



<http://www.marc.org/transportation/committees/stjap.htm>

**OPEN MEETING NOTICE  
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JOB ACCESS PARTNERSHIP**

Jim Courtney, Chair  
Sara Davis, Vice Chair

Special Transportation Web <http://www.marc.org/transportation/specialtrans.htm>  
MARC Web [www.marc.org](http://www.marc.org)

**There will be a Meeting of MARC's Special Transportation - Job Access Partnership committee at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 in the Board Room of the Mid America Regional Council on the second floor of the Rivergate Center Building at 600 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri. For additional information call 816-474-4240 ext 8244**

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**Tentative Agenda**

1. **Approval of July 13, 2011 meeting summary** – The meeting summary of July 13, 2011 is attached and approval will be requested at the meeting.
2. **JARC/New Freedom Program Update** – Tracey Logan of the KCATA and individual project representatives will be requested to provide updates on the FFY 2008-2009 and FFY 2010-2011 committee selected projects.
3. **Transit Committee Report** – STAC-JARC representatives and staff resource to the Transit Committee will be requested for meeting updates.
4. **Consultant Report of KU Med Center Area Transit Study** – Consultant representatives will be requested to update the committee on the employment, student and patient transportation needs.

5. **Informational Session on the Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative** – Staff is working to identify representatives from the Veterans sector to attend and inform the committee on veterans and their mobility needs.
6. **Other Business**

## MEETING SUMMARY

September 14, 2011

### HANDOUTS (front table and side table):

- Meeting Notices
- KCATA Travel Transit Training & Related Services – Timeline and Scope of Service
- Community Transportation Association of America –Guide to Beginning One Call – One Click Transportation Services (2 handouts)
- From the FTA website – Financing the Operation of Transportation One-Call/One-Click Centers
- From the FTA website – Military Community Transportation Needs Overview
- Federal Register – Notice of Funding Availability for the Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative
- U.S. Census Bureau News – Americans with Disabilities Act statistics
- Kansas City Star – “Hourly car-rental idea gets boost from Kansas City Council”
- Transportation Matters E-newsletter – “UMKC supports multimodal campus with Student ID bus pass and car-sharing pilot project”
- Advocacy guidance i.e. “Guidelines for writing a letter to an Elected official” and 3 other titles
- KCATA JARC/New Freedom Management Summary – Logan’s handout (Designated Recipients monthly summary)

1. Approval of July 13, 2011 meeting summary - On the motion and second of Lou Banks and Michael Williams the summary of July 13, 2011 was approved. **There was no meeting held in August.**
2. Presentation on UMKC Sustainability: Transportation Programs – R. Kaye Johnston, Sustainability Coordinator, gave a presentation on the various transportation programs centered on the UMKC campus. She spoke briefly about the electric truck and alternative fuel programs before giving a more detailed overview of the Clean Commute Program and the Car-Share Pilot Project. The Clean Commute Program provides students with KCATA bus passes via a transit dedicated funding source (costing students \$14 per semester). The UMKC students have been taking 800-1000 trips/day on the KCATA buses. Johnston then spoke about the two ADA accessible circulator buses that offer campus-wide curb-to-curb service. The Car-Share Pilot Project is in the contract-formation stage. The known specifics of the pilot project include: hourly rental fees, cars are rented and returned to the same location, and drivers must be 18 years of age. Shawn Strate indicated Johnson County Transit is talking with Johnson County Community College to run a similar student-centered bus pass program. An additional inquiry regarding the applicability and attraction these concepts might have to clustered-employment locations was posed.
3. Update Status Report on existing JARC and New Freedom Projects – Jim Courtney gave an overview of the JARC/New Freedom competitive selection process and a brief review of the past three funding cycles. Tracey Logan provided a Monthly Program Summary detailing the Designated Recipients management role in recipient and sub recipient contracted service delivery projects. Sara Davis provided an update on OATS, Inc. JARC funding, Mary Hunt gave an update on the City of Independence’s JARC funding, Carroll Ramseyer provided an update on the City of Olathe’s JARC and New Freedom funding, Shawn Strate and Margaret Brown provided an update on Johnson County Transit’s JARC and New Freedom funding, Lou Banks provided an update on Unified Government Transit’s JARC Funding, Bryan Beck provided an Update on KCATA’s New Freedom funding (travel training @ est. 4 years activity centered on applicants to the Share-A-fare program), and Nora Reyna-Brown provided an update on The Family Conservancy’s earmark era JARC staff-centered management/outreach funding. Shawn Strate briefly mentioned that the Johnson County Transit I-35 route may provide reverse commute trips in the near future. Bryan Beck gave an update on the New Freedom funded Travel Training RFP process. Chris Brundin, MoDOT, gave an update on the State of Missouri Section 5310 Program (additional unsolicited endorsements were provided by Rhonda Sullivan and Marilu Herrick from two agencies very recently receiving their vehicles requested and approved by the Committee two years ago.

4. **Transit Committee Update** – Jim Courtney gave an overview of the KU Medical Center Transit Area Study presentation at the September 07, 2011 Transit Committee meeting. Jim stated that the study is a first phase (employment and student-centered) approach to addressing the transportation needs of the KU Medical Center. He added that transportation issues are common for medical facilities, and that the KUMC Transit Area Study may provide answers that can be applied to more locations.

5. **Informational Session on the Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative** – Technical commentators were:

- Cindy Terwilliger, FTA Region VII
- Frank Piper, Veterans' Network Homeless Coordinator – Leavenworth
- Stana Eager, Veteran's Local Recovery Coordinator – Kansas City, Missouri
- Ron Garrett, Chief, Veteran's Health Administrative Services – Kansas City, Missouri

Cindy Terwilliger provided a presentation and overview of FTA's Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative. Some statistics Cindy mentioned were: Kuwait/Iraq/Afghanistan era veterans have three times the unemployment rate compared to general public and the incidence of disabilities from conflicts for veterans has increased three or four fold from previous conflicts to about a 16:1 injury-to-death ratio i.e. more soldiers are surviving conflicts but are returning with disabilities.

Question and answer forum with Veterans' Services attendees:

**Frank Piper**, Network Homeless Coordinator Leavenworth began the discussion on veterans and the VA by defining what a "military veteran" is. According to the definition, a military veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces for any length of time; nevertheless, he exclaimed how all veterans aren't necessarily eligible for all veteran's benefits (e.g., members of the National Guard or Army Reserve must serve at least 90 days, and can only receive medical services for the next 5 years due to an injury sustained while in duty during that time period).

Frank then elaborated on some ways that veterans utilize transportation. While volunteers can provide rides for veterans, veterans can also utilize a transportation program/travel department at each Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC-hospital). Veterans can arrange for a service appointment to a VAMC or offsite appointment through a travel reimbursement program where the drivers/providers are reimbursed \$0.40/mile (there is no maximum cap for reimbursement). To be eligible for this program, veterans must be deemed "Service Connected"; veterans must apply for the "Service Connected" status.

**Ronald Garrett**, VAMC of Kansas City, MO explained how veterans can also receive transportation service through the travel reimbursement program via a third party provider (e.g., cab company); however, that provider must be pre-approved by the VAMC. Ronald also pointed out that for those veterans who have a qualifying disability, receive VA pensions, or have a household income below the pension level there is a "special mode" category of transportation in which the VA Medical Center might offer door-to-door service.

Ronald also stressed that there are unmet needs for many veterans throughout the region (e.g., a 30-year old non-disabled veteran who has diabetes and needs a monthly appointment to a VAMC facility, but is not "service connected" nor owns an automobile). He explained how VAMC has sought funding in the past to provide vans and buses to service rural areas. This would require a transportation coordinator at the VAMC facility to setup appointments, travel routes, and possibly contract with 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers. Frank Piper mentioned in most instances VA Medical Centers are not eligible to apply for DOT or other federal funds as a direct recipient; however VAMCs might be able to be a sub-recipient or third party contractor receiving funding support from a direct recipient of other federally funded programs.

**Stana Eager**, Network Homeless Coordinator KCMO (mental health dept.) estimated that 1,600 homeless veterans currently live in the Kansas City region. She also discussed the VA's three main programs: Emergency Housing Program, Transitional Housing Program, and HUD/VA Supported Housing Program (Section A vouchers for housing). Stana explained how homeless veterans can receive bus passes or tickets to help them commute around the region, but the passes aren't always available. Additionally, family members of veterans are not eligible to receive the bus passes; they can only be eligible if service as an "escort" on a need-only basis. Eager also commented on the medical connections that are online and available to some Veterans accessible via technology.

Thomas Brown commented that consideration should be made to the possibility that Veteran's may lack a general awareness of the existence of mobility options as well as the possibility the veteran's problem may have such scale that the non-existence of funding resources is unable to overcome the problems severity.

MARC staff and committee resource Stewart Nelson indicated the committee would continue an ongoing discussion of incorporating the Veteran mobility needs within the continued regional address of community Based Service.

Chairman Courtney with clarification from staff resource (Tyler Means and Stewart Nelson) informed the committee of the collaborative VTCLI ([http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_12809.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_12809.html)) application facilitated by MARC to request capital funding from the FTA to support the Partnership of the Veteran's community, the foundation's community, the University Community, and MPO and HHS institutions to create an improved Common, Integrated and Shared Kansas City Database of Transportation systems and providers complemented by an operating user interface.