Members Present
Commissioner Jim Walters, Unified Government, Co-Chair
Councilmember Rob Binney, Lee’s Summit, Co-Chair
Jon Birkel, Hunt-Midwest
Mary Cyr, Mattie Rhodes Center
Kelly Drake-Woodward, City of Gardner
Janell Friesen, UG Public Health Dept.
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Doug Johnson, City of Overland Park
Michael Kelly, BikeWalkKC
Edwin Lowndes, Housing Authority of KCMO
Robb McKim, ULI, KC
Michael Park, Lee’s Summit
Josh Powers, Johnson County
Kristen Riott, Bridging The Gap
Allison Smith, KDOT
Eva Steinman, MoDOT
Jeffrey Williams, KCMO Planning Development

Others Present
Ron Achelpohl, Karen Clawson, Beth Dawson, Frank Lenk, Laura Machala, Marlene Nagel, Tom Jacobs, Jermain Whitmore – MARC staff

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

Approval of September 2018 Meeting summary – Kristen Riott made a motion, seconded by Jon Birkel, to approve the September meeting summary. The motion carried.

New Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan Discussion
Marlene Nagel gave an overview of the CEDS Plan and planning process, and invited input from committee members. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan (CEDS) for Metropolitan Kansas City provides an analysis of the current regional economy, integrates human and physical capital into economic planning, and offers useful benchmarks for evaluating progress.

The plan covers the nine county Kansas City metropolitan region. MARC was designated by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) as the Economic Development District for the region, and is required to prepare and adopt a CEDS plan every five years. The Regional Workforce Intelligence Network (RWIN) committee is serving as the advisory committee for the plan update. The plan will be presented to the MARC Board in January 2019 for approval. The vision for the plan is consistent with the new long-range transportation plan policy framework. The goals and strategies are consistent with the work of KC Rising.

Committee Discussion:
The committee offered the following comments on topics that should be addressed in the CEDS Plan, including:

- The importance of STEM to the regional economy and workforce efforts.
- Focus on community, wealth building, and education; and look at macro issues (getting jobs, housing
selection, utilities, etc.) which may limit wealth building.

- Look at the connection points of different transportation types, and work on closing gaps.
- Focus on climate change preparedness on multiple fronts, and how necessary building materials can be more affordable.
- Identify regulations and other issues that have a negative effect on diverse housing
- Regional collaboration, including the willingness of jurisdictions to help out others
- Focus on the amount of people living in poverty

**Economic Forecast – State of the Economy/Quality of Life Survey**

Frank Lenk reported on the state of the economy both by state and locally, and broke down the impact on the economic forecast. The U.S. economy is currently in a period of maximum growth significantly above its potential to sustain it. This necessarily means growth will slow over the forecast period; however, no recession is foreseen. Unfortunately, labor shortages are the currently the number one problem for businesses. There is no sign of inflation, but the FOMC plans to continue to raise interest rates through 2020 to make sure. Locally, the value of construction in KC increased by half in 2018 relative to 2017, creating many visible signs of progress. However, this masks some underlying weakness in the regional economy as it continues to struggle to keep up with national averages. The forecast calls for this to be temporarily reversed as Kansas City constructs a new airport terminal financed with money from outside the region. Civic leaders in the Kansas City area seek more than a temporary advantage, however. Given the likelihood of persistent labor supply needs, the region that best solves its workforce issues will have a significant competitive advantage over its peer metros. KC Rising is an initiative to focus business, civic and education leadership on the drivers of regional economic progress. Several initiatives have begun to align the talent produced by educators and communities with the needs of business. As these are implemented, greater ease of developing, attracting and retaining the workforce needed for economic success should provide KC businesses a more permanent competitive advantage.

**Committee Discussion:**

It was noted that there is a correlation that economic migration is tied to overall growth. The local data also doesn’t take into account the Buck O’Neil Bridge and KC Streetcar work at the moment.

**Regional Transportation Plan 2050**

Laura Machala reported on the timeline for the new plan, needs assessment & story map, scenario analysis & adopted forecast, transit corridor scenario, and concluding with the next steps of the plan. The needs assessment identified eight transportation areas that should be addressed in the coming decades: Center & Corridors Focus, Economic Vitality, Access to Opportunity, Transportation Choice, Public Health & Safety, Healthy Environment, Data & Technology, and Financial Stability. Each stated need includes a needs statement, current challenges for the RTP to address, measures, and leadership. Staff created a story map website detailing each need. A link to the needs assessment story map can be found at [www.marc.org/2050](http://www.marc.org/2050). Laura shared portions of this (and the RTP 2050 overview) story map with the committee. The work on the plan was started last year, the policy framework has been completed, and forecasts are being developed. Staff is currently working on expanding the scenario analysis (model sensitivity testing) work already completed to align with other policy framework goals. There will be targeted engagement and meetings with various MARC committees to prepare. MARC is preparing to issue a “Call for Projects” next year as the project selection phase of this work begins. The website is [www.marc.org/2050](http://www.marc.org/2050).

**Committee Discussion:**

It was mentioned that there needs to be inputs in the modeling work & planning process to include how things like discretionary spending and taxes have an effect prior to project selection. To help bridge the concepts, it was suggested that the plan should try to include the ‘Making Great Cities’ series being held at the Kansas City Public Library.

**Other Business**
Marlene Nagel reported that the committee will be asked to review initial information for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan at their next meeting. The plan requires participating communities to consider actions to reduce risks from natural hazards, and many are land use related. Staff will share an update on the retail trade work initiated in 2018.

The next meeting of the committee is January 11, 2019. The meeting was adjourned.