MARC Technical Forecast Committee
April 3, 2019 Meeting Notes

Attendees:
Steve Lebofsky, KCMO
Mike Grimm, Unified Government
Rob Richardson, Unified Government
Jeff Joseph, Leavenworth County
Tim Fitzgibbons, City of Overland Park
Erin Ollig, City of Overland Park
Sean Partain, MoDOT
Dave Dalecky, City of Lenexa
Martin Rivarola, MARC
Frank Lenk, MARC
Jay Heermann, MARC
Andrea Repinsky, MARC

1. Forecast Update
   a. Frank Lenk, MARC’s Director of Research Services, provided an update on forecast
development using the UrbanSim (US) block model. He said that current tasks include
reviewing the residential development project location choice model and testing the
independent variable. UrbanSim disaggregates PUMS data to the household level, and
there may be errors in the resulting data.

   b. Mr. Lenk said that MARC’s old model incorporated development trend data, but
UrbanSim does not. MARC staff and the Committee developed tract place types to add
some trend data to US, which provided better results. He expressed interest in
developing a more trend-oriented independent variable. US uses 2012 ACS data
controlled to the 2010 block for a 2010 forecast start year. MARC staff created a new
2018 unit count per block using Home Builders Association, CoStar, and local demolition
data. It resulted in Johnson County getting about 41% of new single-family units. The
distribution of new housing units by county in US is now very similar to MARC’s 2018
dataset, with some difference in Clay and Jackson Counties. Mr. Lenk said that he plans
to review Clay and Jackson probabilities and the land available for development.

   c. Mr. Lenk shared maps of single-family and multi-family units synthesized by US,
developed from 2010 to 2013. US is reviewing the difference between US and ACS data.
Problems with US data can be solved with substitutions, but other US data should be
reviewed.

   d. Mr. Lenk shared maps of floodplain as percent of Census block and estimated sewer
availability. Both will be used to enhance the development capacity data in US. We’ll ask
for expected sewer map updates to 2050. Attendees expressed the expectation that
planning staff should be able to send maps or update a map.

2. Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Update
   a. Mr. Lenk explained that the deadline to submit block group and tract boundary updates
to the Census Bureau is the end of May. He also reported that regional partners formed
a complete count committee to conduct outreach to encourage Census response. The
committee is focusing on historically undercounted groups, such as very young
children and college/university students.
b. Mr. Lenk reviewed the PSAP program. MARC is the agency designated to review the boundaries for the KC metro. He asked attendees for help assembling reviewers per county or sub-county. MARC GIS Manager Jay Heermann will be contacting participants to set up meetings and to form lists of boundary reviewers.

c. Andrea Repinsky, MARC Planner, reviewed a draft list of criteria for making tract and block group change decisions:
   i. Census housing unit, population, and employment thresholds
   ii. Non-residential employment centers
   iii. Compactness and similar characteristics
   iv. Avoid changing tracts of residential units
   v. Use highways and major roads as boundaries
   vi. Align with regional Transportation Analysis Zones
   vii. Align with city and neighborhood boundaries and other areas useful for analysis

d. Ms. Repinsky shared map data and GUPS tools within QGIS distributed by the Census Bureau for boundary review, plus 2018 housing unit data developed by MARC, Transportation Analysis Zones, and neighborhood boundaries loaded into QGIS for reference. She demonstrated the boundary review workflow and reviewed sample boundary decisions.

e. Comments:
   i. Attendees offered local transportation analysis zone data and neighborhood boundaries developed for statistical analysis purposes as a supplement to the regional TAZs and standard neighborhood data.
   ii. Steve Lebofsky said that the City of Kansas City, MO would prefer to minimize tract boundary changes, but block groups are more flexible. Also, KCMO prefers to use 2000 and earlier Census boundaries as a reference for future changes, in case previous boundaries can be utilized.
   iii. Attendees expressed interest in reviewing data after MARC staff completes initial review and editing.