SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE  
January 10, 2020 Meeting Summary

Members Present
Rob Binney, City of Lee’s Summit, Co-chair  
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest  
Mary Cyr, Downtown Overland Park Partnership  
Vernon Fields, City of Basehor  
Michael Frisch, UMKC  
James Joerke, Bridging The Gap  
Mark Lee, City of Basehor  
Edwin Lowndes, Housing Authority  
Mark O’Hara, HOK  
Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Westside Housing  
Brian Nowotny, Jackson County  
Jeffrey Williams, City of Kansas City  
Kelly Woodward, City of Gardner

Guests
Vernon Fields, City of Basehor  
Mark Lee, City of Basehor

Online Participants
Josh Powers, Johnson County

MARC Staff Present
Ron Achelpohl, Beth Dawson, Tom Jacobs, Patrick Trouba, Jermain Whitmore, Caitlin Zibers – MARC staff

Welcome and Introductions – Ron Achelpohl welcomed those present and asked for self-introductions.

ConnectedKC 2050 Update
Ron Achelpohl & Caitlin Zibers gave an update on the ConnectedKC 2050 process. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is responsible for developing and maintaining a metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) to guide federal investments and serve as a blueprint for managing the region’s transportation system. Adoption of the next plan, “Connected KC 2050”, will be due by June of 2020.

As a major next step towards completion of this plan, MARC’s planning and policy committees have recently reviewed project prioritization methodologies and the following Draft project lists to be considered for inclusion in the transportation plan:

- Financially constrained project listing – In this list, financial projections indicate that revenues can be reasonably anticipated to be available over the life of the plan in order to advance these projects towards implementation.
- Illustrative Projects – Under current projections and without anticipation of increased revenues, it is not expected that financial resources will be available to advance these projects. This list of illustrative projects is divided into high, medium and low priority projects, based on a ranking exercise conducted by the planning committees.

Connected KC 2050 identifies needs and budget federal transportation funds that the metro area expects to receive over the next three decades. The plan contains:

- Vision: a long-term vision for the region’s transportation system.
- Goals and strategies: what we want to achieve by the year 2050 and how we plan to do it.
- Proposed regional transportation projects,
- Reasonably expected regional transportation investments to help accomplish goals.

Once adopted, updated policies/goals and strategies identified in the MTP will guide transportation investments in our region in future years. For more information, please see: [www.marc.org/2050](http://www.marc.org/2050)

**Committee Discussion:**
- A committee member asked if the escalation cost are being considered, and Mr. Achelpohl confirmed that they are.
- One of the committee members inquired if it would still measure time, even though it is being combined and Ms. Zibers affirmed that it will.
- Someone questioned if any of the measures will exhibit the significant types of connections, and Ms. Zibers acknowledged that there are, but more relevant in terms of scoring.
- Another committee member inquired if there will be any tracking of impervious areas, and Ms. Zibers commented that we don’t have region wide data on impervious surfaces, but will add as more information becomes available.
- Someone asked if there will be data showing commercial versus residential, and Ms. Zibers answered that it would depend on the availability of the data.
- One of the committee members inquired if there is a way of factoring in the cost of impervious run off, and Mr. Achelpohl remarked that we have a high level data set that focuses on development; however, it’s not as detailed in the breakdown.
- Lastly, a committee member suggested to measure the significance of different modal types at the point of destination.

**Approval of November 2019 Meeting summary** – Rob Binney noted that he was missing from the November 2019 meeting minutes. The changes to the November summary were acknowledged and noted. Michael Frisch made a motion, seconded by Kelly Woodward, to approve the November meeting summary with the noted changes. The motion carried.

**Climate Process and Next Steps**
Tom Jacobs provided a preview of the playbook at the meeting. In March of 2019, the Board authorized MARC to join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) in order to provide support and technical assistance for Climate Action KC (CAKC). Since that time, MARC has secured technical support from GCoM to assist in developing a greenhouse gas inventory, climate risk and vulnerability assessment and climate action plan for the region.

In a related effort, MARC staff also have assisted the CAKC in developing a Climate Action Playbook. The Playbook provides recommendations for actions local governments can take in reducing carbon emissions across a variety of sectors within their own jurisdictions. MARC staff and the CAKC hosted an event to unveil the playbook to the community at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

**Committee Discussion:**
- One of the committee members asked if there is anyway to suggest changes to the process, and Mr. Jacobs replied that this was meant to spark conversation and not be prescriptive.
- Another committee member proposed having a breakdown showing where we are today compared to where we want to go.
- Someone else mentioned to look at the policies that may have caused different conditions or if there is any connection regarding economic equity.
- A committee member questioned how much the playbook influences things concerning ConnectedKC, as he thinks it conflicts with the funding shown earlier. Mr. Achelpohl acknowledged that we are working on implementing what we can, as it depends on what we can and can’t afford.
• Someone else recommended looking at tree canopy and water usage, and if there is any data regarding those types of things, and Mr. Jacobs answered that we can look into it.

**Economic Value Atlas Update**
Beth Dawson gave an update on the Economic Value Atlas. She noted that we plan to include the tool in the next sustainable places call for projects and will be spatially driven versus written. The MARC Research Services Department already has the product and are testing it. There will be a work group meeting in February to review it as well.

**Whistleblower & Conflict of Interest Policy Review**
Ron Achelpohl reminded the committee of MARC’s Whistleblower & Conflict of Interest policy and a handout was provided for each member.

**Committee Member sharing.**
Kelly Woodard – Focusing on implementing their PSP plan.
Jon Birkel – Working on density and looking for things that will help with that.
Mary Cyr – Acknowledged they are working externally on developing.
Jeffrey Williams – Updating their comprehensive plan.
James Joerke – They have volunteers available to help with climate activities.
Brian Nowotny – The county has taken the lead on the Rock Island Corridor trail project. They have initiated their planning phase but have experienced some delays. The plan is currently in Washington, DC, but they hope to have it approved by February.
Gloria Ortiz-Fisher – Focusing on financial feasibility and stability.
Michael Frisch – Their area high schools are working on different projects.
Josh Powers – Working with My Sidewalk to do an online portal, and they are trying to increase their multi-modal transit area.
Rob Binney – Working on their comprehensive and strategic plans.

**Guest sharing.**
Vernon Fields - They have 80 acres they are looking at to do some development.

**Other Business**
There was no further business to discuss.

The next meeting of the committee is March 13, 2020. The meeting was adjourned.