

SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE

March 7, 2025 Meeting Summary

Committee Members

Dean Katerndahl, City of Parkville, MO – MO Co-Chair
Logan Heely, City of Overland Park, KS – KS Co-Chair
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Michael Frisch, UMKC, Urban Planning + Design
Katie Jardieu, Miami County, KS
Cathy Justice, Bridging the Gap
Janet McRae, Miami County Economic Development Corporation
Erin Ollig, City of Overland Park, KS
Michael Park, City of Lee's Summit, MO
Melissa Schmitz, MoDOT
Allison Smith, KDOT

Guests:

Leslie Karr, City of Overland Park, KS
Davonna Moore, CDM Smith

MARC Staff

Ron Achelpohl, Martin Rivarola, Beth Dawson, Patrick Trouba, Anna Van Brunt, Cy Splichal, Bobby Evans, Frank Lenk

Welcome and Introductions

Missouri Co-Chair Dean Katerndahl called the meeting to order. Introductions in person and online followed.

Approval of November 8th Meeting Summary

Kansas Co-Chair Logan Heely called for any additions or corrections to the meeting summary draft. Jon Birkel mentioned that he had additional comments on the I-29 project that he discussed in the previous meeting, which he had provided prior to the meeting. Erin Ollig motioned to accept the meeting summary with changes; Janet McRae seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting summary was approved with changes.

Land Use Forecast Overview and Process

Frank Lenk, Director of Economic Research, provided an overview of the regional Land-Use Forecast and its update process. Ron Achelpohl asked if the last table was population or population growth. Frank clarified that it is the share of population growth. Janet McRae mentioned that she appreciated the highlight of birth and death trends for the region.

MARC Committee Structure & Assessment Review

Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Land Use, provided an update on a committee structure and assessment review that MARC is performing internally.

Federal Transportation Policy & Funding Update

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, provided an update to federal transportation policy and funding update. Dean Katerndahl asked if there were any short-term impacts for MARC if there is a federal shutdown. Ron responded that there would be some ramifications related to cash flow, federal approvals, and project development, but that it was very hard to predict.

Proposed Strategy Regarding CKC2050 Plan Term Editing

Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Land Use, presented a proposed strategy regarding the CKC 2050 plan term edits. The committee discussed reviewing terminology in their work. Some members anticipated broader implications due to a lack of federal guidance. Suggestions included adding terms like "resilience" and "women" to the review. Some expressed concern about overpreparation and maintaining the community-driven focus, emphasizing legal alignment. Others urged a focus on outcomes. This was linked to past discussions about recommendations vs. regulations. The chair stressed identifying desired actions over specific wording, a point previously suggested. One member opposed moving forward with the review.

Strategic Policy Direction for Committee and PSP Program

The co-chairs hosted a conversation on the strategic policy direction for the committee and the PSP program. The committee discussed continuing its focus on strategies for centers and corridors, emphasizing the need to define "successful" in this context. They agreed to incorporate previous discussions on federal impacts and explore using benchmarks and metrics to track progress on sustainable communities. The conversation highlighted the importance of defining terms and their concrete benefits to incentivize regional work rather than mandate it. Data availability, especially given federal changes and urban-rural differences, was raised as a concern, with suggestions to leverage local datasets. The committee also considered using existing grant investments and potential awards or recognition programs, possibly inspired by the APA awards, to encourage alignment with their priorities. The next meeting will focus on developing a work plan for the year on defining successful centers and corridors using metrics.

Other Items – Quick Updates

Updates from the committee

Jon Birkel mentioned that Hunt Midwest is starting to lease a project by the KUMC.

Next meeting is May 9th.