

Committee of the Whole

Meeting date: April 7, 2021

Subject: 2040 Comprehensive Plan Composite Report

District(s), Member(s): ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.864, subd. 2 and 473.869

Staff Prepared/Presented: Angela R. Torres, Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1566)
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Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

No action necessary. This is an information item only.

Background

Council staff have been working with the region's local governments to review 2040 comprehensive plans since the Council issued System Statements in September 2015. Council staff provided planning resources, administered planning grant assistance funds, facilitated requests for deadline extensions, provided preliminary review of plans, and to date have facilitated review for 162 of 168 expected plans.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 7, 2021, Council staff will provide a status of comprehensive plan reviews including initial takeaways from the 2040 comprehensive plans. This presentation will be similar to one we did for the [Land Use Advisory Committee](#) on March 18, 2021. This report is a high-level composite of data gathering across Council divisions and a report out on planning elements taken into consideration as part of communities' long-term planning efforts.

The composite will highlight preliminary regional land use analysis using factors like Community Designation and density as well as provide a comparison of trends from the 2030 plans with the 2040 plans. Staff have also compiled information from the 2040 plans on elements that impact land use such as housing, transportation, water resources, and others. Areas that communities introduced as part of the planning process including resilience, equity, and others will also be shared.

Council staff will ask Council members to help identify additional research questions. The *Thrive MSP 2040* Community Designations were developed with guidance from the Council as well as the Land Use Advisory Committee. As we plan for development of the next metropolitan development guide, the Council may want to consider what information is needed to help advise the development of future regional land use policy.

Committee members may wish to review the context in which local governments were developing their 2040 plans by reviewing a few additional resources. We presented to the Community Development Committee in early 2018 on [trends in plan amendments](#), trends that are reflected in the full update of communities' comprehensive plans. [Thrive MSP 2040](#) and the accompanying system and policy plans provide regional policy context. You may also wish to review the recent Committee of the Whole presentation on December 2, 2020 that addressed [regional development patterns](#), background on construction and market trends that we see supported in recently updated comprehensive plans.