Imagine 2050
Engagement update

Activities and theme analysis

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Imagine 2050 engagement update

Today’s conversation

- Engagement process and stakeholder groups
- Competing goals found in engagement (discussion)
- Engagement themes by regional goal
  - Equitable and inclusive region
  - Healthy and safe communities (discussion)
  - Dynamic and resilient region
  - Protect and restore natural systems
  - Lead on climate change
- Future efforts (discussion)
Engagement process
Policy development process

Issue Exploration
- Define Values
- Identify Vision and Goals
- Understand community priorities
- Refine Community Designations

Policy Development
- Carefully review engagement findings
- Identify additional engagement data needs
- Draft policies, objectives and actions

Policy Finalization
- Policy draft review
- Incorporate feedback
- Publish policies
- Implement and metrics measurement

Stakeholder Engagement Ongoing, Refined Throughout Process
Engagement approach

- Community-centered, equity-focused
- Integrated and collaborative
- Data and values-driven
- Expansive
- Recursive and accountable
Stakeholders and top-level needed advice
Government and private sector partners: Historic and ongoing collaborators

- Elected & Appointed Officials
- Local Staff
- Private sector
- Nonprofits
- Minnesota & Federal
Residents and advocates: Extensive and equity-focused conversations

- Historically excluded communities
- Residents using Met Council services
- Youth
- New Minnesotans
- Advocates
# How engagement data are used

## Vision and Values
- Refine vision and values using complex array of perspectives
- Establish priorities
- Examine context and implications
- Introduce high-level goals into policy-level conversations

## Policy
- Identify gaps and controversies; write policy using feedback from differing perspectives
- Inform goals, objectives, policies, frameworks, and actions
- Provide context to explain policy decisions
- Suggest metrics and measures

## Resources
- Identifies investment priorities and funding
- Learn areas for needed technical assistance and convening
- New program development and exploration of new solutions
Reviewing engagement findings tonight

Key details:

- Analyzed results are from conversations with over 1,000 stakeholders, hundreds of hours of engagement, hundreds of pages of analysis, and findings across all policy areas.
- Competing priorities are identified.
- Findings are themed by regional goals; only top-level findings presented here.
- Supporting quotes are in information item memo.
### Stakeholders articulate competing priorities that transcend either/or thinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Competing with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bold action on key concerns (climate, equity, affordability, water sustainability, natural systems protection)</td>
<td>Local control, capacity/resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desires for low-density housing and expanded transportation infrastructure</td>
<td>Addressing climate change, walkable communities, or multimodal transportation options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locations of high-quality affordable housing</td>
<td>Desire for locations with cultural belonging and community ties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety is complex, requires understanding multiple perspectives</td>
<td>A top priority for Transportation Policy Plan government stakeholders competes with police concerns from other stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of affordable housing for young, older, and diverse family types</td>
<td>Goal to maintain historic character, maintain low-density communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation of agricultural land and green space</td>
<td>Housing development.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advice sought:

- What is your advice to address these competing priorities?
- What have you been hearing from stakeholders on these topics as you engage with communities in your district?

Competing priorities topics:

- Bold action vs. local control, resources
- Low-density vs. climate change or desire for walkable, multimodal options
- High quality housing is not always where residents want to live.
- Safety is complex, with many components. Different feelings and views on policing
- Desire for diverse new housing types vs. historic character and low-density
- Preserving land vs. new development
Regional Goals

1. Our region is equitable and inclusive
2. Our communities are healthy and safe
3. Our region is dynamic and resilient
4. We lead on addressing climate change
5. We protect and restore natural systems
Residents experience challenges accessing Met Council systems and services.

Local governments largely support prioritizing equity in Met Council efforts; they want the Met Council to be aware of local context and to offer clear guidelines and support.
Healthy and safe communities

Residents want to live in communities that support social connections and vibrant cultural landscapes. Stakeholder recommendations include multimodal travel, outdoor access, walkable communities, acknowledging historical inequity, and land use support for small businesses.

Connection to nature provides physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Water quality, environmental education, park system maintenance, and transit access were mentioned as helping residents connect to nature. This connection is valued as a refuge from heat and other climate change effects.

Safety is a multidimensional issue, and a particular concern for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and transit users. Rural crashes, affordability-safety tradeoffs are concerns. Conflicting views over use of policing.
15-minute discussion: Equity, healthy and safe communities

Advice sought:
- How should staff prioritize and incorporate these engagement findings?
- What have you been hearing from stakeholders on these topics as you engage with communities in your district?

Findings review:

Equitable and inclusive region
Challenges accessing systems
Support for equity goal from local governments

Healthy and safe communities:
Social connections and support for cultural landscapes
Desire connection to nature
Safety a concern, multidimensional
Residents struggle with housing affordability, lack proximity to desired cultural landscapes, and safety. High housing costs pressure moves from neighborhoods where they’d like to live.

Community land use needs include spaces for growing food, outdoor recreation, small businesses, and community interaction.

Regional thinking, collaboration, accountable policy implementation, understanding local context are key to region’s success.
Government stakeholders expect the Met Council to lead the region on climate change issues.

Stormwater issues and smart growth are top-level climate concerns for local government.

Requests for support around Met Council leadership on climate change include additional funding, technical assistance, and data resources. Local government and residents seek idea sharing, funding, messaging assistance, research and mapping support.
Habitat restoration and water resource protection are important for ecosystem health. Drought, as well as water and park pollution, are emerging concerns. Clean water is of essence for current and future generations.

Preserving and increasing green spaces, tree canopy are important. Green space in land use, large acreage park reserves, a metro natural resources corridor are desired efforts. Regulatory mechanisms and incentives for green spaces are needed.

Connectivity is important. Humans are a part of the environment. We need more connection to nature and across valuable ecosystems.
Future efforts, final discussion
Future efforts and initiatives

- Technical advisory groups working with engagement data
- Local government engagement:
  One-on-ones, rural engagement with food producers, topic-based focus groups
- Study results:
  Water Values Survey, Transportation Needs in Everyday Life, Parks Historical Cultural Study, Housing analysis of developers' perspectives
- Population forecasts engagement
- Second regional land use cohort expands beyond youth
- Arts in Policy Planning, “Creatively Imagine 2050”
Advice sought:

• How should staff prioritize and incorporate these engagement findings?
• What have you been hearing from stakeholders on these topics as you engage with communities in your district?
• What are ways we can help you carry Imagine 2050 engagement into communities in your district?

Findings review:

Dynamic and resilient region
Challenges accessing systems
Support for equity goal from local governments

Climate and natural systems
Met Council leadership expected
Habitat, water resources, green space, tree canopy
Human/environment/ecosystem connections
Storm water, smart growth
Technical support
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