

OPEN MEETING NOTICE



There will be a meeting of the MARC Transit Committee, **Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 9:30 AM**
Mid-America Regional Council, Board Room, 2nd Floor,
Rivergate Building, 600 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri.

REVISED AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome/Introductions**
- 2) **Approval of December Meeting Minutes***
Meeting minutes for December 7, 2011 are attached to this agenda.
- 3) **Downtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis -Tom Gerend (10 minutes)**
- 4) **Commuter Corridor Alternatives Analysis -Tom Gerend (10 minutes)**
- 5) **Committee Membership Update - Karen Clawson (10 minutes)**
- 6) **Review Transit Committee's Role and Mission– Karen Clawson (15 minutes)**
- 7) **Seamless Transit Update – Karen Clawson (10 minutes)**
- 8) **Regional Transit Updates (10 minutes)**
 - a) Special Transportation – Jobs Access Partnership
 - b) Transit agency study/project updates
 - c) Advocacy
 - d) Other
- 9) **Other Business**
- 10) **Adjourn**

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TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

February 1, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

David Bower, Jackson Co. Municip. (MO Co-Chair)	Chuck Adams, WyCO Municip (KS Co-Chair)
Mary Hunt, City of Independence	Jim Courtney, Mr. Goodcents Foundation
Kite Singleton, KCRTA	Ron McLinden, Transit Action Network
Martin Rivarola, City of Mission, KS	Chuck Ferguson, JCT
Lou Banks, UGT	Dick Davis, Kansas City, MO
Shawn Strate, JCT	Joel Skelley, KDOT
Sheri Watson, Checker Services	Danny O'Connor, KCATA

Others:

Jared Gulbranson, KCATA	Jeff Lewis, Transit Action Network
Sarah Frost, TranSystems	Steve Chinn, Stinson
Ted Rieck, KCRTA	Dave Kocour, URS Corporation
Justin Walker, Rainbow Housing Assistance Corp.	Tawnya Metzler, Waterstone Apartments
Janet Rogers, Transit Action Network	Sara K. Regnier, Waterstone Apartments
Jared Miller, HNTB/RTA	Gunnar Hand, Mock Studio
Joe Davis, Custom Engineering	Sara Frost, TranSystems
Allan Zafft, MODOT	

MARC Staff:

Karen Clawson	Tyler Means
Stewart Nelson	Stephen Lachky
Tom Gerend	Marge Gasnick

1) Welcome/Introductions

Mayor Bower welcomed the committee and introductions were made.

2) Approval of October Meeting Minutes*

Meeting minutes for December 7, 2011 were APPROVED.

3) Downtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Mr. Gerend said that in December, the Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) recommended that the downtown streetcar as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) be released for public comment and review. During that period, MARC received one public comment in support of adopting the LPA. The TTPC and MARC Board have subsequently adopted the LPA into Transportation Outlook 2040, a critical step in the

federal funding process. The partnership model and the leadership of the local elected leaders were critical to getting to this point.

MARC's role in leading the study has ended and MARC has handed the reins off to the city to continue with advanced planning work and environmental documentation. The city is also advancing a Transit Development District (TDD), a tool that will help fund much of the capital and ongoing operations of the future streetcar. Through the TDD, sales and property tax would be leveraged from the downtown business owners and residents. The funding strategy will not only rely on the TDD but also \$25 million in federal funding. Over the next year, the city will continue with preliminary engineering and move on to design-build or design-bid-build.

Councilman Davis said that city staff is 100% supportive and are working to make this project happen.

Mr. McLinden asked about the possibility of the city applying for federal finds through a TIGER IV application. Mr. Gerend said that the city will try for it by advancing an application though the timing is not ideal. The city has not completed the environmental checks yet, but the TDD adoption and adopting the LPA is helpful.

Mr. Rivarola asked about the elections that would make the TDD happen. Mr. Gerend said that there will be two elections, one in May to create the TDD and levy caps and a follow up election for a specific levy application.

4) Jackson County Commuter Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Mr. Gerend noted that the consultant and project partnership team are working through the Tier 2 phase of the study which looks at a narrow set of alternatives in finer detail. The next round of public meetings will be in March or April and will showcase and solicit feedback on the results of the Tier 2 screening. The overall analysis is still on track to be completed in May of this year.

The US-71 Commuter Corridor Alternatives Analysis is proceeding though no formal kick-off had been planned. This study will lag behind the other corridor study but the same team will be working on it and therefore there will be some efficiency on the purpose and need, gap analysis, and modeling tasks.

5) Committee Membership and Work Plan Update

Ms. Clawson provided a brief update on committee membership. She asked the committee to welcome two new members, Councilman Dick Davis from Kansas City, Mo and Sheri Watson from Checker Services who is representing the Special Transportation-Job Access Partnership. Dick Davis was the chair of the Transit Committee many years ago. In addition to membership, Ms. Clawson called attention to last years' Work Plan. The Work Plan includes general areas of work that the committee would like to focus its work on. The current 2011 tasks include:

1. Advance Transportation Outlook 2040
2. Advance Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
3. Advance Smart Moves Implementation Plan
4. Regional Public Transportation and Human Services Coordination
5. Public Transportation System Coordination

Ms. Clawson asked the committee to comment on the current work plan and what they would like to see included in it for 2012. The following comments were noted:

- The Transit Committee should have some role in the ranking and scoring of projects, especially for the Surface Transportation Program. Mr. Gerend said that commenting on scoring criteria to be used would be appropriate.
- Include post implementation planning work like supporting more detailed studies of the corridor, discussing the local funding issue and how it fits into the regional context, and governance.
- The work plan should be more detailed.

- Comment on Transportation Legislative Advisory Committee’s agenda/legislative platform.
- Evaluate progress towards seamless transit.

Mr. Gerend said that staff would take these comments and integrate them in to the work plan and present this at the next committee meeting.

6) Seamless Transit Update

Ms. Clawson provided a summary of the Seamless Transit Workgroup’s discussion over the past few meetings, including the components of seamless transit, a few of the accomplishments, projects underway and proposed for 2012. Mr. Ferguson said that the accomplishments looked very thin and that much has been accomplished over the last year towards the goal of seamless transit. Mr. Strate said that he would provide a list of accomplishments from Johnson County Transit.

Mr. Rieck asked whether or not there were any models for seamless transit – what other regions are doing. Ms. Rogers also said that models would be useful.

Mr. McLinden recognized that there have been positive changes but from a rider’s perspective the regional transit system does not seem seamless.

7) Regional Transit Updates

Johnson County Transit

- Johnson County Transit is moving towards an LPA in the Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway corridor, likely to be mixed-traffic bus rapid transit. The LPA will go through the MARC adoption process.
- Johnson County Transit’s budget was cut by \$264,000 in 2012 and more cuts are expected for 2013 and 2014. Despite cuts, ridership has continued to increase (11% increase between 2010 and 2011)
- The I-35 bus on shoulder operation has been very productive with 7-8 busses using the shoulder in January.

KCATA

- KCATA ridership has seen a 6% increase and with 15.6 million annual riders, ridership is the highest it has been since 1962.
- The public input process on the 55 route recommendation from the Comprehensive Service Assessment is complete. The ATA must now work with Kansas City, Mo on implementing these service changes which will be phased throughout the next year. Information about the changes can be found on the KCATA website.
- KCATA also continues to be involved in the streetcar study.

Unified Government Transit

- The TIGER project is moving along. Project bidding is expected to start soon.
- UGT received 8 new buses so far with 8 more to be ordered soon.

Special Transportation-Job Access Partnership

- The next ST-Jap meeting will include a presentation on the programming process at MARC and an introduction to planning and accommodating segways.

City of Independence, Mo

- The city recently signed a contract with First Transit to operate and manage the Independence routes. The contract will begin July 1st.

Transit Action Network

- TAN will be hosting a networking event at McCoy’s from 4-6pm to discuss transit.

Regional Transit Alliance

- The RTA is currently working on a transit education program primarily in Jackson County in anticipation of a funding initiative in the future. They hope to model the successful campaign of St. Louis.

UMKC Design and Planning – Gunnar Hand

- The students in Mr. Hand's studio are working on a trail-oriented development project focused on the Trolley Track Trail for 2040.

8) Other Business

Mr. Gerend gave a short update on the TIGER and Creating Sustainable Places (CSP) projects underway. The regional corridor TIGER projects are moving forward, notably the transit center projects. Watch the TIGER Tracker for updates on projects in the coming weeks. The CSP (HUD-funded) project continues to focus on corridor planning activities. As a supplement to that, the STP will fund a new program for small area plans that focus on sustainability and livability. The fund will be \$1.5 million and regional communities will be able to apply for planning funding through MARC. The ground rules for selection are being created now and a call for projects is expected for the middle of the year. Contacts for this project are Tom Gerend and Lisa Pool.

9) Adjourn