Creating Sustainable Places
Kansas City’s Centers-and-Corridors Strategy for Sustainability

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
Advancing Equity through Transit Corridor Planning
February 3, 2012
Kansas City Metro Area

• Bi-state area of 2 million people
• Almost equally split between Kansas and Missouri
• Highly segregated, but trending less so
• Low housing costs, high transportation costs
• Anemic public transit system, no rail
• Very sprawled, no natural barriers
• Politically fragmented
Local Trends

- Core population decline
- Continued outward growth
Local Trends

- Suburbanization of poverty
- Diversifying suburbs
Local Trends

- Whites continue to move farther out
Local and National Trends

- Changing household makeup
- Aging population
- Increasing fuel costs
- Increasing national and global competition
- Local government financial strain

AGING POPULATION: The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to grow from 11 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2030.

GROWING DIVERSITY: The percentage change by race from 2000–2009 illustrates the growth of minority populations in the region.

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE 2000

- Married couples with children: 22%
- Single-family housing: 78%

BUILDING PERMITS SINCE 2000

- Single-family housing: 25%
- Multi-family housing: 75%

CHANGING FAMILY DYNAMICS: Families with children make up less than one-fourth of all households, but three-fourths of new homes are designed for single families.
HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

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

Creating Sustainable Places
Vibrant | Connected | Green
Equity and Creating Sustainable Places

- Rely on Equity Experts – Equity Partners
  - CCO
  - MORE
  - Urban League
  - Latino Civic Engagement Collaborative
  - Green Impact Zone
  - PolicyLink

- Include representatives of equity partners on Coordinating Committee
Evolving Equity Strategy

• Work at local level to assure local communities, people of color and other underrepresented populations are a part of the planning and decision-making

• Work at a regional/policy level to assure that equity becomes ingrained into regional development practices, not just an afterthought
MARC Perspective

• MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) is a 40 year old regional council of governments and metropolitan planning organization
  – Governed by a board of 33 elected officials
  – Works in areas of transportation, environment, public safety and homeland security, aging services, and early childhood education, incl Head Start

• Interested in equity issues such as concentrated poverty and transportation choices, but has never had an explicit equity agenda
Opportunity for MARC

• How to better work at the place level and engage underrepresented populations and community organizations in this work
  – Green Impact Zone
• Facilitate a richer discussion about equity issues at a regional level
• Also, more consciously include equity in MARC’s activities, programming and policy development
CCO Perspective

• CCO is a faith-based organization that operates throughout the state of Kansas and Missouri

• CCO is affiliated with Missouri Faith Voices and the PICO National Network and has a 35 year history of working on issues such as
  – Health access for the uninsured and medically underserved
  – Economic security and particular regulation of payday loans
  – Neighborhood revitalization
  – Immigration reform
  – Housing Policy
Opportunity for CCO

- Opportunity to work with local communities on planning and development issues
- Opportunity to extend work on CCO issues through new neighborhood level and regional relationships developed through CSP
- Opportunity to work with other equity organizations in developing a regional equity agenda and network
- Opportunity to engage with regional policy makers to better understand and incorporate equity issues into regional initiatives
The CSP Equity Agenda

• Assure that local communities, communities of color, and underrepresented populations are engaged in planning and decision-making in local area planning

• Contract with equity partners to facilitate and assist with corridor planning process engagement
The CSP Equity Agenda

• Assure that concrete equity strategies are addressed in local and regional planning
  – Investment in urban core communities
  – Creation of affordable housing and housing choices throughout the metro area
  – Creation of transportation choices throughout the metro area
  – Connection of housing and jobs
The CSP Equity Agenda

- Incorporate equity issues into regional decision-making
  - Begin by initiating dialog with Coordinating Committee around the following questions:
    - What is equity/inequity (coming up with a common definition)?
    - Why is it an issue?
    - Why is it fundamental to a sustainable region?
    - What do we do about it both within the CSP initiative and beyond?
  - Expand this discussion to other power forums
  - Host a regional equity summit later in 2012
Questions

• Damon Daniel, CCO, damon@cco.org
• Dean Katerndahl, MARC, deank@marc.org
• Visit our website: http://www.marc.org/sustainableplaces/index.htm