Sustainable Communities Webinar

Creating Sustainable Places
A Centers-and-Corridors Strategy for Regional Sustainability

Mid-America Regional Council
Serving Metropolitan Kansas City
July 14, 2011
Outline

• About MARC and Kansas City
• Sustainable Communities Grant
  – Organization
  – Strategy
• Next Steps
About MARC

- Kansas City Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Serves 9 counties and 120 cities
- Programs
  - Transportation planning
  - Environmental planning
  - Research services
  - Public safety and emergency services
  - Early education
  - Aging services
About Kansas City

- **Population:** 2.1 Million
- **Population Growth:** 1%/year since 1980s
We love our cars, and we love to spread out

- Highest roadway miles per capita
- Low congestion rates
- No natural barriers
Recent Trends

- Core population decline
- Continued outward growth
- Suburbanization of poverty
- Diversifying suburbs
Recent Trends

- Brookings Institution Transit and Jobs Study
- Kansas City ranked 90th out of 100
Foundation

- **Foundation Established**
  - Creating Quality Places
  - Metro Green
  - Vision Metcalf
  - Smart Moves
  - Transportation 2040
  - Many other local & regional plans
Foundation
HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

• $4.25 million over three years
• 60+ partners
  – Local Governments
  – Nonprofits
  – Housing
  – Business/Professional Organizations
  – Equity Organizations
  – Universities

Three-fold program
1. Organize for Success
2. Enhance Decision Making
3. Demonstrate New Models
1. ORGANIZE FOR SUCCESS
Organize for Success

• **MARC Board of Directors:** 33 local elected officials

• **Consortium Coordinating Committee:** HUD grant leadership and oversight representing partners

• **Partner Congress:** Convene 60+ partners & other stakeholders

• **Working Groups:** Focus on specific projects
Engagement and Education

- Engagement strategy
- Imagine KC
  - 12 part series on local public television
  - Energy efficiency, food systems, CSP, etc. featured
- Academy for Sustainable Communities
- E-newsletter
- Partners Congress
- Social media
Organize for Success

- **Equity partners**
  - Influencing outcomes, not just participating
  - April 30 workshop
  - Regional equity strategy
  - Regional delegation to National Equity Summit
  - Engagement in corridor and place making

- **Project Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation**
2. ENHANCE DECISION-MAKING
Enhance Decision-Making

- **Tool Development**
  - Economic feasibility
  - Visualization
  - Sustainable code
  - Natural resources inventory
  - Retail center reuse
  - Complete streets

- **Housing Capacity**

- **Workforce Development**
3. DEMONSTRATE NEW MODELS
Demonstrate New Models

- Six corridor plans focused on implementation
  - Mixed use, walkable communities
  - More support for transit from more riders and destinations
  - More emphasis on redevelopment of existing communities
  - Make more efficient use of existing infrastructure
Demonstrate New Models

- Tools will be applied in corridors
- 4-6 site-specific demonstration projects
- Green Impact Zone
  - Place based planning and resource focus
  - Housing strategy and moving individual projects

What makes a vibrant, connected, green region?

**Activity centers that offer:**
- Mixed-use amenities and a mix of housing options
- Compact development
- Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations
- Public transit services
- Access to natural areas and green spaces
- Diversity in age and income levels
- Smooth transitions to surrounding neighborhoods

**Transportation corridors that offer:**
- Accommodations for different modes of transportation
- Easy flow of people and goods between places
- An extension of vibrant places with mixed uses
- Connections to housing, employment centers, green spaces and natural areas
- Smooth transitions to surrounding neighborhoods
Next Steps

• Guiding principles
• Planning guidebook
• Tool development strategy
• Social equity strategies
• Regional indicators and performance measures