MARC Technical Forecast Committee
May 17, 2017 Meeting Notes

Attendees:
Rob Richardson, Unified Government
Mike Grimm, Unified Government
Steve Lebofsky, City of Kansas City, MO
Dave Dalecky, City of Lenexa
Victoria Nelson, City of Lee’s Summit
Heping Zhan, City of Lee’s Summit
Mallory Brown, City of North Kansas City

Calvin Coates, KCPL
Andrea Repinsky, MARC
Frank Lenk, MARC
Beth Dawson, MARC
Eileen Yang, MARC
Shawn Urbach, MARC
Jay Heermann, MARC

1. Final draft of long-range population and employment projections
   a. Frank Lenk, MARC’s Director of Research Services, presented a new draft of the forecast update by Census tract. He said that he received several comments on the April forecast draft, and made the following changes:
      i. Corrected an error in two adjacent Lenexa tracts that showed sudden, but offsetting, changes.
      ii. Adjusted Wyandotte County, KCMO, Blue Springs, and Independence population and employment forecasts according to edits submitted by local planners. Independence and Lee’s Summit reduced their population forecasts. Lee’s Summit’s reductions were not specifically offset with gains elsewhere in Jackson County. To maintain previously determined county totals, the excess population was distributed proportionately to all tracts in Jackson County.
      iii. Mr. Lenk corrected the employment forecast to use the edited LEHD employment data in the base year instead of the original data.
   b. Lee’s Summit said their forecast still didn’t look correct. Mr. Lenk said he would work with them individually to resolve the differences.
   c. Next steps in finalizing the forecast update:
      i. Mr. Lenk will collect information on known needed adjustments, such as Lee’s Summit edits, a swap of population (1,500 people in 3-4 tracts) between Olathe and Lenexa, and review of a high-growth tract south of Grandview.
      ii. Mr. Lenk will accept additional edits for a two-week period (through May 31).
   d. Planning for the next round of long-range forecasts:
      i. Mr. Lenk said they had just received approval from funders to acquire UrbanSim as their land use model.
      ii. The next Metropolitan Transportation Plan will use 2050 as its horizon year. Therefore, new regional control totals will be needed.
      iii. Mr. Lenk said special attention will be required on the employment forecast, as national models suggest a significant slowing of employment growth.
iv. Mr. Lenk asked Ms. Yang when the MTP will need an initial 2050 forecast. Ms. Yang said ideally by the end of 2017. Mr. Lenk said it was unlikely this initial forecast could be produced with UrbanSim, given the complexity of learning a new model framework. Therefore, it was likely that the initial 2050 land use forecast would simply extend the forecast currently under consideration another 10 years into the future.

2. Future land use updates
   a. Ms. Repinsky described recent work to update the future land use dataset, using collected updates in comprehensive and future land use plans created since 2012.
   b. Ms. Repinsky will distribute the future land use draft map when complete.

3. Summary of next steps
   a. Accept 2017 forecast updates through May 31, and distribute resulting final update to TFC participants.
   b. MARC staff will conduct testing of the UrbanSim model, which MARC obtained permission to acquire.
   c. TFC co-chair Rob Richardson suggested rotating the committee co-chairs. Mr. Lenk asked the current co-chairs to suggest replacements.
   d. Review TFC participant list
   e. Develop new 2050 control totals
   f. Extend current forecast to 2050