

Information Item

Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole



Meeting Date: March 15, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide Values and Vision Overview / Goal Discussion

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Michael Larson, Planning Analyst, Community Development Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst, Community Development
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

The Metropolitan Council is charged in statute with preparing a comprehensive development guide for the metropolitan area. At the Council meeting on February 1, 2023, Council Members endorsed a working set of values and vision statements (attached) to guide work on the 2050 Regional Development Guide (2050 RDG) and its constituent policy plans (transportation, water resources, parks, and housing). Staff will review this work to date, especially for the benefit of the new Council Members. We will also provide an opportunity for Council Members to discuss the vision statements in small groups.

The vision statements are the foundation of the 2050 RDG; and they are based on the identification of four cross-cutting issues of regional significance: equity; public health, safety, and wellbeing; climate; and natural systems.

New Council Members may find it useful to review recent materials and recorded discussion:

- November 30, 2022, Metropolitan Council: [Value themes and cross-cutting issues](#)
- January 11, 2023, Metropolitan Council: [Draft values and vision statements](#)
- February 1, 2023, Committee of the Whole: [Revised values and vision statements](#)

Cross-Cutting Goals

The current phase is the identification of potential cross-cutting goals based on the vision statements. We broadly define goals as “*desired outcomes that we want to achieve for the region*”. Cross-cutting goals are those where there is a particular need for close coordination and collaboration across policy areas. The identification of cross-cutting goals is not intended to constrain or prioritize certain aspects of future policy development, but to reinforce values related to collaborative leadership, stewardship, and accountability related to results.

Cross-cutting regional goals will be informed by the following:

- Council direction
- Adopted State or regional goals (e.g., Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework)
- Previous and future stakeholder input in each of the policy areas

Vision Statement Breakout Sessions

At the March 15 meeting, Council Members will break into four small groups. Each group will discuss one of the four vision statements:

- Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming
- Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant
- We Lead on Addressing Climate Change
- We Protect and Restore Natural Systems

We will ask you the following questions:

- Goals broadly describe desired outcomes. What outcomes would represent achieving the vision (e.g., elimination or mitigation of GHG)?
- How do each of the policy areas influence progress toward these outcomes?
- How do the values and other vision statements relate?
- What is the Council's role, authority, and/or influence over this?

Attachment



2050 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL WORKING STATEMENT OF REGIONAL CORE VALUES AND REGIONAL VISION

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 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, safety, and other pressing issues.

To maximize the potential of our region and its communities, we turn to leadership that is diverse, collaborative, culturally competent, and innovative. We encourage this kind of leadership 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 when we are not achieving results or have harmed communities.

We recognize that we can maximize our effectiveness by being in partnership with others. We will also be transparent and flexible so that we can change course when needed.

Stewardship

We value our region's resources. Our resources include our natural, economic, and financial resources as well as our infrastructure. We recognize that these resources 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 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 infrastructure and 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.