Today’s MTP Update Lessons Include:

- Database Management 101
- Anticipate Responses (Testing and QA/QC)
- Application Form & Technology
- Wrangle Expectations
A Little Bit About the MARC Region

- TMA (119 members) for Kansas City Area
- Bi-State
- More barbeque restaurants per capita than any other city
- Guinness World Record for loudest crowd roar at a sports stadium – go Chiefs!
- Birthplace of Mickey Mouse

And most importantly...

- New MTP will be adopted by June 2020
Lessons Learned

*what my boss would not let me name this presentation*

WHEN YOU REALIZE THIS IS YOUR CIRCUS

AND THOSE ARE YOUR PROJECTS*
Application & Process

• 15 page application
• 39 questions
• Fillable web form
• Staff held a workshop with project sponsors to explain the application and scoring criteria
• Sponsors had 2 months to submit
• Each staff member had 2-3 questions they were responsible for scoring
What We Discovered

- 419 projects total (stragglers still coming in)
- Approx. 50% of responses were cut and paste
- Median Score: 74/200
- Range: 8 – 165/200
- Application was too long
- Data was not ready for scoring
- Technology was not used to its fullest potential
- Many incomplete and missing applications
- Poor quality answers
Responses We Didn’t Expect

QUESTION: Please explain how the project or program provides multiple benefits (triple bottom line - economic, environmental, social) in order to improve resiliency, i.e. a community’s ability to adapt to changes and challenges for long-term health and vitality?

“The project will improve a sub standard roadway and provide social improvement by reducing concern while traversing the area.”

- City who shall remain nameless
More Responses We Didn’t Expect…

QUESTION: Specify if the project or program will serve one or more known environmental justice areas, or areas with hidden environmental justice populations by providing access to opportunities (i.e. jobs, education, reducing health disparities, etc. Map included with link to MARC EJ Guidebook)

“This project will have facilities available that will benefit all citizens.”
- City who shall remain nameless
QUESTION: Describe how the project or program will address transportation safety issue(s) identified in the Kansas City Regional Transportation Safety Blueprint or local safety analysis.

“Sidewalks provide alternative transportation.”
- City who shall remain nameless
But We’ve Always Done It That Way…

Application Issues

- Not mandatory to fill in fields
- Information went to an Access Database
  - Exported into excel for post processing (multiple times)
  - Mapped in SQL - not connected to Access
- Did not require applications to submit maps

Scoring Issues

- Not quantitative, barely automated
- Allowed project sponsors to argue for more points
- Unexpected responses received points - i.e. congestion management
- All sections were equally weighted – difficult to prioritize
- Staff members submitted certain projects – questionable scoring
Database Management (Or Lack Thereof)

Things we didn’t consider...

- Mapping out a process flow in advance with a timeline and responsibilities
- The backend database structure/Identify fields needed for post processing
- How the form is hosted online
- Where the information is collected
- Designing it to automate scoring (to the extent reasonable)
- Matching projects from our current MTP - No unique identifier
- Process for making updates to applications
- Mapping projects required SQL and our application was set up in Access
Setting Expectations

**Staff**
- How well can we expect a project sponsor to anticipate the effects of their project on the PMs at this stage? How should we expect them to demonstrate/justify those effects?
- Also, is this level of analysis/scoring more appropriate at the time of sub-allocation applications?
- What is the anticipated work effort and time needed for the technical lifts?

**Partners**
- Do we accept incomplete applications? If so, what criteria are they allowed to **not** answer?
- Do we establish a bare minimum for inclusion in the plan? If a project scores 0 do we allow that or do we require them to revisit their project and make it better?
- Do we allow projects that add capacity on segments not identified as congested through our CMP? What is Expansion vs “Modernization”? 
Proposed Solutions

ALL I NEED IS SOMETHING GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK
How We Plan to Get Better Applications

- Skip the open-ended - Quantitative over qualitative as much as possible
- Shorten - Don’t ask information we already have (Activity centers, mobility hubs, etc.)
- Prepare our sponsors better - Focused application training, vetting and expectation setting
- Integrate QA/QC - Have project sponsors actually test the application and have staff score
- Leverage data and technology to make the process simpler for everyone – interactive web map!
MTP Data Management Plan(ish)

Public Environment

MARC Environment
Interactive Web App

• Allows Sponsor to draw in geometry
• Seamless connection with SQL database/website
• Requires all fields be answered
• Allows staff to analyze against other datasets/layers
• Allows Sponsor to make edits
• Institutionalizes change
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