



# Outcomes, Principles and Policies

## Outcomes

---

With *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Metropolitan Council is adopting an outcomes-orientation to its regional plan, guiding the development of policies that demonstrably improve our region. The Council is challenging itself, local governments and its regional partners and stakeholders to describe how their work advances the five *Thrive* outcomes:

### Stewardship ∞ Prosperity ∞ Equity ∞ Livability ∞ Sustainability

These five outcomes define our shared regional vision. Plans, policies and projects that balance and optimize all five of these outcomes lead to positive change, while efforts that advance only one or two outcomes at the expense of the others may be disappointments over the long term. Policymakers make tough decisions at the intersections of these five outcomes, weighing the benefits and costs of their options against these five outcomes. Focusing on outcomes allows for flexibility in implementation – both for the Council’s systems and policy plans and for local comprehensive plans – while prioritizing a shared strategic vision.

**Stewardship** advances the Council’s longstanding mission of orderly and economical development by both responsibly managing the region’s natural and financial resources and making strategic investments in our region’s future.

**Prosperity** results from investments in infrastructure and amenities that create regional economic competitiveness, thereby attracting and retaining successful businesses, a talented workforce, and, consequently, wealth.

**Equity** connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing and transportation options for people of all races, ethnicities and incomes so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change.

**Livability** focuses on the quality of our residents’ lives and experiences in our region and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes our region a great place to live.

**Sustainability** protects our regional vitality for generations to come by preserving our capacity to maintain and support well-being and productivity over the long-term.

## Principles

---

Three principles guide how the Council implements its policies both internally and externally:

### Integration ∞ Collaboration ∞ Accountability

These three principles reflect the Council’s understanding of its role integrating policy areas, supporting local governments and regional partners, and promoting and implementing this regional vision. These principles govern how the Council implements *Thrive* systems and policy plans and how the Council advances these outcomes, both individually and collectively.

**Integration** is the intentional combining of related activities to achieve more effective, greater results, leveraging multiple policy tools to address complex regional challenges and opportunities.

**Collaboration** recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes.

**Accountability** requires a commitment to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our policies and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance.

*For more information about Thrive MSP 2040, visit [thriveMSP.org](http://thriveMSP.org)*

*To comment on these outcomes, principles and policies, e-mail the Council at [thriveMSP@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:thriveMSP@metc.state.mn.us)*

To advance the five outcomes, working within the three principles, the Council has identified a series of policy directions in Thrive. Detailed policies implementing the *Thrive* policy direction will emerge and be formally adopted in the *Thrive* systems and policy plans: the Housing Policy Plan (summer 2014), the Water Resources Policy Plan (summer 2014), the Transportation Policy Plan (late 2014), and the Regional Parks Policy Plan (early 2015).

### Stewardship:

- Be responsible stewards of our region's finite resources, including natural and financial resources, and our existing investments in infrastructure;
- Pivot from simply expanding our region's infrastructure – especially wastewater and highways – to investing our limited resources in maintaining the infrastructure we have and expanding strategically;
- Leveraging our infrastructure investments with higher expectations of land use.

### Prosperity:

- Foster the conditions for shared economic vitality by balancing major investments across the region;
- Protect natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity;
- Plan for and invest in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life with an eye to what the region needs to be economically competitive;
- Reduce the cost differential between redevelopment and greenfield development sites to maintain a strong core.

### Equity:

- Use our influence and investments to build a more equitable region;
- Create real choices in where we live and how we travel for all our residents, across age, race and ethnicity, economic means, and ability;
- Invest in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transitways;
- Engage a full cross-section of the community in decision-making.

### Livability:

- Provide people access to nature and outdoor recreation through regional parks and trails;
- Support regional bicycle facilities to promote bicycling for transportation, recreation and healthy lifestyles;
- Provide housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means;

- Align resources to support transit-oriented development and walkable, urban places.

### Sustainability:

- Promote the wise use of water through expanding water conservation and reuse, increasing groundwater recharge, and rebalancing surface water and groundwater use;
- Provide leadership, information and technical assistance to support local governments thinking about climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience;
- Operate wastewater treatment and transit systems sustainably.

### Integration:

- Move beyond silo-ed approaches to leverage all of the Council's divisions, roles and authorities in addressing regional issues;
- Coordinate effectively with partners and stakeholders across and throughout the region.

### Collaboration:

- Be open to shared strategies, supportive partnerships and reciprocal relationships;
- Convene the region's best thinkers, experts, and stakeholders to address complex regional issues beyond the capacity or authority of any single jurisdiction or institution;
- Provide additional technical assistance and enhanced information to support local planning and decision-making.

### Accountability:

- Adopt a data-driven approach to measure progress toward the outcomes;
- Learn from the results of measures and indicators to guide future refinements of our policies;
- Provide clear, easily accessible information about our progress;
- Deploy the Council's regulatory authority when necessary.

Last revised: December 10, 2013