1) Welcome/Introduction
Mr. Matt Davis conducted the welcome and introduction.

2) Approval of Minutes
The Minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting were approved. Mr. Michael Kelly motioned; Ms. Sarah Shafer seconded the motion.

3) Transportation Projects - Preapplication Committee Assessments*
MARC Transportation Assistant Director Mr. Martin Rivarola begins the meeting discussing the materials, such as the preapplication committee presentation, and said they were emailed out ahead of time to committee members. Stated this was the last opportunity to provide feedback before sponsors submit their ideas and projects. This process is new and has been adjusted based upon MARCs new work plan.

Martin discussed 2023-2024 anticipated funding, about 60 million in funding from the federal government. Martin states MARC is beginning to identify some programs for funding, and some funding for certain projects has already been taken off the top from the Board of Directors.

Martin discussed oversubscribed preapplications – Total funding requested is $274,686,694. The process went through preapplications between Kansas and Missouri. He discusses timeline for preapplications.
Martin explained MARC started call for projects in April and May and followed up in July with policy and committee meeting members with the results of the staff assessment of the preapplications. He reviews the timeline of the process from staff assessment in June/July to policy committee review and approval in December/January. Evaluation of preapplications and are categorized by the following: highly aligned, aligned, not aligned, or incomplete all based on the following: conformance with Connected KC 2050 policies, inclusion in various project listings in Connected KC 2050, and degree to which project advances connected KC 2050 strategies. Martin states that the project sponsors did a good job of aligning with connected KC 2050 strategies.

Results from the applications based on staff assessment showed: 17 preapplications were highly aligned, 31 aligned, 13 not aligned, and 41 that were incomplete. The reasons why projects placed into not aligned and incomplete were mainly due to three issues: 1) lack of alignment with green infrastructure policy, 2) congestion management process policy, 3) Low number of advanced strategies. Marc also looked at what the outcomes would be if the project sponsors are able to address the issues. Assuming projects address policy conformance issues the results would look like: 30 not aligned, 47 aligned, 25 highly aligned.

Martin discusses how the survey was shared with members of the committee and the results. There were 33 participating committee members and 7 were from BPAC. Overall 93% of assessments were in agreement with committee members. An overview of highly aligned, aligned, not aligned, and incomplete. Issues with each category were discussed and described in more detail. KCATA was an example: the did not discuss green infrastructure. It was discovered that many of the incomplete projects had issues with green infrastructure policies. Outcomes from preapplication process were shared with committees and MARC is looking to provide feedback to project sponsors in early August. Technical application projects open August 3rd. Alignment review will follow in September of this year.

Ms. Sarah Shaffer of UG Public Works asked about general applicants and how they will be able to ask for feedback. Martin responded MARC will try to send that information out by August 3rd, but not a guarantee but MARC staff will be available to sponsors for feedback and guidance.

Martin reviewed how applicants should address their scores, such as not leaving parts of applications blank. That is one of the majority issues.

Ms. Shaffer wanted to clarify that people can get ahold of MARC staff now. Martin confirmed.

Mr. Michael Kelley, BikewalkKC, made a comment about the culmination of work and how applications do not follow rules. Martin states over the last few funding cycles, the number that are aligned have been trending down.
5) Development of Future Work

Mr. Alex Rotenberry, MARC Staff, begins with a presentation of the Complete Streets Update. He begins going over the background of Complete Streets and explains how the project has roots in other projects.

Next steps were discussed. There is no way to evaluate the completeness of Complete Streets and we need to develop an evaluation tool to measure it. We are thinking about multi-modal transportation and all users, and how the pandemic has affected that conversation. The Complete Streets project has tied into other projects at MARC such as the regional wayfinding plan, regional trails and bikeways map, regional pedestrian policy, and SmartMoves 3.0.

Alex explains the intent of the Complete Streets project. MARC is trying to figure out how we can move the dial – how can we create safer, more Complete Streets in the KC region. First, MARC started research on other complete streets ordinances, policies, and best practices and have been looking at an evaluation matrix, which will be reviewed later in the presentation. At the end of this process, we hope to develop policy recommendations. BikeWalkKC have been working with a few municipalities in the region that have been interested in Complete Streets.

Alex moves on to discuss the scope of the Complete Streets project. MARC is in the process of identifying the data required. A few questions are asked: 1) Do we have it, and 2) if we don’t have it, where can we get it? Creating a scoring sheet with visualizations and scores of collector streets and arterials for the 8 county MARC region is the goal. Alex discusses recommendations to communities and explains that the Complete Streets Policy needs to be updated to make it more robust and a better tool for sub-allocation of funds.

Alex explains the Complete Streets Design manual and tools from London Canada. He refers to data needs and that it will be difficult to find and might be the biggest hang-up about this project. Alex solicits feedback from the committee members on data and where data sources might exist.

Alex reviews the anticipated timeline for this project, but clearly states this is not necessarily a linear process. It is anticipated that the project will conclude in the 2nd quarter of 2021.

Alex solicits the committee for their thoughts on the scope and feasibility of the project, looking for direction. Opens floor up to the committee to ask questions.

Mr. Mike McDonald, City of Leavenworth, says that the scope and data could be useful to evaluate future projects for funding, including TIP and other federal monies. States it could be useful to set goals and benchmark. Mike states the data lends itself to photography. MARC could coordinate with Pavement Management to get the data. Mike asks if this a solution to a problem.

Mr. Alex Rotenberry responds with that MARC policy is very aspirational and doesn’t have a lot of regulatory processes. While scoring complete street policy applications, he didn’t fail a single
one because it is not very stringent. Elaborates on the nature of the context sensitivity argument. Alex would like to see an updated policy to push municipalities to do complete streets. Another part of this is demonstrating “good” vs “bad” projects.

Mr. Martin Rivarola asks Mike what he thinks about the project.

Ms. Jan Faidley asks in chat “Alex, will you be addressing the particular challenges for older built-out communities with many demands on infrastructure $$$?”

Mr. Mike McDonald says this tool provides structure to the Complete Streets projects. There is a lot of latitude about what a complete street is.

Mr. Michael Kelley jumps in and comments that complete streets take all users into account when building streets. Specific elements are not necessarily the point.

Alex addresses Jan’s question in chat box. Sometimes these things work hand in hand: gives a stormwater example.

Mr. Matthew Kleinmann, Children’s Mercy Hospital, posted in the chat box “Would be interested in seeing how this process could align/support other existing, local programs that work directly with youth and neighborhood leadership throughout the process. Come walk with us is one example.”

Alex does not have a direct response to the question, will do research.

Mr. Chad Thompson, KCMO, said they “like the idea of using this toward the scoring of TAP and STP funding. KCMO has the majority of this data that could be applied. How hard would it be for the city to get this information?”

Ms. Jean Carder, Louisburg, said in the chat box, “Something that caught my ear was to do some sidewalk/trail evaluation. Louisburg just completed a master trails plan thanks to MARC. As part of that I know we are going to have to keep that document updated and we don’t have enough staff to do it by myself. If I can entice some community members into helping with an easy to collect data would be great. Did I miss something??”

6) Round Table – Please share planning or project work your agency is implementing

KCATA - Getting very close to open fully to the east village transit center at 12th and charlotte.

Overland Park - Vendor wants to do a small trail of green paint/texture in September to see what it looks like. Welcome to come out to Overland Park if interested to see how it lays.

Lenexa – Adopted complete streets plan in December. They’re working on updates to the plan. Developing regulations and standards to bicycle parking.
Louisburg – 200+ acre park/ballpark received a grant from the Kansas dept of wildlife, was able to complete a new trail around the park.

KDOT – TA call for concepts until July 31st, review and feedback on TA, applications will be due November 6th, 2020. First Kansas active transportation plan is tomorrow.

FHWA-KS – First bridge finished on rock island last week. Will be doing rest of bridges in 2-4 weeks. Will start putting trail down and getting closer to seeing the finish line. As I mentioned in the past, the contractors have until January 2021, but we are looking like we are ahead of schedule.

Children’s Mercy Hospital – Have a sept 10 Summit about the KC physical activity plan. If you’d like to register, there’s a link. Have a guest from the CDC.

Leavenworth – Happy to see people in his community out walking and using sidewalks.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2020