SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, March 9, 2018, Meeting Summary

Those Present
Commissioner Jim Walters, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, Co-Chair
Councilmember Rob Binney, Lee’s Summit, Mo., Co-Chair
Janet McRae, Miami County
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Westside Housing Organization
Mary Cyr, Mattie Rhodes
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Gardner
Ed Lowndes, Kansas City, MO Housing Authority
Michael Park, Lee’s Summit
Rob McKim
Doug Johnson, Overland Park
Lauren Palmer, Independence
Michael Kelly, BikeWalk KC
Kelly Drake Woodward, Gardner
Allison Smith, KDOT
Eva Voss, MoDOT
Tom Scannell, Independence
Beth Dawson, Martin Rivarola, Frank Lenk, Marlene Nagel, Andrea Repinsky, MARC staff

Commissioner Walters welcomed those present and asked for introductions. He introduced Councilman Rob Binney, the new co-chair for the committee and his background working with the city of Lee’s Summit. Councilman Binney stated that he has served as councilman and mayor pro tem for the past two years. He serves on the Bistate Culture District Commission and chairs the city’s Public Works Committee. He is interested in sustainable land use development.

Approval of January Meeting Summary. Dr. Frisch made a motion, seconded by Ms. McRae to approve the January 12, 2018 meeting summary. The motion carried.

Activity Center Map Approval. Martin Rivarola reported that the committee reviewed the draft activity center map in detail at its last meeting. Action is needed to approve the map for use in rating applications for federal transportation funds in 2018. Mr. Rivarola described the process to develop and update the map. Ms. Repinsky responded to a question regarding the map’s development. Mr. Lowndes made a motion seconded by Ms. Harrison-Lee to approve the Activity Center Map for use in reviewing and ranking the 2018 transportation applications. The motion carried.

2018 Planning Sustainable Places Call Items Approval. Beth Dawson described the work underway on the Planning Sustainable Places program. Action is needed to approve the guidebook and scoring criteria and in making a funding request for future funds for the PSP grant program. Ms. Dawson thanked members of the committee for assisting her in updating the scoring criteria and guidebook, including Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Ed Lowndes, Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Tom Scannell, Jasmin Moore, Brian Nowotny, Mary Cyr, Janet McRae, and Jeffrey Williams.

- Guidebook. A checklist for an aging lens has been added to the Guidebook. The maximum grant will remain at $150,000.
- Scoring Criteria. The changes reflect increased consideration of resiliency, and how a project is able to adjust to
physical or economic changes. Ms. Dawson reviewed the Submission Form sample, highlighting changes including suggestions that communities include descriptions of any code revisions or policy changes to address how the project will impact sustainable land use patterns or promote housing choice. For projects around identified activity centers, the application should identify how the center would be increased in intensity and walkability to warrant a higher intensity status or if it is a future mobility hub as outlined in the Smart Moves Transit Plan. The applicant should address the environmental justice criteria to explain any hidden populations that could be affected. The application should also describe any sustained involvement with underrepresented stakeholders or disadvantaged populations. Funding criteria were clarified around existing infrastructure, resiliency, relationship to activity centers and mobility hubs, hidden environmental justice populations, partnerships, sustained involvement and resources.

Future STP Funding Request – The 2021 funding request is for $700,000 for Kansas and $800,000 for Missouri.

Commissioner Walters thanked Beth and the subcommittee for their work. Ms. Fisher made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cyr to approve changes to the guidebook and scoring criteria and to recommend the funding request for 2021 as presented. The motion carried.

Regional Transportation Plan 2050 – Plan Update Mr. Rivarola gave a brief update. No action was needed. Mr. Rivarola stated that the planning work is underway with public engagement on the policy framework. The 2040 plan had 10 policy goals. The analysis underway includes consideration of driving forces – emerging technologies, climate change, globalization and demographic shifts. After the policy framework is updated, work will be underway to perform scenario analysis with various investment scenarios followed by a call for projects to be included in the plan. An online survey is being distributed; 13 pop-up events have been held. A 30-minute Facebook Live segment was recorded. The survey is asking participants to rank goals – transportation choices are at the top close to safety and security. Placemaking is at the bottom. In response to questions, Mr. Rivarola stated that some of those surveyed may not understand the placemaking term or goal. Committee members suggested that placemaking may be considered as sustainable places, walkable areas, enduring places serve more than two purposes. Cultural considerations are a consideration in sustainable places. Mr. Rivarola stated that this plan update will be brought back to the SPPC at various important milestones throughout the process.

Draft 2050 forecast of total population and employment for the Kansas City region - Frank Lenk gave a report. No action was needed. The forecasts are used as input to the transportation plan. MARC uses a forecasting model – REMI – that is economy-driven, with population change in response to the economy’s performance. The region’s employment is projected to grow from 674,000 in 1969 to 1.7 million in 2050. The model assumes productivity will increase with changes in technology and that there will be a brief recession after 2020. The forecasts show labor force growth in the region slowing. The region’s population is growing slightly faster than employment. In the 1970s and 1980s, the region added more people than jobs. Between 2000 and 2010, the region added people but no jobs which led to higher unemployment. The forecasts show more deaths than births among the region’s White and Black populations. The region’s Asian and Hispanic populations are expected to experience natural increase. There will be positive migration into the region. If the region doesn’t experience migration, it will not experience growth. By 2035, the Hispanic population will be the largest minority group. The White population will represent 62 percent of the total population, down from 73 percent. The region is expected to continue to lose college students but get them back as young families. The 85 and older population is expected to grow substantially to 2050. Older adults will represent 49 percent of the region’s population growth. The Census Bureau will have three population estimates before the decennial census.

Other Items *Quick updates

Report on Status of National Park Service Historic Trails Plan Marlene will give a brief report. Ms. Nagel reported
that MARC and local communities have been working with the National Park Service on a plan to define a regional trail system for the Historic Trails through the KC region – California, Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. The plan has been drafted, and is being reviewed by local communities.

- Review of Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policy Ms. Nagel reported that these policies were sent out and are at the committee members’ place. Given that the committee has a role in programming federal funds, the committee was asked to review these policies annually. No formal action is needed.

- SPPC Membership & Work plan Marlene shared information about the 2018 work plan and items for the next meeting, including comments on 2019-2020 applications for STP, CMAQ and TAP funding, review of reports from the Transit-Oriented Development work group, and review of the National Historic Trails Plan.

- Next meeting May 11, 2018

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.