



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 27, 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) Quality Early Learning

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

3) Competitive Economy

- a) REPORT: Regional data center engagement

4) Effective Local Government

- a) REPORT: Board discussion to guide MARC's approach to intergovernmental relations, including legislative agendas, priorities and processes.

5) Executive Director's report

The executive director will share brief updates and upcoming events

- i) Regional Innovation Forum: Community Benefit Models for Major Infrastructure Investments | Nov 4 @ 10:30 a.m. [Register here](#)
- ii) Critical Materials Crossroads 2nd Annual Stakeholder Summit | Nov. 5 @ 8 a.m. [Register here](#)
- iii) Economic Trends Shaping Our Region: Moving from Insight to Action | Nov 6 @ 9.am. [Register here](#)
- iv) Unlocking Kansas City's Future: An Early Childhood & Economic Opportunity Summit | Nov. 9 @ 9 a.m. [Register here](#)
- v) Policy Solutions for ADUs and Home Plus One Design Showcase | Nov 12 @ 2 p.m. [Register here](#)

6) Consent agenda

- a) VOTE: Approve minutes of the September 22, 2026, board meeting
- b) VOTE: Authorize \$250,000 contract with Iteris, Inc. for ClearGuide, a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform to support the regional Operation Greenlight program.
- c) VOTE: Approve FFY25-26 FTA Section 5310 Project Funding Recommendations.
- d) VOTE: Approve 2026 Functional Classification System change requests

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

- e) VOTE: Approve 2026 4th quarter amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program
- f) VOTE: Authorize receipt of \$200,000 subaward from LISC Greater Kansas City to support work on the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership.
- g) VOTE: Approve \$180,000 application to Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Community Health Worker Rural Workforce Leadership and Advancement request for proposals
- h) VOTE: Approve \$2,637,500 application to the America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program for capacity building funds.
- i) VOTE: Authorize a \$64,980 contract with Carl Abraham to complete regional emergency services assessment and outreach work.
- j) VOTE: Authorize acceptance and administration of Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness subgrant funds totaling \$146,555 for FY 2026-2027 planning, training, and exercise activities.
- k) VOTE: Authorize a \$155,000 subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the hospital preparedness program.
- l) VOTE: Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key totaling \$67,082.40 to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade.
- m) VOTE: Authorize a 10-year contract with Sparkrock for a new enterprise resource planning system.

7) Other business

8) Adjournment

Upcoming meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

- 2027 MARC proposed budget and work plan
- 2026 Ozone season review
- Model ordinance for jurisdictional [E-Mobility policy](#)

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

October 2026
Item No. 2a
Quality Early Learning

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

BACKGROUND

During the August 2026 Board Meeting, Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning, shared an overview of a 3-phase regional planning project that seeks to provide a sustainable solution to childcare affordability in the Kansas City region. This report will serve as an update for the Board on where Phase 1 ended in August, and to gather Board input and feedback during Phase 2 which ends in November.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), Watershed Advisors, and Kids Win Missouri are working to develop a public investment implementation toolkit to provide a sustainable solution to childcare affordability in the Kansas City region. Funding from the Ewing Marrión Kauffman Foundation has aided progress through the regional planning project: [Connecting the P.I.E.C.E.S.](#) including the launch of [Missouri Child Care Works](#) and [eceinkc.org](#).

Currently, families in the Kansas City region who do not qualify for public benefits are paying anywhere from 15-33% of their household income for child care, if slots are available. There is an estimated regional gap of 32,000 slots needed for infants and toddlers in order to serve our population at any income level.

As a part of this solution generation work, MARC will host a fall summit of civic and business leaders to get feedback on the implementation toolkit before finalizing and launching. [Register here](#). MARC board members can provide input and feedback by joining implementation planning team, attending the upcoming fall summit, and/or championing the plan in the community.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This planning initiative continues the work of the Connecting the P.I.E.C.E.S. with a focus on the services, funding and governance component of the plan.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

Data was collected from Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri and Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas to inform childcare supply and demand.

RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACTS

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 3a
Competitive Economy

REPORT: Regional data center engagement.

BACKGROUND

As the conversations about data centers increase in our region, the City of Kansas City, MO and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) have engaged with the [Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab](#) to conduct a Deliberative Polling exercise for the Kansas City region. Deliberative polling is a defined process in use by to understand resident sentiment on a specific topic before and after being presented with information about the topic being discussed. This process has been run in over 50 countries and over 150 different iterations on various topics from energy, schools, the future of certain public buildings and many other topics.

Questions and priority topics are still being developed but will not suggest any specific policy or outcome and will primarily be focused on understanding resident sentiment on specific topics related to data centers. All sessions are led remotely by the Stanford team with the assistance of an online portal. Participants are invited by Stanford through polling firms and will be a representative sample of the region. A report will be made available after the event, which is anticipated to take place in early December 2026.

MARC staff also want to hear from Board members about the tools, information and support they may need to navigate data center issues in their communities. This input will help MARC identify opportunities to provide useful resources and assistance as local discussions and decisions evolve.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Data center conversations have included topics related to environment, energy, economic development and land use. This process can provide additional insight into our region in an established, tested way to help inform discussion.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Amanda Graor, Director of Data and Digital Services
- Ashley Z. Hand, Director of Local Government Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 4a
Effective Local Government

REPORT: Board discussion to guide MARC's approach to intergovernmental relations, including legislative agendas, priorities and processes.

BACKGROUND

Each fall, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) typically brings its state and federal policy agendas to the Board of Directors for review and approval in preparation for the upcoming legislative sessions. This year, before finalizing those agendas, staff are seeking the Board's direction on MARC's overall approach to legislative issues at the state and federal levels. The discussion will help clarify whether MARC should place primary emphasis on building and maintaining strong relationships with legislators, proactively identifying and engaging on emerging legislation, responding to legislative developments as they occur, or using a balanced combination of these approaches.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director

MARC Intergovernmental Relations Board Brief

Intergovernmental Relations Components Explained

LEVEL 1: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- **Purpose:** Establish trust and institutional connections before a specific request or issue arises.
- **Outcome:** *Relationships create access* for education, information exchange and future action.

LEVEL 2: POLICY INTELLIGENCE

- **Purpose:** Monitor and interpret legislation, budgets, regulations, administrative actions and funding opportunities.
- **Outcome:** Intelligence allows MARC and its members to identify opportunities and risks early rather than react after decisions are made.

LEVEL 3: EXPERTISE & ENGAGEMENT

- **Purpose:** Provide lawmakers and policy makers with objective data, regional information and implementation experience. Create two-way dialogue through briefings, meetings, site visits and regional policy discussions.
- **Outcome:** Expertise builds MARC's credibility; engagement builds mutual understanding.

LEVEL 4 — SELECTIVE ACTION

- **ADVOCACY Purpose:** Advance a preferred policy, funding or administrative outcome consistent with Board-approved priorities.
- **SELECTIVE LOBBYING Purpose:** Request action on specific legislation when authorized and legally and fiscally permissible.
- **Outcome:** Influence decision makers

Intergovernmental Relations Programs: Guiding Principles Best Practice

- **AUDIENCE:** Bi-partisan. Engaging both Executive & Legislative levels
- **APPROACH:** Non-partisan, evidence-based framing. Engaging on issues appropriate to the role of Regional Councils
- **AGENDA:** Targeted, realistic to enhance likelihood of success. Collaborating with partners and identifying the best champion for the issue.
- **ROLES:** Clear Board direction on posture and activity. Clear internal roles and organizational positions. Balancing Executive awareness with Department independence.

MARC Opportunity:

Build toward a year-round, relationship-centered intergovernmental relations program focused on coordinated relationship building, policy intelligence, engagement and Board-authorized advocacy.

MARC Intergovernmental Relations Board Brief

Next Steps Proposal

Relationship Building & Engagement (Ongoing, ramping up post-election)

1. Map executive and legislative stakeholder relationships, depth of connections (w/ Board, staff), depth of overall MARC awareness
2. Develop engagement strategy to deepen relationships, address gaps and support action agenda implementation

Agenda Development: Policy Intelligence & Advocacy (Through End of 2026)

1. Develop prioritized KS, MO, Federal action plans considering key questions for each issue:

What is our posture?

- Reactive: Primarily monitor developments
- Responsive: Monitor actively, maintain key relationships and engage selectively
- Proactive: Maintain strong ongoing relationships, regularly educate policymakers, anticipate emerging issues and actively advance MARC and regional priorities
- Agenda-Setting: Take a leadership role in shaping policy, building coalitions and advancing significant regional policy initiatives.

What is our role? What tactics/actions do we employ?

- Educate
- Engage
- Inform
- Advocate
- (Lobby)

Who are our champions and partners?

- Who is best positioned to act? Board members, leadership team members, individual staff
- What national associations, state associations and/or regional partners does it make sense to collaborate with?

2. Engage Board in action agenda review and approval at November, December meetings

Internal Infrastructure

1. Develop internal structures for coordination
2. Identify staff experts and champions to collaborate in a coordinated program
3. Ensure resources and capacity are available to support the program

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 5

REPORT: Executive Director's report

BACKGROUND

The executive director will share brief updates and upcoming events:

Upcoming Events:

- i) Regional Innovation Forum: Community Benefit Models for Major Infrastructure Investments | Nov 4 @ 10:30 a.m. [Register here](#)
- ii) Critical Materials Crossroads 2nd Annual Stakeholder Summit | Nov 5 @ 8 a.m. [Register here](#)
- iii) Economic Trends Shaping Our Region: Moving from Insight to Action | Nov 6 @ 9 a.m. [Register here](#)
- iv) Unlocking Kansas City's Future: An Early Childhood & Economic Opportunity Summit | Nov 9 @ 9 a.m. [Register here](#)
- v) Policy Solutions for ADUs and Home Plus One Design Showcase | Nov 12 @ 2 p.m. [Register here](#)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 6a

VOTE: Approve minutes of the September 22, 2026, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the September 22, 2026, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the September 22, 2026, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

- Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director
- McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant



MARC Board of Directors Meeting Summary

September 22, 2026

BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE ATTENDANCE

Mayor Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO - Board Chair
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO - 1st Vice Chair
Council member Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - 2nd Vice Chair
Mayor Eric Mikkelsen, Prairie Village, KS - Treasurer
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS - Secretary
Greg Bolon, MoDOT
Commissioner Julie Brewer, Johnson County, KS
Council member Jeff Creighton, Olathe, KS
Council member Jackie Dorman, Independence, MO
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS
Commissioner Dr. Evelyn Hill, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Victor Hurlbert, Auditor, Clay County, MO
Mayor Leonard Jones, Grandview, MO
Commissioner Mike Kelly, Johnson County, KS
Mayor Kevin King, Independence, MO
Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, MO
Mayor Mickey Sandifer, Shawnee, KS
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO
Mayor Christal Watson, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Council member Inas Younis, Overland Park, KS

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

David Rowe, Enterprise KC

AGENDA

Item 1 Introductions and board sharing time

Mayor Beto Lopez called the meeting to order at 12:02 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.

Mayor Lopez also made a tribute statement to David Warm as this would be his last board meeting as the MARC Executive Director. Mayor Lopez called attention to the name of the boardroom which is now formally the David A. Warm Boardroom. He thanked David on behalf of the board for his many years of service to the Kansas City region.

Item 2a REPORT: Review of MARC's Community Engagement protocol developed through a Health Forward Foundation capacity building grant.

Cy Splichal, Planner II, presented a new internal protocol that will enhance community engagement of MARC program structures. Mr. Splichal informed the board that MARC used three years of Health Forward Foundation funding to strengthen its capacity and improve how it engages stakeholders and communities, supporting staff capacity, training and consultant assistance. Accomplishments include staff focus groups, training from KU, a community of practice and an online toolkit with resources and best practices. Staff also developed foundational engagement principles, a community engagement protocol and a supporting checklist.

The protocol establishes an organization-wide approach intended to make MARC's work community informed, transparent and rooted in trust, with staff expectations, organizational practices and a checklist for planning and reviewing engagement. Trust anchors the principles, which emphasize community accountability, access, demonstrable results, shared capacity building and seeking understanding, alongside clear and agile processes and courageous innovation. For the board, the central takeaway is that MARC has established a common framework and staff resources for more consistent engagement. The update documents capacity-building accomplishments rather than measured improvements in community outcomes.

Council member Holly Grummert asked if there was matrix that identifies the voices a group would need in the room? Mr. Splichal said that the team is doing that at a micro-level depending on the planning that is occurring.

Item 3a REPORT: Engagement opportunity with the regional transportation Public Participation Plan.

Cy Splichal, Planner II, presented an update on the transportation public participation plan. MARC's Transportation Planning Public Participation Plan establishes a consistent framework for public involvement across regional transportation planning and addresses federal requirements for public notice, comment at key decision points and accessible participation options. The update in the plan responds to increasing political divides, misinformation and changing technology, and was developed alongside feedback that existing processes favor people who already have the time, resources and connections to participate. MARC staff, transportation committees and public participants emphasized building partnerships, meeting people where they are and creating meaningful dialogue while reducing participation barriers.

The plan combines compliance requirements with community engagement goals, practical tools and committee best practices, and covers social media, consultant services, an annual engagement workplan and artificial intelligence guidance. For the board, the central direction is a shift from procedural participation toward stronger relationships and trust, with greater attention to whose voices current processes exclude. The proposed schedule calls for TTPC to release the plan for public comment in October, a 45-day review during October-November, and approvals by TAC, TTPC and the MARC Board by December 2026.

Commissioner Hanzlick asked what role education participation plays in the plan. Mr. Splichal acknowledged that one of the pillars in the draft plan focuses on informing and educating as a better tool for engagement.

Commissioner Brewer asked if the plan was addressing techniques to engage with folks that are using transit by choice and folks that use transit by need to make sure there are no gaps

in the viewpoints. Mr. Splichal answered that those considerations are also part of the draft plan.

Item 3b VOTE: Program overview and approval of the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations and accept additional Kansas STP funding

Beth Dawson, Planning Sustainable Places Program Manager, requested approval of funding 11 Planning Sustainable Places studies in 2027 totaling \$1.6 million, including local match, from 28 applications. The recommended studies include two bi-state efforts and one new sponsor. The portfolio comprises nine Sustainable Places Plans and two Project Development Plans across four counties in Kansas and Missouri. These recommendations build on a program that has supported 118 studies between 2013 through 2025, with a \$12.8 million budget resulting in more than \$877 million in implementation. The board was also asked to approve the funding recommendation and authorize acceptance of an additional \$80,000 in Kansas Surface Transportation Program funds.

Mayor Boley moved to approve agenda item 3b and Mayor Mikkelson 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 4a REPORT: Update on Missouri Solid Waste Management District program changes

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, reported ongoing concerns about proposed changes to Missouri's solid waste district program. A legislative effort to eliminate the districts and redirect funding to abandoned-landfill issues failed, but a Senate committee continues to examine the matter. Meanwhile, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has proposed administrative changes—including quarterly reimbursements and greater state control over local grants—that could strain district cash flow and reduce local flexibility. MARC has shared a legal brief outlining its concerns and scheduled an October 6 meeting with the department's new director. Additional advocacy may follow because the program supports regional waste-diversion efforts and organizations.

Mayor Sandifer asked if these implications would impact Kansas Solid Waste Districts. Mr. Achelpohl said that MARC is responsible for the Missouri program but that there was a recent update to the regional plan that involves both sides of the state line.

Mayor Turnbow reported that the city of Raymore would be taking a position through resolution from the elected body to the director of MDNR about their concerns.

Item 4b REPORT: Presentation on FEMA regional flood hazard maps

Ashley Hand, Director of Local Government Services, emphasized the importance of monitoring FEMA floodplain-map updates, noting that inland communities face significant flood risks and potential effects on property insurance. Local jurisdictions have 90 days to provide feedback or appeal proposed maps and six months after appeals are resolved to update ordinances. MARC will monitor regional changes and can assist communities with hazard-mitigation planning, public notification, stormwater and green-infrastructure strategies, and flood-awareness initiatives.

Item 5 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Warm provided updates forthcoming Missouri and Kansas legislative agenda drafts, proposed federal Head Start regulations, and regional housing and transportation engagement activities. He also highlighted recent grants from the Health Forward Foundation and Kansas Health Foundation supporting Community Health Worker training, workforce

development, career pathways, community paramedicine, and coordinated community care.

Item 6 VOTE: Approve consent agenda items.

- 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.

Mayor Lopez indicated that the board would vote on all items on the consent agenda in one motion except for item 6j due to discussion at the Budget and Personnel meeting for a title change.

Commissioner Hanzlick moved to approve the consent agenda except item 6j and Councilmember Grummert 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.

Mayor Lopez asked for a motion to approve item 6j with a new title: *Authorize MARC to continue negotiations with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program*. Mayor Mikkelson made the motion, Commissioner Brewer seconded. The motion passes.

Item 8 Other Business

There was no other business.

Item 9 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

NEXT/UPCOMING MEETING

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | MARC Offices 801 Pennsylvania Ave. Ste 400, Kansas City, MO 64105

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6b

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

VOTE: Authorize \$250,000 contract with Iteris, Inc. for ClearGuide, a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform to support the regional Operation Greenlight program.

BACKGROUND

Operation Green Light (OGL) is a regional traffic signal coordination and operations program involving local governments and the state departments of transportation in Kansas and Missouri. This initiative improves regional traffic flow, air quality and fuel consumption. As a key part of this work, OGL develops and implements traffic signal timing plans in cooperation with participating state and local governments and monitors real-time operations on roadway intersections in the program. Continued traffic signal timing and engineering support services will be integral to the successful operation of the OGL program.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received funds through the surface transportation block grant (STBG) program in Kansas to implement crowdsourcing tools that align with the FHWA [Everyday Counts Initiative](#) to increase use of crowdsource technologies in operations. Crowdsourced data is large data and anonymized so that no personally identifiable information (PII) is included in any data product.

Iteris ClearGuide is a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform that provides travel-time monitoring, roadway delay alerts, and signal performance measures such as arrivals on green and control delay. Under the proposed two-year agreement, ClearGuide would support approximately 1,067 traffic signals across participating OGL agencies in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth counties in Kansas. The platform will provide two years of historical data and ongoing real-time data throughout the two-year contract term, enabling OGL and participating agencies to identify performance issues and prioritize signal-timing and operational improvements.

ClearGuide was previously implemented with Missouri partners in June 2026.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Funds for this purchase are included in the Operation Green Light operations budget. This procurement will be funded through Federal Grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Participating local governments provide matching funds for this grant that are budgeted in the 2027 and 2028 OGL budget.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$250,000
Source	Federal STBG - Kansas

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$250,000

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Operation Green Light Steering Committee will meet on October 26, 2026, to vote to recommend the approval of a contract with Iteris, Inc.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

Kansas Department of Transportation, Bonner Springs, Fairway, Lansing, Leavenworth, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Mission Woods, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Westwood, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize a two-year contract with Iteris, Inc for ClearGuide roadway and traffic signal analytics services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment
- Ray M. Webb, Traffic Operations Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6c

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

VOTE: Approve FFY25-26 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Project Funding Recommendations

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for the Section 5310 Program that targets specific users and their mobility needs. Section 5310, also known as the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program, provides funding for vehicle purchases, capital projects and operations that address mobility solutions for older adults and persons with disabilities.

The competitive selection of Section 5310 projects is based on the FFY 2025 and 2026 urban area formula-based apportionment for the Kansas City urban area. As the Designated Recipient of the Kansas City Urbanized Area, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) may submit Section 5310 applications for FFY 2025 and 2026 funding equivalent to the amount apportioned to the region by FTA. As outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations, MARC manages the competitive selection process for the portions of the FFY 2025 & 2026 apportionments being released through that process.

A call for projects and project selection process occurred over the spring and summer of 2026 and there were 16 applications that were received for the Kansas City urbanized area. MARC staff briefed the upcoming Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) on the review process and [Mobility Advisory Committee](#) recommendations at their October 20, 2026 meeting.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

These funds are integral to the advancement of the goals and strategies outlined in the federally required Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HST) and support regional mobility services for those with limited mobility.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

MARC and KCATA retain 3.5% and 6.5% respectively for program administration purposes. The following chart represents the estimated region's funding allocation for the current cycle:

ESTIMATED 5310 Funds for KC Region in 2025 and 2026 (Apportionments)	
Admin (MARC)	\$153,969
Admin (KCATA)	\$285,942
TOTAL minus all Admin	\$3,959,193
Operations (45%)	\$1,583,677
Capital (55%)	\$2,177,556
Funds to be Programmed	\$2,177,556
TOTAL	\$4,399,103

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

EXHIBITS:

[FTA Section 5310 funds award recommendations](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) will take action on this item at their October 20, 2026 meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve selection of projects to be awarded Section 5310 program funds, as noted in this staff report.

STAFF CONTACT

- Lukas Yanni, Transportation Planner III

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

FTA SECTION 5310 MAC FUNDING RECOMMENDATION - KC UZA 2026

Applicant/Org	Project Title (Application)	Total Score	Total Project Cost	Total 5310 Request	Percent Funding Awarded	Recommended Scenario
Johnson County Mental Health Center	JCMHC Transportation Fleet Replacement and Expansion	48	\$369,324	\$295,459	70%	\$206,821
Eitas	Replacing Fleet Buses to Keep Eitas Riders Moving	44	\$1,612,800	\$1,280,000	41%	\$524,800
Heartland, Inc.	Heartland, Inc. Wheels: Door-Through-Door Transportation for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	44	\$423,390	\$339,000	60%	\$203,400
The Farmer's House	The Farmer's House Community Mobility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities	44	\$326,200	\$250,000	60%	\$150,000
West Central Community Development Corporation	Expanding Mobility & Access in Cass County through New Growth Transit	44	\$223,861	\$177,316	60%	\$106,390
Greater KC LINC Inc. (LINC)	LINC Mobility Van for Palestine Older Adults	44	\$179,971	\$155,148	60%	\$93,089
Life Unlimited	Life Unlimited Enhanced Mobility Vans 2026	42	\$562,706	\$470,550	60%	\$282,330
Johnson County Transit	JCT 5310 Accessible Vehicle Replacement	40	\$254,500	\$216,325	58%	\$125,469
GoodLife Innovations, Inc.	GoodRide Mobility Management Project	40	\$208,472	\$152,250	60%	\$91,350
Inclusion Connections	Inclusion Connections Transportation	40	\$154,530	\$122,400	60%	\$73,440
The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society	Wheels to Wellness: Project Replacement Van	40	\$74,379	\$62,689	60%	\$37,613
AbleLight	AbleLight Kansas City Accessible Vehicle Replacement	40	\$70,595	\$59,500	60%	\$35,700
TNC Community	Accessible Transit Vans for TNC Community to Transport Individuals with Severe Developmental Disabilities for Healthcare and Community Integration	36	\$281,232	\$223,200	50%	\$111,600
Unified Government	ADA Paratransit Lift Upgrade: Replace 800-lb Lifts with 1,000-lb Capacity Lifts on Eight 2025 Vehicles	36	\$58,061	\$46,080	50%	\$23,040
Operation Stable Ground Foundation Inc.	Operation Stable Ground Accessible Community Mobility Initiative – Phase 1	34	\$131,100	\$110,000	50%	\$55,000
Unified Government Transportation Department	ADA Paratransit Vehicle Replacement Project	32	\$141,120	\$112,000	50%	\$56,000
				\$4,071,917		\$2,176,042

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6d

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

VOTE: Approve 2026 Functional Classification System change requests

BACKGROUND

Functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are organized according to how they move vehicles across our transportation network. This designation is based on factors such as roadway volume and speed limit, among other criteria established by the Federal Highway Administration. Functional classification is used in transportation planning and roadway design and is one factor in determining if a roadway project is eligible to receive federal funds.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kansas City Region, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is responsible for developing and maintaining the Functional Classification system of roadways within its planning boundaries through coordination with local cities, counties, and departments of transportation. MARC conducted a call for changes to the Functional Classification System. To ensure requests meet FHWA guidelines, coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and DOTs is required.

For the 2026 call, MARC reviewed and drafted recommendations for 46 new requests for functional classification changes from eight (8) jurisdictions/agencies. Draft recommendations were reviewed by the applicable DOT's and additional coordination with requesting jurisdiction occurred as needed. The requests were organized into the following five recommendation categories.

- Approve: 40 requests
- Approve with Modification: 2 requests
- Approve, contingent upon consensus: 1 request
- Withdraw: 1 request
- Withdraw, unless documentation provided: 2 requests
 - Requests that are withdrawn are eligible to be resubmitted during a future call.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In some cases, functional classification determines the eligibility of roadways to receive federal funds, most notably the STP funds that MARC's programming committees award every two years.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

EXHIBITS

[Draft functional class change recommendations](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) approved this item with no changes at their October 20, 2026 meeting.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve draft recommendations for the 2026 Functional Classification System.

STAFF CONTACT

- Alicia Hunter, Transportation Planner

Agency	State	RoadwayName	RoadwayFrom	RoadwayTo	RoadwayType	CurrentClassification	ProposedClassification	Recommendation
Olathe	KS	114th Street	Noble Drive	Iowa Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Iowa Street	114th Street	Santa Fe Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Mahaffie Street	151st Street	159th Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Warwick Street	159th Street	167th Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Keeler Street	Santa Fe Street	Dennis Avenue	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Kansas Avenue	Southgate Street	Dennis Avenue	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Indian Creek Parkway	Mur-Len Road	Black Bob Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Cherokee Lane	Lindenwood Drive	Mur-Len Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	139th Street	Mur-Len Road	Brougham Drive	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	139th Street	Brougham Drive	Black Bob Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	133rd Street	Greenwood Street	Pflumm Road	Existing	NA	Major Collector	Approve, with modification
Olathe	KS	Greenwood Street	133rd Street	138th Street	Existing	Minor Collector	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Greenwood Street	138th Street	143rd Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	147th Terrace	Mur-Len Road	Brougham Drive	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	147th Terrace	Brougham Drive	Black Bob Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	138th Street	Black Bob Road	Pflumm Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Greenwood Street	127th Street	133rd Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Greenwood Street	143rd Street	151st Street	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Montclair Drive	Santa Fe Street	Dennis Avenue	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Olathe	KS	Loula Street	Montclair Drive	Ridgeview Road	Existing	NA	Minor Collector	Approve
Overland Park	KS	Kenneth Road / State Line Road	159th Street	199th Street	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	Clare Rd	W 99th St	Prairie Star Pkwy	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	99th St	Canyon Creek Blvd	Clare Rd	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	OLD KC RD/SILVER ST	EAGLE DR	PEORIA ST	Existing	Minor Arterial	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	Eisenhower Rd	US-73	K-5	Existing	Minor Arterial	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	K-5	Eisenhower Rd	US-73	Existing	Major Collector	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	Eisenhower Rd	W UAB	S 20th St Trfy	Existing	Minor Arterial	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	W 327th St	Old KC Rd	SB US-169 Ramp JCT	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
KDOT	KS	W 327th St	SB US-169 Ramp Jct	NB US-169 Ramp Jct	Existing	Minor Collector	Major Collector	Approve
Grandview	MO	Highgrove Rd	West Frontage Rd	15th St	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
Grandview	MO	S US Highway 71	West Frontage Rd	East Frontage Rd	Existing	NA	Interstate	Approve
Grandview	MO	I-49 Northbound Off Ramp	I-49	East Frontage Rd	Existing	NA	Interstate	Approve
Grandview	MO	Goode Ave	West Frontage Rd	15th St	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
Grandview	MO	I-49 Southbound Off Ramp	I-49	West Frontage Rd	Existing	NA	Interstate	Approve
Grandview	MO	15th Street	Goode Ave	Highgrove Rd	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve
Grandview	MO	On ramp	West Frontage Rd	I-49	Existing	NA	Remove Road	Approve
Grandview	MO	On ramp	East Frontage Rd	I-49	Existing	Interstate	Remove Road	Approve
Grandview	MO	On ramp	West Frontage Rd	I-49	Existing	Interstate	Remove Road	Approve
Harrisonville	MO	E. Pearl Street/Bird Street Extension	E. Pearl Street & N. Price Ave. (dead-end)	Bird Street & MO State Hwy 7	Existing	Local Street	Minor Collector	Withdraw
Kearney	MO	162nd Street	Nation Road	Missouri Highway 33	Existing	Minor Collector	Major Collector	Approve, with modification
Kearney	MO	Sam Barr	Missouri State Highway 92	19th Street	Planned	NA	Major Collector	Withdraw
MoDOT	MO	NW River Rd	US Hwy 69 (River Rd)	Hwy FF	Existing	Major Collector	Minor Collector	Approve
MoDOT	MO	MO 33 Hwy	170th St	162nd St	Existing	Principal Arterial	Major Collector	Approve
Raymore	MO	163rd Street	Madison Street	Churchill Circle	Existing	NA	Minor Arterial	Approve
Raymore	MO	163rd Street	Foxridge Drive	Kentucky Road	Planned	NA	Minor Arterial	Approve
MARC		99th St	Canyon Creek Blvd	98th St	Existing	Local Street	Major Collector	Approve

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6e

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

VOTE: Approve 2026 4th quarter amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the region's short-range program, identifying projects to receive federal funds and projects of regional significance to be implemented over the next three to five-year period. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) amends the TIP on both a quarterly cycle and as needed to accommodate changes to projects in the TIP.

The proposed 2026 4th quarter amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program includes 24 projects:

- 17 new projects to be added, including but not limited to:
 - #162008 - Lansing - Lansing Side Path & Main Street Crosswalk
 - #259219 - Unified Government - Bridge Network Prioritization Program
 - #280225 - KDOT - US-69 pavement replacement in Wyandotte County
 - #341005 - DeSoto - Sunflower Road Shared-Use Path Missing Link
 - #380269 - KDOT - I-35 and US-56/W 175th Street Interchange in Gardner
- 7 existing projects with modifications to the scope, schedule, or budget

Details of these projects are available for review on the MARC [website here](#).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

MARC's Public Involvement Plan requires that amendments to the TIP be released for public review and comment prior to adoption. One comment in support #162008 was received. The comment and a proposed response from MARC are included.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) approved this item with no changes at their October 20, 2026 meeting.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2026 4th quarter amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

STAFF CONTACT

- Marc Hansen, Transportation Programs Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

2026-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2026 4TH QUARTER AMENDMENT PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comment #1 – Lansing Sidepath and Main St Crosswalk #162008

“The Lansing sidewalk path is seriously needed. Kids walk to school on the roadway every day. Allowing this project to move forward increases safety in that part of town.”

Response to Comment #1

Thank you for your recent comment regarding the proposed 2026 4th Quarter Amendment to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program. We shared your comments with the City of Lansing, the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee, and the MARC Board of Directors for their consideration on the proposed amendment.

Expanded transportation options and improved safety are key goals of the region’s transportation plans. Notable among these plans is the recently completed Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). Shaped by rigorous data analysis and informed by stakeholder and public engagement, the CSAP promotes a framework that focuses on safer design, safer speeds, safer vehicles, post-crash care, and education and enforcement strategies. The CSAP is available for review at

<https://www.marc.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/DS-Comprehensive-Safety-Action-Plan.pdf>.

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
Transportation Programs Manager
Mid-America Regional Council

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 6f
Competitive Economy

VOTE: Authorize receipt of \$200,000 subaward from LISC Greater Kansas City to support work on the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) was designated to receive \$500,000 in Community Projects Funding appropriation request from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). LISC Greater Kansas City, who serves as the co-backbone agency for the RHP alongside the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), is the direct recipient of the funds from HUD and will be distributing MARC's \$200,000 portion via a subgrant, to be used for program support for the RHP. The grant is a one-time award from HUD and can be used to cover expenses between 2025-2028.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This award supports MARC's housing goals as it will provide general operating support for the RHP to engage in cross-sector, region-wide collaboration and coordination to build an effective and healthy housing system that expands and sustains access to attainable housing across the Kansas City region. The RHP's work focuses on three areas: policy & process, housing construction workforce, and community voice.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The \$200,000 award will be used for personnel expenses related to the administration and coordination of the Regional Housing Partnership.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$200,000
Source	HUD Community Projects Funding (via subgrant from LISC)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$200,000

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize acceptance of \$200,000 HUD Community Projects Funding subgrant from LISC Greater KC for up to 3 years of program support for the Regional Housing Partnership.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6g

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

VOTE: Approve \$180,000 application to Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Community Health Worker Rural Workforce Leadership and Advancement request for proposals

BACKGROUND

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued a request for proposals (RFP) entitled Community Health Worker (CHW) Rural Workforce Leadership and Advancement. The funding opportunity is for the provision of workforce development activities in Rural Health Transformation Hub counties in MO for the DHSS. Specifically, the work focuses on supporting and improving the operations of the CHW Association of MO (CHWAM) and promoting CHW certification as a career path, highlighting the value and skills of the CHW workforce to employers in Rural Health Transformation-designated counties, thereby supporting the full integration of CHWs into care teams. The RFP was posted on Sept. 17 and was due Oct. 1, due to the quick turnaround to meet the submission deadline, David Warm, MARC's former executive director, approved the proposal upload.

Staff were recently informed that the MARC application was not approved for funding.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

REVENUES	
Amount	\$180,000
Source	DHSS, Rural Health Transformation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$71,575
Contractual	\$99,000
Travel	\$4,380
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$5,045
Total	\$180,000

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Commission on Aging considered this at its October 14, 2026, meeting and recommended board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

Rural Health Transformation-designated counties in Missouri. For this program, Clay, Cass, Jackson, and Platte counties are designated as Urban.

RECOMMENDATION

Ratify the submission of a proposal to the MO DHSS for the Community Health Worker Rural Workforce Leadership and Advancement and acceptance of funding if awarded.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

STAFF CONTACTS

- Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6h

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

VOTE: Approve \$2,637,500 application to the America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program for capacity building funds.

BACKGROUND

The Reinvestment Fund is the National Fund Manager (NFM) for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative at the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service. The Fund released a request for applications for America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: [Local and Regional Health Food Financing Partnerships Program](#) (HFFI Partnerships Program). This program seeks to build the capacity of locally and regionally focused Healthy Food Financing Partnerships that will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible healthy food retailers and post-harvest food retail supply chain enterprises.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) along with partners [Cultivate KC](#) and [AltCap](#), are seeking to create the Heartland Farm to Retail Readiness Partnership with these funds. The partnership is seeking HFFI funds to reduce barriers to accessing locally grown and/or affordable fresh food and pantry staples at a variety of food retail establishments across Missouri and Kansas. To support a pipeline that increases access to healthy food in underserved areas of our bi-state region, our audience will be specialty crop producers seeking post-harvest infrastructure loans and grocery retailers that are interested in making store improvements to increase their readiness to provide a larger offering of healthy and fresh foods.

Project outcomes include:

- Creation of a bridge loan fund to allow producers to participate in existing reimbursable grant and cost-share programs
- Identification of technological solutions to upgrade point of sale systems for stores hoping to participate in [Double Up Food Bucks](#) (DUFBI) or other food access incentive programs, and a loan program to assist stores in affording upgrades
- Technical assistance provided to both producers and grocery retailers seeking to participate in these programs
- Further credit enhancement opportunities (financial education, credit enhancement technical assistance, and grants to eliminate barriers to loan readiness and access to capital) will be available and marketed to our target audience.

Because of the quick turnaround for submittal, David Warm, MARC's former executive director, approved the submission of a collaborative proposal.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

REVENUES	
Amount	\$2,637,500
Source	HFFI

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (Salaries, Fringe, Indirect,)	\$570,306

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

Travel	\$16,705
Subawards	\$1,989,359
Materials and Supplies	\$2,000
Contractual	\$45,000
Other - Printing and Rent	\$14,130

COMMITTEE ACTION

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

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts specialty crop producers and local retailers across both states of Kansas and Missouri.

RECOMMENDATION

Ratify approval to submit a grant application and acceptance of award, if granted, for the HFFI Partnerships Program funding opportunity.

STAFF CONTACT

- Donna Martin, Program Manager
- Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Older Adults Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 6i
Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Authorize a \$64,980 contract with Carl Abraham to complete regional emergency services assessment and outreach work.

BACKGROUND:

The Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners has hosted the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center since 2007. The Center's role is to work with federal, state, and local law enforcement and other emergency services agencies to collect, analyze, and share sensitive intelligence information to support the prevention and deterrence of terrorist acts in the Kansas City region. Personnel from several local law enforcement agencies have donated time to support the Fusion Center, and an advisory committee with public and private sector representatives offers guidance to the Center.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in conjunction with the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center (KCRFC) and agencies in the nine-county area, provides part-time contractors to help conduct special event threat assessments (SETAs) at venues in Clay, Platte, Ray, Jackson, and Cass Counties in Missouri - Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson Counties in Kansas , evaluate assessments previously conducted, and work with Fusion Center leadership to implement outreach to the public and private venues to increase their emergency preparedness. SETAs are cataloged in a database for future evaluation and tracking. In addition to conducting and tracking SETAs, contractors plan and conduct outreach to venue operators and offer customized training to enhance emergency preparedness.

Federal homeland security funds through the Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant program have been received to support this work. The outreach coordinators, including Carl Abraham, were selected through a competitive request for qualifications in late 2021 and will continue work in 2026-2027.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$64,980
Source	UASI 24

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$64,980

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

On June 7, 2025, the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) approved the investments for the FY 24 UASI funding, which included funds designated for the part-time contractors to support this work.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The grant applications were submitted on behalf of Clay, Platte, Ray, Jackson, and Cass Counties in Missouri - Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson Counties in Kansas.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Carl Abraham for regional emergency services assessment and outreach work in an amount not to exceed \$64,980.

CONTACT

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6j

Secure and Safe Communities

VOTE: Authorize acceptance and administration of Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness subgrant funds totaling \$146,555 for FY 2026-2027 planning, training, and exercise activities.

BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) serving as the fiduciary and administrative agent, applied for FY 2026-2027 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) subgrant funding through the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The application includes planning, training, and exercise activities designed to enhance regional preparedness for transportation-related hazardous materials incidents. Awarded activities include updates to LEPC hazardous materials plan, delivery of specialized hazmat training courses, and execution of a complex functional exercise.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The projects are funded through federal HMEP subgrant funds administered by the State of Kansas and require a 20 percent non-federal match, provided through a combination of personnel time and in-kind contributions.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$146,555
Source	U.S. DOT / PHMSA - HMEP (Pass-through: Kansas Adjutant General's Department)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual \$ 35,000 plan update/ \$70,000 exercise, \$41,555 Training	\$146,555

COMMITTEE ACTION

Application was presented and approved at the March 2026 Mid America LEPC Meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

The related jurisdictions tied directly to the grant funding are the three Kansas counties: Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson. The planning work also encompasses Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray Counties.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize acceptance of the HMEP subgrant funds and approval for MARC to administer the projects on behalf of the Mid-America LEPC.

STAFF CONTACTS

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026

Item No. 6k

Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Authorize a \$155,000 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 that designates MARC as the lead organization responsible for supporting coalition activities, administering Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funds, coordinating required planning and preparedness activities, and overseeing the Readiness and Response Coordinator (RRC) function and associated activities.

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 agreement identifies \$155,000 in federal funds and a term beginning October 15, 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	Amount
Federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds through KDHE)	\$155,000

PROJECTED EXPENSES	Amount
Personnel	\$124,000
Contractual	\$21,000
Travel and Training Expenses	\$10,000

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 a subrecipient agreement with KDHE for the Hospital Preparedness Program in an amount not to exceed \$155,000 for the period October 15, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

STAFF CONTACTS

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

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 6l
Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key totaling \$67,082.40 to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade.

BACKGROUND

The GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade requires new serial-to-IP converters to support communications between system components. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) technical staff worked directly with Digi International, the equipment manufacturer, to identify the Digi Connect EZ 32. Digi International coordinated with Digi-Key to provide the purchase quote.

The proposed purchase includes 20 converters. The quoted equipment is currently listed with an estimated nine-week lead time after receipt of order. Moving the purchase forward will help avoid delays to the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade schedule.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Digi-Key quote provides pricing of \$3,354.12 per unit for 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters, for a total equipment cost of \$67,082.40. Pricing is valid through Oct. 28, 2026. The quoted price excludes freight, and any applicable tariffs will be determined at the time of invoicing.

This is a sole-source procurement because MARC worked directly with Digi International to identify the specific equipment that was compatible with current system components. Digi International coordinated the quote through Digi-Key. Funding is included in the 911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects).

REVENUES	
Amount	\$67,082.40
Source	911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$67,082.40

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item supports the MARC regional 9-1-1 system and benefits all participating jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key for \$67,082.40, plus applicable freight and tariffs, to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 911 Host upgrade.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Program Director
- Hassan Al-Rubaie, Public Safety Technical Services Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

October 2026
Item No. 6m
Exemplary Core Capacities

VOTE: Authorize a 10-year contract with Sparkrock for a new enterprise resource planning system.

BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) currently uses Great Plains (GP Dynamics) for day to day financials, supported by Wipfli, and Prophix for budget compilation. Microsoft has announced GP is going to be end of life in 2029, which necessitates MARC to have a new system implemented by that time. GP is the financial system MARC has used since 2009.

Forvis Mazars conducted a directed search for enterprise resource planning (ERP) vendors that met MARC's needs, drawing on its prior technology needs assessment and interviews with the Finance Department. The search emphasized grant management, reporting, and modernization of accounts payable processes.

Finance staff reviewed four systems in first-round demonstrations: Tyler Munis, Oracle NetSuite, Sage Intacct, and Sparkrock. Sage Intacct and Sparkrock advanced to department-wide deep-dive demonstrations based on Finance's detailed evaluation criteria. Finance also contacted one recent Sage implementer and three Sparkrock references, including an organization with significant grant activity.

Staff engagement was incorporated throughout the process. An all-staff survey gathered desired features before project kickoff, and a second survey asked current GP users what they wanted addressed in finalist demonstrations. Non-finance demonstrations focused on dashboards, reporting, navigation, and common functions such as entering accounts payable information. The June 18 Sage demonstration included 37 attendees, 27 from programs and 10 Finance staff. The June 22 Sparkrock demonstration included 38 attendees, 28 from programs and 10 Finance staff.

IT staff participated throughout the process to validate compatibility and security requirements and held detailed requirements meetings with both finalists.

Both finalist systems are cloud-based subscription platforms that would improve reporting, accounts payable and revenue processes, and general system navigation. Sparkrock is recommended because it is designed around grant management, appeared more intuitive across user groups, and demonstrated MARC-specific use cases using sample general ledger data.

- The interface was easier to navigate for users at different levels and offers four user-license tiers, compared with two for Sage.
- A Microsoft-based platform supports connectivity with Outlook, Power BI, and Copilot.
- It includes budgeting functionality that should allow MARC to discontinue Prophix; Sage would require retaining Prophix or adding another budgeting solution.

Sparkrock was founded in 2003 specifically to support nonprofits and school districts. It is built on the foundation of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, so while it is much more modern than our current GP platform, there are core functionalities that will make the transition less complicated.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Sparkrock negotiated and reduced annual subscription and implementation pricing and agreed to payment terms that address MARC's budget and cash-flow considerations.

- **Annual subscription:** \$66,368 annually for a five-year term or \$62,155 annually for a 10-year term.
- **Support:** Platinum support would remain in place for the full initial contract term. The discounted subscription is below the normal Gold support cost; the selected support plan cannot be changed during the term.
- **Implementation:** \$87,280
- **Payment terms:** Implementation payments may be spread over 24 months. Final timing will be established in the agreement.

Current annual costs include Prophix, Microsoft Dynamics GP, and Wipfli support. Sparkrock should eliminate the need for Prophix and will eventually replace GP. It will be necessary to keep one or two licenses active at very reduced cost for GP for grant compliance and reporting for two to three years. Staff also will retain Forvis Mazars for as needed general support.

Current annual system costs		
System or service	2026 budget	2026 Estimated Final Costs
Prophix	\$35,200	\$30,176
Microsoft Dynamics GP	\$20,790	\$19,287
Wipfli services	\$17,952	\$17,292
Total	\$73,942	\$66,755

Proposed Sparkrock costs		
Cost component	Amount	Terms
Annual subscription—five-year option	\$66,368 annually	Platinum support
Annual subscription—10-year option	\$62,155 annually	Platinum support
Forvis Mazars services	Varies by level	Hourly, as needed
Implementation	\$87,280 one time	Payable over 24 months; final timing to be set in the agreement

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize a ten-year contract with Sparkrock for ERP software, implementation, and support.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
- Erika Benitez, Finance Director