



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

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

November 25, 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, November 25, 2025, for instructions to join the teleconference.

AGENDA

1. Brief Self-Introductions
2. COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. PRESENTATION: Review of 2026 economic outlook for Kansas City metropolitan area
3. EXEMPLARY CORE CAPACITIES
 - a. REPORT: Overview of the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget
4. BRIEF REPORTS
 - a. REPORT: Status of Mid-America Regional Council federal grants, pass-through funds and other funding.
 - b. REPORT: Launch of Missouri Child Care Works program in Kansas City region.
 - c. REPORT: Review and approval of proposal for a new Missouri transportation programming committee.
 - d. REPORT: 2025 air quality and ozone season report
 - e. REPORT: Review of Kansas City regional Climate Action Technical Report
5. Executive Director's Report

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

6. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the October 28, 2025, Board Meeting
 - b. VOTE: Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit, with two optional additional years.
 - c. VOTE: Authorize grant application to Health Forward Foundation for a capacity building grant to support organization-wide best practices for community and stakeholder engagement.
 - d. VOTE: Authorize contract amendment with The Meriweather Group for consulting services to support staff capacity for community engagement.
 - e. VOTE: Authorize contract with the Housing Narrative Lab to complete narrative change research for the Regional Housing Partnership.
 - f. VOTE: Authorize the purchase of Layer 3 routing switch hardware from SHI for regional 911 sites.
 - g. VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to support a three-year grant for the Early Childhood Earn While You Learn Fellowship.
 - h. VOTE: Approve the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

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- i. VOTE: Approve the FY2026 Memorandum of Understanding with the MARC Solid Waste Management District

7. Other Business

8. 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
LeVota, Phil	Jackson County	County Executive
Lopez, Beto	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor Pro Tem – Designee for Mayor Bill Baird
Lucas, Quinton	Kansas City, MO	Mayor
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
Mikkelson, 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
Smith, Megan	Jackson County	Legislator
Smith, Mike	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
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
Willett, 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

November 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.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 2a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

PRESENTATION: Review of 2026 economic outlook for Kansas City metropolitan area

BACKGROUND:

On November 6, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City held an Economic Outlook Conference to examine current trends and forecasts for 2026. Federal Reserve economists provided the outlook for national economy and the states of Kansas and Missouri, while MARC provided the regional outlook. These presentations were followed by a panel of business leaders discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the region in three critical sectors - energy, national security, and bioscience/health.

MARC staff will present highlights from the conference.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

Presentation will be provided after the Board of Directors meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Frank Lenk, Director of the Office of Economic Research

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 3a

Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Overview of the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget

BACKGROUND:

Even with the uncertainty of this past year, budget development has generally occurred per our normal process. Key committees have reviewed their accomplishments and identified goals for the upcoming year. Some, like 911, OGL and the Solid Waste Management District have developed 2026 budgets, which are folded into this MARC budget. Grant applications and large expenditures approved by the Board and B&P Committee for this year and into 2026 have been included in the 2025R/2026 budget process. MARC staff has engaged in planning sessions around each policy goal area and prepared a comprehensive summary of accomplishments in 2025 and priority work for 2026. As is our practice, we use this budget process as an opportunity to ensure we are directing resources toward the policy goal areas that support the regional vision. Our work in 2026 continues to illustrate progress in key ways: extending key regional functions; fostering new initiatives; strengthening civic partnerships, and investing in our organizational capacity.

Budget numbers were entered in August which includes projecting revenues and expenses for grants and fee based programs for a revised 2025 budget, and for the 12 month 2026 year. Additionally, a comprehensive computation was completed to ensure that personnel budgets in grants match up with staffing costs required for those grants. A first draft of the budget document will be complete by Tuesday. During the next few weeks, staff will continue to refine numbers and create detailed financial charts.

The 2026 Budget and Work Plan document will once again model the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award format, with the overarching goal of clearly communicating our financial condition and operations to the public. The Budget and Personnel Committee meeting will include a review of the Budget Highlights section which provides narratives regarding the most significant information included in this Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget. At the Board meeting, staff will review the policy goal workplans and highlight projects that will be particularly impactful in 2026.

Over the next few weeks, hopefully you will review the document and ask any questions that you have. The December Board meeting will include high level financial information, and the Budget and Personnel meeting will include detail on the sources and uses of revenue.

EXHIBITS:

[DRAFT 2025 Revised Budget and Proposed 2026 Budget](#)

RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACTS

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
Darlene Pickett, Accountant III
Amanda Rehani, Grant Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 4a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

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

BACKGROUND:

Changes in the federal government continue to impact MARC's work. Staff will present another update at this meeting.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Staff continue to monitor cash flow, grants at risk, partner contracts and staffing.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 4b
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

REPORT: Launch of Missouri Child Care Works program in Kansas City region

BACKGROUND:

Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe allocated \$2.5M to launch a childcare cost-sharing initiative in which the state, the employer (or other community entity), and the family share the cost of childcare. The Children's Trust Fund selected Kids Win Missouri and Child Care Aware of Missouri to administer the program through a competitive bid process.

In September of 2025, Kids Win Missouri released community applications for community intermediaries to apply for state funding on behalf of the employers and families in their region. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Early Learning program applied for 160 seats which represents pledges from the City of Grandview, Della Lamb Child Development Center and Independence School District and 20 additional seats. Of the 287 state-wide seats, the Kansas City Region was awarded 98 seats and represents one of 7 communities throughout Missouri. Although not all 160 seats were fulfilled in the Kansas City region, a mid-year adjustment is expected, which may provide the opportunity to capture the additional 62 seats.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Clay, Platte, Jackson and Cass counties are included under MARC as the intermediary. All currently pledged employers are located in Jackson County.

EXHIBITS:

[Missouri Child Care Works | Fall 2025 Launch](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Toni Sturdivant, Ph.D., Director of Early Learning

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 4c

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Review proposal for a new Missouri transportation programming committee.

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 in large part accomplished through the engagement with several policy, planning and programming committees composed of 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 a significantly greater number of committees to accomplish its work than most of our peers benchmarked across the county.

As a result, MARC staff reviewed transportation committees and processes to seek ways to right-size and simplify the committee structure by combining duplicative or similar efforts into fewer committees, optimize 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 began discussions with committee leadership about a proposed committee restructuring. This recommendation was shared with the TTPC in September 2025. For this upcoming meeting of the board, staff will provide a status update and additional received feedback to date.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee leadership briefings and two virtual committee workshops were held with members of all potentially impacted committees in July and August. MARC staff shared these recommendations and engaged with participants about thoughts and reactions. A draft recommendation was previously shared with TTPC in September of 2025. TTPC adopted the recommendations for a new Technical Advisory Committee and a new Kansas Programming Committee in October and also established an ad hoc committee to discuss options for the Missouri Programming Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee met on October 28 and November 5 and developed the proposed recommendation. The Total Transportation Policy Committee will take action on this item on November 18, 2025.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all Missouri counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Missouri Programming Committee reorganization proposal as presented.

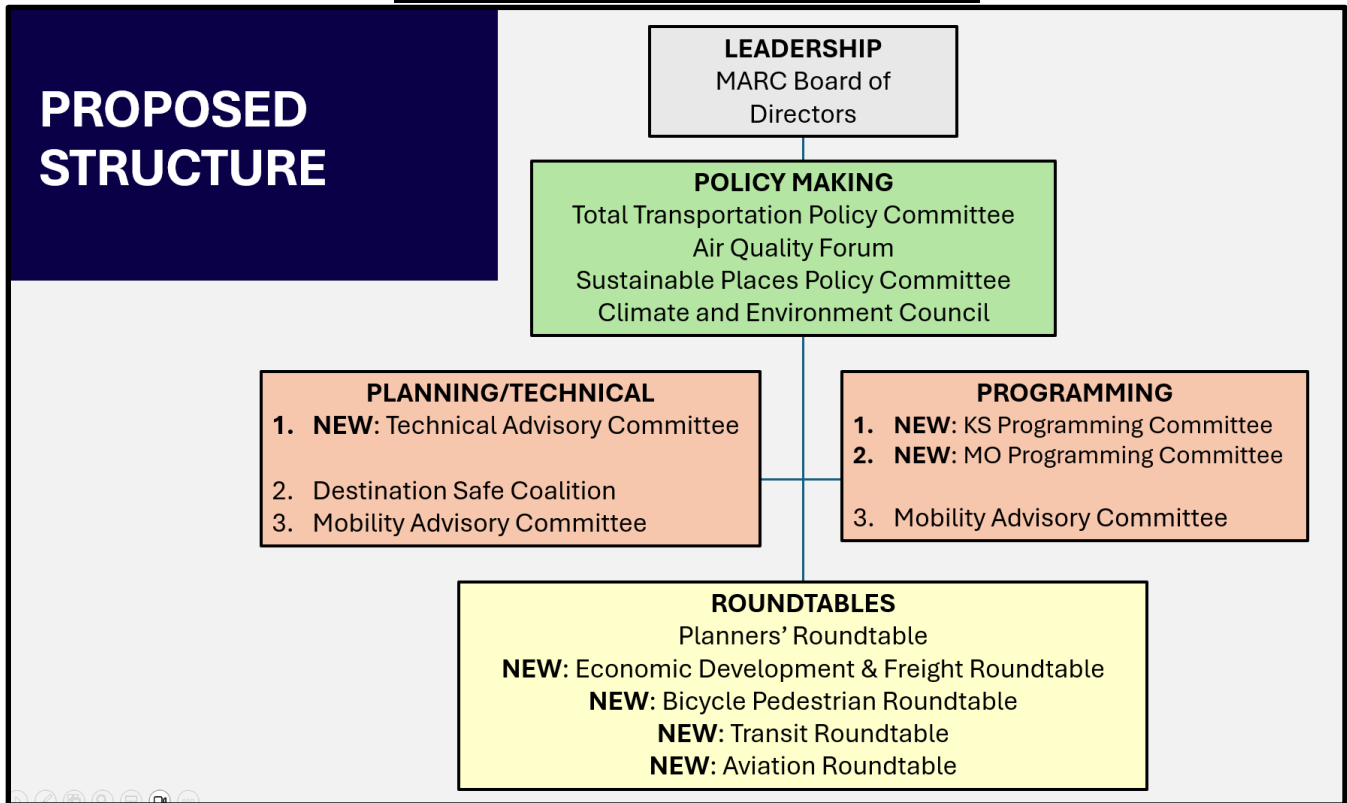
STAFF CONTACT:

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

Recommended NEW Committee Structure



AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Missouri Programming Committee (MPC)	
Organization / Membership Category	# of Votes
Kansas City	6
Independence	2
Lee's Summit	2
Blue Springs	2
KCATA	1
KC Streetcar	1
MoDOT	1
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	1
Municipalities with populations 5–50k and county seats	19
Counties (1 seat per county)	5
Municipalities under 5,000 population (one seat per county)	5
Others (bike/ped, transit, environment, freight, etc.)*	4
Total	49

* Membership recruitment for these seats will focus on specialized expertise such as active transportation, parks & recreation, environment & public health, freight, economic development, etc.

Dispute resolution process recommendations:

- In the event that any six (6) or more voting members of the MPC submit a written appeal to MARC disputing a programming scenario recommended by the MPC, the TTPC co-chairs will establish an ad hoc work group to evaluate and recommend a resolution to the dispute.
- Programming recommendations returned for revision to the MPC as a result of the duly appointed TTPC ad hoc work group's recommendations will require a majority vote by both Group A (KCMO, Independence, Lee's Summit, Blue Springs, KCATA, KC Streetcar, MoDOT and TAC) and Group B (all other jurisdictions) before being submitted to TTPC.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 4d
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

REPORT: 2025 air quality and ozone season report

BACKGROUND:

The 2025 ozone season ran from March 1 to October 31, 2025. During this period, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) issued one Ozone Action Alert Day (June 19), however the eight-hour ozone concentrations exceeded the 70 part-per-billion (ppb) National Ambient Air Quality Standard on five days during the season. Of these five days, one exceedance at the Rocky Creek monitoring station in western Clay County reached 89ppb in mid-July which falls within the unhealthy category on the Air Quality Index. Other exceeding monitors included JFK (Kansas City, KS), Liberty and Tribble (Clinton County, MO).

An individual daily eight-hour exceedance of the eight-hour ozone standard does not necessarily result in a violating monitor. Compliance with the standard is based on the three-year average of the fourth-highest ozone reading, also called the “design value.” Based on monitor values, the Kansas City region’s 3-year design value for 2025 is 70 ppb which does not violate the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) set by the EPA for ozone pollution. The 2023 and 2024 design values both exceeded the standard by 1ppb. Air quality readings in 2023 were heavily impacted by Canadian wildfire smoke and stagnant air masses that stayed in place allowing ozone to accumulate. Using a three-year rolling average means air quality readings in 2023 will be replaced by readings in 2026. This provides an opportunity to put our region on a much better path to meet the NAAQS next year.

Air Quality program staff also track particulate matter pollution trends in the region. Particulate matter design values are calculated based on annual data. Using year-to-date monitoring data, the PM_{2.5} design value for 2023-2025 is 8.56 micrograms per cubic meter, which is just below the new annual PM_{2.5} standard of nine micrograms per cubic meter.

MARC’s Air Quality program supports and informs the public health and transportation strategies in the ConnectedKC 2050, Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan, Clean Air Action Plan and the Smart Moves Regional Transit and Mobility Plan.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

EXHIBITS:

The 2025 Ozone Season Summary can be read in full [here](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Karen Clawson, Air and Mobility Programs Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 4e
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

REPORT: Review of Kansas City regional Climate Action Technical Report

BACKGROUND:

In April 2023, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors authorized receipt of a \$1 million formula grant from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant program to plan a pathway towards reducing pollution in the Kansas City region. An early requirement of the EPA planning grant included the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) which was completed and submitted to EPA in 2024. The final planning deliverable for the grant is the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due December 2025.

MARC adopted the Regional Kansas City Climate Action Plan in March 2021 and the Climate Action Technical Report deliverable is considered a technical supplement to the adopted Climate Action Plan. The grant provided MARC an opportunity to update the regional greenhouse gas inventory and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, conduct broad community engagement, develop a possible pathway towards the regional pollution reduction target, and quantify workforce requirements and economic and health benefits for the region. The comprehensive technical detail in the report will further support and align voluntary local action in ways that make a difference for the entire Kansas City region.

Key findings in the technical report:

- The actions we take now and in the coming years will support healthier residents and natural habitats, boost local economies, create local jobs, and improve affordability and livability. The benefits are tangible and will have broad impact across the Kansas City region.
- Total emissions in 2023 for the nine-county MARC region were 27.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMTCO₂e). Sixty percent of these emissions come from on-road transportation and residential buildings.
- Natural hazards may be exacerbated by changing climate conditions and impact the Kansas City region. However, the greatest concerns continue to be extreme heat and flooding, and where intervention is needed most.

Following the submission of the report to EPA, MARC staff, with advisory support from the Climate and Environment Council, will work with local government staff and community organizations to develop a series of “mini playbooks” that translate the technical report into clear action steps for different audiences. A series of videos will also be developed to elevate the plan’s strategies, connecting them to relevant local resources and examples of successful implementation. MARC staff will continue to look for opportunities to support local implementation through education and training, cooperative purchasing, research, tool development, and peer exchange and regional collaboration.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

EXHIBITS:

The final draft of the Climate Action Technical Report and executive summary is available [here](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Karen Clawson, Air and Mobility Programs Manager

Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 6a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the October 25, 2025, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the October 25, 2025, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the October 25, 2025, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director

McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant



MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY
OCTOBER 28, 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 Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - MARC Board Treasurer
Council member Bridget McCandless, Independence, MO - MARC Board Secretary
Mayor John Bacon, Olathe, KS
Greg Bolon, MODOT
Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Commissioner Scott Fricker, Platte County, KS
Council member Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS
Victor Hurlbert, Auditor, Clay County, MO
Mayor Mike McDonough, Raytown, MO
Mayor Eric Mikkelsen, Prairie Village, KS
Michael Moriarty, KDOT
Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, KS
Commissioner Christian Ramirez, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Mayor Mickey Sandifer, Shawnee, KS
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS
Legislator Megan Smith, Jackson County, MO
Commissioner Sheila Tracy, Ray County, MO
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO
Commissioner Tyler Vaughn, Miami County, KS
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

Kay Heley - WaterOne
David Rowe - EnterpriseKC
Mayor Dana Webb, Oak Grove, MO

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick called the meeting to order at 12:13 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: Regional Housing Partnership update and approval of the Health Forward Foundation's Shifting Narratives funding opportunity.

Hannah Mitchell, Housing Program Manager, requested approval of a grant application to Health Forward Foundation's shifting narratives funding opportunity that will be used to support contractual services from the Housing Narrative Lab organization to engage in a housing narrative change campaign in 2026. This work stems from the collaborative Regional Housing Partnership that seeks to create more housing of all types, for all income levels, in all communities throughout our region. The grant application was due September 29, 2025 and MARC staff are seeking retroactive approval for the application since the deadline was before the committee meeting. Ms. Hand explained that the RHP is continuing work in three workgroups for the 2026 year: workforce, community voice, and policy & process. Any member of the MARC Board or their jurisdictions are welcome to engage in these groups to help strengthen public understanding of importance of housing through narrative change research and educational campaign. The funding for approval today will be directly used to develop and implement targeted research and engagement strategy for housing narrative change in the KC metro.

Mayor Eric Mikkelsen asked how the group intends to tailor the messaging to each community while still retaining the overall goal? Ms. Mitchell indicated that each "toolkit" will be directly curated from community feedback that is within the local jurisdiction / place of the region to ensure relevancy.

Commissioner Hanzlick asked if this process would help provide clarity about who is responsible for what in the housing space? i.e. local governments versus developers. Ms. Mitchell said yes it would. Part of the community engagement and outreach will be to understand how the community thinks about housing, where the knowledge gaps may be, and education campaigns to create a uniform narrative for the localities.

VOTE: Approve Metropolitan Planning Organization Self-Certification Statement.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval of the MPO self certification statement that is required by federal transportation regulations. The statement must occur at least every four years, concurrent with the submittal of the Transportation improvement Program to USDOT. The statement also certifies that MARC is carrying out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process outlined in federal law and regulation.

VOTE: Approve Connected KC 2050 Update Amendment #1 regarding K-10 highway corridor.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval of the Connected KC2050 Update amendment #1 that requests to begin implementation of two intersection projects resulting from early recommendations from the study. The projects associated with the amendment are part of the total estimated financially constrained project cost of \$500,000,000. These projects are #KA-6549-03 (Lone Elm Road Interchange) and #KA-6549-04 (K-10 and Lexington Avenue Interchange). This item has no budgetary considerations from the MARC budget, this project would be funded from the KDOT budget and is recommended for board approval by the MO STOP committee and the TTPC.

VOTE: Approve the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval of the 2026-2030 TIP that was been prepared for public review and comment. The TIP includes all federally funded surface transportation projects, and all regionally significant surface transportation projects regardless of funding source, planned for the Kansas City metropolitan area in Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030. There are a total of 54 project sponsors and 441 projects that total an estimated \$3.05 billion of documented expenditures.

REPORT: Update on Mid-America Regional Council's transportation committee reorganization process.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, reported that MARC staff have continued to strive for efficient and comprehensive processes while seeking to address unique needs of all communities across the region. MARC staff have reviewed transportation committees and 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 intention that committee consolidation should increase integration of multimodal planning in our work. The new structure would take several planning/technical and programming committees and shift them to be "roundtables" in order to consolidate them for efficiency. TTPC has approved the formation of the Technical Advisory Committee and Kansas Programming Committee further discussion about the voting structure for the Missouri Programming committee will take place after the Board meeting.

Mr. Hurlbert asked if the northern KCMO representatives will be taken into account to ensure accurate geographic representation? Mr. Achelpohl indicated that specific questions hasn't been raised before but can be discussed further. There is a provision in the TTPC bylaws that there must be 2 members from the northland.

Mayor Sandifer asked if MARC could help secure funds for a bridge development in Shawnee. Mr. Achelpohl indicated the team would be happy to discuss further.

Commissioner Fricker asked if the decision regarding the restructuring of committees would be made at the MARC Board level or at the committee level. Mr. Achelpohl replied that because these are subcommittees of TTPC, staff is anticipating that TTPC will hold the decision. MARC staff will keep the Board informed along the way.

VOTE: Approval to utilize Mid-America Regional Council reserves to cover Head Start expenses, as needed, for November 2025.

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, requested approval to utilize MARC reserves, if needed, for internal Head Start expenses in November 2025. Ms. Gonzales acknowledged that the committee has been kept aware of the implication of the government shutdown and the effect on the regional Head Start program. MARC is one of 150+ programs across the country that has a new grant start date of Nov. 1, 2025. Because of the government shutdown, MARC has not received the NOA for year three of a five year grant award and thus cannot incur any costs after Oct. 31, 2025.

In the weeks leading up to Nov. 1, 2025, MARC staff worked with the 17 Head Start providers that offer services in the Kansas City region to ensure continuation of services. All 17 providers have decided to take the financial risk to use their reserve funding to operate their programs through the end of November, some into December. Because MARC staff provide support to these programs, MARC staff and other services need to continue to operate. In order to do so, it will be necessary to utilize general fund reserves set aside for contingencies such as this. The average monthly cost for MARC services is \$556,212 though if the shutdown continues, staff plan to limit expenditures to only necessities during this time and do not anticipate spending that full amount during November. MARC staff conferred with the Executive Committee and they are recommending the use of reserves for this purpose.

Mayor Eric Mikkelsen asked what happens if the reimbursement isn't made by the program once the government re-opens. Ms. Gonzales indicated that MARC will need to build up the reserves bit by bit.

Commissioner Hanzlick clarified that this amount to be used isn't the entire amount of reserve funds. Ms. Gonzales confirmed, these are the undesignated funds that don't belong to

a single program and can be used for purposes such as this.

Mr. Hurlbert asked if there were ways that we could build more reserves for Head Start through other avenues. Ms. Gonzales said that after this experience, the team would look into it - the program itself has been such a stable program that we haven't had to worry about it thus far.

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

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, gave a report about other federal programs that are being effected by the shutdown. Related to the DUFEB program, if SNAP distribution is delayed to SNAP beneficiaries, the beneficiaries would only be able to earn Double Up Food Bucks if they still have SNAP dollars on their SNAP EBT account. Once they run out of SNAP dollars in their account they would not be able to be able to earn Double Up Food Bucks. The OAA federal funding cycle began Oct. 1, 2025 but due to the shutdown no notice of award has been received. Because we have SSGDP funding (from the state of Missouri) work is continuing at this time but that funding will only last a limited amount of time. MARC has applied for KS Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Training for the upcoming cycle but the state of KS has not received their NOA, delaying the division of funds. MARC staff will continue to monitor and keep the board informed of any changes to services due to the shutdown.

VOTE: Approve 2026 Missouri and Kansas State Policy Agendas.

Marlene Nagel, Director of the Office of Resource Development, requested approval of the 2026 Missouri and Kansas State Policy Agendas. The agendas were discussed at length at the previous board meeting and small changes were made based on board feedback. Other notes of interest, particularly around taxing were transferred to the appropriate MARC committee to initiate discussion.

Mayor Turnbow asked if there was movement from the mental health professionals to obtain funding for long term stays for mentally ill that are repeatedly in interactions with law enforcement. Ms. Nagel indicated that there were some funding resources that could address those concerns but they have been eliminated in recent months.

Mayor Eric Mikkelsen expressed appreciation for the local government authority placement within the policies.

Commissioner Tom Burroughs asked if there was a way to make a connection within the state for passenger rail expansion and Mr. Achelpohl said he'd be happy to make the connection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

David Warm, MARC's Executive Director, informed the board about 2 upcoming events. Vibrant Success Stories happening the morning of Dec 5th and an event run by the Lt. Governor of Missouri happening Nov. 5th. He also reminded the board that the December board meeting is Dec 17th due to the upcoming holiday.

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the September 23, 2025, Board Meeting
- b. VOTE: Authorize application and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and issuance of associated subaward agreements.
- c. VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding for fiscal year 2025 to support regional agencies' cooperative efforts.
- d. VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State

Homeland Security Grant funding for fiscal year 2026 to support regional agencies' cooperative efforts.

- e. VOTE: Approve an agreement with Tusa Consulting Services to provide consulting support for regional radio system evaluation, vendor coordination, and infrastructure planning for agencies participating in the Metropolitan Area Regional Radio System.
- f. VOTE: Approve the purchase of two replacement vehicles from Olathe Ford for 911 maintenance technicians to support regional system maintenance.
- g. VOTE: Authorize contract with WSP USA, Inc. to provide on-call planning consultant services to support the Unified Planning Work Program.
- h. VOTE: Authorize execution of a memorandum of understanding and receive funds from KCATA to assist with planning and programming activities related to the FTA Section 5310 program.
- i. VOTE: Authorize expenditures for the Mid-America Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program for 2025-2026 including a contract with The Family Conservancy for training and coaching services.
- j. VOTE: Ratify a grant proposal to Jackson County to administer Child Care Works program.
- k. VOTE: Approve contractual agreements with partnering organizations which assist with implementing the Double Up Food Bucks program.
- l. VOTE: Final approval of remodel project at 1218 Swift, North Kansas City the MARC Meal Repack Facility.
- m. VOTE: Ratify a grant proposal to Jackson County to support expanding food as medicine initiatives.
- n. VOTE: Approve submission of Amendment #1 of the SFY 2026 Area Plan Budget to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
- o. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of additional funding for Community Health Worker training from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
- p. VOTE: Authorize contract amendment increase with Burns and McDonnell to complete the update to regional stormwater engineering standards and authorize acceptance of funds from local governments.
- q. VOTE: Approve contract with Surdex to complete the 2026 Aerial Imagery Project.

MOTION: Council member Holly Grummert moved for approval of the consent agenda and Council member Bridget McCandless seconded. Commissioner Hanzlick asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items.

The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 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	x	x	x			9	100%
	VACANT		Cass County Municipality	Alternate												0	0%
Clay County	Jerry Nolte	MO	Clay County	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			9	100%
	VACANT		Clay County	Alternate												0	0%
	Victor Hurlbert	MO	Clay County	Member	x		x		x		x	x	x			6	67%
	VACANT		Clay County	Alternate												0	0%
	Damien Boley	MO	Smithville	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			8	89%
	Randy Pogue	MO	Kearney	Alternate												0	0%
Jackson County	Phil LeVota	MO	Jackson County	Member	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				8	89%
	Jalen Anderson	MO	Jackson County	Alternate		x										1	11%
	DaRon McGee	MO	Jackson County	Member	x			x		x						3	33%
	Megan Smith	MO	Jackson County	Alternate	x								x			2	22%
	Mike McDonough	MO	Raytown	Member	x				x		x		x			4	44%
	Leonard Jones	MO	Grandview	Alternate	x	x			x	x	x	x				6	67%
	Rory Rowland	MO	Independence	Member												0	0%
	Bridget McCandless	MO	Independence	Alternate	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			7	78%
	Jared Fears	MO	Independence	Member	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				7	78%
	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	x					4	44%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
	Johnathan Duncan	MO	Kansas City	Member	x		x		x	x						4	44%
	VACANT		Kansas City	Alternate												0	0%
Johnson County	Nathan Willet	MO	Kansas City	Member					x							1	11%
	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		x				5	56%
	Mike Kelly	KS	Johnson County	Member	x											1	11%
	Becky Fast	KS	Johnson County	Alternate	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				7	78%
	Janee Hanzlick	KS	Johnson County	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			9	100%
	Jeff Meyers	KS	Johnson County	Alternate												0	0%
	Eric Mikkelsen	KS	Prairie Village	Member	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			8	89%
	Michael Poppa	KS	Roeland Park	Alternate	x	x	x					x				4	44%
	Rick Walker	KS	De Soto	Member		x	x	x	x			x	x			6	67%
	Mickey Sandifer	KS	Shawnee	Alternate	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			8	89%
	John Bacon	KS	Olathe	Member		x		x					x			3	33%
	Marge Vogt	KS	Olathe	Alternate	x		x		x		x					4	44%
	Curt Skoog	KS	Overland Park	Member		x		x	x		x		x			5	56%
	Logan Heley	KS	Overland Park	Alternate			x	x	x	x		x	x			6	67%
	Holly Grummert	KS	Overland Park	Member	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			7	78%
	Inas Younis	KS	Overland Park	Alternate	x			x	x			x				4	44%

[illegible]

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 6b

Exemplary Core Competencies

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit with optional two-year extension.

BACKGROUND:

RubinBrown was selected in an RFP process and has audited the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) since 2016. In March 2022, the Board approved extending the audit agreement with RubinBrown for annual audit services through fiscal year 2024, with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm each engagement on an annual basis. We are ready to begin the fiscal year 2025 audit and are recommending that we once again, engage RubinBrown for the 2025 annual audit, with options to continue for two additional years.

Rubin Brown has broad public sector and grant experience, and they have provided excellent service to MARC. They have periodically rotated audit managers to provide a fresh perspective. The United States Governmental Accounting Office has endorsed manager rotation for audits as an efficient way to mitigate costs and still retain some institutional knowledge. Staff requested Rubin Brown provide a proposal for the 2025 audit and they provided the following:

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	2025	2026	2027
Mid-America Regional Council - Audit of Financial Statements, SWMD, preparation of 990 for CSC	\$78,000	\$80,500	\$82,800
Preparation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	\$4,800	\$5,000	\$5,200

Note: The fee above for the Financial Statement Audit includes auditing one major program. Each additional program required to be audited will be at a fee of \$6,220 per program, adjusted annually at a 3 percent rate increase.

Staff has obtained pricing from several cities and the pricing appears to be competitive.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for the 2025 audit is included as an Indirect Cost in the 2026 Indirect budget.

SOURCE	
Amount budgeted	\$96,000
Source	Indirect
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$82,800
Potential for additional programs at \$6,220 each	

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit, with two optional additional years.

STAFF CONTACT:

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 6c
Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize grant application to Health Forward Foundation for a capacity building grant to support organization-wide best practices for community and stakeholder engagement.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received the first two rounds of funding for a capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation in December 2023 and November 2024. The purpose of the funding is to enable MARC staff to examine existing community engagement efforts and develop an organization-wide approach for how we engage with external stakeholders. In years one and two, funding was used to hire a consultant to support an existing staff work group and to provide training for staff. Project accomplishments include:

- Conducting staff focus groups on community engagement
- Providing staff training from KU
- Facilitating a discussion with 40 staff on identifying what is foundational to community engagement at MARC
- Developing an online toolkit of resources, training and best practices for staff
- Launching a community of practice for MARC staff

Year three funding will be used for personnel and consultant costs. Year three goals include:

- Finalizing staff-developed principles for community engagement
- Launching online toolkit of resources, training and best practices for staff
- Supporting a community of practice for MARC staff
- Extending discussions and training to include MARC committee chairs/members

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This is the third year of funding for this capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation. The previous two awards were \$50,000 each. The year three award brings the total amount to \$150,000.

REVENUES	
Previously Awarded	\$100,000
Amount of current grant	\$50,000
Source	Health Forward Foundation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$25,000
Contractual	\$25,000

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize grant application and agreement and acceptance of funds with the Health Forward Foundation for the capacity building grant to support development of MARC's community engagement work.

STAFF CONTACT:

Julie Phillips, Shared Service Program Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 6d

Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize contract amendment with The Meriweather Group for consulting services to support staff capacity for community engagement.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) was awarded a capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation to support the development of organization-wide best practices for community/stakeholder engagement and to support MARC staff as we think more intentionally about how we engage our stakeholders.

In 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services to support this work and selected The Meriweather Group through the procurement process. Ms. Jill Meriweather, principal owner, has been working with MARC staff since April 2024 and has provided facilitation and project management of a staff-led work group to develop organization-wide principles, training and tools for community and stakeholder engagement. With the award of a third year of funding from Health Forward Foundation, MARC would like to amend the contract to increase the total year two contract amount to \$86,225 for consulting services from November 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Ms. Meriweather's support of the staff-led work for this amended period will include:

- Co-designing and co-facilitating a staff community conversation on community engagement principles
- Supporting the design and facilitation of a staff community of practice
- Designing and facilitating monthly staff workgroups
- Supporting internal transition of this work to MARC staff

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The year one contract was \$45,700. The original year two contract was \$36,225. Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$25,000 will bring the total year 2 contract amount to \$86,225. This amendment would bring the total contract amount with Meriweather Group over three years to \$106,925.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$106,925
Source	Health Forward Foundation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual Year 1	\$45,700
Contractual Year 2	\$36,225
Contractual Year 2 Amendment 1	\$25,000
Total over three years	\$106,925

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contracts and amendment with The Meriweather Group in total amount not to exceed \$106,925 to provide professional services through December 31, 2026 to support staff capacity for community engagement.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

STAFF CONTACT:

Julie Phillips, Shared Services Program Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 6e
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize contract with the Housing Narrative Lab to complete narrative change research for the Regional Housing Partnership.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) is a collaboration across local government, nonprofits, developers, and others to support more housing at more price points across the region. In 2026, the RHP will be exploring policy and process improvement recommendations to support more affordable housing. With communities of all sizes across the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) region, the RHP seeks to understand the various perceptions and sentiments around housing.

This project will engage national expertise in market research and strategic communications. The consultants will facilitate a discovery process, gathering qualitative and quantitative research (e.g. focus groups, surveys, social media, etc.) to establish a “pulse” on public perceptions about housing issues. This research will be important in the identification of messages and stories about housing that resonate with communities across the MARC region. The Housing Narrative Lab will provide the RHP with messaging options and a strategy for sharing this work across the region.

The Housing Narrative Lab has completed this work in other markets, including Omaha, Nebraska, and presented their work and methodology at the September 30, 2025 RHP launch event. The MARC board has heard a presentation about the narrative change work at the October 2025 meeting and more generally about the RHP at the August 2025 meeting.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The proposed consulting agreement includes housing narrative change research consisting of a community assessment, qualitative research, and quantitative research as well as assistance with research analysis and dissemination and implementation support from the Housing Narrative Lab. The total request for this contract, not to exceed \$227,000, would be covered by an existing Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation grant for the work of the Regional Housing Partnership.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$227,000
Source	Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$227,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contractual services for housing narrative change research with the Housing Narrative Lab for \$227,000, to be executed by David Warm and Marisol Bello, CEO of Housing Narrative Lab.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ashley Z. Hand, Director of Local Government Services
Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 6f

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize the purchase of Layer 3 routing switch hardware from SHI for regional 911 sites.

BACKGROUND:

The Md-America Regional Council (MARC) 911 system is a complex network of hardware devices that require regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure peak performance. The MARC public safety technical team plans for ongoing hardware refreshes on a rotating basis. This approach replaces aging equipment with current models to address capacity and performance needs. Because network hardware components have a limited lifespan, this planned replacement schedule helps reduce failure rates and minimize potential downtime of the critical 911 system.

As part of the procurement process, staff obtained three quotes and SHI's proposal was approximately 25% lower than the other vendors. The network hardware refresh includes 30 routing switch units with dual power supplies and five years of support, at a total cost of \$155,049.90.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The SHI quote of \$155,049.90 includes 30 switch units, associated dual power supplies and five years of support. Funding for this planned hardware refresh was included in the 2025 911 Allocation Budget/Capital Projects.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$155,049.90
Source	911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$155,049.90
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This work is a typical expense anticipated in the 911 system capital projects budget, which was approved as part of the 2025 budget by the Public Safety Communication Board on November 20, 2024.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This request supports the 11-county MARC regional 911 network.

EXHIBITS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the purchase of 30 routing switches and dual power supplies from SHI to support the planned hardware refresh project in the amount of \$155,049.90.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 6g
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to support a three-year grant for the Early Childhood Earn While You Learn Fellowship.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly 32,000 more infant/toddler slots are needed to meet the demand of the community, causing families to leave or delay entry into the workforce, limiting economic mobility options for those of modest income. Current providers have the capacity to serve more families but cannot locate qualified staff. Given the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective early educator, high-quality programs require teaching staff to have relevant credentials/degrees which can, unfortunately, serve as a financial barrier.

The Earn While You Learn ECE fellowship pilot will provide living stipends, employer connections and educational resources for early education students. Similar to the Building Outstanding Opportunities for Students to Thrive (BOOST) program in Los Angeles, it is designed to address the barriers of nontuition costs for low-income college students while demonstrating a model for future public/private investment.

By coupling the proposed intervention with a public-facing report to guide future public investment, employer support and provider match over time, we aim to sustain this progress beyond the pilot.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This program is not currently included in MARC's budget. The grant proposal will be for a project grant spanning three school years, to allow for the completion of two cohorts.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,081,648
Source	Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe)	\$361,323
Contractual	-
Pass-Through	\$579,240
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$141,085

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

Metropolitan Community College and Kansas City Kansas Community College districts.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an application for \$1,081,648 for a three-year project grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to establish the ECE Earn While You Learn Fellowship and acceptance of funds if awarded.

STAFF CONTACT:

Toni Sturdivant, Ph.D., Director of Early Learning

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025

Item No. 6h

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program

BACKGROUND:

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 1) describes the transportation planning activities 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. A draft of the 2026 UPWP is available at: <https://www.marc.org/transportation/plans-and-studies/unified-planning-work-program>

Major Transportation Planning Initiatives proposed for 2026 include:

- Suballocated federal funds programming - Task 4.1
- Respond to planning provisions in the IJJA - Tasks 1.1, 2.2, 3.5, 3.9, 4.1, and 5.10
- Economic, Demographic and Travel Demand Forecasting - Tasks 2.1 and 3.1
- Performance Measures and Targets - Tasks 2.2, 3.6, and 4.1
- Regional Active Transportation Planning - Task 3.4 and 3.5
- Housing and Transportation Coordination Study - Task 5.10
- Completion of the regional activity-based travel demand model- Task 3.1
- Completion of the Regional Bikeway Plan Update - Task 3.5
- Completion of the Smart Moves Transit Plan update - Task 3.5
- 2026 Travel Patterns After Action Assessment - Task 5.11
- Natural Hazard Transportation Risk Assessment Phase 2 - Task 5-12
- Metrogreen Network Assessment - Task 5.13

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

MARC's Public Involvement Plan requires that the UPWP be released for public review and comment prior to adoption. Three comments from the public were received during the comment period. The comments and proposed responses from MARC are included.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The 2026 UPWP has been developed based on funding levels resulting from the passage of IJJA and the 2020 Census counts for urbanized area populations in Kansas and Missouri.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Total Transportation Policy Committee took action on this item on November 18, 2025.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve 2026 Unified Planning Work Program.

STAFF CONTACT

Marc Hansen, Principal Planner

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

2026 Unified Planning Work Program Public Comments and Responses

Comment #1 – Transit

“Kansas City, (Missouri and Kansas sides) in cooperation with surrounding suburbs and counties, needs streetcar, light, and commuter rail in large projects to connect the entire metro area from all directions. The highways and streets are saturated and dangerous. Parking is non existent in many areas or so expensive it isn’t feasible to pay daily. This includes for work and entertainment venue areas. The rail naysayers are not valid anymore either their negative objections to streetcar, light, or commuter rail. Streetcars were killed in 1957 by GM and back room politician deals, and the lobby and lawsuits about rail projects are still delayed by those same lobbies. Remember the commuter rail that would have gone east through Blue Springs on to Odessa that mayors and cities all on board, that suddenly disappeared, more backroom deals to stop what should have been, as well as line from Olathe into downtown. I-49 is saturated until it’s dangerous now, accidents daily now including south in suburbs. It’s time!!!!!!”

Response to Comment #1

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program. We shared your comments with the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration.

Expanded transportation options are a key goal of the region’s transportation plans, and two recent efforts highlight this. In June 2025, the MARC Board of Directors adopted an update to ConnectedKC 2050, the metropolitan transportation plan for the Kansas City region. This plan identifies multiple strategies by which communities across the region can provide a range of transportation choices to allow for ease of travel as well as public health and environmental benefits.

Also in 2025, MARC and partners began the [Smart Moves Transit and Mobility Plan Update](#). This plan details the transit system vision for the Kansas City area and 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, scheduled for completion in early 2026, will be conducted with the assistance of local stakeholders and the public and we encourage your involvement and input as the update moves forward.

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Comment #2 – K-10

"There is a city initiative in Kansas City to "Reconnect the East Side" with improvements/changes to US 71 highway along a certain corridor, but I see this as a bigger project.

The damage done to the (primarily black) communities by the construction of this highway can't ever be completely undone, but we owe it to this community to try. The only real way to bring back the connection while recognizing the need for people-moving is to replace 71 highway with a rail line. An effective train system would be supported by the commuters in the suburbs, while connecting residents of the area to (few and far between) community resources like green spaces, grocery stores, and hospitals, for example. I know that this would be a much bigger project than what is currently being pitched, but other solutions are either ignoring the large amount of suburban commuters or not really serving the community members what they need. The rail would have parking adjacent to stations in Grandview and maybe Belton to attract riders and extend to the downtown loop, running express during peak times. I'm so proud to be a resident of Kansas City and excited that there is motivation to improve our city, but I fear the simplicity of the current proposals make them band-aids to a problem that requires a larger solution.

I realize it is probably too far along to consider this solution, and that it sounds overwhelming or impossible. To me, it's the inevitable one. We know that public transport is the answer to urban sprawl and economic growth around public transport is proven. Thank you for reading and (hopefully) considering!"

Response to Comment #2 – US-71 Reconnecting Neighborhoods

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program. We shared your comments with the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee, and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration.

The US-71 Reconnecting Neighborhoods Project mentioned in your comments will continue in 2026 and opportunities for continued public participation through neighborhood listening sessions and pop-up events remain as well. The project website (<https://reconnecteastside.com/>) is a valuable resource for learning about the project and ways in which to get involved or make your voice heard.

In addition to targeted efforts such as the US-71 Reconnecting Neighborhoods project, regional transportation plans are also looking at expanded transportation options with two recent efforts highlighting this. In June 2025, the MARC Board of Directors adopted an update to ConnectedKC 2050, the metropolitan transportation plan for the Kansas City region. This plan identifies multiple strategies by which communities across the region can provide a range of transportation choices to allow for ease of travel as well as public health and environmental benefits.

Also in 2025, MARC and partners began the [Smart Moves Transit and Mobility Plan Update](#). This plan details the transit system vision for the Kansas City area and 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, scheduled for completion in early 2026, will be conducted with the assistance of local stakeholders and the public and we encourage your involvement and input as the update moves forward.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

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

Comment #3 – General

“Don’t know enough details yet”

Response to Comments #3 - #9

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed 2026 Unified Planning Work Program. We shared your comments with the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration.

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

November 2025
Item No. 6i
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the FY2026 Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has provided administration, planning and financial services to the MARC Solid Waste Management District since its inception. The district is required by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to competitively procure these planning services every five years. In compliance with state requirements, the district conducted a formal competitive bid for administrative and planning services. The district executive board formally selected MARC as its administrative contractor on September 20, 2023, for the period from 2024 - 2028.

Each year, MARC then renews its Memorandum of Understanding with the District to implement the agreed-upon work plan for the coming year. The District Board approved the Work Plan and Budget and authorized the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding for 2026 at its November 19, 2025, meeting.

MARC serves as the fiscal agent for the district's allocation, interest income funds, and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program funds. MARC will manage special projects as approved by the district's executive board, such as regional education and regional solid waste planning, to utilize these funds. MARC also administers the district grant program and the HHW program.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The Memorandum of Understanding provides \$739,202 from the annual allocation to compensate MARC for services provided to the district. The budget will support approximately 3.3 FTE MARC staff.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$739,202
Source	District allocation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$529,734.32
Contractual	\$107,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$102,468

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Missouri counties in the MARC region.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The district's executive board approved the FY26 MARC SWMD Work Plan & Budget and Memorandum of Understanding at its meeting on November 19, 2025.

EXHIBITS:

[2026 Memorandum of Understanding](#)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the executive director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the MARC Solid Waste Management District, accept and administer funds, and disperse payments as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

Dr. Dianna Bryant, Solid Waste Management Program Manager
Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director
Ron Achepohl, Director of Transportation and Environment