

# **DRAFT Charter of the Metropolitan Council Equity Advisory Committee**

## **PURPOSE**

The Metropolitan Council Equity Advisory Committee advises the Metropolitan Council in its work to advance equity in the metropolitan region. In forming the Equity Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Council affirms the commitment in *Thrive MSP 2040* to make residents and communities full partners in decision making which may affect them.

The ultimate goal of this work is to create more equitable outcomes for the people who live and work in the region. For the purpose of this committee, equity is defined by *Thrive MSP 2040*:

Equity connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change. For our region to reach its full economic potential, all of our residents must be able to access opportunity. Our region is strong when all people live in communities that provide them access to opportunities for success, prosperity, and quality of life.

## **SCOPE**

The Equity Advisory Committee advises the Metropolitan Council regarding the development of policy and appropriate processes for assessment and monitoring of the Council's performance against such policies in its efforts to advance equity in the region.

The Metropolitan Council requests advice from the Equity Advisory Committee regarding various policy issues. The Equity Advisory Committee may also identify additional policy topics for the Council's consideration to address.

The work of the Committee is action-oriented and focused on outcomes, and the Committee will create an annual work plan based around policy issues and topics. The Committee monitors, evaluates, and reports on Metropolitan Council progress in advancing equity. This work includes, but is not limited to, supporting the implementation of the Metropolitan Council's Public Engagement Plan.

## **REPORTING**

The Equity Advisory Committee reports to the Metropolitan Council on a quarterly basis regarding the Committee's progress.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each member is responsible for:

1. Attending a majority of Committee meetings during each 12 month period.
2. Serving as liaisons and ambassadors to advance the broader interests of the local community or interest they represent.

3. Serving as a conduit for information by routinely reporting back to their communities or organizations on the activities and discussions of the Committee and to bring information or ideas from their communities to the Committee.
4. Actively participating in discussions by sharing ideas and expertise.
5. Providing feedback on the policy issues identified by the Metropolitan Council for Equity Advisory Committee advice

The four Metropolitan Council members are responsible for serving as liaisons between the Equity Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Council Standing Committee that they represent.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### *Composition*

Membership includes people of different races, incomes, abilities, and backgrounds to ensure the Metropolitan Council is hearing from and is accountable to the full range of diversity in the region, including low-wealth communities and communities of color.

When appointing members to the Committee, the Metropolitan Council will include, to the extent possible, at least one member representing each of the following: African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, immigrants and new Americans, low-wealth residents, and people with disabilities.

### **Metropolitan Council Members**

The Metropolitan Council Chair appoints four members to the equity from among existing Metropolitan Council members; one each from the Community Development Committee, Environment Committee, Transportation Committee, and Management Committee.

### **Geographic Members**

The Committee is comprised of eight geographic members—one member each from:

- District A (Council Districts 1 and 2)
- District B (Council Districts 3 and 4)
- District C (Council Districts 5 and 6)
- District D (Council Districts 7 and 8)
- District E (Council Districts 9 and 10)
- District F (Council Districts 11 and 12)
- District G (Council Districts 13 and 14)
- District H (Council Districts 15 and 16)

## **At-Large Members**

The Committee is comprised of up to nine additional at-large members to provide for membership that reflects the range of interests and experiences of the region which may not result from the membership from the eight districts.

## **Equity Advisory Committee Chair**

The Committee will have co-chairs. One chair will be a Metropolitan Council Member and one chair will be a member from the community.

The Metropolitan Council Chair selects the co-chairs from the membership of the Equity Advisory Committee, and the Metropolitan Council approves this selection.

### *Selection Process*

Residents of the seven-county region may apply through the Metropolitan Council's advisory committee appointments process.

When appointing members, the Metropolitan Council Chair will form a selection committee to recommend residents for appointment to the Equity Advisory Committee. The Chair's selection committee includes Metropolitan Council members that are serving on the Equity Advisory Committee and representatives from the community.

The Metropolitan Council approves the Metropolitan Council Chair's recommended appointments.

### *Terms*

The Committee terms will be staggered. For the first round of appointments taking effect in January 2016, the terms are as follows:

#### **For geographic districts A-H**

Members are appointed to four year teams. The terms end the first Monday in January 2020.

#### **For at-large members**

Members are appointed to two-year terms. The terms end the first Monday in January 2018.

#### **For Council Members**

The Council Member assignments expire after two years, ending the first Monday in January 2018.

#### **Appointments in January 2018 and beyond**

Beginning in January 2018, terms for all members are four year terms. At the discretion of the Metropolitan Council Chair, a committee member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

## **MEETINGS**

The Committee holds meetings at least once per quarter. The Committee may choose to hold meetings more frequently.

The Committee holds meetings in locations convenient to the community and in environments that foster interaction. To the extent possible, meeting locations vary, with the goal to hold meetings across the region.

The co-chairs will preside over the meetings.

Following the Equity Working Group's recommendations adopted in December 2014, the Equity Advisory Committee will meet for two years and then the full Council will review its performance to determine whether it should be continued, restructured, or ended.

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