

Information Item

Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole



Meeting Date: June 21, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide Vision and Goals Update

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Michael Larson, 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 Committee of the Whole meeting on February 1, 2023, the Council endorsed a working set of values and vision statements (attached) to guide work on the 2050 Regional Development Guide (2050 RDG) and its constituent system and policy plans (transportation, water resources, parks, and housing).

Since February, work on the 2050 RDG and its plans has continued, with additional, ongoing engagement with stakeholders. As anticipated, there have been opportunities to incorporate, reflect upon, and consider potential modifications to the values and vision statements, as well as the identification of potential regional goals. These have included discussions with system and policy plan staff who work with stakeholders and who will be charged with implementing and monitoring progress of the 2050 RDG after its adoption. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 21st, staff will present proposed modifications to this work based on this recent experience.

Evolution from Vision Statements to Regional Goals

The regional vision statements were constructed based on the following cross-cutting issues of regional significance:

- Equity
- Public Health, Safety, and Wellbeing
- Climate
- Natural Systems

The feedback Council staff have received has been positive; and the values and vision statements resonate well regarding the most important issues that affect the region. However, some changes are proposed for consideration based on constructive input from stakeholders and system/policy planners. These include:

- The vision statements need a brief and overarching narrative.
- The vision statements need a clearer connection to economic and accessibility considerations.
- The vision statements are detailed and include a blend of vision language and goal language. With modifications, they could serve as shared regional goals. We define goals

as *“desired outcomes that we want to achieve for the region”*.

Proposed Language for Vision Narrative

Staff are proposing the development of a brief and overarching vision statement based on the original four vision statements. The vision statement is meant to include a clear connection to the cross-cutting regional issues, reflect the endorsed values, include areas of Council responsibility, and consider themes from stakeholder engagement. For example, two alternatives:

“We envision a healthy, just, and resilient region where future generations thrive and experience new opportunities supported by planning that results in economical services, housing affordability, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and safe, accessible transportation throughout the region.”

“We envision an equitable future where our region’s residents, communities, and economy thrive. Through collaborative leadership and innovative planning, we will deliver of equitable and affordable services and infrastructure; we will confront challenges, including those related to equity and climate change; and we will seize opportunities to ensure the wellbeing of our natural and built environments.”

Proposed Language for Regional Goals

The development and endorsement of goals are important for continuing policy plan development. Staff are proposing the following revised set of five regional goal statements. More information about proposed changes and additions are included in the presentation and will be discussed with the Council.

Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

Our Communities are Healthy and Safe

All our region’s residents live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, dignity, and wellbeing.

Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient

Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, accessibility, and affordability.

We Lead on Addressing Climate Change

We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.

We Protect and Restore Natural Systems

We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for our region.

Attachment

- *February 2023 Working Draft of Regional Core Values and Regional Vision*

2050 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL WORKING STATEMENT OF REGIONAL CORE VALUES AND REGIONAL VISION

FEBRUARY 2023

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.