



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

Mid-America Regional Council • 600 Broadway, Suite 200 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • 816/474-4240

August 26, 2025

Board Member Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

In-person attendees in MARC's Board Room with a remote option via Zoom

Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email marcinfo@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, for instructions to join the teleconference.

AGENDA

1. Brief Self-Introductions
2. SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES
 - a. VOTE: Authorize application and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and issuance of associated subaward agreements.
3. EXEMPLARY CORE CAPACITIES
 - a. VOTE: Authorize the Executive Director to sign a lease with Penn Seven, L.L.C. for space at 801 Pennsylvania.
4. COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. REPORT: Update regarding the importance of the federal role in the Kansas City economy.
 - b. REPORT: Regional Housing Partnership Updates.
5. BRIEF REPORTS
 - a. REPORT: Public Sector Workforce Development Updates.
 - b. REPORT: Report on current Kansas City regional 911 network technology upgrades and initiatives.
 - c. REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council transportation committee structure and process update.
6. Executive Director's Report

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

7. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the June 24, 2025, Board Meeting
 - b. VOTE: Review and accept the 2024 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report.
 - c. VOTE: Retroactively authorize a grant application in the amount of \$418,338 to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding to support agencies' cooperative efforts.
 - d. VOTE: Authorize one-year contract renewals with Bound Tree and Life Assist for MARCER cooperative purchasing agreements for emergency medical supplies and equipment.
 - e. VOTE: Approve an agreement with Motorola Solutions for system upgrades: System Selector functionality, VESTA 9-1-1 call processing hosts, and Router 2 software updates.



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- f. VOTE: Authorize renewal provider agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Veterans Directed Care program.
 - g. VOTE: Ratify renewal of the subcontract agreement with the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging for the Give 5 program.
 - h. VOTE: Ratify the submission of a proposal for an Administration for Community Living grant opportunity to develop and implement strategies for chronic disease self-management education programs.
 - i. VOTE: Authorize a contract amendment with Forvis Mazars, LLP for extended support and to update MSER automation based on State Unit on Aging template changes.
 - j. VOTE: Ratify acceptance of funds from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program and other non-federal funders for a combined federal/non-federal amount up to \$11 million dollars for a 3-year period (2025-2028) to support the Double Up Food Bucks Program.
 - k. VOTE: Authorize a Grant Application to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start for One-time Supplemental Funds for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families.
 - l. VOTE: Approve contractual agreements for renovations and upgrades to Render's Hope's Head Start facility to meet health and safety needs.
 - m. VOTE: Approve revisions to Policy on Transportation Improvement Program to increase financial modification threshold.
 - n. VOTE: Approve 2025 Unified Planning Work Program - Amendment #3 for KCATA East West Transit Study
8. VOTE: Approve Administrative Actions from July 2025 Memo
- a. VOTE: Authorize grant application and acceptance of funds, if awarded, to the Elevance Health Foundation for up to \$600,000 dollars to support the KC Fresh Rx program.
 - b. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of funds and increased contract for the Mid-America Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program (\$250,000).
 - c. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of funds from Child Care Aware of Missouri to serve as a Regional Community Partner (\$62,400).
 - d. VOTE: Approve a contract between The Family Conservancy and Mid-America Regional Council's Early Learning Department (\$57,889).
 - e. VOTE: Authorize a contract between Deb Bowman and Mid-America Regional Council Head Start Department (\$55,000).
 - f. VOTE: Authorize a contract between Alyssa Howk and Mid-America Regional Council Head Start Department (\$69,009).
 - g. VOTE: Approve the 2025 3rd Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

MARC Board of Directors - Members and Alternates

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Anderson, Jalen	Jackson County	County Legislator - Designee for County Executive Frank White Jr.
Bacon, John	Olathe, KS	Mayor
Baird, Bill	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor
Boley, Damien	Smithville, MO	Mayor
Bolon, Greg	MoDOT	District Engineer
Bunch, Eric	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Burroughs, Tom	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Caiharr, Carolyn	Edwardsville, KS	Mayor
Carpenter, Jon	Clay County	Commissioner
Culbertson, Jeff	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Dove, Willie	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Duncan, Johnathan	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Fast, Becky	Johnson County	Commissioner - Designee for Commission Chair Mike Kelly
Fears, Jared	Independence, MO	Councilmember
Fricker, Scott	Platte County	Presiding Commissioner
Garner, Tyrone	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Mayor/CEO
Grummert, Holly	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember
Hanzlick, Janee	Johnson County	Commissioner
Hardy, Jeff*	MoDOT	Asst. District Engineer
Heley, Logan	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember - Designee for Mayor Curt Skoog
Hill, Dr. Evelyn	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Hockemeier, Max	Ray County	Commissioner
Hurlbert, Victor	Clay County	Auditor
Huston, Bob	Cass County	Commissioner
Jones, Leonard	Mayor	Grandview, MO
Kane, Mike	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner - Designee for Mayor/CEO Tyrone Garner
Kelly, Mike	Johnson County	Commission Chairman
Lopez, Beto	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor Pro Tem – Designee for Mayor Bill Baird
Lucas, Quinton	Kansas City, MO	Mayor
Marshall, Megan	Jackson County	Legislator
McCandless, Bridget	Independence, MO	Councilmember – Designee for Mayor Rory Rowland
McDonough, Mike	Raytown, MO	Mayor
McGee, DaRon	Jackson County	Legislator
Meyers, Jeff	Johnson County	Commissioner
Mikkelsen, Eric	Prairie Village, KS	Mayor
Moriarty, Michael**	KDOT	Chief of Transportation Planning
Nolte, Jerry	Clay County	Presiding Commissioner
Pogue, Randy	Kearney, MO	Mayor
Poppa, Michael	Johnson County municipalities	Mayor
Pretz, George	Miami County	Commission Chairman
Ramirez, Christian	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Rowland, Rory	Independence, MO	Mayor
Sandifer, Mickey	Shawnee, KS	Mayor
Skoog, Curt	Overland Park, KS	Mayor
Stephens, Tom	Bonner Springs, KS	Mayor
Stieben, Mike	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Tracy, Sheila	Ray County	Presiding Commissioner
Turnbow, Kristofer	Raymore, MO	Mayor
Vaughan, Tyler	Miami County	Commissioner
Vogt, Marge	Olathe, KS	Council member - Designee for Mayor John Bacon
Wagner, Scott	Clay County	Commissioner
Walker, Rick	De Soto, KS	Mayor
White III, Frank**	KCATA	President/CEO
White Jr., Frank	Jackson County	County Executive
Willet, Nathan	Kansas City, MO	Council member
Wright, Chris	Platte County	Recorder of Deeds
Younis, Inas	Overland Park, KS	Council member

*Public Transit Representatives (Voting) **Public Transit Advisory Representatives (Non-Voting)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 1

ISSUE:

Introductions and Board Sharing Time

BACKGROUND:

Time has been reserved on the agenda for introductions and items of interest to Board members. The Board Chair encourages board members to raise matters for discussion at future meetings or other issues of general concern or interest.

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MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 2a

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize application and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and issuance of associated subaward agreements.

BACKGROUND:

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program originated following the attacks of September 11, 2001. The UASI program provides funding to enhance regional preparedness in designated high-threat, high-density areas to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism. Eligibility is determined yearly through an analysis of the relative risk of terrorism faced by the 100 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the United States, in accordance with the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended.

The Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released on August 1, 2025, showing that the Kansas City Urban area was eligible to apply for \$3,982,079.85 in UASI funding. In FY 24, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received \$1,402,945.75 in funding. The application was due to the State of Missouri by August 13, 2025. Due to the short notice and deadline, this action is asking the Board for affirmation of the submitted application.

The Kansas City Urban Area is comprised of jurisdictions in Jackson, Platte, Clay, Cass and Ray counties in Missouri and Wyandotte, Johnson and Leavenworth counties in Kansas. It is one of fifty-six urban areas across the nation eligible for this funding. The following are projects approved by the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) to include in the application:

Investment Justification	Project name	Funding Amount
Election Security	KC Regional Enhancing Election Security- Training and Exercise	\$115,590.79
	Security Cameras (KC Election Board)	\$10,159.10
Enhancing Communications and Information Sharing	Improving the Common Operating Picture	\$35,000.00
	Strengthening Emergency Communications with the Whole Community	\$50,000.00
	Community Preparedness (Weather Radios)	\$5,000.00
	Health Care Collaboration and Interoperable Communications and Coordination	\$152,267.52
	Information Sharing and Resource Coordination	\$215,801.82
	Badging and Accountability	\$29,250.00
Enhancing Cybersecurity Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places	Cybersecurity	\$10,010.74
	Regional Community Outreach	\$74,980.00
	Tactical Bomb X-Ray System (KCPD)	\$53,399.00
	ICOR Robot-Mini (KCPD)	\$80,550.00
	Bomb/Arson PPE (KCPD)	\$52,432.00

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MARC Board of Directors

Investment Justification	Project name	Funding Amount
	EOD Bomb Suits (Olathe Fire Dept.)	\$41,656.00
	Night Vision Capabilities (KCPD)	\$91,200.00
	Armored Critical Incident Vehicle- The Rook (Lenexa)	\$566,928.00
	Sustaining Multi-Discipline Regional Training	\$308,683.06
	LE Specific Discipline: Training/Exercise	\$226,200.00
	Hazmat Specific Discipline- Training	\$8,400.00
	Hazmat (various agencies)	\$383,034.00
	Sustaining Regional Exercise Capacity	\$180,194.83
	KCRMORG	\$6,500.00
	Mobile Fingerprint Scanners (KCPD)	\$212,966.30
Homeland Security Task Forces and Fusion Center	Sustaining Fusion Center Operations	\$106,704.60
Management and Administration	Management and Administration	\$199,103.99
Preserving and Strengthening Effective Regional Planning	Regional Planning and Collaboration	\$338,150.05
	Plans	\$120,000.00
	Increasing Resiliency and Capabilities of Regional Emergency Human Services Organizations	\$62,000.00
Sustaining Regional Tech Rescue Teams	Sustaining the Kansas City Regional Tech Rescue Teams	\$245,918.05

Subaward agreements are issued to each entity receiving funds/goods/services through the UASI FY25 grant. The subaward agreement identifies the funding amount and types of items being provided, as well as requirements to be met as a condition to receiving the funds or goods. It also serves as a mechanism to transfer ownership to the end user agency from MARC.

The following subawards are greater than \$50,000 and require board approval:

Agency	Project	Subaward Amount
Kansas City KS Fire Department	Hazmat	\$74,000.00
Kansas City MO Fire Department	Hazmat	\$55,600.00
	Sustaining the Kansas City Regional Tech Rescue Teams	\$99,966.82
Kansas City MO Police Department	Tactical Bomb X-Ray System (KCPD)	\$53,399.00
	ICOR Robot-Mini (KCPD)	\$80,550.00
	Bomb/Arson PPE (KCPD)	\$52,432.00
	Night Vision Capabilities (KCPD)	\$91,200.00

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MARC Board of Directors

Agency	Project	Subaward Amount
	Mobile Fingerprint Scanners (KCPD)	\$212,966.30
	Sustaining Fusion Center Operations	\$106,704.60
Lenexa Police Department	Armored Critical Incident Vehicle- The Rook (Lenexa)	\$566,928.00
Olathe Fire Department	Hazmat	\$63,400.00

TOTAL Subawards \$1,457,146.72

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This action item includes the anticipated award and the known subawards that exceed \$50,000 and require approval from the MARC Board of Directors.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$3,982,079.85
Source	FY 2025 UASI Grant
PROJECTED EXPENSES - SUBAWARDS >\$50,000	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	
Pass-Through	\$1,457,146.72
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

On August 4, 2025, the RHSCC Policy Committee met to review staff recommendations based on earlier work in October 2024.

On August 5, 2025, the Law Enforcement Committee met to review and approve projects. The grant requires 35% of the grant to be spent on Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities.

On August 8, 2025, the RHSCC met and approved all projects.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Agencies receiving specialized equipment have agreed to training and to respond anywhere within the region or beyond if available through mutual aid processes.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the application for and acceptance of the FY 2025 Urban Area Security Initiative grant. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the subaward agreement as noted herein.

CONTACT

Erin Lynch, Emergency Services and Homeland Security Program Director
John Davis, Fiscal Administrator

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 3a
Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize the Executive Director to sign a lease with Penn Seven, L.L.C. for space at 801 Pennsylvania.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) lease at 600 Broadway expires July 31, 2026. Late last year, MARC retained Clemons Real Estate to assist in evaluating office space opportunities in the downtown area, including our current location. In addition to financial considerations, Clemons was asked to identify options that meet MARC's operational priorities, including adequate square footage, but flexibility to deal with potential organizational changes; safety and security, especially in parking areas; ease of visitor accessibility, and adequate training and meeting spaces. In addition to considering our current location, a staff team toured 8 different available properties, that could potentially meet MARC's needs.

The building at 801 Pennsylvania, owned by Penn Seven, L.L.C, was identified as a good match and was used to compare with staying in our current location. Key considerations of both options included cost, meeting spaces, HV/AC and elevator systems, office layout, building management, 9-1-1 technology capacity, and other factors. Over the past several months, Clemons has been assisting staff in requesting, refining and evaluating proposals from the owners of 801 Pennsylvania and the owners of 600 Broadway.

In most respects, the facility at 801 Penn has advantages over our current location. MARC would occupy the entire 4th floor and most of the first floor. Some remodeling would be required to add meeting rooms and office space. A test-fit was completed for 801 Penn that documented functions and ensured that the space could accommodate MARC's needs. The space is efficiently laid out which would enable MARC to lease 48,623 sq.ft. instead of our current 53,246. We would also have access to a large common area space. The building also has secured parking, 24/7 security presence and a large dock and freight elevator (for 911). It was built in 1997 and has up to date HVAC, and other utilities. The building owners are also occupants, which facilitates responsive building management.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for MARC's lease payments are paid out of the Indirect fund, and a percentage of salaries charged to programs. Lease payments run around \$1.1 M per year. The current and projected rate charge to salaries averages 5-6%. The 801 Penn proposal is for a 125-month lease, 2.75% escalation, five months free rent which would be spread over the first five years of the lease, and an adequate tenant improvement allowance to cover almost all costs of the move and remodeling. It provides a leaseback option after five years if MARC's revenue decreases. The 600 Rivergate proposal was a 60-month lease, 2% escalation, 3 months free rent and included some tenant improvement allowance.

Over the five-year period, the 801 Penn building averages \$45,000 more per year (4%) than the 600 Rivergate proposal.

Staff believes the benefits of 801 Penn, including secured parking, stable HV/AC, freight and technology capacity, and more efficient space, are all important to MARC operations and worth the modest cost differential. Some members of the MARC Executive Committee toured

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MARC Board of Directors

the 801 Penn facility, and the entire Executive Committee has reviewed the proposals from both properties and has endorsed this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a lease with Penn Seven L.L.C. for space at 801 Pennsylvania and to use the tenant improvement allowance for moving related expenses.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
Amanda Graor, Director of Data and Digital Services
David Warm, Executive Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 4a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update regarding the importance of the federal role in the Kansas City economy.

BACKGROUND:

In April, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) staff presented information concerning the potential impact of expected federal layoffs. In August, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce asked MARC to present this information to staff members of the region's congressional delegation, along with other information describing the importance of the federal role in the region's economy.

Staff will share this presentation with the Board to provide an update on the most recent data concerning federal layoffs, as well provide newly-assembled data on the amount of federal spending entering the Kansas City economy, its recent trends and geographic location.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This work is performed as part of MARC's planning grants to monitor and forecast the region's economic performance and workforce demands.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

PowerPoint presentation will be shared after the board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Frank Lenk, Director of the Office of Economic Research

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 4b
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

REPORT: Regional Housing Partnership Updates

BACKGROUND:

In partnership with LISC Greater Kansas City, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) convenes and coordinates the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) with a goal of building an effective housing system that expands and sustains access to affordable housing. The partnership is mobilizing individuals and organizations to enact systems-level change around the creation and preservation of more homes of greater variety and at different price points across the region. Following the adoption of strategic goals, the Regional Housing Partnership is launching implementation teams to advance public policy, process improvement, workforce development, narrative change, and more. This report will share progress to date as we prepare for the September 30, 2025, kick-off event that is aimed at changing the housing narrative across the greater Kansas City metro.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The Regional Housing Partnership is a collaboration between local government, nonprofits, for-profit organizations and others working in the housing space.

EXHIBITS:

PowerPoint presentation to be provided.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ashley Z. Hand, AIA - Director of Local Government Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 5a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

REPORT: Public Sector Workforce Development Update.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is introducing a new career site as a regional hub for public service jobs which will automate and streamline the sharing of job postings among member jurisdictions. This centralized resource will grow to include public service career stories, feature employers and careers, and provide other key information to help individuals navigate career opportunities. This new website is part of a larger effort to overhaul MARC services for the public service workforce, including training and professional development. MARC staff will provide a preview of the regional hub among other services to support the public sector workforce.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

PowerPoint presentation to be provided.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ashley Z. Hand, AIA - Director of Local Government Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 5b
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Report on current Kansas City regional 911 network technology upgrades and initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

Staff will provide a brief report to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors on current and planned technology upgrades to the regional 911 system and ongoing initiatives in preparation for World Cup.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The Regional 911 system operates in all nine MARC counties and Atchison and Linn counties in Kansas.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 5c

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Mid-America Regional Council transportation committee structure and process update.

BACKGROUND:

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Management Area (TMA) for the Kansas City region, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is responsible for continuing, cooperative and comprehensive performance-based transportation planning and programming processes. Key deliverables out this regional work include:

- Development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Connected KC 2050
- Development of programming allocations for region's suballocated funding programs
- Management of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Maintenance of the Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- Maintenance of the region's Functional Class Systems
- Maintenance of ITS architecture and the Congestion Management Process (CMP),
- Many other related transportation plans & studies

In these and other related tasks, MARC strives for efficient and comprehensive processes while seeking to address unique needs of all communities across the region. These processes are known for their transparency, thoroughness, predictability, flexibility, fairness, and openness to meaningful participation by all parties. These positive aspects of MARC's processes will be retained through this committee restructuring process.

MARC's transportation work is accomplished through the engagement with several policy, planning and programming committees composed by a variety of regional stakeholders. The nature of MARC's planning and programming processes can at times appear overly complex and time consuming. A recent review of peer MPOs illustrated that MARC relies on significant greater number of committees to accomplish its work than most of benchmarked MPOs across the county.

As a result, MARC staff reviewed transportation committees & processes to seek ways to right-size and simplify the committee structure by combining duplicative or similar efforts into fewer committees, right-size time commitment by member agency staff and increase active participation and engagement in meetings. In addition to making committee meetings less redundant and time-consuming for our members, it is staff's hope that consolidation of committees should increase integration of multimodal planning in our work.

Staff have developed a recommendation which would continue to advance transportation activities while meeting long-standing goals with a streamlined committee structure. Staff have begun discussions with committee leadership about a proposed committee restructuring. At the upcoming TTPC meeting, staff will provide a status update, timeline, committee leadership feedback to date and discuss next steps related to this recommendation.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

A recent update to the region's MTP, ConnectedKC 2050 plan, included a recommendation to review the committee structure and processes.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee leadership of planning modal and programming committees have been briefed about this process and related recommendations. Outreach to committees will continue over upcoming weeks. TTPC was briefed on this update on August 19, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment
Martin Rivarola, Assistant Director of Transportation and Land Use Planning
Marc Hansen, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 7a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the June 24, 2025, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the June 24, 2025, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the June 24, 2025, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant



MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 24, 2025

12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS - MARC Board Chair
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO - MARC Board 2nd Vice Chair
Council member Eric Bunch, Kansas City, MO
Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Commissioner Jeff Culbertson, Leavenworth County, KS
Council member Johnathan Duncan, Kansas City, MO
Commissioner Becky Fast, Johnson County, KS
Council member Jared Fears, Independence, MO
Commissioner Scott Fricker, Platte County, MO
Council member Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS
Commissioner Dr. Evelyn Hill, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Commissioner Max Hockemeier, Ray County, MO
Mayor Leonard Jones, Grandview, MO
Legislator DaRon McGee, Jackson County, MO
Mayor Eric Mikkelsen, Prairie Village, KS
Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, KS
Mayor Mickey Sandifer, Shawnee, KS
Mayor Tom Stephens, Bonner Springs, KS
Commissioner Mike Stieben, Leavenworth County, KS
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO
Commissioner Scott Wagner, Clay County, MO
County Executive Frank White Jr., Jackson County, MO

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Due to the meeting being held remotely and in-person, Commissioner Hanzlick provided instructions for participation. She reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item, and ask for approval of all agenda items as they appear on the agenda. The consent agenda will be voted on at the end of the meeting. Members will have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during each vote.

VOTE: Accept the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the MARC Solid Waste Management District 2024 Financial Report.

Andrew Molloy, Finance Director, introduced Kaleb Lilly from RubinBrown, the audit firm that MARC retained to perform the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the MARC

Solid Waste Management District 2024 Financial Report. Mr. Lilly acknowledged that the Budget and Personnel Committee walked through the presentation in detail at both the May and June meetings and that this presentation would be brief. RubinBrown is finalizing the documents and expect them to be completed by Thursday the week of the board meeting - they will issue a clean audit with no findings or adjustments. There is one small uncorrected adjustment that will be noted in the footnotes of the report per the reporting requirements. RubinBrown will issue an unmodified opinion for both the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the MARC Solid Waste Management District 2024 Financial Report and will be back in August to present the Single Audit.

MOTION: Mayor Eric Mikkelsen moved for approval of the consent agenda and Legislator DaRon McGee seconded. The motion passed.

REPORT: External presentation on the regional impact of 988 and Mobile Crisis Response by Shannon Moss from ReDiscover and Colene Medrano from Wyandot Behavioral Health Network. Julie Phillips, Shared Services Director, introduced Shannon Moss from ReDiscover and Colene Medrano from Wyandot Behavioral Health Network to highlight the regional impact of 988 in the Kansas City region. Ms. Phillips shared the community mental health centers that serve each of the MARC region counties and explained how the 988 system works through call, text, chat, 24/7 365 days every year. Ms. Phillips also explained the mobile crisis response system that it put into action if 988 activators need intervention. These responders are trained mental health professionals that can meet the callers where they are in the community to offer safe, compassionate care with immediate needs. These responders reduce the use of law enforcement, public health, and other safety resources during non-emergency situations.

In total for the year 2024, 79,988 calls were answered in the MARC region alone. Each call was answered in an average of 14.4 seconds and the call handle time was an average of 13.1 minutes. In 2024, 2,296 mobile crisis responses were performed with an average response time of 22.7 minutes. This number is only 2.9% of total calls that needed dispatch services. The final statistic that was shared is that 87.7% of mobile crisis responses were resolved on-scene and only 1.6% resulted in involuntary transfer to ER or jail. This program has proven to be an effective way to directly help members of the community while reducing the weight on law enforcement. However, due to current funding conditions, the future funding is uncertain because of the changes occurring within SAMHSA which is where a majority of the funding comes through. There are also state and local dollars that contribute to the program but Mobile Crisis Response continues to be an expensive program to run.

Commissioner Mike Stieben asked how many of the calls were coming from minors. While the data was not available on hand, the team believes the number is around 30%.

Commissioner Dr. Evelyn Hill thanked the team for sharing the numbers and mentioned how amazing it is that they are on scene within 22 minutes. She asked if a person answers the phone 24/7 365 or if it is an automated message that answers first to direct the care needed. The team responded that CommCARE answers the phone which is person based and then there are 3 teams that rotate the work in 8a-7p shifts and then on call services to respond. There will always be a person who answers the phone or chat.

Mayor Leonard Jones asked how we can change the mobile crisis response to be reimbursable so the program has more stable funding. The team indicated that they could bill for Medicaid in Kansas but not Missouri but the state is currently not advocating for Medicaid expansion so a limited number of people have that option.

VOTE: Approve Connected KC 2050 regional long-range transportation plan update.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval of the Connected KC 2050 regional long-range transportation plan that guides the system for the next 25 years. This policy kick-off has been two years in the making and included external

surveys, pop up engagements, and over 100 presentations and discussions with MARC committees. Mr. Achelpohl outlined the policy framework and highlighted major plan elements including a 17% growth in population and a 19% growth in employment by 2050. By approving the Connected KC 2050 plan update, the board will also approve the Land Use Forecast put forth within the plan. There are an estimated 525 projects in the plan but Mr. Achelpohl mentioned that 240 of those projects are financially constrained and total \$10.6 billion dollars. As with previous plans, there are performance measures and targets for safety, infrastructure conditions, system performance, and voluntary environmental issues. During the final round of public engagement, major themes emerged including high support for increasing public transit and its funding mechanisms, high support for complete streets to accommodate all users, and the team received feedback to remove references to certain demographic-based analysis to better align with the current administration's federal policy priorities. Mr. Achelpohl reported that the Total Transportation Policy Committee and other multi-modal MARC committees recommend the plan's approval by the MARC Board.

As a supplemental presentation to the plan, Frank Lenk, Director of the Office of Economic Research, presented the Land Use Forecast that is housed within the Connected KC 2050 plan. Mr. Lenk mentioned that the Land Use Forecast is driven by the work of the Technical Forecast Committee that is comprised of primarily city and county planners from a wide variety of jurisdictions who provided input on local land use plans, development pipeline, and area expected to be served by sewers. The committee reviewed data output for reasonableness and suggested corrections. The forecast is projecting that the declining fertility rates, an aging population and lower immigration are all combining to create a region where overall growth is slowing and household size is declining. However, Mr. Lenk said that even in an era where the average number of people in the household is declining, household growth is a much better indicator of community health than population growth. Mr. Lenk also highlighted the household change, population change, and employment change for the years between 2020-2050 by county. He also noted that city based forecasts are available, and he would be happy to share with any jurisdiction that would be interested in learning more.

MOTION: Mayor Leonard Jones moved for approval of the consent agenda and Council member Eric Bunch seconded. The motion passed.

REPORT: Report on 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for five Missouri Counties. Marlene Nagel, Director of the Office of Resource Development, requested approval for the Hazard Mitigation Plan that is created every five years. Local jurisdictions are asked to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan and MARC has assisted jurisdictions in the five Missouri counties, Clay, Cass, Jackson, Platte, and Ray with a new plan to replace the one expiring in July 2025. The plan focuses on five natural hazards - tornadoes, floods, severe winter weather, severe heat and drought, and severe thunderstorms. Each jurisdiction has responsibility to participate in the plan's preparation, identify hazards of greatest risk to their community, identify local capabilities and needs, and outline goals and actions. The plan will be submitted to SEMA/FEMA for review and approval and then the recommendations will be incorporated into other local and regional plans.

REPORT: Regional Climate Action Plan update.

Karen Clawson, Air and Climate Program Manager, gave a brief update about the regional climate action plan that stemmed from a formula grant from the EPA in 2023. The final deliverable of the grant, the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, is due December 2025. This effort to develop a CCAP is considered the full update of the Regional Kansas City Climate Action Plan and will entail a complete inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, a scenario planning analysis and a workforce planning analysis. The plan will continue to serve as a voluntary framework to guide and align local action in ways that make a difference for the entire Kansas City region.

(continued)

The next step in the process is to complete a climate scenario model that will explore uncertainty, inform long term decision making, and provide a stress test to policies and strategies for the region. The final phase of public engagement will conclude in September with adoption of the plan in November and submittal to the EPA in December.

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick asked if the plan tracks or accounts for aviation emissions. Ms. Clawson answered that no they are not included in the plan.

REPORT: Status of Mid-America Regional Council federal grants, pass-through funds and other funding.

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration, announced that MARC staff continue to monitor cash flow, grants at risk, partner contracts and staffing. We have begun a risk analysis and will initiate the 2025 Revised/2026 Budget process early. However, it is difficult to create funding projections because change continues to happen rapidly. Staff are watching each program grant with a close eye to navigate the quickly changing environment and staffing shortages at the federal level.

Commissioner Dr. Hill asked if Head Start operates in Kansas. Ms. Gonzales said that

VOTE: Authorize submission of Head Start Preschool grant to the Administration for Children and Families for the continued support of the Head Start program for the 2025-2026 program year.

Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director, requested authorization to submit the Head Start preschool grant to the Administration for Children and Families for the Head Start 2025-2026 program year and she gave a programmatic update for the recent changes in the program. MARC Head Start proposes to continue supporting the enrollment of 1,793 Head Start Preschool and 557 Early Head Start in programs managed by 17 direct service providers in Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri. The total amount of annual funding available is \$32,918,852. Included in the total are funds to support program operations, training, and technical assistance. The YMCA and Ability KC recently announced their discontinuation of Head Start services which prompted slot changes and the acquisition of new partners: Mattie Rhodes and Render's Hope. Ms. Lawson also highlighted the 60-year anniversary of Head Start as an association and gave an overview of the Head Start Family Fun Resource Fair that was held at the MARC offices in honor of the anniversary.

MOTION: Council member Logan Heley moved for approval of the consent agenda and Mayor Leonard Jones seconded. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

David Warm, MARC's Executive Director, reminded the board that there is no July Board meeting and we look forward to seeing everyone in August.

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the May 27, 2025, Board Meeting
- b. VOTE: Approve renewal of Property, Liability, Vehicle, Cyber and Work Comp Coverages with Midwest Public Risk effective July 1, 2025.
- c. VOTE: Authorize a consulting contract for Phase 2 of the SmartMoves Transit Plan update.
- d. VOTE: Approve 2025 Special Amendment #1 to the 2024-28 Transportation Improvement Program.
- e. VOTE: Authorize consultant agreements for three 2025 Planning Sustainable Places studies.
- f. VOTE: Authorize grant application to US Department of Transportation's Safe

Streets and Roads for All Grant.

- g. VOTE: Approve application to the USDA's Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program's 2025 Request for Application and accept funds, if awarded.
- h. VOTE: Authorize a contract amendment with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the Diabetes Self-Management Program Network.
- i. VOTE: Authorize amendments to Engineering Agreements for Energy Audits for Nonprofit Buildings.
- j. VOTE: Approve submittal of a collaborative application to the Kauffman Foundation for the Economic Mobility Landscape research grant and accept funds, if awarded.
- k. VOTE: Approve the Mid-America Regional Council's Head Start proposal to make changes to Head Start Preschool enrollment for 2025-2026 to accommodate closure of the YMCA of Greater Kansas City and Ability KC.
- l. VOTE: Approve contract amendments for Emmanuel Child and Family Development Center and Independence School District for Head Start program services effective August 1, 2025.
- m. VOTE: Approve Head Start services contract for Mattie Rhodes and Render's Hope Day School to enroll children effective August 1, 2025 until the end of the grant year.
- n. VOTE: Approve key agency contracts to provide Early Head Start services through the State of Missouri Early Head Start grant for the 2025-2026 budget period.
- o. VOTE: Approve contracts for Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start support services.
- p. VOTE: Approve actions taken on the June 10, 2025, Head Start Advisory Committee Meeting.
- q. VOTE: Approve the three-year renewal agreement with GeoComm for the GeoComm GIS Data Hub.
- r. VOTE: Authorize a contract with Carl Abraham for regional emergency services assessment and outreach work in an amount not to exceed \$81,250.
- s. VOTE: Authorize application and acceptance of an Assistant Secretary Preparedness and Response grant for fiscal year 2025-2026 and authorize execution of related subcontract.
- t. VOTE: Authorize issuance of subaward agreement to Overland Park Police Department for the Fiscal Year 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative Grants.

MOTION: Council member Logan Heley moved for approval of the consent agenda and Commissioner Dr. Evelyn Hill seconded. Commissioner Hanzlick asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items.

The motion passed.

It should be noted that Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez was not present at the time the vote was held.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

N/A = Not Appointed MARC does not hold a Board of Directors meeting during the month of July

County	Board Member	State	Jurisdiction	Member/ Alternate	January	February	March	April	May	June	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Percentage
Cass County	Bob Huston	MO	Cass County	Member												0	0%
	VACANT	MO	Cass County	Alternate												0	0%
	Kristofer Turnbow	MO	Raymore	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	VACANT		Cass County Municipality	Alternate												0	0%
Clay County	Jerry Nolte	MO	Clay County	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	VACANT		Clay County	Alternate												0	0%
	Victor Hurlbert	MO	Clay County	Member	x		x		x							3	50%
	VACANT		Clay County	Alternate												0	0%
Jackson County	Damien Boley	MO	Smithville	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	Randy Pogue	MO	Kearney	Alternate												0	0%
	Frank White Jr.	MO	Jackson County	Member	x					x						2	33%
	Jalen Anderson	MO	Jackson County	Alternate		x										1	17%
	DaRon McGee	MO	Jackson County	Member	x			x		x						3	50%
	Megan Smith	MO	Jackson County	Alternate	x											1	17%
	Mike McDonough	MO	Raytown	Member	x				x							2	33%
	Leonard Jones	MO	Grandview	Alternate	x	x			x	x						4	67%
	Rory Rowland	MO	Independence	Member												0	0%
	Bridget McCandless	MO	Independence	Alternate	x	x	x	x	x							5	83%
	Jared Fears	MO	Independence	Member	x		x	x	x	x						5	83%
	VACANT		Independence	Alternate												0	0%
	Quinton Lucas	MO	Kansas City	Member												0	0%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
	Eric Bunch	MO	Kansas City	Member			x	x		x						3	50%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
Johnson County	Johnathan Duncan	MO	Kansas City	Member	x		x		x	x						4	67%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
	Nathan Willet	MO	Kansas City	Member					x							1	17%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
	Bill Baird	MO	Lee's Summit	Member												0	0%
	Beto Lopez	MO	Lee's Summit	Alternate		x	x	x		x						4	67%
	Mike Kelly	KS	Johnson County	Member	x											1	17%
	Becky Fast	KS	Johnson County	Alternate	x		x	x	x	x						5	83%
	Janee Hanzlick	KS	Johnson County	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	Jeff Meyers	KS	Johnson County	Alternate												0	0%
	Eric Mikkelson	KS	Prairie Village	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	Michael Poppa	KS	Roeland Park	Alternate	x	x	x									3	50%
	Rick Walker	KS	De Soto	Member		x	x	x	x							4	67%
	Mickey Sandifer	KS	Shawnee	Alternate	x	x	x	x	x	x						6	100%
	John Bacon	KS	Olathe	Member		x		x								2	33%
	Marge Vogt	KS	Olathe	Alternate	x		x		x							3	50%
Johnson County	Curt Skoog	KS	Overland Park	Member		x		x	x							3	50%
	Logan Heley	KS	Overland Park	Alternate			x	x	x	x						4	67%
	Holly Grummert	KS	Overland Park	Member	x	x	x	x	x							5	83%
	Inas Younis	KS	Overland Park	Alternate	x			x	x							3	50%

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AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 7b
Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Review and accept the 2024 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report

BACKGROUND:

As the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) annually expends more than \$750,000 of Federal Financial Assistance, a “Single Audit” is required to ensure that grant funds received were used in compliance with the federal government’s requirements. The engagement is referred to as a Single Audit because it consolidates multiple individual compliance audits into a single audit covering all an organization’s federal awards. The Single Audit is performed parallel to the financial audit that culminates in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR); however, the Single Audit takes slightly longer to complete.

The 2024 Uniform Guidance Single Audit engagement has gone well and is wrapping up with finalization expected this month. Management believes MARC has complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements described in the OMB Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on our major federal programs. In 2024, MARC expended \$67.8M of federal funds of which \$23.5M was passed through to Sub-Recipients. The \$67.8M expenditure is an increase of \$13.5M or 25% compared to 2023 and is an all-time high at MARC.

The Draft 2024 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report is available for review on the MARC website at:

<https://www.marc.org/about-marc/financial-information>

If there are any questions about the draft report, please contact Carol Gonzales, Lisa Santa Maria, Darlene Pickett or David Warm at MARC, or Kaleb Lilly from RubinBrown at (913) 499-4417.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The Board approved the agreement with Rubin Brown for continuation of Audit Services at the January 2025 board meeting. The estimated cost for the 2024 audits is \$86,355. Funds for the audit are budgeted in the Indirect Costs Fund in the 2025 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the 2024 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
Lisa Santa Maria, Accountant III
Darlene Pickett, Accountant III

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7c

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Retroactively authorize a grant application in the amount of \$418,338 to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding to support agencies' cooperative efforts.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Emergency Services programs help ensure the region's ability to prepare, respond, and recover with coordinated plans and high-quality training, technology, and equipment. Since 2012, the Kansas City region has been eligible to apply to Kansas for a portion of its annual State Homeland Security Grant funding to support Kansas agencies.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was announced by FEMA on July 28, 2025, for the State Homeland Security Grant Program. Final projects were submitted by the August 1, 2025 deadline. Due to the short notice and deadline, this action is asking the Board for affirmation of the submitted application.

MARC's grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol's State Homeland Security Grant program will provide \$418,338.00 of FY25 funds to support needed training; exercises; collaborative, strategic, and operational planning; community resilience programming, cybersecurity; a portion of KC Regional Fusion Center operations; and essential equipment replacement, sustainment for the Kansas side specialty teams (hazmat, tactical, explosive ordnance disposal, and technical rescue).

PROJECT	KS FY 25
Sustaining Fusion Center Operations	\$68,250.00
Counter Terrorism Response Training (CTRT)	\$53,333.30
Law Enforcement Discipline Specific Training	\$15,000.00
Improving the Common Operating Picture and Maximizing Available Tools	\$17,000.00
Sustaining Multi-Discipline Regional Training	\$80,908.65
Sustain Regional Technical Rescue Teams	\$5,412.87
Sustain Regional Hazmat Response Capability	\$2,940.00
Multi-Discipline Regional Exercise	\$61,727.34
Incident Support Teams	\$5,000.00
Enhancing Cybersecurity	\$75,300.00
Management & Administration	\$20,916.90
Election Security	\$12,550.14

The initial application work was completed in October 2024 and was based on an estimated 10% reduction from our FY24 award amount. However, the FY25 award amount was equal to the FY24 award amount. Due to new national priority requirements, almost all projects were funded at the same level as approved in October 2024.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) reviewed and approved the application projects and amounts on October 14, 2024. Due to the short notice, staff made minor changes to the application amounts and communicated to the Policy Committee and the RHSCC committee via email for any feedback.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The grant application is submitted on behalf of Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson Counties in Kansas.

EXHIBITS:

None

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize application and acceptance, if awarded, of \$418,338 in FY25 Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding.

STAFF CONTACT

Erin Lynch, Emergency Services and Homeland Security Program Director
John Davis, Fiscal Administrator

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7d

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize one-year contract renewals with Bound Tree and Life Assist for MARCER cooperative purchasing agreements for emergency medical supplies and equipment.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue Committee (MARCER) promotes regional coordination and cooperation in emergency pre-hospital care for metropolitan Kansas City. MARCER is composed of professionals in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) community. Members include state-licensed emergency ambulance services and other EMS providers, as well as representatives from area hospitals, emergency room nurse managers, the Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs Council and Kansas and Missouri Hospital Associations.

MARCER members come together to:

- Work cooperatively to ensure the highest quality pre-hospital care throughout the region.
- Help emergency medical service agencies save money through cooperative purchasing agreements.
- Provide guidelines for time-critical diagnoses.
- Coordinate communications between emergency medical service agencies and hospitals.
- Prepare to respond to mass casualty events.
- Track and inform state legislation.
- Recruit paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to the region.

MARCER is supported by annual membership fees from EMS agencies and annual assessments paid by area hospitals. In addition, MARCER coordinates a cooperative purchasing program, gas purchasing program, and medical waste program that allows MARCER members to save money on the purchases, or services offered from the contracts and MARCER receives an administrative fee to help support the program.

In 2021, MARCER issued a cooperative purchase Request for Bids for emergency medical supplies and equipment. Three vendors were selected: Bound Tree, Life Assist and Medline. No single contract was expected to exceed \$50,000, so the awards were approved administratively for an initial two-year term with three optional one-year extensions (five years total). In 2023, staff administratively approved the first one-year extension with Bound Tree and Life Assist. Medline did not meet its contract obligations, and the contract was not renewed.

In 2024, the board approved the second one-year contract extension (year four) due to the estimated second round of contract renewals is \$114,876, with the estimated revenue for each vendor to be \$57,438.

It is time for the third and final one-year contract extension (year five). The projected estimated revenue from administrative fees for the third round of contract renewals is \$123,689. A new RFP will be published in 2026.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There is no direct expense for MARC associated with this action. MARCER receives an administrative fee of 3% for all purchases made through the cooperative agreements.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The MARCER committee voted to extend each contract at their July 18, 2025, meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The cooperative purchasing program is available to all MARCER members which includes entities in both Kansas and Missouri, both in-region and out of region. There are currently over 70 different agencies that take advantage of this program.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize one-year contract renewals with Bound Tree and Life Assist for MARCER cooperative purchasing agreements for emergency medical supplies and equipment.

CONTACT

Erin Lynch, Emergency Services and Homeland Security Program Director
John Davis, Fiscal Administrator

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 7e
Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve an agreement with Motorola Solutions for system upgrades: System Selector functionality, VESTA 9-1-1 call processing hosts, and Router 2 software updates.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) 911 system currently operates with multiple Motorola VESTA call processing hosts, each supporting several Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). To strengthen system resilience and ensure uninterrupted emergency response capabilities, the Public Safety Communications Board has approved implementing System Selector.

This enhancement will enable PSAPs to establish connections with multiple call processing hosts, rather than relying solely on a single primary host. In the event of a host failure, PSAPs will manually transition to a secondary host, enabling continued operation from their PSAP instead of requiring a reroute of calls or a relocation of personnel.

To support the increased capacity requirements associated with the deployment of System Selector, the addition of two additional Motorola VESTA 9-1-1 call processing hosts to the MARC 911 system is required.

This expansion serves a dual purpose:

- It enables full implementation of the System Selector functionality, allowing PSAPs to connect to multiple hosts for enhanced redundancy.
- It facilitates a more balanced distribution of call traffic across the system, reducing the load on individual hosts and minimizing regional impact in the event of a host-related issue.

By proactively scaling the infrastructure, we are reinforcing the reliability and resilience of the region's emergency communications network, ensuring that 911 call processing remains uninterrupted, even under adverse conditions.

Additionally, to accommodate System Selector and the two additional hosts, a software update for all existing VESTA 9-1-1 call processing hosts must occur. Due to the scope and complexity of this update, Motorola requires the work to be carried out by their certified personnel to ensure system integrity and compliance.

This update will align all call processing hosts, existing and newly deployed, on a consistent software revision, supporting seamless interoperability and optimized performance. Motorola's direct involvement ensures that system-level changes are executed accurately, minimizing risk and downtime.

(continued)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Below is a summary of the associated costs:

Category	Description
System Selector	Licensing costs for software used with existing VESTA 9-1-1 call processing hosts.
Call Processing Hosts	Inclusive of engineering, hardware, and software expenses for new VESTA 9-1-1 infrastructure.
Upgrade Assistance	Covers Motorola engineering labor hours to conduct software updates on current hosts, ensuring they match the software revision of new deployments.

Category	Amount
System Selector Software	\$197,014.80
Call Processing Host 4 and 5 with Secondary CFS	\$768,773.77
Motorola Upgrade Assistance - Router 2 Project	\$110,653.44
Total	\$1,076,442.01

Motorola is the sole source vendor due to the complex design of the MARC 911 network and the need for system compatibility, consistent maintenance, and support.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,076,442.01
Source	911 Fund Balance Reserve
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$1,076,442.01
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Public Safety Communications Board approved this project and funding for this purchase from the 911 Fund Balance Reserve at the July 30, 2025, meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This purchase supports the MARC regional 911 network and benefits all Public Safety Answering Points across the region.

EXHIBITS:

None

(continued)

RECOMMENDATION:

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Approve the agreement with Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$1,076,442.01 for the purchase and implementation of System Selector, addition of Hosts 4 and 5 with Secondary CFS options, and Motorola assistance for Router 2 project software updates.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Program Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 7f
Thriving Older Adults

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize renewal provider agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Veterans Directed Care program.

BACKGROUND:

In Missouri and nationally, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) have contracted with local VA Medical Centers to manage the VDC program. In this program, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) primarily manages referrals made from the Kansas City VA Medical Center of veterans who opt to receive care in the community rather than in a skilled nursing facility. It is possible for MARC to receive referrals from other VA Medical Centers in which patients reside in the Kansas City region. Veterans choose a care provider(s), and MARC provides assessment, care-plan development, and management of the care relationship between the chosen provider(s) and the veteran.

A Financial Management Services firm, ARIS, is contracted to provide fiscal oversight of the care provider/veteran as well as review activities and expenditures according to an established budget.

Current program satisfaction is 98%.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Under the VDC program, MARC is reimbursed approximately \$784 per veteran each month for coordination and program management. An elevated reimbursement of approximately \$1,105 is made for the first veteran assessment. MARC's total enrollment is currently 79 veterans, across the 9 county region with increases expected in the coming years.

REVENUES (Annual at estimated enrollment of 75 veterans)	
Source	VA MISSION Act
VDC Initial Encounter	\$82,875
VDC Ongoing Management (11 months)	\$646,800
Total	\$729,675
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$300,695
Contractual (ARIS FMS)	\$135,000
Contract Assessors	\$196,650
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$31,000
Cell Phone	\$2,400
Training	\$650
Total	\$666,395

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its August meeting and recommended board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend authorization to renew the provider agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Veterans Directed Care (VDC) program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Shannon Halvorsen, Integrated Care Manager

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7g

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Ratify renewal of the subcontract agreement with the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging for the Give 5 program.

BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) is renewing subcontracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) funded by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) for the Give 5 Volunteer Matching program.

The Give 5 program connects skilled, passionate retired (or otherwise have the time to commit) older adults with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Participation in Give 5 requires a commitment to five day-long classes, which include guest speakers and nonprofit site visits, and a graduation ceremony. Each Give 5 class experience allows participants to learn about public and community service trends, “taste test” a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and find a role that matches their passions.

This subcontract renews funding to offer a minimum of three sessions in SFY 2026.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$120,250
Source	Subcontract with ma4, funded by DHSS
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$55,700
Contractual	\$25,000
Transportation	\$24,700
Marketing/Outreach	\$4,000
Other (supplies, printing, meeting space, etc.)	\$10,850
Total Projected Expenses	\$120,250

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its August meeting and recommended board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify new contract (renewal) between MARC and MA4, accepting funding for the provision and administration of the Give 5 program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

Victoria Jackson, Integrated Care Specialist III

Christian Aguirre, Integrated Care Specialist II

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7h

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Ratify the submission of a proposal for an Administration for Community Living grant opportunity to develop and implement strategies for chronic disease self-management education programs.

BACKGROUND:

Last February, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) submitted a proposal to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) for the previously released grant opportunity: Advancing Strategies to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs to Support Older Adult Behavioral Health. Two days later, MARC received notice that the grant opportunity had been paused until further notice.

While not reopening the same grant opportunity, ACL has announced a new discretionary funding opportunity to develop and implement strategies for the sustainability of chronic disease self-management education programs, connecting individuals with behavioral health service providers when appropriate. ACL aims to award up to five cooperative agreements with total estimated funding of \$6,203,143. There is no requirement for cost-sharing or matching from applicants. Proposals were due on 8/15/25. With MARC's Executive Director approval, a proposal was submitted on 8/14/25.

This funding opportunity builds on the previous ACL grant MARC held as lead for the Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) Network. The collaborative approach with the MA4 Network and MU Extension highlights MARC's ability to partner effectively with key organizations for statewide reach, promote combined expertise and funds flow in support of evidence-based chronic disease self-management education programs, positioning MARC as a competitive applicant.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES (total over 3 years)	
Total Amount (proposed not to exceed amount divided over 3 years)	\$1,250,000
Source	ACL Grant
PROJECTED EXPENSES (total over 3 years)	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$376,985
Contractual	\$609,320
Travel and Training	\$228,785
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$34,910
Total Projected Expenses (proposed amounts divided over 3 years)	\$1,250,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this item at its August meeting and recommended Board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Missouri (statewide)

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify grant application to ACL and acceptance of funds, if awarded.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tane Lewis, Integrated Care Manager

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7i

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a contract amendment with Forvis Mazars, LLP for extended support and to update MSER automation based on State Unit on Aging template changes.

BACKGROUND:

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are required to submit a Monthly Service and Expenditures Report (MSER) and reimbursement invoices. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has been contracting with Forvis Mazars, LLP (Forvis) to automate the MSER. This work began in August of 2021 when the company was BKD. In June the State Unit on Aging (SUA) updated the template all AAAs are to use. Forvis is well positioned to continue supporting data accuracy, process support, and automation updates based on the new template.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
SFY 2026 Older Americans Act allotment	\$5,897,889
Senior Services Growth and Development (SSGDP)	\$1,416,954
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Original contract	\$50,000
Forvis Mazars, LLP contract amendment	\$25,000
Total Contract to Date	\$75,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its August meeting and recommended board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a contract amendment with Forvis Mazars, LLP for extended support and to update MSER automation based on State Unit on Aging template changes.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services
Katy Crow, Grant Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7j

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Ratify acceptance of funds from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program and other non-federal funders for a combined federal/non-federal amount up to \$11 million dollars for a 3-year period (2025-2028) to support the Double Up Food Bucks Program.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a \$5.8 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to fund a three-year expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks program. After launching a successful pilot program in five grocery stores in the metro area in 2015, MARC and its grant partners used the FINI grant to expand the program, to more locations in the metro area, outstate Kansas and portions of St. Louis and outstate Missouri through 2018. The program operated with private foundation funds for the first nine months of 2020, and then MARC and its partners secured a new 3-year USDA grant (\$8.1 million) with matching resources in September 2020 to support the program. That USDA grant ended June 30, 2025. MARC was awarded a second USDA grant which is supported with COVID Response and Relief funds (\$4.35 million) and did not require any matching funds in 2022. The COVID related grant will end August 31, 2025.

In 2024, MARC submitted a proposal on behalf of the Double Up Heartland Collaborative to fund the Double Up Food Bucks program from 2024-2027. That proposal was not awarded funding but was given a high rating by the review committee. In January 2025, the USDA released a FY2025 request for applications for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program. MARC staff and collaborative members began working on a proposal and reaching out to funders to commit/recommit match dollars. In February 2025, the request for applications was rescinded for review by the USDA.

Recently, the USDA program officer for GusNIP reached out to indicate that they were considering rescinding the denial of the FY 2024 proposal. The program officer asked if MARC could still meet the required match (50% of the total grant request must come from match). The original proposal for FY2024 included match funds equal to \$5,034,223 and a federal ask of \$5,034,000. Since we were gearing up to reapply for the FY 2025 RFA, we have been talking to funders about their willingness to commit funds. Most funders have agreed to commit to the same amount or more than their FY 2024 commitment. However, the current total amount of funds committed is lower than the original amount in the FY 2024 proposed budget. Staff continue to work to find additional dollars. The state of Missouri included \$2 million in their FY2026 budget but are looking into whether those are new funds or a reappropriation of the FY 2025 funding already distributed. The total amount of match funds will be between \$3,660,000 and \$5,600,000 depending on the outcome of discussions with the state of Missouri and other funders.

Description of Double Up Food Bucks: When SNAP households shop at any participating farmers market or grocery store, they receive a \$1 for \$1 financial incentive for fresh produce. The program now operates at nearly 160 locations throughout the KC metro area, the rest of the state of Kansas, and most of the rest of Missouri.

(continued)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

The following are funding sources that have been committed or are being discussed to contribute to that match:

Double Up Food Bucks Non-Federal Funders 2024-2027	Match Funding Amounts
State of Missouri	\$1,000,000-3,000,000
Kansas Health Foundation*	\$633,000
Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas	\$450,000
Health Forward Foundation	\$500,000
Hall Family Foundation*	\$300,000
Elevance Health Foundation*	\$200,000
Marion and Henry Bloch Foundation	\$150,000
KSU - Olathe	\$150,000
Patterson Foundation	\$100,000
Sunflower Foundation	\$50,000
Kemper Foundation	\$45,000
Total Match Potential	\$3,578,000-5,578,000

*Board reports have been submitted previously

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	Up to \$11,200,000
USDA GusNIP	\$5,600,000
Non-federal sources (see above)	\$5,600,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (Salaries, Fringe, Indirect, Rent)	\$1,187,960
Travel	\$18,000
Subrecipients/Contractors, including incentives for farmers markets	\$3,672,412
Media	\$134,000
Grocery store Incentives	\$6,048,628
Postage/Printing	\$139,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this item at its August meeting and recommended Board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Kansas and Missouri communities with participating locations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify acceptance of grant funds from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program and other non-federal funders for a combined federal/non-federal amount up to \$11.2 million for a 3-year period to support Double Up Food Bucks from 2025-2028.

STAFF CONTACT:

Donna Martin, Public Health Program Manager
Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 7k
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start for One-time Supplemental Funds for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families.

BACKGROUND:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) announced on July 29, 2025, through a program instruction document, the availability of one-time funding to support nutrition and healthy eating for Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start children and families.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Head Start staff would like to apply for funding to support direct service providers with food service upgrades, material, kitchen supplies and equipment, and nutritional education resources in the amount of \$170,233.

Budget Considerations

The costs of food service upgrades, material, supplies and kitchen equipment are allowable expenses within the Head Start grant through the Administration for Children and Families.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$170,233
Source	Administration for Children and Families
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual / Supplies & Equipment	\$170,233
Pass-Through	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Office of Head Start is not requiring advanced Policy Council or Advisory Committee approval for this funding.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties in Missouri will be impacted by this decision.

Recommendation

Authorize MARC Head Start to submit and expend, if awarded, an application to the Office of Head Start for no more than \$170,233 for one-time supplemental funds to support nutrition and healthy eating.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025
Item No. 71
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve contractual agreements for renovations and upgrades to Render's Hope's Head Start facility to meet health and safety needs.

BACKGROUND:

Through a competitive process, Render's Hope was selected as a new direct service provider for the 2025-2026 program year. However, before Render's Hope can serve Head Start children, there are renovations needed to further ensure that Head Start's health and safety requirements are met.

Upgrades to their facilities are needed to support child size sinks, toilets, flooring, and plumbing needs for the Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start classrooms.

Staff is in the process of reviewing the three bids submitted for each project to ensure they meet the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Procurement Policy and the requisite purchasing protocols of our providers, including complying with the Davis-Bacon Act for prevailing wages. The total cost of this project is anticipated to be no more than \$85,000.

Budget Considerations

The costs of these facility renovations and upgrades are allowable expenses within the Head Start grant through the Administration for Children and Families. All spending will be completed by the end of the grant year October 31, 2025.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$85,000
Source	Administration for Children and Families
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$85,000
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

N/A.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Jackson County, Missouri will be impacted by this decision.

Recommendation

Authorize MARC Head Start to enter into contractual agreements with the approved vendor to complete the project at Render's Hope for a total cost not to exceed \$85,000.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7m

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve revisions to Policy on Transportation Improvement Program to increase financial modification threshold.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the region's short-range program, identifying projects to receive federal funds and projects of regional significance to be implemented over the next three-to-five-year period.

The Policy on Transportation Improvement Program revisions identifies the criteria used to categorize proposed modifications to the TIP as either a formal amendment requiring public review and comment or as an administrative modification and documents the procedures used to process each category. Additionally, the proposed policy also documents the conditions and procedures under which MARC may process emergency related revisions to the TIP.

MARC last updated the policy in 2011. To address changes in project development costs and account for inflation since that time, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) staff proposes to increase the financial modification threshold from \$5 million to \$10 million. The proposed language will read as such:

- Financial changes in a project's total programmed cost or programmed amount of federal funds greater than 25 percent or in excess of \$10 million or in accordance with state policy.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

MARC's Public Involvement Plan requires that projects needing a formal amendment to the TIP be released for public review and comment prior to adoption.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Missouri and Kansas Surface Transportation Priorities Committees reviewed the modification at their meeting on August 12 and August 14, respectively. The Total Transportation Policy Committee took action on this item on August 19, 2025 and recommended Board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the modification to the Policy on Transportation Improvement Program Revisions.

STAFF CONTACT

Marc Hansen, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

August 2025

Item No. 7n

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve 2025 Unified Planning Work Program - Amendment #3 for KCATA East West Transit Study.

BACKGROUND:

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 1) describes the transportation planning activities the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and other agencies will undertake during the year; 2) documents the proposed expenditures of federal, state and local funds in support of applications for various planning grants; and 3) provides a management tool for MARC and the funding agencies in scheduling major transportation planning activities, milestones and products.

The proposed 2025 UPWP Amendment #3 will make the following modifications:

- Add a new project to Section 5 - Plans and Studies funded through the federal RAISE program.
 - 5.17 - Uniting Kansas City Through Transit (East West Transit Study) - Lead Agency: KCATA
- Revise Appendix D as necessary to account for this addition.

The revisions are attached for review.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This amendment adds federally funded activities to the UPWP and should be released for public review and comment. Eight comments were received during the comment period. The comments and responses from MARC are included for review.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Total Transportation Policy Committee took action on this item on August 19, 2025.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This amendment impacts Jackson and Wyandotte Counties.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve amendment #3 to the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

STAFF CONTACT

Marc Hansen, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

2025 Unified Planning Work Program

2025 Amendment #3

Public Comments and Responses

Comment #1

"I support adding the East-West Transit Study to the Unified Planning Work Program, as the federal dollars are already there and there's been a longstanding need for frequent and reliable east-west transit in our metro. Excited to hear about additional planning around making the street environment safer and more comfortable for active transportation users as part of this phase in the study."

Comment #2

"Please bring transportation back to independence mo there is currently not a reliable resource since the Irish program doesn't offer full range service."

Comment #3

"Kansas City lost an invaluable asset when it lost its expansive public transportation in the mid-twentieth century. We are at a crisis point now where access to even bus service is likely. We need to create better, more sustainable transportation for the future of Kansas City. Everyone needs access to basic public transportation - like what Kansas City once had before cars unfortunately took over. We need to go back in time and create the transit system that once existed if we want to create a better world for the future. The current one road streetcar system mostly benefits already wealthy areas. There are plans to build more "luxury" apartments along that line. However, other areas of the city need this free access to transportation. Public transportation should benefit all city inhabitants and not just those who have money. The more bus lines get cut - the more streetcar systems we need to see. You should NOT have to drive a car to get around Kansas City - I think it's obvious what happened when developers decided to strangle downtown with highways - its is not sustainable or good for the economy. Brining in more streetcar lines will bring in more people and growth in new and better ways. It will better help service the people who do not have enough money to own a car but need a way to get to work. You need to provide more and better options for everyone to get around AND also extend those lines to neighboring areas like the Northland and Overland Park and Lee's Summit and Independence and Raytown. We need to do away with highways and create better commuting systems that will help our environment AND allow more people to travel more safely."

Comment #4

"on the Uniting Kansas City Through Transit (East West Transit Study). I believe that the East-West street car would be a great addition to the city. It would cross all of the North/South street car lines creating a smoother flow for most people. At Van Brunt you already have a transit hub were a lot of different lines meet. There is also an ideal turn around... down Linwood to were it crosses 31st. turn into the transit hub area, and then back onto 31st and left back onto Van Brunt.. ALL city owned land already. Not sure what would happen when it hits Broadway but at Southwest Trafficway there is an empty block or two on the South Side that could provide a transit turnaround."

Comment #5

"I would love to see, more than anything, a rail connection between KCMO and KCK. I think downtown to downtown through westbottoms would be possible, or Rosedale to midtown would also be possible. Having the region act like a region, and not just a collection of isolated places is priority. Rail transit has infrastructure permanence and priority for people as buses get left behind. A streetcar extension along 39th street sounds like a beautiful start. A rail connection to the airport is long overdue, given our selection as world cup host, I am embarrassed for our city's public transportation. Get rail transit to KCK and the airport."

Comment #6

"There is nothing available to Lees Summit with any kind of practical access. The time you spend to drive to the bus stop and work your way through all the transfers is enough to drive to Los Angeles."

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Comment #7

"I think investment into East-West streetcar connectivity is of utmost importance. All efforts should be made to expand KC's rail services as quickly and expansively as possible. My only real concern is that 4.5 million dollars should produce a concrete and actionable plan for a new line. Perhaps not every last technical detail, but certainly start and end points, position within the city, and financing options should be handled by this amount of money. Thank you!"

Comment #8

"I appreciate that this study needs funding and will lead to worthwhile information. However, with a budget this large I think there should be a promise of more concrete action. I'm curious if MARC will use any of this money to do explicit advocacy work to encourage the city to pursue projects surrounding extending the streetcar, make buses more affordable and accessible, and increasing bike access. The study feels a bit empty without a promise for advocacy."

Response to Comments

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed Amendment #3 to the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). We shared your comments with Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, the KC Streetcar Authority, the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration.

Extensive planning activities to support enhancement of transit services are currently under way in our region. In addition to the "Uniting Kansas City through Transit" effort referenced in this UPWP amendment, MARC and partners are advancing a [Smart Moves Transit and Mobility Plan Update](#) this year into 2026. This plan details the transit system vision for the Kansas City area. This plan update will include an assessment of existing services, prioritization of existing and new routes services and programs, identification of potential capital and operating costs for system enhancement and review of governance and funding models for system enhancement. This work will be conducted with the assistance of local stakeholders, area transit and funding agencies and the public.

Both of these efforts will guide future capital investments (such as vehicle needs, transit stops, and other supporting infrastructure) and operations of transit services (routes and frequency of services). We encourage your involvement and input into both of these processes as these efforts are underway.

We look forward to your continued participation in the regional transportation planning process and encourage you to review the [Guide to Transportation Decision Making](#). This guide is designed to help area residents understand the complex process of transportation decision making and learn how they can more effectively provide input.

Sincerely,

Marc Hansen, AICP
Principal Planner
Mid-America Regional Council