Project Selection Methodology Details

Projects were selected for inclusion in the plan's financially constrained list as a result of a four-step process:

1) Score project based on application
2) Collect scores from MARC committee members
3) Create a matrix that combines these two scores
4) Prioritize projects based on projected funds available

All rehabilitation projects — those that rehabilitate instead of adding significant additional lane miles or a completely new facility or service — and projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were automatically constrained, if projected revenues covered the estimated costs.

Score from application

During the winter of 2018, MARC staff worked with stakeholders to draft evaluation criteria that would be used to score Connected KC 2050 project applications. Evaluation criteria were drafted to provide information that demonstrates how projects would support the plan's desired outcomes (i.e. goals) and meet the needs that were indicated during the first round of public engagement. This included presentations for MARC planning committees as well as a workshop-style event in December of 2018, in which committee members were invited to provide comments/offer suggestions.

To see the complete set of evaluation criteria (i.e. application questions) that were asked of applicants, click here. Note: Applicants could score up to 200 points, with these points distributed evenly across criteria that addressed plan outcome areas and other key strategies.

The call for projects opened on Feb. 26 and closed on April 25, 2019.

MARC committee member survey

In October 2019, MARC planning committee members were invited to an in-person event where they could fill out an online survey to rank projects submitted for plan inclusion. Committee members could rank projects high (3 points), medium (2 points), or low (1 point), based on how they thought the project aligned with plan outcomes as well as their overall value. This survey was also emailed out to committee members who were not able to attend. In the end, about half the committee members participated.

Matrix combining application score and committee member ranking

A four-quadrant matrix was created for each funding source (Kansas state, Kansas local, Missouri state, Missouri local, and transit) to combine application and committee scores. Here is an example of one of the matrices:

ConnectedKC: Missouri State Projects

Application Score Median: 74.5
Committee Priority Median: 1.51
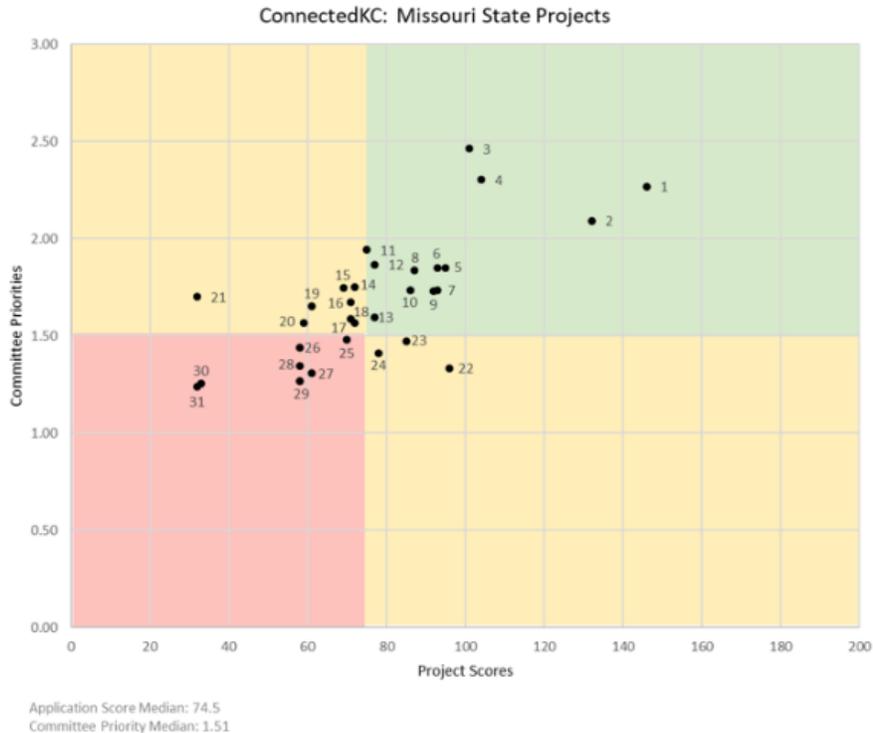
The midway point for the x-axis, which shows application score, was set at the median application score — 74.5. The midway point for the y-axis, which shows committee priority, was left at the true midway point — 1.50 — because the committee priority median score was 1.51. Projects that ended up in the upper right-hand quadrant (shown in green) are those that had above the median application and committee member scores.

Prioritization based on projected funds available

For each of the funding sources — Kansas state, Kansas local, Missouri state, Missouri local and transit — MARC projected available revenues available through the year 2050 based on current sources. Details on this process are available in the plan's financial capacity document. For each funding source, the financial capacity was compared to the list of projects that made it into the green quadrant — indicating projects with the highest application and committee scores. One by one, starting at the top of the combined ranking list, projects were constrained based on projected available funds. In some cases, revenue projections allowed all the projects in the green quadrant to be constrained, and in others, projected funds only allowed some of the highest ranked projects to be constrained. In some cases, there was enough revenue to constrain some of the projects that ended up in the yellow quadrants, indicating they were highly ranked by application score or committee member survey, but not both. Projects that were not financially constrained were put on the illustrative list for each funding source in order of their combined ranking, the thought being, that if new revenue sources are identified, projects at the top of the illustrative lists would receive these funds.