigation plans.
- Joel Skelley, KDOT, asked how many local climate change plans are in place, and if there is one over-arching plan for the region. He said that projects will be penalized if there are no plans (citing the criterion related to the inclusion of projects in climate protection plans). Tom G. said that this may not be the best criterion for climate change because few cities/counties have these plans in place and there is not one over-arching plan for the region.
- Helene said that maybe applicants could receive an extra five points if a plan is in place.

- Allison Smith, KDOT, said that, because of the short time-frame between now and when projects have to be submitted, this suggestion won't help their case.
- Tom Jacobs said that there are three local climate protection plans in place – Kansas City, Missouri; Johnson County, Kansas; and Mission, Kansas. Talks are underway regarding development of a regional plan.
- Dale Crawford said that, regarding the place making criteria, not all land use plans are the same, nor do they all support the regional goals. This comment was made in regard to the criterion about project compatibility with local land use plans. Perhaps we should ask if these plans achieve regional goals. Tom G. said that we're deferring to local municipalities regarding compatibility of their projects with land use plans. This question is being supplemented with a question about whether projects support the Creating Quality Places principles.
- Dale said that there should be a comma between bike and ped. to differentiate between these two types of projects. He also asked that we list what "AADT" stands for.
- Marlene suggested that, regarding the climate change question, perhaps we could ask if the project is either part of a local climate protection plan or contributes to greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Mike Beezhold said that some weightings will change as issues are addressed over time, i.e. congestion. What it looks like today won't be what it looks like in the future.
- Ron McLinden asked how we will apply the criteria. He asked what the scores will mean. He wants sponsors to give more thought to projects. For example, if they are rebuilding an intersection, they should be required to add amenities addressing other modes, not produce a result that is just good for cars. Regarding the environment, implementation of MetroGreen is seen as an amenity. He wants points given to those projects that implement the Eco-Logical Action Plan.
- Ron Norris said that the approach is prudent. Need watershed approaches. Region came together around the APWA standards. Once something like this has regulation around it, it will start to have teeth.
- Tom J. said that we are looking at framing the regulatory process around complete and green streets. This would be an analog to the APWA standards.
- Phelps Murdock said that about 20 communities in the region are considering climate protection plans. Need to bring communities together about key things that should be included in a climate protection plan to support the transportation plan.

b. Paint the Town

- Andrea Repinsky provided the group with an overview of the baseline and adaptive future land use scenarios that the Technical Forecast Committee has been developing.
- Ron M. said that we won't get to either scenario - final version will be somewhere in between. However, he'd like to see the region surpass what's included in the adaptive scenario.
- Andrea said that the next step is to fully vet the scenarios with the MARC Board and to develop policies to achieve the desired scenario.
- Tom J. said that the June 3rd open house for *Transportation Outlook 2040* included several comparisons between scenarios, i.e. vehicle miles travelled, land consumption, etc...
- Ron M. asked if the Board is going to be asked to adopt the adaptive as an official forecast. He also asked said that the transportation nomination form include a question regarding how a project moves the region in the direction of the adaptive scenario.

- Tom G. said it is an iterative process. Feedback from the June 3 meeting will be reported back to TTPC. Need to look at how the information informs the Technical Forecast Committee. If the region adopts the adaptive scenario, would want to ask how the project contributes to reaching that scenario.

4. Identification of Top 5 Action Plan Priorities

- Allison said that development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) would provide a good foundation for the group’s work moving forward.
- Helene said that data is a priority for her. She said there is not only a need for better natural resource data, but also for inclusion of this data in the transportation planning process. She would like to see this carried all the way through to project development and construction.
- Stephen VanRhein said that data should be part of MOU.
- Phelps said that a lot of data is already available, and that we have to have faith in it. We need to look at natural resource data and see what’s missing. We also need a tight outline of what this group hopes to achieve, and how the adaptive scenario supports it.
- Harold Draper asked if this advisory group will play some role in the development of the long-range transportation plan.
- Tom G. said that the work of this group will be leveraged in the planning process. For example, we are using environmental data in the planning process, and will be looking at the relationship of projects to the natural environment. We will be providing this group with progress updates and information on the plan as we move forward.
- Mike B. said that, regarding the mitigation strategy, need to get the Corps, DNR, KDHE, and others involved to lay out responsibilities and strategies.
- Joel said finalizing the selection criteria should be a priority.
- Ron M. said that his top three priorities are: 1) “develop transportation plans within the context of a sustainable vision”; 2) “align transportation project selection and funding distribution processes with the vision, goals and measures outlined in the transportation plan”; and 3) “advocate for a stronger emphasis on the natural environment, including energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and multi-modal transportation options, in the next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill”.
- MARC staff said that, as a next step, they will review exiting MOUs in place between natural resource agencies and transportation agencies, and will develop a new draft MOU that will be available at the next meeting.
- Ron N. asked to which vision the plan is referring when it talks about aligning to a vision. He said there needs to be a line of sight to the vision with each decision and portion of the plan. MARC staff said that the plan is referring to both a regional and transportation plan vision in this case. The new regional transportation plan references a regional sustainability vision, as well as a transportation vision.
- Mike B. said that there are differences of scale. Sustainability should be core principle.

5. Dennis Murphey, KCMO Office of Environmental Quality, r.e. Sustainability Project Criteria

Dennis provided an overview of Kansas City, Missouri’s sustainability project criteria. He said that the City Council is implementing sustainability at varying scales. With each ordinance and resolution, a question is asked regarding how it contributes to the goal of sustainability.

6. “Linking” Survey of Municipalities

Lisa Pool provided the group with draft questions for a survey of local cities and counties. The purpose of the survey is to get a better idea of what area cities and counties are currently doing

with regard to linking environmental and transportation planning, and to gauge their interest in revising their policies to address this issue. She said she will take comments on the draft questions via email.

7. Other Business

The next meeting of the Advisory Group has not yet been scheduled, but it will likely be held this fall.