

SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2022 Meeting Summary

Committee Members

Dean Katerndahl, City of Parkville, Missouri Co-chair
Brian Alferman, Johnson County, KS
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Jessy Innocent, US Dept. of Energy
Katie Jardieu, Miami County
Edwin Lowndes, Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO
Erin Ollig, City of Overland Park
Gloria Ortiz-Fisher, Westside Housing Organization
Allison Smith, KDOT
Scott Wagner, Mattie Rhodes
Marisela Ward, MoDOT
Jeffrey Williams, City of Kansas City

Guests

Katie Killen, Housing Manager, MARC

MARC Staff Present

Ron Achelpohl, Taylor Cunningham, Beth Dawson, Tom Jacobs, Frank Lenk, Marlene Nagel, Martin Rivarola, Jermain Whitmore

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 9:00am, with Marlene Nagel introducing our new Missouri Co-chair, Dean Katerndahl, Mayor of Parkville, Mo. Dean began the meeting and asked all those in the MARC Board Room to introduce themselves, then asked those on Zoom to introduce themselves.

Approval of March 2022 Meeting summary –There were no edits to the meeting summary. Ed Lowndes moved that the meeting summary be approved. Jeff Williams seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved.

Regional Housing Partnership Report

Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager at MARC, provided an update on the status of the Regional Housing Partnership. She gave a brief background on how the work began with work in 2019 by the First Suburbs Coalition. The work is now focused on seven elements to increase housing at all price points in the region. Currently a Data Hub is under development and a beta version was released to the First Suburbs Coalition in January of this year. The Networked Leadership conducted focus groups in March and April and has suggested a collective impact model. The Kansas City Housing Connection is under development with SourceLink. A Request for Proposals opened on April 13, 2022 and will close on June 3, 2022. The Request for Proposals is in partnership with CHES, Inc. and will establish one or more Satellite Homeownership Centers throughout the region. A Request for Proposals regarding establishing a community land trust or similar model was issued on May 6th and will close June 17, 2022. The final element, Engagement, will provide affordable housing training for planning commissioners during May. Recently U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II, announced a \$3 million New Community Project award, with \$500,000 of that grant to support the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership. Additionally, work will begin to integrate housing with MARC's transportation planning in relation to the federal infrastructure bill. Work will get underway to identify and address the barriers to housing production.

One committee member asked if it has been determined how the half million dollars will be spent? At this time MARC and LISC are awaiting the HUD grant rules and regulations. The funds will flow through LISC.

Another committee member asked if there was good participation for the planning commissioners training. There were about 20 participants from each side of the state line. It was a facilitated meeting with tabletop exercises, so there was good participation. Jeff Williams mentioned that providing that training on a regular basis would be great.

Regional Digital Equity Action Plan

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development at MARC, provided a report on work that will be getting underway to address needs of the community and opportunities for funds to address this purpose. MARC has been in discussions with KC Rising and the Federal Reserve to convene interested parties from across the nine-county region. This would look to address areas lacking adequate broadband infrastructure. Each state is expected to receive at least \$100 million to address infrastructure and digital equity. KC Rising's Place Committee began an analysis of digital equity, raising awareness of the needs to civic and business representatives. A three-part value framework focused on enabling factors, meaningful use, and resilience will be utilized to prioritize digital programming. This plan will help establish that Internet access is a basic utility. Various Internet data points and maps were shared. Work will inform the states as to what is needed in the Kansas City area and hopefully influence federal funds that the states will allocate for this purpose.

A question was asked if the development plan is in MARC's scope of work to do. MARC, KC Rising and the Federal Reserve will work as co-conveners. Philanthropic dollars are being raised and MARC will contract with one or more consultants to support technical analysis and community engagement.

Another question was asked about how the schools will be engaged given the impact of COVID and access. MARC will be reaching out to local governments, libraries and schools for input into the plan.

A further comment by a committee member was that the Community Development Block Grant Program is pushing broadband connections. This could help with how to use CDBG funds. Many multi-unit housing and low income housing struggle with last mile connectivity along with broadband connectivity.

Suballocated Call for Projects Phase I

Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Environment, MARC, presented an overview of the process and the current status. Members of the committee were asked to respond to a survey regarding the applications that have been received. A summary of the funds that are to be programmed was shared. A two-step process is being utilized. The first phase looks to evaluate alignment of all applications with our regional vision and goals in addition to providing guidance on enhancing applications. The applications are then given one of three rankings reflecting alignment. They are High Alignment with CKC 2050, Aligned with CKC 2050 or Not Aligned with CKC 2050. A breakdown of applications by state, mode, and alignment was presented. A Joint AQF/BPAC/SPPC meeting will be held on May 24th. The Phase II technical application will open in June and be due July 29th. Staff assessments will be completed in September with funding decisions determined in the fall. The final recommendation will go to TTPC and MARC Board in January 2023. The portal for accessing the applications for committee member review was demonstrated.

A committee member noted that we will never increase transit if no more than 10% of funding is put towards transit. The funds that are being programmed are federal funds that require a local match which can be a challenge for transit agencies. In the past we have seen a greater number of requests from our transit partners than in the current year.

A committee member asked if MARC has 2022 commuting patterns data. MARC completed a travel survey prior to the pandemic. Traffic counts are now close to what they were before COVID. Not all are

back to 100% but they are close. Information about LEHD data was also shared. Transit ridership hasn't rebounded yet but cuts in service have also had an impact. The morning peak period hasn't recovered in the same way that evening peak has.

A committee member asked if the percent of projects deemed "Not Aligned" is similar to previous years. Staff is seeing that the trend is that they are decreasing and in a substantial way for green infrastructure.

Upcoming Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments

Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Environment, MARC, presented information about proposed amendments to Connected KC 2050, the region's long range transportation plan. This will be the fourth set of amendments. Background regarding the amendments and developments since the adoption of the long-range transportation plan was shared. Policy attention areas were identified for each of the amendments. Briefings to various committees are being done during May. The amendments will be released for public comment in June. The amendments are for the following:

- K-10, Douglas/Johnson County Line to K-10/I-425 Interchange: The project would address highway modernization and expansion. It would explore the addition of two to four travel lanes for the 16+ mile corridor. The project's policy attention areas are the Clear Air Action Plan and the Climate Action Plan.
- I-35, Old U.S. 56 to 119th Street: The project would address highway modernization and expansion. The addition of two travel lanes would be explored for the four-mile corridor. The project's policy attention areas are the Congestion Management Process Policy and the impacts on induced traffic demand.

A comment was made by staff that it has been challenging with how to work through competing policy objectives, in this case related to transportation capacity and climate mitigation goals. It would be helpful for the committee to provide guidance. A committee member mentioned that at the national APA conference, a presentation mentioned that looking at the health impact of all types of projects would be beneficial particularly in identifying metrics. It would help to understand impact on adjacent communities. Staff offered the clarification that the project reviews are just beginning so assessments are pending. KDOT confirmed that this is just the first step in answering these questions. KDOT will be coming back multiple times in conjunction with these projects.

A committee member asked if the projects have to be included in the long-range transportation plan if they are in the early stages of assessment. Staff responded that both of the projects are on the national highway system so for FHWA to take action the projects must be added to the long-range transportation plan.

A committee member noted that low-income persons in Johnson County tend to live along the interstates so there may be an environmental justice issue by placing low-income multi-family housing between the highway and single-family housing. KDOT responded that assessing environmental justice impacts will be part of the NEPA process during preliminary engineering for both projects.

Transportation EEVA – Planning Sustainable Places Atlas Demonstration

Beth Dawson, Principal Planner, MARC, briefed the committee on a new tool that will be used in the current Planning Sustainable Places call for projects. In March Frank Lenk presented the Economic Equity Value Atlas (EEVA) that was developed by MARC in partnership with KC Rising. The PSP Atlas is the first foray into developing a Transportation-focused EEVA. The Atlas includes a variety of layers that look at elements that have been traditionally asked about in the PSP application. Additional questions have been added in this call to add nuance to the applications and to better compare elements between different applications. This includes a category of Sustainable Place Types where local businesses are classified into the four categories shown. There are four types of categories -- Community, Consumption, Institutional or Tourism and Recreation places. There

are also layers detailing residential population, employment, mix of land use, variety of housing, minority population, and percent impervious surface. All of the measurements are at the census block level. Various mobility options are also provided including sidewalks, transit lines, and bike facilities. These new elements will not be scored in the application process but the link to the Atlas is: <https://marc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instance/sidebar/index.html?appid=d8f9871db6f14d29abc0914227a4cf18> .

A committee member asked if there is a comparable project or tool that can explain how to use the tool. Staff responded that the Submission Guidebook explains all questions. Additionally, the questions within the application ask specifically about each layer and how the proposed project's scope of work will address each element. The pre-application workshop will walk through the application process to demonstrate the tool and the presentation will be recorded and posted to the Call for Projects portal.

A committee member commented that the Atlas could be used to address the previous question about environmental justice with the long-range plan amendments.

Climate Action Plan Update

Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director, MARC, announced that the Climate Action Plan received an outstanding plan award from the Missouri APA conference, and it has received an award for excellence in regional plans at the National APA conference. The Climate and Environment Council has received 65 applications for filling the committee member slots and the membership will be determined in the coming months.

Committee Member Updates

- Brian Alferman mentioned that Johnson County has received Gold LEED status for LEED for Cities certification for the county. It is just the 25th local government to achieve that certification in the world. The process identifies the strengths and weaknesses for the County and will help identify future work to support and improve the County's status.
- Michael Frisch announced Julie Crowley from Western Carolina University will be coming to UMKC. She is an expert in community natural disaster planning. She will add to UMKC's sustainability capacity especially as APUD will be moving into the new school of Science and Engineering. It will be a part of the division of the natural built environment.
- Jeff Williams shared that the Brownfield Coordinator at KCMO was successful in securing about \$6 million of additional funds to brownfield projects in the area.

Other Business

Dean Katerndahl informed the committee of topics for the next meeting which will take place July 8, 2022 and will be a hybrid meeting and encourage committee members to attend in person. Committee members were encouraged to attend the Mid-America Regional Assembly which will be the organization's 50th anniversary celebration. The meeting was adjourned.