MARC HIGHWAY COMMITTEE  
May 22nd, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Jack Messer, City of Overland Park (Kansas Co-Chair)  
Brad Ratliff, City of Peculiar  
Mike McDonald, City of Leavenworth  
J.R. McMahon, Miami County  
Tim McEldowney, City of Gardner  
Patty Hilderbrand, City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Sean Partain, MoDOT  
Alysen Abel, City of Parkville  
Tim Vandall, City of Lansing  
David Slater, Clay County Municipalities (City of Pleasant Valley)  
Kati Horner, City of Independence  
Lideana Laboy, United Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City Kansas

Other Guests:

Jennifer Russell, Garver, LLC

MARC Staff:

Ron Achelpohl  
Martin Rivarola  
Marc Hansen  
Beth Dawson  
Patrick Trouba
MEETING SUMMARY

1) Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)
   a. Introductions made.

2) March 24th Meeting Summary
   a. Summary approved.

3) Functional Class Updates (Martin Rivarola)
   a. Issued a call for functional class change requests for changes back in March, received 24 requests.
   b. Coordinated with state DOTs and agencies seeking to make the requests.
   c. Caitlin Zibers issued recommendations, most for approval.
   d. Three recommendations for postponement:
      ii. Peculiar Drive – Local road to major collector in anticipation of new interchange on I-49. Part of call for projects for RTP 2050. Recommended postponing until inclusion in TIP or STIP or construction is finished.
      iii. Blue Mills Road and others in Jackson County, MO – from major collector to local road. Ongoing conversations are happening between Caitlin Zibers and entity making request.
   e. Recommendations go from Highway Committee to Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) at June meeting.
   f. Jack Messer asked to see maps of classifications that were recommended to be postponed.
   g. Brad Ratliff explained City of Peculiar proposals.
   h. Blue Mills Road – Need more info from county as to the rationale for the change.
   i. Proposal to recommend approval with postponements noted to TTPC in June approved.

4) Updates to Functional Class Process (Martin Rivarola)
   a. Martin Rivarola reviewed the current functional class update process.
   b. Last update to process document was in 2013.
   c. Martin asked for feedback.
   d. Mike McDonald: Reconciling interagency data: when does that become a problem? Martin’s answer: Becomes a problem when funding is involved. Ron Achelpohl: MARC data does not always get updated. Not sure where “official” functional class map resides. Process does not allow for sponsors to draw picture of project location. Notes from Caitlin Zibers: How can we make the process easier or better?
   e. Jack Messer: Why does the process happen every six months? Martin: It is a way of bundling requests together. Ron: There is a clear tie of functional class to funding eligibility and it is relevant to travel demand modeling. Sean Partain: MoDOT updates twice a year, sends info to Federal Highway. Outside of MPO area, requests are made as they come up.
   f. Martin: Not proposing changes to process right now, but wanted to start discussion.

5) State Legislation Funding Impacts (Ron Achelpohl)
   a. Legislation passed in Kansas that expanded ability to toll facilities in state (HB 2007)
   b. Kansas HB 2214 provided increase in fees for electric and hybrid vehicles. Unclear if they go to transportation fund.
   c. MO Governor proposed to send general funds to bonds for about 250 bridges; approved with modifications: $301 million for 215 bridges (SCR 14). Contingent on MoDOT getting grant for a bridge on I-70. If that happens, state will be able to issue bonds and free up other flexible funds. In conversations with the Missouri STP Priorities Committee for money that might come back to Kansas City.
   d. Question: Don’t know where Kansas electric vehicle fees will go? Ron: Need to study the language more closely. Question: Do they know how many electric vehicles are out there? Ron: All-electric vehicles still small part of the fleet. Martin: Around 1,500 EVs registered in Kansas.
That number may go up 400% over next 20 years. Ron: A bill was under consideration in Missouri to change how vehicle registration fees are assessed but it did not advance. MARC’s Air Quality Forum submitted testimony about it.

6) RTP2050 Update (Martin Rivarola)
   a. MARC is two thirds of way through planning process. Will be done by June of next year.
   b. Some public comment has been received.
   c. MARC staff is reviewing and scoring over next few weeks. Finalization of scores will be by mid-June.
   d. Role of committee:
      i. Help review projects posted for public comment.
      ii. Distribute RTP 2050 page to networks
      iii. Assist in plan strategy development.
   e. Objective of seeking public comment is to engage with public.
   f. Question: How much longer will comments be open? Ron: at least through June, maybe longer than that.
   g. Plan strategies
      i. In past, LRTP organized by modal chapter. Leads to duplication and increased length of document.
      ii. Staff considering changing LRTP organization and format.
      iii. Question: Mike McDonald: Should MARC make a document that can’t be printed? Martin: MARC will need a version that can be printed. Ron: Federal Highway is not as concerned about PDF format, more concerned about accessibility. Online documents have better circulation. Martin return question: What is the way members typically use plan documents? Patty Hilderbrand: She only uses project the listings in the plan and TIP.
   h. Programming activity report
      i. Project scores do significantly influence project selection.
      ii. Influence of projects scores on selection increased this round.
      iii. 67% of entities seeking funding received it over last two cycles.
      iv. Planning Sustainable Places projects fared better when compared to all submitted projects.
      v. Median score of submitted applications decreased from previous round.
      vi. Median score of funded applications decreased from previous round.
   i. STP committees have adopted a practice of giving funding to one project per agency leaves out high-scoring projects, as well as transit, complete streets, and active transportation projects, and projects from large cities.

7) Side Note: Friday, June 14th is MARC’s Regional Assembly.

8) Adjournment: 2:37pm