

Meeting Summary

Mobility Advisory Committee

Jim Huffman, MARC Co-chair | Pete Comer, KCATA Co-chair

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 9:30AM

MEETING MINUTES

Procedural Business

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jim Huffman, Pete Comer, and Lukas Yanni welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked that participants sign in using the Teams chat box. Members marked their attendance via the chat box by adding their name and organization, as reflected on the attendance page below.

2. Approval of June 11, 2025, Meeting Summary*

Jim Huffman reminded members that the June 11, 2025, meeting summary had been distributed to members and interested parties, as well as posted on the MARC.org website. Soon after, Pete Comer asked for a motion to approve the June 11 meeting summary, which was approved by Lisa Womack and seconded by Richard Cowart. Lukas Yanni then briefly reviewed the committee's agenda and began the meeting.

Main Business

3. FTA Section 5310 Procurement

Pete Comer provided a brief report on behalf of Tracey Logan, who had presented the day before. He noted that agreements are currently being prepared for recipient signatures and that additional information related to the 5310 Procurement would be forwarded to the committee by email.

Angel Rose from the City of Liberty asked about past recipients and warranty work on buses, noting that issues had arisen in the past. Joe Bink also commented on previous challenges with bus warranties. The committee discussed the difficulties of warranty work. Members' concerns were noted, and staff will attempt to contact KCATA to help resolve the issues.

4. Miami County Transit Needs Discussion

Lukas Yanni provided a brief introduction on the lack of transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities. He noted that the only operating service in Paola will end in June 2026, meaning the senior center there will no longer provide transportation for residents.

Lukas then introduced Misty Norton, Mobility Manager for the East Central Kansas region, who gave a brief self-introduction. She spoke about the challenges Miami County has faced, including staffing shortages, limited funding, and a lack of coordination, all of which have hindered transportation services. She emphasized how as of lately they had to work with other municipalities to help fill service gaps and to seek suggestions and ideas that could strengthen funding and improve service availability.

Committee members offered support and shared contacts to further discuss both short-term and long-term solutions.

5. ITN Country Overview

John Bartz gave a brief self-introduction and explained the functions of ITN America. He highlighted several services and programs that ITN America provides, including *Rides in Sight*, *America's Volunteer Driver Center*, *ITNRides*, and *Community in the Cloud*—all aimed at helping nonprofits recruit and support volunteer drivers.

John also introduced *ITNCountry*, a platform designed to provide a support system with tools to help organizations operate, recruit volunteers, and promote awareness of ancillary services.

John then opened the floor to questions. Anne Miller asked about the training levels required for volunteer drivers and how the process is carried out. John responded that trainees are trained at the transportation provider level, with additional training provided on their knowledge base.

Misty Norman then asked about vehicle insurance requirements for volunteers, noting that driver coverage has been a concern. John explained that insurance policies vary by state and depend on the type of coverage held by the volunteer. Misty followed up with a question regarding Section 5311 and 5310 agencies and their tailored software and reporting needs. John responded that ITN offers a wide range of reports and, if further customization is needed, ITN's technology department can provide specialized support.

6. Coordinated Plan Update

Lukas Yanni reminded members that the Coordinated Plan public survey is live through September and encouraged efforts to boost engagement. He then reviewed preliminary survey results, which covered topics such as ADA paratransit service. The committee noted that many respondents may not have fully understood the ADA-related question.

He continued to review survey responses, which addressed cell phone use, transportation service priorities, accessibility, safety, and communication. Lukas then asked the committee for additional contacts to help circulate the public survey. Pete Comer asked about the number of survey respondents, and Lukas estimated around 20. Pete emphasized the importance of expanding outreach to increase participation.

Further discussion focused on survey timing, distribution, accessibility, and identifying incentives for participation. Lukas provided a brief overview of planned outreach workshops and asked the committee to suggest potential locations. Members recommended reaching out to groups that meet regularly to better align with their schedules and also suggested providing translations to maximize outreach. Lukas agreed to send reminder emails and request information on additional meetings to attend.

Lukas then proposed holding a special MAC meeting on November 12 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Coordinated Plan in more detail. The committee expressed general agreement with the date, and Lukas confirmed he would follow up with an email in case any issues arise

Additional Business

7. Member Updates

Jim Huffman encouraged greater in-person attendance at MAC committee meetings, noting that larger turnouts strengthen communication and engagement. He suggested aiming for increased attendance by March.

8. Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, November 12, Special Meeting, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

***Agenda items with an asterisk are action items that require a vote.**

ATTENDANCE

September 10, 2025

MARC Co-Chair: Jim Huffman, Life Unlimited

KCATA Co-Chair: Pete Comer, KCATA

Attendees:

First	Last	Organization
Joseph	Nelson	ESBC
Terry	O'Toole	WHC
Lisa	Womack	JCT
Jim	Huffman	Life Unlimited
Amy	Stoll	Down Syndrome Innovations
Angel	Rose	City of Liberty
Deasiray	Bush	UG Transportation Department
Kathy	Goul	k-State Research & Extension
John	Bartz	ITN America
Beth	Langley	OATS Transit
Corrie	Steele	Johnson County Mental Health Transportation
Arlando	Young	UG Transportation Department
Kim	O'Hara	Project Search – North KC Schools
Misty	Norton	Mobility Manager CTD #5
Nicole	Noblet	Eitas
Rachel	Ohlhausen	JFSKC
Janine	Clampitt	Ray County Transportation
Joe	Bink	Eitas
Tyler	LeClair	JFSKC
Augustin	Sylvester	University Health KC

MARC and KCATA Staff:

First	Last	Organization
Lukas	Yanni	MARC
Pete	Comer	KCATA
Richard	Cowart	KCATA
Lauren	Schaumburg	MARC
Ron	Achelpohl	MARC