SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE
July 13, 2018 Meeting Summary

Members Present
Commissioner Jim Walters, Unified Government, Co-Chair
Councilmember Rob Binney, Lee’s Summit, Co-Chair
Mary Cyr, Mattie Rhodes Center
Jon Birkel, Hunt-Midwest
Kelly Drake-Woodward, city of Gardner
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Brian Nowotny, Jackson County
Wesley McKain, Unified Government
Ed Lowndes, HAKC
Josh Powers, Johnson County
Matt Kauffman, Regional Transit Alliance
Tom Scannell, Independence
Jeff Williams, Kansas City, MO
Allison Smith, KDOT
Eva Steinman, MODOT
Others Present
Shawn Strate, KCATA
Molly McGovern, Excelsior Springs
Kevin Manning, Shawnee
Keith Moody, Roeland Park
Wes Minder, Kansas City, MO
Anthony Sands, Gladstone
Deanne Winkelmann, Transystems
Ron Achelpohl, Frank Lenk, Marlene Nagel, Marc Hansen, Beth Dawson, Aaron Bartlett – MARC staff

Welcome and Introductions – Councilman Rob Binney welcomed those present and asked for self-introductions.

Approval of May 11, 2018 Meeting summary – Commissioner Walters made a motion, seconded by Brian Nowotny, to approve the May 11 meeting summary. The motion carried.

Sub-allocated Federal Funds Call for Projects – Martin Rivarola reported that MARC is 6 months into a 9 month process to select projects for funding in three funding categories -- CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality), TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and STP (Surface Transportation Program) Funds are allocated separately for MO and KS. For MO STP. The MARC staff has scored the projects and the various committees began funding deliberations in May. Recommendations will go to TTPC, the Air Quality Forum and MARC Board later this summer. The Sustainable Places Policy Committee has a twofold role – the identify priority projects and offer additional comments. A special meeting of the committee was held in June to review applications and a draft memo was distributed to the Missouri and Kansas Priorities Committees. The results of the SPPC work group meeting were as follows – no specific concerns were identified, and priorities were consistent with projects that had received support through the Planning Sustainable Places grant program previously. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the recommendations. The motion carried.

Planning Sustainable Places Program: Begin project selection process – Beth Dawson reported that the timeframe for applications closed on June 22 and 24 applications were submitted including one regional project.
Most of the applications were for Sustainable Places Plans. Beth said she is still confirming with applicants the minimum amount that they are willing to accept to be able to implement the project and reviewing the proposed scopes of work to ensure that they are eligible for funding. There is no minimum amount. The KCATA wayfinding applications has a minimum of $104,000 combined between Missouri and Kansas funding. It was suggested that the committee look at the top scoring applications but if a community has a project that is lower in ranking but a higher priority to that community that should be considered by the committee. It was suggested that even if a community ranks a project high, if the scoring shows the project as a low ranking, it may not be recommended for funding.

Beth asked if it is important to the committee to consider applications in each of the three categories – Sustainable Places Plans, Development and Implementation. Mr. Lowndes responded that on the Kansas side, with some adjustment projects in all categories could be funded. The minimum amount for Roeland Park should be $130,000. Comments also included consideration of sponsors who received funding in the past while some communities have not yet received grant funds. Beth stated that in the past, the staff has prepared some funding scenarios (100% of request, 80% of request, etc.). She asked if that would be helpful to the committee for an August 10 special meeting. The committee responded that it would be helpful.

Regional Transportation Plan 2050 – Vision Adoption and Interim Policy Goals- Martin reported that the MARC board adopted a revised vision statement with an interim policy framework for the new long-range transportation plan. Martin said the vision statement has additional information that ties the history of the region to the future plan. The board has retained the 10 policy objectives and added two new ones – data and technology and fiscal sustainability. Over the next two years, the goals and objectives may be refined. The next steps are to prepare an investment scenario analysis, selection projects and use goals for other regional plans. The plan information is at www.marc.org/2050

Placemaking was ranked low through a public survey but is perhaps not well understood. The centers and corridors focus did rank high. Mr. Birkel stated that if an area is designed to achieve “placemaking” it will meet other policy objectives.

The committee will hold a special meeting on August 10 at 9 am to complete its ranking of the PSP grant applications. Beth will send additional information out to the committee.

At the September meeting, the agenda will include a review of the progress in developing the new MTP 2050 vision and goals and green infrastructure plan. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.