MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Board of Directors Meeting

September 22, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Attend in-person at the MARC Offices 801 Pennsylvania Ave. Ste 400, Kansas City, MO 64105 or 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. the day of the meeting for instructions to join the teleconference.

## AGENDA

1. **Introductions and board sharing time**
   Board members are asked to introduce themselves and highlight notable matters occurring in their jurisdiction.
2. **Exemplary Core Capacities**
   a) REPORT: Review of MARC's Community Engagement protocol developed through a Health Forward Foundation capacity building grant.
3. **Efficient Transportation and Quality Places**
   a) REPORT: Engagement opportunity with the regional transportation Public Participation Plan
   b) VOTE: Program overview and approval of the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations and accept additional Kansas STP funding
4. **Brief reports**
   a) REPORT: Update on Missouri Solid Waste Management District program changes
   b) REPORT: Presentation on FEMA regional flood hazard maps
5. **Executive Director's report**
   The executive director will share brief updates
   a) Issues for Board awareness:
      - Pending 2027 state legislative agendas
      - Proposed federal regulations affecting Head Start programs
      - Housing and Transportation Coordination plan updates
   b) Notable recent grants:
      - Health Forward Foundation and Kansas Health Foundation grants to support Community Health Worker workforce development
6. **Consent agenda**
   a) VOTE: Approve minutes of the August 25, 2026, board meeting
   b) VOTE: Approve Mid-America Regional Council Head Start budget modification.
   c) VOTE: Authorize application to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of remaining match funds for the FY2026 Head Start Federal Grant.
   d) VOTE: Approve contract renewal with ChildPlus software platform to support tracking of data for children, families, and staff in the Head Start program.
   e) VOTE: Approve action items of Head Start Advisory Committee.

f) VOTE: Authorization to apply for funds from the States of Kansas and Missouri for the regional air quality program.
g) VOTE: Authorization to submit a Federal Highway Administration PROTECT grant application to improve regional transportation infrastructure.
h) VOTE: Accept funding for the Senior Growth and Development Program SFY 2027 contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for older adult programming.
i) VOTE: Authorize an agreement with the City of Olathe for Fire Analyst staffing at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center.
j) VOTE: Authorize a subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program.

7. **Other business**

8. **Adjournment**

**Upcoming meeting**
Tuesday, October 27, 2026

**Special Accommodations**
Please notify MARC at 816-474-4240 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodation to attend this meeting (for example, qualified interpreter, large print materials, reader, hearing assistance). MARC programs are non-discriminatory as stated by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call 816-474-4240 or visit our Title VI information page.

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 2a
Exemplary Core Capacities

**REPORT: Update on MARC's Community Engagement protocol developed through a Health Forward Foundation capacity building grant.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received three rounds of funding for a capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation (HFF) in 2024 through 2026. The purpose of the funding was to enable MARC staff to examine existing community engagement efforts and develop an organization-wide approach for how we engage with external stakeholders.

Funding was used to hire a consultant to support an existing staff work group, provide training for staff, and support internal capacity and staff time. Project accomplishments include:

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

MARC has received notification that funding from HFF will not continue into 2027. MARC staff will report on the final deliverables and continued practices that have evolved from this work. Staff are currently assessing how to support and sustain these activities moving forward to continue improving MARC's community engagement efforts.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
This work supports MARC's regional vision, specifically around "Engaged People", an area of the regional vision that focuses on the benefit of strong social networks, civic engagement, and empowered communities.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
None.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
None. Information only.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

- Cy Splichal, Transportation Planner
- Julie Phillips, Capacity Building and Partnerships Manager

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 3a
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

**REPORT: Engagement opportunity with the regional transportation Public Participation Plan**

**BACKGROUND**
The regional transportation Public Participation Plan (PPP) guides the public engagement processes and activities of the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Transportation and Environment Department. The PPP provides a framework that guides public involvement in transportation planning projects; and specifies goals, strategies, and techniques that encourage successful public participation.

MARC staff have been developing an update of the plan over the course of 2026. This update process included internal workshopping and engagement, external engagement, and a peer review of participation methods utilized by other metropolitan planning organizations.

This process also overlapped with an internal effort to improve community engagement practices, funded by a grant through the Health Forward Foundation. This process focused on capacity building for MARC staff to identify best practices, goals, and strategies to improve community engagement across the agency. Outcomes and deliverables from that effort will be integrated into the updated plan.

Key updates included in this iteration of the PPP include updated guidance on:
- Using social media for engagement
- Engaging committees
- Utilizing consulting firms for engagement
- Coordinating annual engagement workplans

MARC staff will present on the plan update and share feedback from engagement activities. The PPP is due for approval by MARC's Board of Directors by December 2026. The Technical Advisory Committee will review a draft version of the plan at their October meeting. The TTPC will then review the plan and vote to release it for a 45-day public comment period at their October meeting.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
In accordance with 23 CFR 450.316, MPOs must create a Public Participation Plan that establishes requirements for engagement around core MPO products. Under this requirement, MPOs must allow for:
- adequate public notice of public participation activities;
- review and comment at key decision points in the development of the MTP and TIP;
- and multiple, accessible participation formats, including electronic and in-person.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
None.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
None. Information only.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Cy Splichal, Transportation Planner
- Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 3b
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

**VOTE: Approve the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations and accept additional Kansas STP funding**

**BACKGROUND**
The Kansas City region's vibrant, green and connected centers and corridors are central to the Creating Sustainable Places initiative, and the region's long-range transportation plan, Connected KC 2050. In 2012, the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) and the Creating Sustainable Places (CSP) Coordinating Committee launched Planning Sustainable Places (PSP), a combined initiative to provide communities with planning resources to advance sustainable projects in their corridors and centers.

MARC issued the eighth PSP call for projects on May 4, 2026, and it closed on June 22, 2026. MARC staff conducted an initial review and scoring of the 28 applications and worked with the Sustainable Places Policy Committee (SPPC) to develop a recommended funding list. The recommended list can be found as an attachment to this agenda report.

Additionally, the PSP program was awarded an additional $80,000 through the 2026 Amendment #1 to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program that the MARC Board approved on May 26, 2026.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| KS Surface Transportation Program (FFY 2027) | $800,000 |
| MO Federal Transportation Admin. (FFY 2026) | $500,000 |
| Local Match | $431,875 |
| Transportation Fees | $12,025 |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent) | $133,900 |
| Contractual | $1,610,000 |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
The SPPC and TTPC approved the final recommendation list at their committee meetings.

**EXHIBITS**
2027 PSP Funding Recommendation

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve the proposed funding for the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places Program as presented and accept the additional $80,000 of Kansas Surface Transportation Program funds for FFY 2027.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

- Beth Dawson, Planning Sustainable Places Program Manager
- Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment

# 2027 Kansas Planning Sustainable Places | Funding Recommendation

| Project Number | Primary Applicant | Project Title | Project Category | Project Score | Priority | Comments | Federal Amount Requested | Local | Recommended % | Recommended Funding | Revised Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | City of Leavenworth, KS | Leavenworth Development Regulations Update | Sustainable Places Plan | 92 | | 18 | $ 150,000 | $100,000 | 100% | $150,000 | $ 250,000 |
| 19 | City of Overland Park, KS | 87th Street Corridor Study | Sustainable Places Plan | 89 | | 15 | $ 100,000 | $ 25,000 | 92% | $ 92,000 | $ 117,000 |
| 25 | City of Roeland Park, KS | Roeland Park Bike-Ped Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 85 | | 7 | $ 52,500 | $ 17,500 | 92% | $ 48,300 | $ 65,800 |
| 9 | City of Basehor, KS | State Avenue Multimodal Corridor & Growth Strategy | Sustainable Places Plan | 81 | | 37 | $ 150,000 | $ 37,500 | 92% | $138,000 | $ 175,500 |
| *15* | *PortKC* | *West Bottoms Transit Oriented Development Plan* | *Sustainable Places Plan* | *80* | | 19 | $ 75,000 | $ 18,750 | 92% | $ 69,000 | $ 87,750 |
| 11 | City of Olathe, KS | Mill Creek Watershed Connectivity Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 77 | | 5 | $ 150,000 | $ 37,500 | 92% | $137,700 | $ 175,200 |
| 55 | City of Spring Hill, KS | Multimodal Corridor & Growth Strrategy | Sustainable Places Plan | 74 | | 41 | $ 150,000 | $ 50,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 40 | KCATA | Leavenworth County Mobility Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 72 | 3 | 1 | $ 80,000 | $ 20,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 29 | City of Shawnee, KS | Midland Entertainment District | Sustainable Places Plan | 68 | | 8 | $ 82,500 | $ 27,500 | | $ - | $ - |
| 58 | City of Merriam, KS | "Transpor-Mation" Study for 67th & I-35 Area | Sustainable Places Plan | 64 | | 36 | $ 125,000 | $125,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| *38* | *Johnson County* | *75th Street Fast & Frequent* | *Project Development* | *91* | | 4 | $ 105,000 | $ 26,250 | 100% | $105,000 | $ 131,250 |
| 47 | City of De Soto, KS | Lexington/Penner Project Development | Project Development | 57 | | 31 | $ 80,000 | $ 20,000 | | $ - | $ - |

***Underlined and italic denote bi-state applications.***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1,300,000 | 505,000 | 740,000 | 1,002,500 |
| Available | 740,000 | | 740,000 | |
| Difference | (560,000) | | 0 | |
| Funded Projects | | | 7 | |

# 2027 Missouri Planning Sustainable Places | Funding Recommendation

| Project Number | Primary Applicant | Project Title | Project Category | Project Score | Priority | Comments | Federal Amount Requested | Local | Recommended % | Recommended Funding | Revised Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | KCATA | 31st Street Tansit Accessibility Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 84 | 1 | 12 | $ 80,000 | $ 20,000 | 90% | $ 72,000 | $ 92,000 |
| 31 | City of Kansas City, MO | Kansas City Missouri Citywide Public Transit Services Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 83 | 5 | 7 | $ 150,000 | $ 250,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 20 | KCATA | Cass County Mobility Study | Sustainable Places Plan | 80 | 2 | 24 | $ 80,000 | $ 20,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| *15* | *PortKC* | *West Bottoms Transit Oriented Development Plan* | *Sustainable Places Plan* | *80* | | 19 | $ 75,000 | $ 18,750 | 72% | $ 54,500 | $ 73,250 |
| 18 | City of Kansas City, MO | Kessler to Blue Valley Park Trail Alignment Study | Sustainable Places Plan | 77 | 3 | 3 | $ 100,000 | $ 25,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 45 | City of Raytown, MO | Downtown Raytown Streetscape, Mobility and Public Space Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 75 | 1 | 27 | $ 112,500 | $ 37,500 | 72% | $ 81,000 | $ 118,500 |
| 39 | City of Lee's Summit, MO | Summit Activity Center | Sustainable Places Plan | 74 | | 8 | $ 80,000 | $ 20,000 | 75% | $ 60,000 | $ 80,000 |
| 7 | City of Kansas City, MO | Vivion Road Corridor Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 73 | 2 | 11 | $ 150,000 | $ 350,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 52 | City of Raytown, MO | Raytown North Gateway | Sustainable Places Plan | 72 | 2 | 9 | $ 102,750 | $ 34,250 | | $ - | $ - |
| 17 | City of Kansas City, MO | Comercial Motor Vehicles | Sustainable Places Plan | 72 | 4 | 8 | $ 150,000 | $ 250,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 56 | City of North Kansas City, MO | Missouri River Mutlimodal Corridor Study | Sustainable Places Plan | 71 | | 12 | $ 150,000 | $ 37,500 | | $ - | $ - |
| 57 | City of Blue Springs, MO | Blue Springs Wayfinding | Sustainable Places Plan | 62 | | 2 | $ 120,000 | $ 30,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 23 | City of Grandview, MO | Highgrove Road Corridor Study | Sustainable Places Plan | 57 | | 1 | $ 110,000 | $ 30,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 14 | City of Parkville, MO | Highway 45 Corridor Plan Update | Sustainable Places Plan | 53 | | 2 | $ 150,000 | $ 50,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| 62 | City of Weston, MO | Weston Highway 45 Corridor Plan | Sustainable Places Plan | 39 | | 21 | $ 32,000 | $ 8,000 | | $ - | $ - |
| *38* | *Johnson County, KS* | *75th Street Fast & Frequent* | *Project Development* | *91* | | 4 | $ 45,000 | $ 11,250 | 100% | $ 45,000 | $ 56,250 |
| 26 | City of Kansas City, MO | Reconnecting Kansas City Community Investment Plan | Project Development | 80 | 1 | 11 | $ 150,000 | $ 37,500 | 100% | $150,000 | $ 187,500 |
| 60 | City of Greenwood, MO | Rock Island Trail Phase 3 and 4 (Greenwood Gap) | Project Development | 62 | | 9 | $ 100,000 | $ 25,000 | | $ - | $ - |

***Underlined and italic denote bi-state applications.***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 1,937,250 | 462,500 | 607,500 |
| Available | 462,500 | 462,500 | |
| Difference | (1,474,750) | 0 | |
| Funded Projects | | 6 | |

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 4a
Healthy Environment

**REPORT: Update on Missouri Solid Waste Management District Program Changes.**

**BACKGROUND**
For 30 years, Missouri's solid waste management districts have helped communities reduce waste going to landfills. Through the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) role in operating our region's district, we support effective and innovative local reuse and recycling programs; glass, mattress, and construction-debris recycling; household hazardous materials collection; and timely management and distribution of grant funds to the local organizations providing these services.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recently announced changes that will negatively affect how Missouri's Solid Waste Management District grants are funded and managed. The department is currently holding back grant funds and moving operating payments from the start of the fiscal year to quarterly payments, which will create cash-flow problems for districts. MDNR also plans to impact local grantmaking by mandating a new statewide application form and scoring rubric and by assuming direct management of grant reimbursements and reporting.

We believe these changes are inconsistent with state law. A legal assessment from MARC's legal advisors, Stinson LLC, found that they conflict with statutory requirements and court precedent.

MARC has shared this assessment with MDNR and Governor Mike Kehoe. We have urged MDNR to stop the new grant management system, release funds as required by law, and work with solid waste districts on practical, lawful ways to improve the system. Because local governments rely on these funds to provide solid waste services, staff have also shared this information with local officials and encouraged them to share these concerns with MDNR Director Jake Buxton, Governor Kehoe, and state legislators. Director Buxton has offered to meet to discuss our concerns, and we are working to schedule this meeting.

On a related topic, the Missouri Senate Select Committee on Abandoned Landfill Remediation held a hearing on September 15, 2026. This committee was established in the aftermath of proposed legislation in 2026 that would have diverted funding from solid waste districts to other purposes. Staff attended the hearing and offered perspectives on how solid waste districts could support strategies to manage abandoned landfills.

Staff will provide an update on both issues at the meeting.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
MDNR's proposed changes will reduce local control of waste reduction programs in Missouri.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
MDNR's proposed changes will negatively impact district cash flows and may also impact timely reimbursements to district grant recipients.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
The MARC Solid Waste Management District Executive Committee was briefed on these issues on September 16, 2026.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
Because of the way that solid waste streams cross jurisdictional boundaries, this item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
None. Information only.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment
- Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director
- Dianna Bryant, Solid Waste Management Program Manager

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 4b
Safe and Secure Communities

**REPORT: Presentation on FEMA regional flood hazard maps**

**BACKGROUND**
September 2026 is National Preparedness Month. This year's theme—Americans Stand Ready—empowers individuals to take charge of their own readiness. Observed since 2004, National Preparedness Month encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies. The month is a great time to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared – and to promote preparedness in your communities.

As part of our region's preparedness, it is important to understand the existing and potential hazards within our communities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood hazards are dynamic and can change frequently because of a variety of factors, including weather patterns, erosion, and new development. The official flood map shows a community's different flood hazard areas. These may include high-hazard (Special Flood Hazard Areas), moderate- to low-hazard, and undetermined areas. Different flood insurance and building requirements apply to these flood hazard areas. FEMA works with communities to collect new or updated flood hazard data and periodically updates flood maps to reflect these changes.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is aware of proposed changes to flood plain maps across our nine-county region. Revisions to the 100-year and 500-year flood plains can significantly impact existing community businesses and residences. With each map update, there is an open public review and appeal process. It is important for community leaders to be aware of these changes, bring forward public comments to FEMA, and prepare for the potential impact as these changes can impact insurability and point to new risks. MARC has been working to integrate these new mapping layers into our data hub.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
When a new map is issued or an effective map is revised, the jurisdictional mapped flood hazard, as well as building or insurance requirements, may change. An effective map is one that has been through the public review and appeal process and has been adopted as a regulatory Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is important for local communities to be aware of these potential changes. **FEMA holds local jurisdictions responsible for notifying their residents and commercial property owners.**

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region. We are aware that Belton, MO has already received these updates so Cass County is in the midst of the public review and appeal process.

**RECOMMENDATION**
None. Information only.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

- Ashley Z. Hand, AIA, Director of Local Government Services
- Dan Manley, Senior Emergency Services Planner

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 5

**REPORT: Executive Director's report**

**BACKGROUND**
The executive director will share brief updates including the following:

**Issues for Board Awareness:**

- **Forthcoming MARC state legislative agenda drafts for MO and KS.** MARC staff are currently developing the state legislative agendas for each state and plan to have draft documents to present at the October Board meeting.
- **Proposed federal regulations affecting Head Start programs.** The staff is evaluating proposed changes in the regulations for Head Start grantees that would have significant implications for the quality and character of Head Start programs.
- **Housing & Transportation Coordination Plan Updates.** Staff is conducting several opportunities for stakeholder and community engagement to gain insight on housing and transportation needs and opportunities across the region, including focus groups, a community survey, and walking tours. You received an email with registration information from Hannah Mitchell on Thursday of last week inviting you to the third Housing Policy Innovation forum and a walking tour that will explore examples of missing middle housing types. We hope to see you there!

**Notable Recent Grants:**

- **Health Forward Foundation.** A grant was awarded to the MARC CSC to continue support for training and to strengthen the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce, while aligning with community paramedic programs and the Community Support Network (CSN) advanced community care hub at MARC.

- **Kansas Health Foundation.** A grant has been awarded to the MARC CSC focused on Empowering Upward Mobility Beyond the Walls: CHW Career Pathways. The approach will build on the successful KDHE pilot program that trained correction facility residents with nationally recognized CHWs core competencies & skills.

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6a

**VOTE: Approve minutes of the August 25, 2026, Board meeting**

**BACKGROUND:**
The minutes of the August 25, 2026, meeting are enclosed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**
Approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:**
- David Warm, Executive Director
- McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant

# MARC Board of Directors Meeting Summary

August 22, 2026

## BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE ATTENDANCE

Mayor Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO – Board Chair
Council member Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS – 2nd Vice Chair
Mayor Eric Mikkelson, Prairie Village, KS – Treasurer
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS – Secretary
Commissioner Allyson Berberich, Platte County, MO
Commissioner Julie Brewer, Johnson County, KS
Council member Eric Bunch, Kansas City, MO
Council member Jeff Creighton, Olathe, KS
Council member Jackie Dorman, Independence, MO
Councilmember Johnathan Duncan, Kansas City, MO
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS
Jeff Hardy, MODOT
Council member Logan Heley, Overland Park, KS
Victor Hurlbert, Auditor, Clay County, MO
Mayor Leonard Jones, Grandview, MO
Mayor Mickey Sandifer, Shawnee, KS
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS
Commissioner Mike Stieben, Leavenworth County, KS
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO

## STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Josh Cunningham, GBA Development Director
Tobias Steffensmeier, Field Representative for Senator Josh Hawley

## AGENDA

**Item 1 Introductions and board sharing time**
Mayor Beto Lopez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Due to the meeting being held remotely and in-person, Mayor Lopez provided instructions for participation. He 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 and the consent agenda at the end of the meeting. Members will have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during the vote.

**Item 2a REPORT: HUD PRO Housing funding opportunity to promote development of affordable housing across the Kansas City region.**

Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager, explained to the board that MARC submitted a $9.71 million application on August 3, 2026 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's FY 2026 PRO Housing program to expand attainable homeownership and address housing barriers across the Kansas City region. The proposal includes more than 110 new homeownership units through four construction-ready projects in Kansas City,

Kansas; Excelsior Springs, Independence and Kansas City, Missouri. Projects were selected based on factors including proximity to Opportunity Zones, demonstrated policy or regulatory progress, site control, construction readiness and capacity to complete grant activities.

If awarded, $8.7 million would be distributed to subrecipients for construction and infrastructure, while the remaining funds would support MARC's regional policy coordination, technical assistance and grant administration. MARC would work with local governments, developers, employers and community partners to reduce regulatory, policy and procedural barriers to housing and establish a durable regional framework for continued collaboration. This grant application would benefit the entire nine-county region through shared resources, tools and technical assistance.

Ms. Mitchell also mentioned that this item was included in the July 2026 Administrative Action packet that will be voted on with the consent agenda. Due to the tight turnaround for an application, staff submitted before the August Board meeting with executive director approval.

Commissioner Stieben asked if this grant (or the 21st Century Road to Housing grant) covers rural, suburban, and ex-urban needs instead of just the urban core? Ms. Mitchell said that the HUD PRO Housing grant had requirements to be focused on Opportunity Zones which tend to be more urban.

Commissioner Brewer asked if there was a residency requirement for those that benefit from the projects that are funded through this program? Ms. Mitchell said yes that HUD has very strict reporting guidelines on who receives funding and who is the ultimate beneficiary of the funds.

Mr. Hurlbert asked if the funded units were divided equally among the jurisdictions. Ms. Mitchell answered that the number of unit may differ between the jurisdictions but that the amount of funding is dispersed comparably between the jurisdictions.

Councilmember Bunch asked how many units would be funded through this grant for KCMO. Ms. Mitchell said that 30 units were identified for the Housing Accelerator Program in KCMO but that there will also be infrastructure funded that will allow for many more units in the future.

**Item 3a REPORT: Presentation on the Phase 1 win of the Administration for Community Living Health At Home Challenge.**

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services, presented to the board that MARC was selected as one of 10 Phase 1 winners in the Administration for Community Living's Health at Home Challenge, which recognizes advanced community care networks serving Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with complex health and functional needs. As the lead entity for a statewide Missouri collaborative, the Mid-America Community Support Network with ma4 and the Saint Louis Integrated Health Network will work to strengthen connections between health care providers and community-based organizations that deliver essential in-home services and support key functions such as contracting, billing, referrals, technology, data, compliance and reporting.

The initiative is drawing national press as "the most audacious Medicare experiment of 2026," and MARC has been named one of seven ACL 2026 Chronic Disease Self-Management Education grant recipients — a three-year, $1.2M Missouri statewide award that serves as a first step toward Phase 2. Planning is now underway to extend the model into Kansas.

The challenge includes three competitive phases, with teams required to win each phase to advance and up to $2 million available in each phase. MARC received a $200,000 Phase 1 award and may compete for Phase 2, which will select up to five teams, followed by Phase 3 with no more than three winners. The initiative seeks to improve community-clinical integration for up to one million dually eligible and near-dually eligible individuals nationwide who have multiple chronic conditions and at least one functional limitation; this statewide Missouri item is presented for information only.

**Item 4a REPORT: Updates regarding local planning for sustained public investment in early childhood through Connecting the P.I.E.C.E.S.**

Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning, presented a Civic Implementation Plan for sustained public investment in Kansas City's early childhood system. Several foundational steps have already been taken through: ECEinKC.org, a regional repository of high-quality learning experiences; Seeds of Change, a workforce initiative running recruitment fairs and credentialing new educators; and MO Child Care Works, a mechanism letting multiple funding sources split child care tuition, with a Kansas version launching soon. The plan itself is organized around three pillars — local sustainable funding (identifying viable revenue sources and the right investment mix), governance (oversight structures ensuring new revenue is used effectively and equitably), and public will (stakeholder alignment and information infrastructure).

Execution of the plan runs across three phases over eight months, from vision alignment and peer-locality research, through direction and strategy including a fall summit for civic and business leaders, to plan finalization and publication by February. Research in other peer regions suggest various options for generating revenue: Cincinnati raises roughly $15M from 30% of a CPS property tax levy, Denver about $20M from a .15% sales tax, San Antonio about $51M from a 1/8-cent sales tax, and New Orleans $20M+ via a local millage with a limited-time 1:1 state match.

The board was asked to weigh in on five design tradeoffs that will shape the plan: breadth versus depth; structure versus services; age range; eligibility; and delivery model. The board engaged in varied discussions around the tradeoffs and due to the lack of time, were encouraged to reach out to Dr. Sturdivant to further their input. Beyond this feedback, three concrete engagement opportunities are open to board members: joining the Implementation Team, participating in the Fall Summit, and serving as an Information Champion.

**Item 5 Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Warm provided updates on several matters requiring board awareness, including pending Missouri Department of Natural Resources regulations that could significantly affect Solid Waste Management District grant funding and administration, proposed federal Head Start regulations with potential implications for program quality and operations, and the status of MARC's office relocation to 801 Penn. He also reported recent grants MARC has applied for or received including a regional health data platform for wastewater disease tracking, improvements to the I-29/I-35 freeway intersection through a USDOT BUILD grant, and training and resources for stream and wetland conservation through an EPA riparian grant.

**Item 6 VOTE: Approve consent agenda items and approve the administrative actions from the July 2026 memo.**

a. VOTE: Approve minutes of the June 23, 2026, board meeting

b. VOTE: Approve application for an Assistant Secretary Preparedness and Response grant for fiscal year 2026-2027 to continue support of the region's health care coalition.
c. VOTE: Authorize contract with Porsena Solutions, LLC to provide support services for the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee 2027-2029 strategic plan.
d. VOTE: Authorize application for the FY 2026 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and associated subaward agreements to enhance regional emergency response preparedness.
e. VOTE: Approve a five-year agreement with Segra to renew existing Ethernet Local Area Network services supporting five regional Public Safety Answering Point locations.
f. VOTE: Approve contract renewal with Learning Genie to support children's progress in the classroom and electronic portfolio reporting of child outcomes.
g. VOTE: Approve a contract with Futures First for MARC to provide quality assessment services of classrooms for their Start Young Program.
h. VOTE: Authorize increase in monthly fee to ARIS Solutions to provide fiscal oversight for the Veteran Directed Care program.
i. VOTE: Approve a grant with OASIS Institute to facilitate and support falls prevention evidence-based programs.
j. VOTE: Approve a grant with ma4 Network to support the Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative: Dementia-Capable Community Health Workers.
k. VOTE: Approve contract with ES Advisors, LLC to support the Administration of Community Living Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Cooperative Agreement award and program.
l. VOTE: Approve amendment increase to the SFY 2027 agreement with Legal Aid of Western Missouri to provide access to legal services for eligible clients.
m. VOTE: Authorize the purchase and distribution costs of caregiver consumable supplies for older adults on fixed incomes receiving caregiver support.
n. VOTE: Approve 2026 special amendment #3 to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to add federal funds to a project in Riverside, MO.
o. VOTE: Authorize contract with Sustainable Investment Group LLC to provide project management support for the US Department of Energy's Renew America's Nonprofits Grant Program.
p. VOTE: Review and accept the 2025 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report

Approve Administrative Actions from July 2026 Memo

a) VOTE: Approve a five-year agreement with Segra for up to $259,200 to renew existing Ethernet Local Area Network services supporting five regional Public Safety Answering Point locations.

b) VOTE: Authorize grant application to the Sunflower Foundation Kansas Fights Addiction program to support justice-involved community health worker training and workforce development.

c) VOTE: Authorize grant application to the Kansas Health Foundation Upward Mobility program to support justice-involved community health worker training and workforce development.

d) VOTE: Authorize grant application to the Health Forward Foundation to support CHW training and workforce development.

e) VOTE: Approve submission of Amendment #1 of the SFY 2027 Area Plan Budget to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

f) VOTE: Approve the submission of a proposal to the Transformation of Rural Community Health (ToRCH) Community Grant through Ray County Hospital.

g) VOTE: Authorize application to the United State Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program's Produce Prescription Program to support the KC Fresh Rx program.

h) VOTE: Approve a contract amendment with the Harps Grocery Store Company for the Double Up Food Bucks program.

i) VOTE: Authorize acceptance of funds for MO Program Support Network extension.

j) VOTE: Authorize grant application to the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County to support mental health services for the MARC Head Start program.

k) VOTE: Authorize 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 the 2026 3rd Quarter Amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

m) VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to support local adoption and implementation of regional stormwater engineering standards.

n) VOTE: Approve application to Housing and Urban Development Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Grant to promote increased development of affordable housing across the Kansas City region.

Motion: Councilmember Creighton moved to approve the consent agenda and Councilmember Bunch seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez then asked whether any member wished to abstain from or object to any agenda item.

The motion passed.

**Item 8 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Item 9 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

**NEXT/UPCOMING MEETING**

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | MARC Offices 801 Pennsylvania Ave. Ste 400, Kansas City, MO 64105

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cass County | Bob Huston | MO | Cass County | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | MO | Cass County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Kristofer Turnbow | MO | Raymore | Member | x | x | | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Cass County Municipality | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clay County | Jerry Nolte | MO | Clay County | Member | x | | x | x | x | | | | | | |
| | Scott Wagner | MO | Clay County | Alternate | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| | Victor Hurlbert | MO | Clay County | Member | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | | | |
| | Jon Carpenter | MO | Clay County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Damien Boley | MO | Smithville | Member | x | | x | x | x | | | | | | |
| | Randy Pogue | MO | Kearney | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jackson County | Phil LeVota | MO | Jackson County | Member | | x | x | x | | | | | | | |
| | Jalen Anderson | MO | Jackson County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | DaRon McGee | MO | Jackson County | Member | | x | x | | | | | | | | |
| | Megan Smith | MO | Jackson County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mike McDonough | MO | Raytown | Member | x | | x | | | x | | | | | |
| | Leonard Jones | MO | Grandview | Alternate | x | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Kevin King | MO | Independence | Member | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | | | | |
| | Jackie Dorman | MO | Independence | Alternate | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | x | x | x | | | | |
| | VACANT | MO | Independence | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Independence | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Quinton Lucas | MO | Kansas City | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Eric Bunch | MO | Kansas City | Member | | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Johnathan Duncan | MO | Kansas City | Member | x | | | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Nathan Willet | MO | Kansas City | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Beto Lopez | MO | Lee's Summit | Member | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Hillary Shields | MO | Lee's Summit | Alternate | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | | | |
| Johnson County | Mike Kelly | KS | Johnson County | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Julie Brewer | KS | Johnson County | Alternate | n/a | | x | | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Janeé Hanzlick | KS | Johnson County | Member | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Becky Fast | KS | Johnson County | Alternate | | x | x | | x | | | | | | |
| | Eric Mikkelson | KS | Prairie Village | Member | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Michael Poppa | KS | Roeland Park | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rick Walker | KS | De Soto | Member | | | x | x | | x | x | | | | |
| | Mickey Sandifer | KS | Shawnee | Alternate | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| | John Bacon | KS | Olathe | Member | x | x | | | | | | | | | |
| | Jeff Creighton | KS | Olathe | Alternate | n/a | n/a | x | x | | x | x | | | | |
| | Curt Skoog | KS | Overland Park | Member | | x | | | | | x | | | | |
| | Logan Heley | KS | Overland Park | Alternate | x | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | |
| | Holly Grummert | KS | Overland Park | Member | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | | | |
| | Inas Younis | KS | Overland Park | Alternate | | | x | x | x | x | | | | | |

| County | Board Member | State | Jurisdiction | Member/ Alternate | January | February | March | April | May | June | August | September | October | November | December |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leavenworth County | Mike Stieben | KS | Leavenworth County | Member | x | x | x | x | x | | x | | | | |
| | Willie Dove | KS | Leavenworth County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Jeff Culbertson | KS | Leavenworth County | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Leavenworth County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Miami County | George Pretz | KS | Miami County | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tyler Vaughan | KS | Miami County | Alternate | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Platte County | Scott Fricker | MO | Platte County | Member | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Allyson Berberich | MO | Platte County | Alternate | | x | | | | x | x | | | | |
| | Chris Wright | MO | Platte County | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Platte County | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ray County | Sheila Tracy | MO | Ray County | Member | x | x | | | x | | | | | | |
| | Max Hockemeier | MO | Ray County | Alternate | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Christal Watson | KS | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Member | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Christian Ramirez | KS | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Member | x | | | | x | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dr. Evelyn Hill | KS | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Member | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Jermaine Howard | KS | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Member | n/a | x | | x | x | x | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Garrett Mellott | KS | Edwardsville | Member | n/a | x | x | | x | | | | | | |
| | Tom Stephens | KS | Bonner Springs | Alternate | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non Voting Transportation Representatives | VACANT | | KCATA | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | | KCATA | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Michael Moriarty | KS | KDOT | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | VACANT | KS | KDOT | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Greg Bolon | MO | MoDOT | Member | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Jeff Hardy | MO | MoDOT | Alternate | | | | | | | x | | | | |

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6b
Quality Early Learning

**VOTE: Approve Mid-America Regional Council Head Start budget modification.**

**BACKGROUND**
The administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) awarded $32,918,852 to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Head Start program for the 2024-2025 grant year. $1,034,132 went unspent as the result of the YMCA closure and several projects were not completed by the end of the grant year, October 31, 2025.

In March of 2026, the MARC board approved the MARC Head Start program to submit a request to ACF's OHS to carry over $253,553 of the unspent funds into the 2025-2026 grant year for playground repairs and upgrades.

In response to the submission, the OHS requested that MARC Head Start, first, submit a budget modification to move funds from the contractual services line to the equipment line to support the playground work described in the carry-over request. A budget revision is required when re-budgeting across cost categories exceeds 10 percent in any single direct-cost category. The budget modification must be approved before the OHS can decide on the previous board-approved carry-over request.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Amount | $99,152 |
| Source | Administration for Children and Families |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Contractual (Reduction) | $(99,152) |
| Equipment | $99,152 |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
Action was approved by both the MARC Head Start Policy Council (9/14/26), and Advisory Committee (9/15/26).

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
Jackson County, Missouri is impacted by this item.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve Head Start budget revision for the 2025-2026 grant year award not to exceed $99,152.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
- Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6c
Quality Early Learning

**VOTE: Authorize application to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of remaining match funds for the FY2026 Head Start Federal Grant.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Administration of Child and Families (ACF) funds 80 percent of the total operating costs of Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start grants. The remaining 20 percent must come from in-kind donations or funds from the community. These contributions must come from non-federal sources and must support necessary, reasonable and allowable costs for operating the program to be counted toward the 20 percent match. Head Start non-federal share contributions generally come in the form of volunteer services, donated or loaned equipment or space, donated supplies, land, or buildings.

The required federal match for the Head Start grant ending October 31, 2026, is $8,281,348. MARC has identified contributions totaling $4,901,948 leaving a balance due of $3,327,764. MARC Head Start therefore is seeking a waiver from ACF not to exceed the remaining balance of $3,327,764. Staff are confident that additional in-kind funds will be identified but want to obtain Board approval for the full amount because it is difficult to project how much will be identified. The waiver will only be submitted in the event that we do not identify the remaining balance before the end of the grant period.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
MARC Head Start Policy Council approved this request on September 14, 2026, and MARC Head Start Advisory Committee approved this request on September 15, 2026.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri are impacted by this request.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve MARC Head Start's request to apply for a waiver from the Administration for Children and Families for the remaining balance of the required non-federal match for the 2025-2026 Head Start grant.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
- Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6d
Quality Early Learning

**VOTE: Approve contract renewal with ChildPlus software platform to support tracking of data for children, families, and staff in the Head Start program.**

**BACKGROUND**
The ChildPlus database houses program information data for children, families and staff in the Head Start program. The data is used to track our progress in meeting the Head Start Act requirements, the Head Start performance standards, as well as the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Head Start's program goals. The information collected and housed in ChildPlus is then used to report required data to the Office of Head Start through our annual program information report (PIR). MARC Head Start began contracting ChildPlus in 2006 for these services.

A few examples of data collected include:
- eligibility determination for families
- family needs assessments and goals
- resources and referrals provided
- staff credentials and background checks

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Amount | $66,150 |
| Source | Administration for Children and Families |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Contractual | $66,150 |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri are impacted by this item.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve the ChildPlus contract from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027, in the amount of $66,150.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
- Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6e
Quality Early Learning

**VOTE: Approve action items of Head Start Advisory Committee**

**BACKGROUND**
The Head Start Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the following program information reports at its May meeting:

- Approval of June 2026 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 2026 Shared Governance Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Non-federal Share In-Kind Waiver
- Approval of Budget Revision

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
None

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
The Head Start Advisory Committee considered this information at its September 15 meeting and recommended MARC Board approval.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri.

**EXHIBITS**
Head Start Advisory Committee September 2026 Board Packet

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve the actions taken at the September 15 Head Start Advisory Committee meeting.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

- Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6f
Healthy Environment

**VOTE: Authorization to apply for funds from the States of Kansas and Missouri for the regional air quality program.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has been actively involved in air quality issues since the early 1970s and has served as the official air quality planning organization for the bistate metro area under section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act since 1978. Section 174 requires that states appoint an organization to coordinate local input to the development of the state air quality implementation plans.

MARC's air quality responsibilities include coordination, planning, technical analysis, and public information and education. MARC has no regulatory authority related to air quality issues but makes recommendations to the state air quality agencies concerning air quality planning and regulatory measures.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
Kansas and Missouri each provide planning funds to support regional air quality work on an annual basis. Contractual elements of the grants will support the 2026 Air Quality Public Education Campaign and Clean Air Action Plan implementation.

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Amount | $110,960 |
| Source | Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment ($65,000) & Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources ($45,960) |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Personnel (salaries,fringe, rent) | $44,960 |
| Contractual | $64,000 |
| Other (supplies, printing, etc.) | $1000 |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Approve application and acceptance of funds from MDNR and KDHE funding for the MARC air quality program for the fiscal period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $110,960.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Karen Clawson, Air and Mobility Programs Manager

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6g
Healthy Environment

**VOTE: Authorization to submit a Federal Highway Administration PROTECT grant application to improve regional transportation infrastructure.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Federal Highway Administration (FWA) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program. The program supports efforts to improve the resilience of transportation infrastructure and strengthen the ability of communities to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to natural hazards and changing conditions. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) intends to submit a planning grant application by the October 9, 2026, deadline to continue advancing the Transportation Resiliency KC initiative.

The proposed application would build on two earlier phases of regional resilience planning. Phase 1 established a foundational framework through stakeholder engagement, initial risk concepts and a preliminary approach for screening and prioritizing transportation vulnerabilities. Phase 2 is advancing a detailed, data-driven assessment of the region's multimodal transportation system and development of a regional Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan. This work includes assessing risks under current and future extreme weather conditions, identifying at-risk transportation assets, evaluating the consequences of transportation disruptions and developing analytical and decision-support resources to help guide regional investment priorities.

The next phase is expected to focus on planning and technical capacity building that will help MARC and its regional partners move from regional risk assessment and prioritization toward implementation. Potential planning activities would build on the findings, tools and priority needs identified through Phases 1 and 2 and further integrate resilience considerations into regional and local transportation planning and investment decisions. Technical capacity-building activities would help local governments, transportation agencies and other partners strengthen their ability to understand resilience risks, use available planning resources, coordinate across jurisdictions and agencies and advance resilient transportation projects. The application is still under development. Definition of the final scope of work and funding request is underway. MARC anticipates requesting no more than $2 million in federal funding. Planning grants awarded through the PROTECT program do not require a local match.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
This effort advances Connected KC and the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan by integrating extreme weather impacts into transportation planning and supporting the technical capacity of local governments and other parters to make informed planning and funding decisions as they address flooding, heat and other extreme weather impacts on the regional transportation system.

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Amount | $2,000,000 |
| Source | FHWA PROTECT program; planning grants require no local match |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent) | To be determined |
| Contractual | To be determined |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Authorize grant application to the Federal Highway Administration's PROTECT program funding opportunity to support Phase 3 planning for Transportation Resilience KC.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Karen Clawson, Air and Mobility Programs Manager
- Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6h
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

**VOTE: Accept funding for the Senior Growth and Development Program SFY 2027 contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for older adult programming**

**BACKGROUND**
The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services established the Senior Services Growth and Development Program (SSGDP) to provide additional funding for older adult programming through MO Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). SSGDP was created in 2019 to provide funding to enhance services for the development and expansion of senior center programs, facilities, and services. In addition, it is intended to be utilized for any activities related to services for older adults in the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) planning and service area (PSA). However, no funds were appropriated to the project until the 102nd General Assembly.

With revenue shortfalls at the state, SSGDP funding was cut across AAAs by 20% for SFY 2026. MARC's initial contract is in the amount of $1,112,796. Fifty percent of these funds are designated for the development and expansion of the senior center programs, facilities, and services. The other fifty percent shall be used for any activities and programs that enhance services for older adults in MARC's planning and service area (PSA), Jackson, Clay, Cass, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Amount | $1,112,796 |
| Source | Senior Services Growth and Development Program (SSGDP) Fund |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
Jackson, Platte, Clay, Cass, and Ray Counties

**RECOMMENDATION**
Authorize execution of the SFY 2027 contract and accept SSGDP funding from the MO DHSS.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- Margaret Murphy, Aging and Adult Services Grant Manager
- Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6i
Safe and Secure Communities

**VOTE: Authorize an agreement with the City of Olathe for Fire Analyst staffing at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has been awarded Kansas State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to support regional security projects and is proposing a contract with the City of Olathe to support the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center. The Olathe Fire Department will provide up to $60,000 to support one part-time Fire Analyst assigned to the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The position will support regional information sharing, analysis and coordination among fire services, emergency medical services, emergency management, healthcare, private-sector partners and other public safety disciplines.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
The agreement is funded with Kansas State Homeland Security Grant Program funds and will operate on a reimbursement basis. The Olathe Fire Department will pay eligible salary costs and submit monthly invoices with payroll documentation, signed timesheets and proof of payment. MARC will reimburse actual eligible costs, not to exceed $60,000.

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Kansas State Homeland Security Grant Program | $60,000 |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Pass-through: City of Olathe Fire Analyst salary reimbursement | $60,000 |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
The Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee and the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center Advisory Board have identified this investment as a regional priority.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
The Kansas City Regional Fusion Center supports public safety and homeland security partners throughout the nine-county MARC region.

**RECOMMENDATION**
Authorize the executive director to enter into a professional services agreement with the City of Olathe, by and through the Olathe Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed $60,000 for Fire Analyst staffing at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

**STAFF CONTACTS**
- John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator
- Erin Lynch, Emergency Services Director

**AGENDA REPORT**

MARC Board of Directors

September 2026
Item No. 6j
Safe and Secure Communities

**VOTE: Authorize a subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program.**

**BACKGROUND**
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has offered the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) a subrecipient agreement to serve as fiscal agent for a regional health care coalition under the federal Hospital Preparedness Program. The program is intended to strengthen health care coalition readiness, collaboration and recovery capabilities for disasters and emergencies that exceed the day-to-day capacity of individual health care and emergency response systems. The MARC emergency services department is already leading this work on the Missouri-side of the state line with the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

The Kansas agreement identifies $155,000 in federal funds and a term beginning September 21, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. MARC would be responsible for fiscal administration and for ensuring completion of the coalition work plan and required Readiness and Response Coordinator functions.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
The agreement identifies $155,000 in federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds. Payments are tied to financial status reports, supporting invoices, progress reports and completion of program requirements.

| REVENUES | |
|---|---|
| Federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds through KDHE | $155,000 |

| PROJECTED EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Personnel | To be determined |
| Contractual | To be determined |
| Meeting and Travel Expenses | To be determined |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**
The Bi-state Health Care Coalition supports this action. The KS-side Healthcare Coalition met on September 11, 2026, and voted to support MARC in this role.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS**
The agreement is intended to support the health care coalition and participating health care and emergency response organizations in the applicable Kansas region (Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth counties).

**RECOMMENDATION**
Authorize entering into a subrecipient agreement with KDHE for the Hospital Preparedness Program in an amount not to exceed $155,000 for the period September 21, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

- John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator
- Erin Lynch, Emergency Services Director