

# REGIONAL TRANSIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – Phase III

## OVERVIEW

For the past twelve months MARC and the region's transit agencies, in partnership with local governments, have been working to develop an overall regional transit implementation strategy to support and advance the SMART MOVES Regional Transit Vision. The regional transit implementation Plan has been formed through three phases of planning aimed at further defining the Smart Moves Vision, these phases include; 1) a Urban Corridors, Bus Rapid Transit study, 2) a Commuter Corridors/Commuter Rail Study, and 3) a pending System Integration and Financial Study.

The overall objective of the regional transit implementation planning effort is to detail our desired future transit system, and develop supporting information necessary to guide overall system implementation and supportive policy action.

As the supporting study efforts are reaching a critical juncture in their development it is important that technical analysis and MARC's Transit Committee support are aligned and targeted at positioning this work in the best possible manner to ensure advancement and ultimate success. As such, the Regional Transit Implementation Plan and Committee Strategy is intended to establish and clarify overall direction and expected outcomes.

## PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

### 1. Solidify Regional Transit Plan

Use the findings from the current transit studies to solidify a detailed regional transit plan inclusive of Urban, Commuter, and Local services. The regional plan will detail preferred service strategies and include a corresponding financial analysis to ensure a full understanding of the plan's make-up and the feasibility of implementation.

### 2. Develop an overall regional implementation strategy and approach

Identify and advance policy actions necessary to support plan implementation. The implementation strategy will clarify necessary steps to advance overall plan implementation, and include items such as detailed policy actions necessary to support concept advancement and potential financial strategies.

## TIMELINE

September-	Review the MARC Transit Committee structure and representation and reaffirm committee membership if needed to effectively serve as the planning & policy committee tasked with development of the regional plan and corresponding implementation strategy.
Sept- March-	Development of Phase III, system integration and financial study.
March- June-	Development of formalized Implementation Plan, and presentation of recommended policy actions

## PHASE III Scope of Services

The following tasks are envisioned to build on Phase I and Phase II findings of the Smart Moves Implementation Plan and result in a final Phase III systems integration and implementation plan that outlines integrated urban, commuter, and local system needs for the Kansas City region.

### **Task 1 – Integrate Phase I and Phase II findings**

Due to the phased approach of the overall implementation study the Phase II commuter service strategies were not fully known at the conclusion of the Phase I study which outlined urban corridor strategies. Based on the need for a fully integrated urban and commuter service and network strategy this evaluation will build on the completed Phase I and Phase II work and align respective corridor strategies and the overall implementation approach.

This task will include:

#### *Sub-Task 1.1 – Development of Operational Strategies*

- Identification of potential service redundancies (overlaps) between the Phase I and Phase II service strategies.
- Describing strategies for service in each corridor and service integration in the urban and commuter networks including identifying system-wide connectivity strategies.
- Based upon review of Phase I and Phase II reports, describe potential strategies for integrating the urban and commuter networks including identifying connectivity and distribution strategies to link downtown/urban corridors hub and Union Station/commuter corridors hub.

#### *Sub-Task 1.2 - Development of Capital Strategies*

- Identifying needed infrastructure improvements to support system and service integration (including including identifying needed transit hubs, transfer centers, park and rides, etc)

#### *Sub-Task 1.3 Development of Technical Memo*

- Developing a technical memo that formalizes of the integrated regional urban and commuter network service implementation strategy.

### **Task 2 – Analysis of Local Service Needs**

The Smart Moves Regional Transit Plan generally consists of three types of transit services; 1) Regional Urban Corridor, 2) Regional Commuter Corridor, and 3) Community-based local transit service. While the emphasis of regional planning activity and implementation has been generally focused on corridors of regional significance (urban and commuter), the underlying integration of community-based local service is critically important in supporting the regional network in an effort to enhance local mobility and regional accessibility. Task 2, analysis of local service needs, will provide a high-level summary of existing and planned local services along with a description of current service costs.

Smart Moves identified local service zones. The service levels within each service zone will be summarized and compared.

This task will include;

- An inventory of current community-based local transit and special transportation services, including mapping of current routes. GIS files to be provided by MARC and service providers.
- An assessment of currently planned improvements to local services and their estimated costs. Planned improvements to be provided by MARC and service providers. Assessment of service levels by SMART moves service zone.
- Developing a technical memo that summarizes current and planned local services (using maps and narrative) and their costs.

### **Task 3- Financial Outlook and Integrated Financial Strategy**

Due to the continued decline in sales tax revenues and local property tax revenues, funding for local and regional transit service has continued to decline in recent years, resulting in both cuts in levels of service and increased transit fares. Given the critical nature of financial support in advancing the integrated regional transit strategy task 3 will develop a financial outlook for the region's transit service based on past trends and current forecasts, and importantly convey an integrated financial strategy that details the cost associated with sustained and expanded Urban, Commuter, and Local service and outlines potential financial scenarios and supporting strategies needed to advance overall implementation. This analysis will be based upon the level of information that can be obtained from the KCATA, the JO and UGT.

This task will include compiling existing information for use in:

- Assessing current service costs, and related current financing mechanisms (by amount, source, and jurisdiction)
- Developing integrated financial outlook based on past trends and current forecasts
- Developing no more than three (3) financial funding scenarios and related integrated financial strategy
- Developing a technical memo that summarizes current service and their associated funding mechanism, service trends and forecasts, financial funding scenarios, and overall financial strategies.

### **Task 4 – Project Management, Coordination and Outreach**

Input meetings will be held with public stakeholders in each or a combination of service zones. The consultant will work with MARC staff, the Smart Moves technical committee, MARC Transit Committee, Total Transportation Policy Committee, and other appropriate groups, to receive feedback and guidance on study direction and to review study findings. As necessary the consultant will consult and coordinate with MARC staff on the management and progress of the project.

### **Task 5 – Report**

A report will be developed outlining research development and resulting findings related to Task 1, 2, and 3, which when combined with the Phase I, and Phase II report result in the complete Regional Transit Implementation Plan. A draft report will be provided to MARC staff for review and comment by stakeholders mentioned in Task 4. A final report for final approval will be provided to MARC staff that considers or incorporates comments from stakeholders.