VISUALIZING OUR FUTURE
Land-use scenarios for Transportation Outlook 2040

MAKING PREDICTIONS
MARC must forecast growth and traffic patterns as part of Transportation Outlook 2040. To accurately plan for meeting transportation needs, we need to know how and where our population will grow.

We must also predict how land will be used. Where will our employment centers be, our retail development, our green spaces, our hospitals and schools? Will our growth rate follow current trends? Or will forces such as climate change, globalization of the economy, technological change and demographic shifts cause us to grow faster than expected — or slower?

Cities and counties develop their own long-range plans, and the Technical Forecast Committee works with them to create a regional forecast using the “Paint the Town” mapping tool.

ABOUT THE SCENARIOS
There are a range of possible growth and development outcomes for the Kansas City region. What follows are two land-use scenarios for the year 2040 based on different distributions of probable new development, redevelopment and decline. They represent two extreme ends of a spectrum.

While we are unlikely to fully reach either one, the policies we set and the actions we take as a region will determine how far we go. Feedback from the community through outreach efforts like “Imagine KC” suggest that we want to become a more sustainable place — America’s Green Region.

Goals like this won’t be met if we continue what we’ve been doing, but with change comes another set of challenges. Which future should we plan for?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
We are planning development that will accommodate 3.3 million people in the metro area by 2040, yet the forecast predicts that we will grow to only 2.5 million people.
The **BASELINE SCENARIO** shows projected growth, redevelopment and decline by 2040 if the region continues current trends. The results show decline at the core, surrounded by limited redevelopment, and widespread, scattered new development. Redevelopment occurs, but consists of replacing old structures with the same land use.

**PERCENT OF POPULATION CHANGE**
- **107%** Gain
- **-7%** Loss
- **0.3%** Refill (redevelopment at a higher density)

**CHARACTERISTICS**
- Land uses remain separated
- Auto dependence for daily tasks
- More rural and agricultural land converted to developed uses
- Decline at the core and limited redevelopment
- Widespread, scattered new growth with greater cost for new infrastructure

**NOTE:** Both scenarios show the same amount of new population added to the region.
A successful region adapts to uncertain changes by maintaining options to meet needs, maximizing efficiency and healthy social networks. The **ADAPTIVE SCENARIO** — based on local plans in the region — shows projected growth, redevelopment and decline by 2040 based on adapting to climate change issues, higher gasoline and electricity prices, less consumption, demographic shifts and changing technology. This could be similar to the outcome of implementing policy goals in Transportation Outlook 2040.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

- Neighborhoods have walkable, mixed-use centers of activity
- Sufficient density to support a transit system
- Natural areas actively protected
- More infill and redevelopment, especially at urban centers
- Increased use of existing infrastructure, less need for new

**NOTE:** Both scenarios show same amount of new population added to the region.
Comparing Scenarios

**Land Area:**
distribution of change in land area

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Vacant Land:** vacant land converted to developed use between 2000 and 2040

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Density:** people, households and jobs per acre within 1/2 mile of urban activity corridors

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Vehicle Hours Traveled**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Average Trip Distance**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Traffic Congestion**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Area in Decline**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Protected Natural Resources**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Proximity to Activity:** percent of people, households and jobs within 1/2 mile of urban activity corridors

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040

**Proximity to Hospitals:**

- Baseline 2040
- Adaptive 2040