SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE
August 10, 2018 Meeting Summary

Members Present
Commissioner Jim Walters, Unified Government, Co-Chair
Mary Cyr, Mattie Rhodes Center
Jon Birkel, Hunt-Midwest
Cheryl Lee Harris, city of Gardner
Kelly Drake-Woodward, city of Gardner
Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Westside Housing Organization
Kyle Elliott (for Jeff Williams, Kansas City, MO
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Brian Nowotny, Jackson County Parks and Recreation
Josh Powers, Johnson County
Matt Kauffman, Regional Transit Alliance
Tom Scannell, Independence
Doug Johnson, Overland Park
Allison Smith, KDOT
Eva Steinman, MODOT
Others Present
Shawn Strate and Jenna Hillger, KCATA
Molly McGovern, Excelsior Springs
Kevin Manning and Gabby Schannuth, Shawnee
Keith Moody, Roeland Park
Jean Carder, city of Louisburg
Kati Horner Gonzalez and Charlie Dissell, Independence
Sara Copeland and Annamarie Weddle, North Kansas City
Pedro Zamora, Hispanic Economic Development Corp.
Mario Vasquez, Kansas City, MO
Deanne Winkelmann, Transystems
Ron Achelpohl, Frank Lenk, Marlene Nagel, Tom Jacobs, Beth Dawson – MARC staff

Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Jim Walters welcomed those present and asked for self-introductions.

Approval of July 13, 2018 Meeting summary – Cheryl Harrison Lee made a motion, seconded by Gloria Ortiz Fisher, to approve the July meeting summary. The motion carried.

Beth Dawson gave background on how the scenarios presented to the committee were developed, reporting the scenarios were for illustrative purposes. The options included fully funding the top rated proposals until available funds are fully allocated (scenario 1); fully funding the top rated proposals but substitute the top rated project for KCMO and KCATA for the project that those organizations identified as their top priority (scenario 2); and funding top rated proposals and high priorities of local organizations at partial funding (scenario 3). There is $555,000 available for Missouri projects and $328,375 available for Kansas projects.

Beth stated that there are several issues that the committee may want to consider before determining a funding recommendation. They included: Roeland Park received feedback from KDOT on aspects of their proposal that were not eligible and prepared and submitted a revised scope of the project. The request was reduced from $150,000 to $80,000 and the geographic area to be studied was reduced. Other applicants were not able to
similarly revise their proposals. The revised Roeland Park proposal was not scored by MARC staff. Committee members expressed need to revise the guidebook to clarify that all applications must address the transportation element of a project. In response to questions, Beth Dawson responded that both MoDOT and KDOT review applications to determine if what is proposed is allowable. This is the first instance where an applicant modified the application in response to state review.

Keith Moody spoke for the Roeland Park application, indicating that the project was revised and clarified following questions from KDOT. It was ranked 4th and the project scope was reduced to focus on Johnson Drive and the northern intersection on Roe at 48th.

Commissioner Walters stated that we often ask applicants whether they will accept an amount less than what was applied for, but don’t ask what the reduction does to the proposed scope of work. It is important to try to spend dollars where they will have the greatest impact. He indicated a preference to accept the revised submission by the city of Roeland Park. Allison Smith stated that the discussion with Roeland Park and resulting revised application resulted in a stronger project.

Mary Cyr asked about the Missouri side applicants that did not submit revisions to their scope based on MoDOT review. The committee discussed whether to allow other applicants to be notified about state review and have brief time to make changes. Committee members voiced reluctance to open up the process and allow for applicants to make revisions. It was noted that the numerical ratings for Roeland Park did not change at 63. Michael Frisch stated that deadlines for submitting applications should be followed and not allow for a revised scope.

The committee discussed the KCATA application for multi-modal branding and wayfinding system plan. Beth Dawson asked if the committee preferred to fund the project 50/50 or some other allocation given greater competition for Missouri funds. There was concern on a very high percentage for Kansas (e.g., 80/20). Allison Smith responded that KDOT doesn’t have a specific percentage but encourages consideration of what is reasonable. Matt Kauffman stated that the region has a regional transit system and funding for projects should recognize that to leverage available dollars.

Beth Dawson mentioned two other policy issues, one, if projects have been funded previously, should the committee continue to recommend them for funding (Gardner and Louisburg); and two, if a project receives a lower rating but is a higher priority to a community, how to handle it?

Doug Johnson stated that the committee needs to be careful not to reduce funding for the KCATA branding project so that a good project becomes a bad one. Others including Josh Powers and Eva Steinman expressed that it was a good project. Brian Nowotny supported a bi-state project, and he made a motion, seconded by Allison Smith to recommend equitable funding for the bi-state project. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 6.

Kansas projects: The committee determined that funding for 5 applications could be supported, including:
City of Shawnee, Re-Imaging 75th - $48,000
KCATA, Multimodal Branding - $68,375
City of Olathe, Downtown Olathe - $60,000
City of Gardner, Gardner Destination Downtown - $72,000
City of Roeland Park, Roe Boulevard and Johnson Drive - $80,000
Total: $328,375

Michael Frisch made a motion, seconded by Doug Johnson, to recommend the Kansas projects for funding as stated above. The motion carried.

Missouri projects: The committee determined that funding for 8 projects could be supported, including:
City of KCMO/HEDC, West 31st Street Corridor - $100,000
City of North Kansas City, NKC Bike Master Plan - $58,000
City of Gladstone, North Oak Complete Streets - $102,200
City of KCMO, 63rd Street Corridor - $50,575
City of KCMO, Linwood Corridor - $90,000
KCATA, Woodland Plaza - $22,600
KCATA, Multimodal Branding - $35,625
City of Independence, Truman Connect - $96,000
Total: $555,000

Kyle Elliott made a motion, seconded by Josh Powers, to recommend the Missouri projects for funding as stated above. The motion carried.

The next meeting of the committee is September 14, 2018. The meeting was adjourned.