



Framing Equity

In the 2050 Regional Development Guide
Process and Policies



Committee of the Whole | June 7, 2023 | Angela R. Torres, AICP

Goals for Today



Topics

- Equity in regional planning
- Equity in Thrive MSP 2040
- Equity approach for 2050 regional planning
- Partnership with CURA
- Next steps

Statute Requires Development Guide ⁽¹⁾

Metropolitan Land Planning Act (Minn. Stat. 473.145)

The Metropolitan Council shall prepare and adopt, after appropriate study and such public hearings as may be necessary, **a comprehensive development guide** for the metropolitan area...

Statute Requires Development Guide ⁽²⁾

Metropolitan Land Planning Act (Minn. Stat. 473.145)

... It shall consist of a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, programs, and maps **prescribing guides for the orderly and economical development, public and private, of the metropolitan area.** The comprehensive development guide shall recognize and encompass **physical, social, or economic needs of the metropolitan area** and those future developments which will have an impact on the entire area including but not limited to such matters as **land use, parks and open space land needs, the necessity for and location of airports, highways, transit facilities, public hospitals, libraries, schools, and other public buildings.**

Thrive MSP 2040

Thrive Equity Definition

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.

Thrive Lens asks how the proposed policy, program, initiative, or decision...

- ...benefits people of various races, ethnicity, economic means, or ability?
- ...disproportionately or adversely affects people of various races, ethnicity, economic means or ability?
- ...ensures there are no legitimate alternatives with less disparate benefits, and adverse impacts?
- ...mitigates adverse effects?

Equity versus Equality

Equity

- Centers Black communities, Indigenous communities, and peoples of color, LGBTQIA people, people of marginalized genders, immigrants, people of low wealth, people with disabilities.
- Understands inequitable policies, practices, and cultures are integral to our history.
- Understands these historic and current inequities lead to unjust patterns of resource distribution.
- Seeks to correct these unjust patterns.

Equality assumes a level playing field:

- Language like “everyone should have access to” and “all people should benefit from” is used.
- Obscures the fact that white, middle-class, middle-aged, able-bodied, cisgender men already benefit significantly from current conditions.
- Under the same conditions, communities face disparities, decreased wellbeing, and harm to no fault of their own.

Equity approach in the 2050 process

Equity Task Force

- Council staff across all divisions
- Responsible to the Integration Team
- Focused on integration of equity in both process and policy development
- Support other 2050 RDG equity initiatives
- Responsible for 2050 RDG equity components (defining equity)

Objectives

- Provide resources to support staff working on process and policy development
- Provide accountability for the Council's commitment to equity
- Center equity in the **process** of developing the 2050 RDG
- Center equity in the **policies** of the 2050 RDG
- Define equity for the 2050 RDG planning process to create shared understanding

Internal Team Organization

Executive Co-Sponsors

Process Design Team

Integration Team

Equity Task Force

Organizational

Existing Conditions

Policy Development

Equity Framework

Shared Language

Capacity Building

Environmental Justice

Equity Commitments

Definitions

Partnership with U of M

Center for Urban & Regional Affairs

- Training series for Integration Team and Equity Task Force
- Resources for implementation
- Ongoing assistance throughout the RDG development



Welcome and Introduction

C Terrence Anderson, Director of Community Based Programs Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), University of MN



As director of Community Based Research at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota, C Terrence oversees community-based programs, including the Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program, the Community Assistantship Program, the Artist and Neighborhood Partnership Initiatives, and the Charles R. Krusell Fellowship. He works primarily within the realm of urban planning and public policy.

Previously as Equity Manager at the Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities region, C Terrence implemented equity as part of the work that the Council does to address the high racial disparities in the region.

He graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee with degrees in Urban Affairs and in Philosophy.

Summary and next steps



Key Messages



2050 Regional Development Guide

- Three principles of equity work in the 2050 RDG:
 - Contextualized
 - Community-Centered
 - Reparative
- Repositioning community as experts in their history, needs, solutions, and resources is critical.
- This framework allows us to interrogate and then leverage the Council's considerable power and privilege to meaningfully support communities.
- This framework can set the foundation for the Council's definition of equity, equity goals and policies, and Council commitments to actions which change inequitable outcomes for the most vulnerable residents in the region.

Next Steps



Council direction needed to move forward

Through the lens of the Equity Framework:

- How does the Council move beyond words to take action?
- What are the Council's commitments to actions to repair harm and prevent further harm to disadvantaged communities?
- What are the Council's equity goals?
- How does the Council hold itself accountable to its equity commitments?
- How is progress measured?



Thank You!

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