MARC Technical Forecast Committee
July 31, 2019 Meeting Notes

Attendees:
Erin Ollig, City of Overland Park
Diane Wicklund, Johnson County
Steve Lebofsky, City of Kansas City, MO
Chris Gralapp, Olathe School District
Aaron Baumgarden, Johnson County
Heping Zhan, City of Lee’s Summit
Bradley Hocaver, City of North Kansas City
Mallory Brown, City of North Kansas City
Victoria Nelson, City of Lee’s Summit
Stephanie Malmborg, City of Shawnee
Christa McGaha, Leavenworth County
John Hollis, City of Merriam
Rob Richardson, Unified Government
Frank Lenk, MARC
Andrea Repinsky, MARC
Beth Dawson, MARC
Martin Rivarola, MARC

1. Census 2020 Update
   a. Andrea Repinsky provided a recap of Census PSAP tract and block group boundary review. After several boundary review meetings held with city and county staff from April to June, draft 2020 tract and block group boundaries were submitted to the Census Bureau at the end of June. Census staff will review the data, accept or reject data edits, and return proposed boundaries for another review in January 2020. Regional participants will have 90 calendar days to review the proposed boundaries.
   b. Other Census dates of interest include the release of:
      a. 2018 1-year ACS for areas of 65,000+ population on Sept. 26
      b. 2018 5-year ACS on Dec. 19
      c. Supplementary 1-year data for areas of 20,000+ population in Feb. 2020
   c. Ms. Repinsky summarized Census Complete Count coordination activities to encourage the public to respond to the 2020 Census. Marlene Nagel, MARC’s Director of Community Development, is leading the regional Census Complete Count Committee, and many cities and counties have local committees as well. A regional complete count plan is nearly completed. MARC staff and partners continue to develop the regional website (census2020kc.org) and manage workgroups. Some of the committee activities may include training community assistance volunteers, writing FAQs, recruiting public assistance sites with volunteers and computer terminals, engaging organizations that work with hard-to-count populations, and recruiting vetted volunteers.

2. Modeling Update for Regional Transportation Plan 2050 (RTP2050)
   a. Frank Lenk, MARC’s Director of Research Services, described the current status of model development for RTP2050.
      i. Trend (the adopted forecast) and compact growth land use scenarios are each analyzed with two transportation investment scenarios: 1) building transportation projects in the TIP only, and 2) building TIP and all other submitted transportation projects.
      ii. For each combination of land use and transportation investment scenarios, MARC will report modeled VMT, VHT, greenhouse gas emissions, cost of development, and land consumption.
      iii. Mr. Lenk described the land use modeling work being done to create cost of development and land consumption estimates. Work steps include extending the 2040 forecast to 2050, adding a compact growth scenario, estimating new
centerline length per TAZ for each scenario, and estimating development costs. He said the base land use scenario is the approved land use forecast. The compact growth scenario used the probability of new development, rural development, decline, and redevelopment from MARC’s Paint the Town model. Lenk used these probabilities to reallocate growth in the base scenario while regional totals remain the same. These scenarios are used in the regional transportation model to determine whether a change in land use would affect transit trips in the model. The compact scenario was predicted to have a threefold increase in transit use.

iv. Mr. Lenk shared maps of the total acres consumed for residential and employment uses for each scenario. He said that calculating the cost of development requires an estimate of new centerline. Mr. Lenk said that we’ll replicate a method used earlier, using future land use data, and tabulating average centerline feet per acre of each future land use type. Acres of land consumed can be converted into centerline feet, and then used to estimate developer and city infrastructure costs per centerline foot, where the infrastructure includes streets, storm sewer, street lights, sewer, and water infrastructure. The cost of schools and public safety are not included. The data are from 2002, so Mr. Lenk is working to update the cost estimates, and the data will be sent to the TFC to review.

v. Land use scenarios are due August 15.

3. Update of UrbanSim model development
   a. Mr. Lenk shared UrbanSim model development updates. The objectives of adopting UrbanSim are to test pricing policies and incorporate longitudinal information.
      i. Right now, he said the existing forecast is still the best forecast, and the TFC may be asked to review and edit the existing forecast extended to 2050 instead of reviewing a new UrbanSim-generated forecast.
      ii. UrbanSim is still being calibrated. We’re focused on model parameter estimation and adding longitudinal data.
      iii. MARC and UrbanSim staff are working to filter residential alternatives by price. The model is testing restrictions on the price range of housing under consideration by each income class. When high-income households have a limited set of housing units to choose from, the less-expensive units are more attractive. Some model improvements have resulted. In ACS data, Johnson County has a higher share of housing unit growth than household growth, leading to questions about the relevance of vacancy rates. Mr. Lenk compared UrbanSim vs. ACS share of household growth to evaluate model functionality.
      iv. Next steps:
         1. Work on model parameters.
         4. Incorporate 2020 Census data in the next forecast update.

4. The next TFC meeting will be held September 4, 2019