Overview
The Missouri STP Priorities Committee (MOSTP) is authorized by the Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) to review project applications and provide project funding recommendations to the TTPC for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds, and to TTPC and the MARC Air Quality Forum (AQF) for a portion of the region’s Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds, sub-allocated to the Kansas City Transportation Management Area (TMA).

Framework
MARC solicits project proposals for the STBGP and CMAQ federal-aid transportation programs when funding is available. Project proposals submitted for consideration are evaluated based on how closely they align with the policy goals of the Kansas City region’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This framework outlines steps and procedures for MOSTP to follow to evaluate project proposals and determine funding recommendations for TTPC and AQF. The MOSTP has flexibility to over-program funding to account for Reasonable Progress, project delays and funding that is returned by project sponsors. Moreover, the MOSTP can consider Advance Construction when programming projects with the approval of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

1. Development of Staff Scores – MARC staff will develop “MARC Staff Scores” for submitted project proposals using the STP Evaluation Criteria.
   a. Once “MARC Staff Scores” have been completed, the results will be shared with applicants and members of the committee for review.
   b. Applicants will have 10 business days to request scoring modifications for any of their projects if they disagree with any aspect of a project score. MARC staff will make a correction or adjustment if the necessary information was provided in the application, but overlooked or misunderstood. If the applicant did not include the necessary information in their original application, the scoring modification request will go to the committee for consideration.

2. Scheduling of Programming Meetings – Prior to convening the first programming meeting, MARC staff will schedule at least 3 committee meetings, and provide a calendar of those dates to all committee members and project applicants. The intention is to make all committee members and applicants aware of upcoming meetings. It is important that a representative for each project attend the meetings to answer any questions or provide clarification if needed.

3. 1st Programming Meeting – The MOSTP’s first meeting to develop programming recommendations will be for the purpose of the committee to review the list of submitted projects.
   a. The MOSTP will go through the list of submitted projects, and have a representative for each jurisdiction or organization give a brief summary of their project(s). Meeting attendees can then ask any questions.
   b. This process — including questions and discussion — will be limited to NO MORE THAN 5 MINUTES per jurisdiction or organization.

4. 2nd, 3rd and Additional (If Needed) Programming Meetings – Multiple meetings of the MOSTP may be needed for the committee to reach a consensus developing
programming recommendations for TTPC and AQF. Subsequent meetings of the MOSTP will be to determine which projects to fund.

a. Final Project Scores — since project scores consider the goals, priorities and policy framework of MARC’s metropolitan transportation plan, they will be the primary criterion used for determining programming recommendations. Projects will be ranked in ascending order according to their final project score. The MOSTP will be presented with a list of all projects, according to the sequence of scores, along with an initial proposal that shows funding of the highest ranked projects in order (by final score) down the list until 70% of the anticipated funding available has been programmed. This initial proposal and the projects it identifies will be discussed and evaluated prior to opening up other discussions.

b. Following discussion of the initial proposal, discussion will then be opened up for any other projects on the list.

c. In both discussions, the MOSTP will allow project sponsors, jurisdiction representatives, committee members and members of the public the opportunity to speak on behalf of projects, subject to time limits. The MOSTP may then consider the best overall recommendation for funding of projects. Factors that enter into this decision beyond the point scoring may include:
   i. Planning Committee Advisory Priorities
   ii. Air Quality Benefit (determined using System Performance data)
   iii. Project practicality and readiness to be implemented
   iv. Linking critical gaps and interconnectivity between jurisdictions and states
   v. Multi-jurisdictional, regional and national significance
   vi. Equitable geographic distribution of projects across the MARC region
   vii. Project phasing and scalability

Reallocation of Funding
MARC’s Reasonable Progress Policy outlines expectations for project sponsors awarded federal transportation funding. It also specifies procedures for instances where funding needs to be returned by project sponsors. There are other cases however, outside of federal obligation, such as during MOSTP’s process of developing programming recommendations, where funding needs to be returned. In these cases, the MOSTP can decide the appropriate course of action to take depending on timing and how far along in the programming process they are.