

# Information Item

Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole



Meeting Date: February 1, 2023

## Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide Values and Vision Revised Content

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Michael Larson, Planning Analyst, Community Development Charles Carlson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Services
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Regional Planning

## Background

At the Council meeting on January 11, 2023, Council Members discussed potential language and ideas for a set of values and vision statements for the 2050 Regional Development Guide. Staff have incorporated feedback from the discussion and will present a revised version for discussion and preliminary endorsement. In addition, we will begin a discussion of potential cross-cutting goals.

## Revisions to Value Statements

Several changes were made to the Vision statements to respond to and reflect Council Member conversation and feedback, with the attached document showing strikethrough and underline tracking of those changes.

### Balanced Tone on Values

Many council members felt that the tone may be too negative and focused on deficits rather than assets. Some of the wording has been changed to modify the tone. Additional high-level language has been added to account for regional strengths, and strategic edits have been made for the same effect.

### Concept of Repair and Healing

The concept of healing has been added by making the following change under the Equity value:

- “repair past harm” is now “repair and heal past harm”

### Clarification on Stewardship of Resources

Fiscal or financial resources were not described in the previous version, which now acknowledges the extent of our assets, and reads:

- We value our region’s ~~natural and economic~~ abundant resources. Our region’s resources include our natural resources, our economic resources, our infrastructure, and our financial resources.

## Short-Form Vision Statements

Based on feedback, staff have proposed a set of short-form vision statements that are shown below. Specific edits are shown in the attached document. The accompanying presentation includes a set of considerations for each vision statement that are based on the previous presentation on January 11. These considerations can be kept in mind while considering the development of potential regional goals.

### **Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming**

Our quality of life is high by national standards but not all communities share in this. We envision a future where inequities and injustices have been eliminated and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

### **Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant**

The wellbeing of our region depends on the strength and inclusiveness of our economy as well as the quality, safety, and reliability of our public services. We envision a future where all our region's residents can live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, agency, and wellbeing.

### **We Lead on Addressing Climate Change**

Our region leads on the critical issue of climate change. We envision a future where we have eliminated or mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient.

### **We Protect and Restore Natural Systems**

Our region has world class parks and abundant natural resources. We envision a future where natural systems are increasingly protected, integrated, and restored to ensure a high quality of life for our growing region.

## Working Goal Matrix for Discussion

Staff have created a matrix (attached) to assist the discussion the identification of potential goals, including shared goals that cut across the regional vision and policy areas.

The matrix includes the following dimensions:

- The four cross-cutting regional vision statements are shown across the top (e.g., "Climate").
- Six regional policy areas and subareas are shown down the leftmost column (e.g., "Land Use")
- Subareas that are thematic across policy areas are color coded (e.g., "Accessibility" in pink).

Prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 1, staff recommend familiarizing yourself with the matrix in the following way:

- Review the list policy subareas across down the first column. Consider how they relate to the primary policy area (e.g., how safety/security is part of transportation planning).
- Review policy subareas one-by-one and consider whether and how they are relevant to each of the four vision statements (i.e., go across each row and see what vision statements are indicated with a bullet).
- Review and consider each vision statement, and what policy subareas are relevant (i.e., go down each column and see what is indicated with a bullet).

This matrix is intended to be a tool to generate discussion of potential shared regional goals across policy areas, and where goals might help implement each of the cross-cutting vision statements. Staff would like to understand not only your perspectives but where additional information on these topics would help you with goal setting.

Two examples of potential goal statements might help illustrate this exercise:

- *"The region has a high degree of accessibility as a result of coordinated planning for land use,*

- housing, and transportation.”*
- *“The region has a high-quality and interconnected inventory of water and open space resources as a result of coordination around planning for development constraints, open space preservation, park planning, and protection of natural systems including water resources.”*

*Attachment*



# 2050 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

## WORKING STATEMENT OF REGIONAL VALUES, REGIONAL VISION, AND WORKING GOAL MATRIX

### Working Statement of Regional Core Values

Values are core beliefs or principals that guide the work of the Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development. The Council has identified a set of core values that we believe are most important to the issues and opportunities that face the region...now and into the future.

#### Equity

We value the ~~diverse communities~~people and communities of our region. Our region is economically and culturally vibrant. We also recognize, however, the harm and disparities that injustices, including racism, have created.

We are dedicated to creating systems, policies, and programs that repair and heal past harm, foster an equitable future, and eliminate disparities. Communities that have been marginalized in the past will be at the center of this work in leadership roles.

#### Leadership

We value those in our region who inspire and motivate others for positive change. Our region is known for its civic engagement. We need broad leadership to help confront the significant challenges we face around equity, climate change, and other pressing issues.

To maximize the potential of our region and its communities, we ~~need~~turn to leadership that is diverse, collaborative, culturally competent, and innovative. ~~This~~We encourage this kind of leadership ~~needs to come from~~across all sectors including business, government, non-profit, and education.

#### Accountability

We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes. Our region is known for its research, initiatives, and collaborations. We must be open to criticism and clearly understand if we are not achieving results or have harmed communities.

We recognize that we can ~~only be successful~~maximize our effectiveness by being in partnership with others. We will also be transparent and flexible so that we can change course if we need to.

#### Stewardship

We value our region's ~~natural and economic abundant~~ resources. Our region's resources include our natural resources, our economic resources, our infrastructure, and our financial resources. We recognize that ~~our these~~ resources [are interdependent] and may be vulnerable over time to changing conditions, including from climate change.

We must design our systems and allocate our resources in ways that can be sustained over time and support the needs of future generations.

## Working Regional Vision Statement

Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

### **Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming**

Our quality of life is high by national standards but not all communities share in this. We envision a future where inequities and injustices have been eliminated and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

### **Our ~~Region's~~ Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant**

The wellbeing of our region depends on the strength and inclusiveness of our economy as well as the quality, safety, and reliability of our public services. We envision a future where all our region's residents can live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, agency, and wellbeing.

### **~~We Leads on Addressing Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience~~**

Our region leads on the critical issue of climate change. We envision a future where we have eliminated or mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient.

### **~~Our RegionWe Protects and Restores Natural Systems~~**

Our region has world class parks and abundant natural resources. We envision a future where natural systems are increasingly protected, integrated, and restored to ensure a high quality of life for our growing region.

## Working Goal Matrix for Discussion

	Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming	Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant	Climate	Natural Systems
<b>Land Use</b>				
Orderly and efficient development	•	•	•	•
Natural resources / landscapes		•	•	•
Greenhouse gas / pollution	•	•	•	
Accessibility	•	•	•	
Agricultural land		•	•	•
Cultural histories	•	•		
Regional and local job centers	•	•		
<b>Housing</b>				
Accessibility	•	•		
Affordability / choice	•	•		
Regional / local needs	•	•		
<b>Transportation</b>				
Orderly and efficient development	•	•	•	•
Infrastructure resilience		•	•	
Greenhouse gas / pollution	•	•	•	
Accessibility	•	•		
Affordability / choice	•	•		
Safety / security	•	•		
Rights-of-way	•	•		•
<b>Water Resources</b>				
Orderly and efficient development	•	•	•	•
Infrastructure resilience		•	•	
Greenhouse gas / pollution	•	•	•	
Surface water	•	•	•	•
Groundwater		•	•	•
Wastewater		•	•	•
<b>Parks</b>				
Natural resources / landscapes	•	•	•	•
Accessibility	•	•		
Open space and trails	•	•		•
<b>Economy</b>				
Accessibility	•	•		
Entrepreneurship and innovation	•	•	•	
Workforce	•	•		
Freight, logistics, market access		•		•