

Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: May 1, 2019

Subject: Research and Data Resources Overview

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.24, 473.146, 473.254, 85.53 and 473.351

Staff Prepared/Presented: Joel Huting, Research Manager (651-602-1349)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Background

Metropolitan Council's Community Development Research Team provides data and research to support policy, planning, service, and investment decisions. The team is currently undergoing a collaborative strategic planning process to develop our mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities.

The Research team's work is guided by state statute, engagement and collaboration internally and externally, and the key planning and policy challenges our region faces. The team provides self-service data tools, tutorials and workshops, and custom data and research requests. Our data and research work covers a range of topics from population estimates, forecasts of population, households, and jobs, demographics, development activity, economics, land use, affordable housing production, parks use, greenhouse gas emissions, racial inequities, and more.

The team disseminates its work through online data portals, interactive visualizations and data exploration tools, and reports.

Rationale

Effective planning and policy must be informed by rigorous data and research.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Research Team provides foundational information upon which Thrive was developed. We align our work to advance all Thrive outcomes as an integral part of our work planning.

Funding

Research activities are funded as a regular part of the Community Development Division operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

None.