



Linking Environmental and Transportation Planning Advisory Group

Monday, September 28, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Broadway Room
600 Broadway, Kansas City, MO

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Announcements and Up-Coming Events.
 - *Transportation Outlook 2040* Update
Nominated projects: www.marc.org/2040/Plan/Project_Solicitation/browseprojects.aspx
 - Ethics and Development with Joe VanBelleghem: Oct. 2 from 8 – 10 at Downtown Marriott
Registration: www.marc.org/Sustain/Leadership_Programs/ethics.asp
 - Green Highways and Streets Webinar: Oct. 21 from 10:30 – noon at MARC
 - Sustainable Success Stories: Submittals due Oct. 9 – Workshop Nov. 23
3. Green Roads Presentation: Bob Goodwillie with AECOM.
4. Questions Related to Memorandum of Understanding.
5. On-Line Data Tool.
6. Results of “Linking” Survey of Cities/Counties.
7. Other Business.
 - Future meeting dates.

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.

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SUMMARY

Linking Environmental and Transportation Planning Action Plan Advisory Group

9/28/09

1. Welcome and Introductions

Group members introduced themselves.

2. Announcements and Up-Coming Events

Tom Gerend provided an update on *Transportation Outlook 2040*.

- He said 601 projects were submitted in the call for projects. A number of projects are multi-modal.
- Staff is finishing up scoring and mapping projects.
- Staff developed a conservation index that looked at land cover as an added resource to use when scoring projects.
- Starting conversation with modal committees in October.
- Staff is working on LRTP chapter content.
- Ron McLinden asked if the public comment period could be extended beyond September 30. Tom said the comment period will reopen again after draft list has been prioritized by committees and the LRTP Sub-Committee.
- Ron asked if there is another way to view comments, other than by clicking on each project. Tom said staff is working on a way to show just the projects that received comments.
- Tom said that the MARC Board is discussing the baseline and adaptive scenarios tomorrow. Their discussion will have policy implications on the LRTP. Based on what they say, we will go from two scenarios to one forecast.
- Nominated projects can be commented on here:
www.marc.org/2040/Plan/Project_Solicitation/browseprojects.aspx
- Up-coming events include:
 - Ethics and Development with Joe VanBelleghem: Oct. 2 from 8 – 10 at Downtown Marriott. Registration: www.marc.org/Sustain/Leadership_Programs/ethics.asp
 - Green Highways and Streets Webinar: Oct. 21 from 10:30 – noon at MARC
 - Sustainable Success Stories: Submittals due Oct. 9 – Workshop Nov. 23
- Joann Schwarberg followed up on the announcement about the Sustainable Success Stories by stating that the 4A Collaborative would be happy to speak to any groups interested in what they are working on.

3. Green Roads Presentation: Bob Goodwillie with AECOM

Bob Goodwillie presented information on the Green Roads rating system.

- The Green Roads rating system (www.greenroads.us) is LEED for horizontal construction.
- It was developed by CH2M Hill and University of Washington.

- He said that CH2M Hill is willing to speak to the Advisory Group free of charge about the rating system.
- He also noted that he has been working with MoDOT on a sustainability policy. MoDOT is looking at its carbon footprint, green roads/highways, and complete streets. Complete Streets is focused more on the operational elements of streets while Green Roads is focused more on construction and design. They complement each other. He noted that complete streets didn't pass the legislature in Missouri.
- Tom noted that the bike/ped. committee and LRTP Sub-Committee have been discussing complete streets as a strategy to meet the plan's goals.
- Ron McLinden said that complete streets are normally associated with bike/ped. They have broader value than bike/ped. MoDOT lobbied against complete streets when it was being considered in the legislature last year.
- Bob said that there is a new openness to sustainability at MoDOT. It has been a budget issue in the past.
- Jerry Shechter said this group should look at a way to connect the dots – How to look at complete streets in a way other than a recreational point of view – From an alternative modes perspective.
- Tom said that, during the federal certification review last week, the federal partners had a different interpretation of multi-modal considerations than they have in the past. The message is to more explicitly design roadway projects for multi-modal use, not just “consider” multi-modal options.
- Allison Smith said that consideration of multi-modal options has always been in SAFETEA-LU, but it's refreshing to hear about the support from federal partners.
- Bob said the fear has been that you need so many lane miles to accommodate complete streets.
- Jerry said it is important for this group and city/county public works staff to hear about what we're discussing today.
- Joann said that planner, engineers, and private firms should also be included in the conversation.
- Tom said we could set this topic up as an additional workshop in the Eco-Logical series. Could be informational, as well as a discussion on local application.
- Mike Beezhold said that there is quite a bit going on with stormwater right now, but there is more we can do. The timing is appropriate. There are sustainability discussions going on with APWA right now. Need to get a larger invitation out about this. Could work through 4A collaborative to get word out.
- Jerry said that there are a lot of silos that we have to deal with. Green solutions with regard to water overlap with streets and sidewalks. Look at complex of those and determine who should be there – water and public works staff.
- Bob said that we need to work on awareness. Lenexa has done a great effort with this. How many people know about Lake Lenexa and other efforts related to mill/overlay? Need a stronger PR effort.
- Joann said there is some resemblance to Sustainable Sites Initiative (SSI). Nice to see it applied to roads. Would be interested to see how it aligns with SSI.
- Mike asked about the credibility of the Green Roads rating system – what is the driver, who does it apply to, what is the funding source?

- Ron said that he would like to see the region adopt roadway ratings. Need to place more emphasis on operations/maintenance and quality of life.

4. **Questions Related to Memorandum of Understanding**

Lisa Pool posed the questions to the group to get feedback for the formation of a linking environmental and transportation planning memorandum of understanding (MOU).

- Tom noted that the MOU should be focused on commitments to more integrated processes.
- Lee Ann suggested that the group look for and promote best practices in the transportation planning field.
- Participant suggested that the group review environmental elements of proposed transportation projects.
- Allison suggested the linking group have a representative on the Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC).
- Helene Mille with the Missouri Department of Conservation would likely want to broaden the scope of an MOU with MARC to include aspects beyond transportation, such as water quality.
- Jerry asked about broader regional sustainability issues

5. **On-Line Data Tool**

- Tom noted that MARC has a lot of existing data, and we have the improved ability to post data on-line.
- Andrea Repinsky demonstrated the on-line tool and provided an overview of each of the data layers.
- She said that, with funding, more detailed capabilities could be developed for the tool. For example, the emergency services department has a data tool that lets users share data on-line. Users can circle a particular area, and a report is created. Another feature that could be added is the ability input an address and zoom into the features present in that area.
- Gerald asked how extensive the streets and boundaries data is. Andrea said the streets and boundaries data is from ESRI. ESRI provides this data free of charge.
- Mark Stuecheli asked if this tool is currently available on-line. Andrea said that it is not yet available on-line, as we wanted to let the advisory group review it prior to posting.
- Tom asked if it is possible to limit access to certain data. Andrea said yet. The emergency services tool is password protected, and information is shared among logged in users only.
- Stephen VanRhein asked if the map included bottomland hardwoods, and if it could calculate the number of acres of such a feature in a certain area. Andrea said it would take extra programming to do something like this, and that an outside consultant might need to do this.
- Mark asked about the details of the urban forest data. Andrea said that this is only available for Jackson and Johnson County and had to be a certain size to be included.
- Lee Ann Kell asked if it will include a data dictionary, with information on source and date of data. Andrea said that some information will be available on the tool, but that all of this information is currently packaged on a data DVD. It includes Smart Moves, Natural Resources Inventory, MetroGreen, and Paint the Town.

- Alison asked if the tool includes wetlands data. Andrea said yes.
- Tom said that planned transportation projects can be added to the map. If anyone has suggestions for how this can be more useful or applications where this can be used, let us know.

6. Results of “Linking” Survey of Cities/Counties

Lisa reviewed the results of the linking environmental and transportation planning survey that was sent out to public sector planners and engineers.

7. Next Meeting.

Monday, December 7, from 1:30 – 3 pm in the Broadway Room.