

MEETING SUMMARY

AIR QUALITY FORUM

September 12th, 2023

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Members and Alternate in Attendance:

Angela Markley, Unified Government
Rollin Sachs, Johnson County DHE
Allison Smith, KDOT
Carol Adams, KCMO EMC
Kelly Gilbert, MEC
Richard Rocha, Bayer

Jodi Gooseman, City of Kansas City, Mo.
Dan Williams, City of Kansas City, Mo.
Ryan Bolwes, UG Public Health
Josh Wood, City of Olathe
John Neuberger, Sierra Club
Brian Alferman, Johnson County

Other Attendees:

Leena Divakar, KSU (PPI)
Jacob Larson, KSU (PPI)
Eleanor Matheis, KDOT

Garrett Garrison, UG WyCO/KCK
David Albrecht, Metro Energy Center
Jennifer Schwaller, HDR

MARC Staff:

Tom Jacobs, MARC
Kate Ludwig, MARC
Ron Achelpohl, MARC
Rachel Krause, MARC

Doug Norsby, MARC
Bridget Koan, MARC

1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum

2. Meeting Summary*

The July meeting summary was APPROVED.

3. FHWA Carbon Reduction Program – Funding Recommendations*

Mr. Ryan Umberger share highlights of FHWA’s Carbon Reduction Program. The program, created by the bi-partisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, serves to reduce carbon emission from the on-road transportation sector. The program provides the Kansas City region with \$23.9 million over five years. Over \$14 million is available in the 2023 round of funding. MARC opened a call for applications on March 20, 2023 and received a 26 applications from 22 organizations in Kansas and Missouri.

A workgroup met to consider each of the projects and make recommendations. Of the applications received, many of them met the workgroup recommendations. Over half of the projects included bike-ped, transit, or green infrastructure elements and served Justice 40 communities. The following includes all projects received with recommended funding highlighted in green.

Kansas					
Project Sponsor	Project Name	Carbon Redux Ranking	Total Score	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding
KCATA	Electric Buses and Charging Infrastructure and Training	1	86	\$1,932,000	\$1,320,000
Johnson County	“Connecting JOCO” -A Coordinated Public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Pilot Project	4	81	\$1,791,416	\$1,433,000
City of Merriam	Citywide Streetlight LED Upgrades	2	71	\$1,115,908	\$522,867
Unified Government	Northeast KCK Heritage Trail	7	71	\$1,600,000	\$1,200,000
MARC	Johnson Drive Traffic Signal Enhancements	6	68	\$157,904	\$157,904
City of Overland Park	Sustainable Medians Pilot Project	10	67	\$192,000	\$150,000
City of Mission	Bike Share in Northeast Johnson County	9	66	\$503,046	\$503,046
City of Gardner	Gardner Traffic Signal Interconnect	5	64	\$240,000	\$240,000
City of Overland Park	Driver Feedback Sign Speed Management	3	57	\$100,000	\$100,000
City of Roeland Park	2025 Electric Street Sweeper Purchase	8	46	\$496,000	\$0
Missouri					
Project Sponsor	Project Name	Carbon Redux Ranking	Total Score	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding
KCATA	Electric Buses and Charging Infrastructure and Training	1	86	\$1,932,000	\$1,320,000
BikeWalkKC	Bike Share battery upgrades and NKC expansion	10	85	\$364,787	\$319,188
Heartland Conservation Alliance (in partnership with Foundation for Regeneration, MoDot, and Good Oa)	Cloverleaf Ramp Regeneration	2	81	\$100,000	\$0
City of Kansas City	Montgall Avenue Pedestrian Path	7	80	\$6,400,000	\$1,904,150
City of Independence	Truman Connected Phase 2	3	80	\$5,544,000	\$3,500,000
City of Gladstone	Vivion Road Trail	6	80	\$3,072,005	\$0
Kansas City Streetcar Authority	KC Streetcar Riverfront Extension	4	77	\$6,000,000	\$1,000,000
The City of Grandview	Blue Ridge Boulevard - Intersection Conversions	8	74	\$3,716,240	\$0
Platte County	Running Horse Road and NW 136th Street Shared Use Path Extension and Crosswalk	13	73	\$1,208,200	\$0
City of Liberty	Liberty Drive Sidewalk/Trail Missing Link Connection	11	70	\$400,000	\$250,000
City of Peculiar	Trail Crossings	9	69	\$20,000	\$20,000
Platte County	Route 152 Trail Segment 1 and 2	5	65	\$4,674,306	\$0
North Kansas City	Burlington Corridor Cycle Track	14	64	\$600,000	\$247,082
City of Lee's Summit	Mouse Creek Trail Arterial Crossing	12	58	\$760,000	\$0
City of Grandview	Transition to Electric Vehicles	16	55	\$80,000	\$0
City of Peculiar	EV Charging Station	15	50	\$8,000	\$0
City of Peculiar	Electric Vehicles	17	22	\$56,000	\$0

Members of the committee discussed the scoring criteria that went into the scoring the applications. The Air Quality Forum APPROVED the recommended projects.

4. KDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy

Ms. Allison Smith, KDOT, introduced Ms. Jennifer Schwaller, HDR, to share information about KDOT's process to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy for transportation related projects and initiatives. Every state DOT is required to develop a strategy to reduce transportation emissions' strategies are due November 15. This can include reducing traffic congestion through single occupancy vehicle (SOV) alternatives, supporting the use of lower-emission transportation options, and facilitating less carbon-intensive approaches to construction.

HDR showed Kansas' ranking in emission compared to the rest of the nation's states as well as emissions per capita and emission for each Kansas County. KDOT developed a 4-step approach for creating the strategy: defining goals and objectives, coordinating with stakeholders and partners, develop an actionable plan and involve the public. The primary goals included safety, equity, innovation and sustainability. Secondary goals include alternatives fuels, rural strategies, complete streets, freight mobility, labor and workforce, and transit. Ms. Schwaller outlines the coordination and engagement process and the key themes that have come out of the engagement process so far. Also shared were several project categories that were being considered.

The committee discussed how the strategy might play out in rural areas and how the strategy might impact highway expansion in the state. Carbon reduction funds can be flexed to other FHWA programs. KDOT is trying to keep as much funds for the carbon reduction projects as possible.

5. WAY TO GO Program Update

Rachel Krause, WAY TO GO Program Coordinator, informed the committee of the rebranding of the RideshareKC program to Way to Go, providing a history of the program and the process of assessing the community's needs, interests, and challenges post-pandemic. Community feedback showed that residents are overwhelmed with options, but are interested in access to education, resources, and opportunities to get involved. Employers are interested in sustainable transportation from both a climate resiliency and recruitment and retention lens, and business leaders are interested in collaborating with similar industries to address shared challenges and increase impact.

Mx. Krause presented the new vision for the WAY TO GO program, as well as core objectives of the program: reducing emissions and congestion, increasing transportation solutions, maximizing commuter success and satisfaction, and fostering a culture around sustainable transportation. The program offers consulting services, relationship building opportunities, education and support, trip planning services and an accompanying app, and community building programming such as the Green Commute Challenge. Mx. Krause asked committee members to review the media toolkit distributed to their jurisdictions, which includes

information on how to help guide residents to the newly updated website at <https://waytogokc.org/>.

6. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update

Karen Clawson, Air Quality Program Manager, shared that MARC is now in an agreement with EPA to begin planning work on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She noted that MARC will work with the states to coordinate CPRG planning, but also coordinate on Carbon Reduction Program implementation as well. MARC will work with local government, low-income disadvantaged communities and other stakeholders to develop the Priority Climate Action Plan. Priority projects will inform an implementation grant application to EPA, due in Spring 2024.

On September 7th and 8th, MARC held two community workshops to begin to ideate transformation regional projects. The workshops prompted participants to think about community needs and turn those into ideas and projects. Dozens of new projects from those workshops will serve as strong foundation for further community engagement with communities and local governments.

7. State Rules in Progress

Mr. Cameron Week said that MDNR had two public hearings: commercial industrial waste incinerators and the definitions rule 6020 which cuts out unnecessary definitions.

Mr. Doug Watson said that there are no state rules right now, but wanted to mention that KDHE has rebranded their CPRG planning to E-RAMP. There is a listserve, website and email address for this program. KDHE is hiring new positions to support this project. The website is <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2071/>.

8. Transportation or Partner Updates

Mr. David Albrecht said that MEC held a webinar earlier in the morning for a \$320,000 funding opportunity for electric vehicles and charging stations with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities. The closing date is early October with an expected announcement in early December.

MEC will also have national DERA program funds available. The webinar is on October 5.

9. Other Business

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn