

Meeting Summary

Mobility Advisory Committee

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 9:30AM

MEETING MINUTES

Main Business

The primary focus of this meeting was to develop funding scenarios for the FTA Section 5310 funds.

- Approximately \$4.1 million in federal funding requests were submitted.
- Approximately \$2.2 million is available for programming.
- Not all applications can be funded at their full requested amounts.
- Scores were developed through a committee process using evaluation criteria aligned with the recently updated Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan.
- Funding recommendations developed by MAC will advance to the:
 1. Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC)
 2. MARC and KCATA Boards
 3. KCATA procurement process

Funding Discussion

The committee reviewed project scores and funding scenarios using a spreadsheet model showing the effect of varying funding percentages. Topics discussed included:

- Whether to prioritize:
 - Fully funding the highest-scoring projects, or
 - Spreading available funds among a larger number of agencies.
- Scalability of project requests.
- Consideration of agencies that had recently received funding.
- Impact of vehicle procurement delays and future inflation on project costs.
- Ability of agencies to secure required local matching funds.

Eitas

- Confirmed it could scale down its request if needed.
- Noted several vehicles have exceeded useful life and require replacement.
- Indicated pursuit of other funding opportunities.

Farmer's House

- Indicated willingness to proceed with approximately 60% funding.
- Suggested considering whether agencies funded in the previous cycle should receive reduced priority.

Johnson County Mental Health Center

- Acknowledged the likelihood of partial funding.
- Confirmed ability to proceed with a reduced funding level if necessary.

Unified Government Transportation

- Identified lift upgrades as a higher priority than vehicle replacement.
- Confirmed reduced funding could still support portions of the requested project.

Draft Funding Scenario

After discussion and adjustments, the committee developed a funding scenario intended to:

- Respect project scoring results.
- Distribute funding among as many applicants as possible.
- Keep projects viable despite reduced awards.

Recommended Allocation Framework

- Johnson County Mental Health Center: 70%
- Eitas: 41%
- Most remaining projects: 60%
- Johnson County Transit: 58%
- Lower-scoring projects (below 40-point threshold): 50%

This scenario allocated nearly all available funding while allowing every project to receive some level of support.

Additional Discussion

Procurement Process

KCATA staff explained:

- Vehicle procurement is handled through KCATA.
- Efforts are underway to establish vehicle procurement contracts and menus of available vehicle options.
- Previous procurement delays were largely related to Buy America and contracting requirements.
- Existing 2024 vehicle awards are continuing through procurement review and approvals.

Regional Collaboration

Several members discussed opportunities for:

- Vehicle sharing programs.
- Shared fleet resources.
- Lift maintenance support.
- Regional coordination of transportation assets.
- Potential use of ICAM and CCAM grant programs to support vehicle-sharing initiatives.

Action Item and Vote

A motion was made by Anne Miller to approve the funding recommendations based on the final percentage allocation scenario presented. The motion was seconded by a committee member. No objections were raised. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps

Staff will:

1. Present MAC recommendations to the TTPC in October.
2. Forward recommendations to the MARC and KCATA Boards upon TTPC approval.
3. Begin procurement and implementation activities following all approvals.

Staff anticipates approvals will be completed by the end of the year, after which procurement activities can advance.

Member Updates

Fare Program Discussion

A question was raised regarding potential changes to Metro and RideKC Freedom fare programs.

Response:

- No fare rollback is currently planned.
- United Way-distributed transit passes have been beneficial, though inventory is limited.
- Organizations may continue purchasing discounted passes through KCATA programs.

ATTENDANCE

September 9, 2026

MARC Co-Chair: Jim Huffman, Life Unlimited

KCATA Co-Chair: Pete Comer, KCATA

Other Attendees:

First	Last	Organization
Hailey	Kellerstrass	City of Liberty
Laura	Messer	Eitas
Mona	Ali	Crystal Home Care
Mackenzie	Carnes	Inclusion Connections KC
Emily	Fink	Sanford Health
Whitney	Dwyer	Johnson County
Dana	Chatlin	The Farmers House
Amy	Stoll	KC Down Syndrome Innovations
Anne	Miller	Don Bosco Center
Corrie	Steele	Johnson County
Dvonta		Operation Stable Ground
Margaret	Brown	Johnson County
Joe	Bink	Eitas
Jim	Huffman	Life Unlimited
Dale	Derrell	Heartland Inc
Halston	Livingston	Heartland Inc
Shae	Marek	Able Light
Amy	Unmacht	Goodlife
Ariel	Nichols	Goodlife
Kendra	Musgrave	TNC Community
Arlando	Young	UG Transit

MARC and KCATA Staff:

First	Last	Organization
Lukas	Yanni	MARC
Martin	Rivarola	MARC
Eric	Rorstrom	MARC
Tane	Lewis	MARC
Mollie	White	MARC
Tina	Medina	KCATA
Pete	Comer	KCATA