



Local Forecasts for *Imagine 2050*

Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster



December 18, 2024

metro council.org/forecasts/

Agenda

1. Why we forecast
2. Recap of progress to now
3. What we heard: public hearing process
4. Next steps
5. Questions

Why we forecast: regional context



Long-range forecasts of population, households, jobs

- Provide a shared foundation for coordinated planning, systems and services
 - Regional systems and services are scaled to meet forecasted demand
 - Local plans, infrastructure, services respond to the same forecasts
- Maintained, updated to inform planning
- Authorized by *MN Statutes* 473.146 and 473.859

Why we forecast: local context



Met Council's plan requirements for local governments

- Plan for future growth, as detailed in local forecast
- Provide land supply that at least accommodates the forecast
 - An oversupply of land is allowable and/or a post-2050 land reserve is allowable
- Use forecast as target for scaling and staging infrastructure and services that are connected to or served by regional systems
- Reconcile the growth forecast with the comprehensive plan
 - Council staff and local planners can cooperate to find solution

“What are penalties for missed forecasts?”



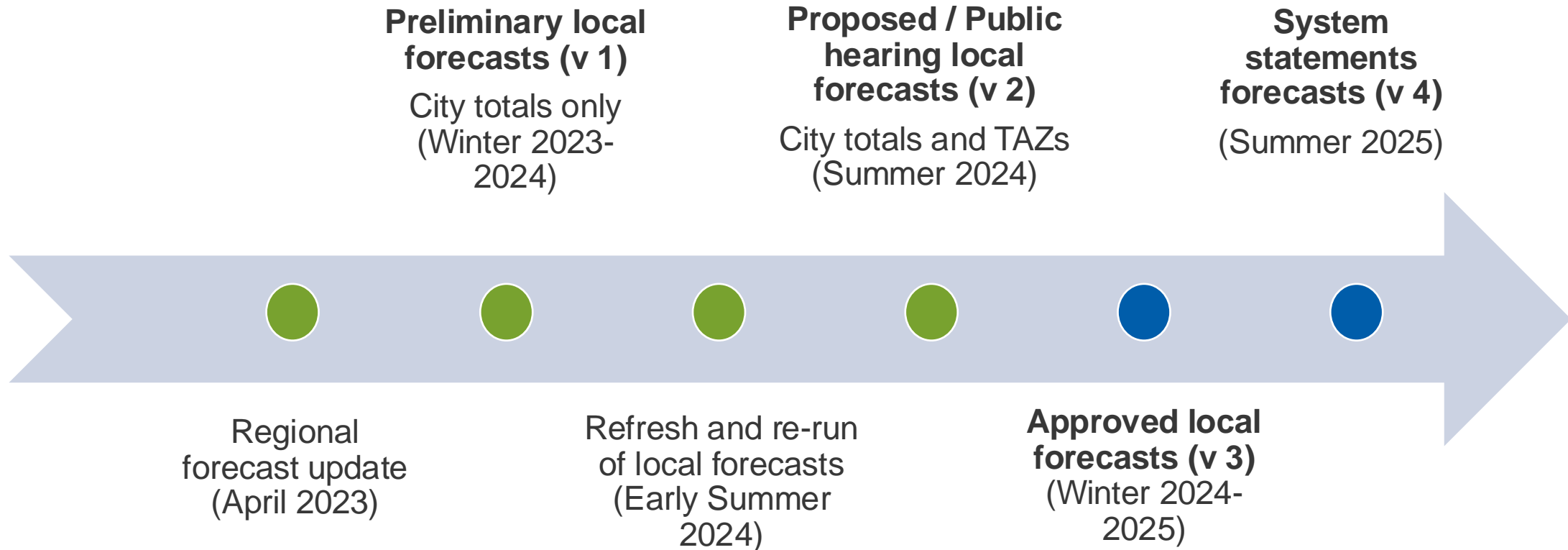
State law assigns Met Council responsibility for growth forecasts

- We do not have minimum “quotas” for future growth; there are not “penalties” for households or employment falling short of forecast
- But adjustments may be needed:
 - *Too little land supply:* Shortfalls in guiding middle- and high-density land supply may be a policy inconsistency, resulting in ineligibility for LCA grants
 - *Too little growth:* Failures to generate system usage and utility revenue
 - *Too much growth:* Potential system impacts. Up to MCES and MTS to determine remedies. Remedies may involve local capital investment.

Recap of progress to now



Forecast timeline parallels the *Imagine 2050* timeline



Local forecast summary: households



Growth happens in local, specific places

Adding 324,000 households over 30 years – where?

Our model is a real estate market-based modeling designed to produce a probable future distribution

- 33% of net households growth in urban & urban edge communities
 - 23% in suburban communities
 - 38% in suburban edge communities
 - 6% in rural communities
-
- This pattern is -8 points less urban, +6 points more suburban, and +2 points more rural than observed development, 2010 – 2020

From macro-level to local: Numbers for every city and zone



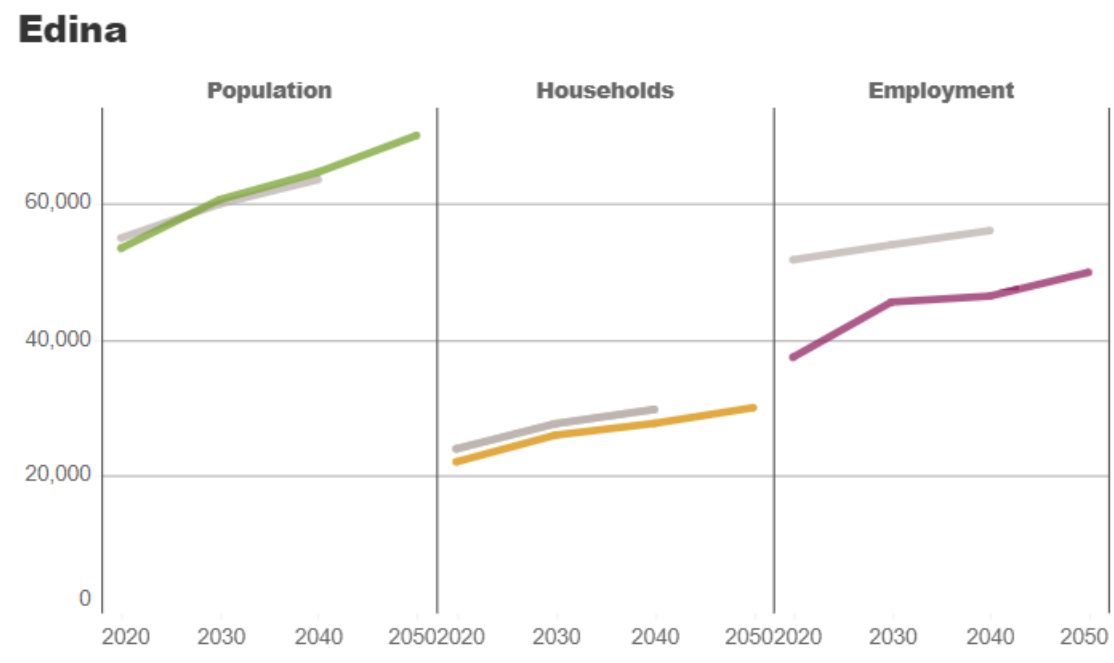
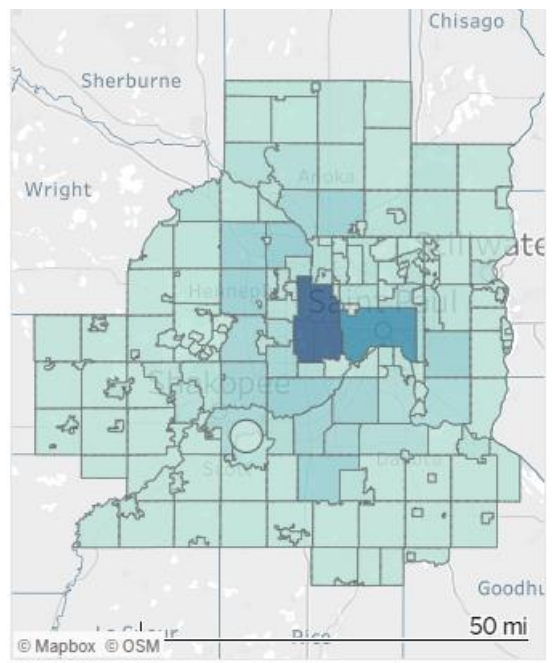
Local forecasts at metro council.org/forecasts

- City- and township-level results
 - Excel workbook format
 - Also interactive webmap at metro council.org/forecasts
- Public Hearing Local Forecasts (version 2): August 2024
 - Public comment period ended Oct. 7, 2024
- Proposed Local Forecasts (version 3): December 2024
 - Version 3 to be included as an Appendix in *Imagine 2050*, scheduled for approval action, February 2025

Explore and comment on proposed local forecasts to 2050

Select geographic level
Cities and townships

Select city or township
Use "all" to reset selections
Edina



Map: Forecast topic
Population

Map: Forecast year
2050

Map: Thrive MSP 2040 or Imagine 2050
Imagine 2050

View forecast data as
Chart

Imagine 2050 (Green square)
Thrive MSP 2040 (Grey square)

Visit metro council.org/forecasts

What we heard: public comment period



Council staff consideration of requests for adjustments



Engaging with comments and requests for local forecast adjustments

- A few requests included unsupported claims or erroneous information.
- A few requests are refused because desired numbers are excessive, or we provided adjustments earlier.
- We support requested minor adjustments to the extent these can be accommodated.
- In some cases, we propose “half-way” compromises.
- Adjustments in 20 cities are included in latest table.
- The full set of revisions do not significantly alter region totals

What we heard during public hearing process



30 comments about local forecasts; 25 from local governments

- Comment of agreement or support: 2 cities
- No specific forecast request in public comment; no adjustment needed: 4 cities
 - Also questions and comments from 5 metro residents
- Comment included a forecast request; Council staff disagree; only minimal adjustment to these: 4 cities and 2 county governments
- Comment included a forecast request; adjustment included in table update: 13 cities
- Discussions *outside of comment period*; minor adjustments included in table update: 7 cities

Next steps



Next steps

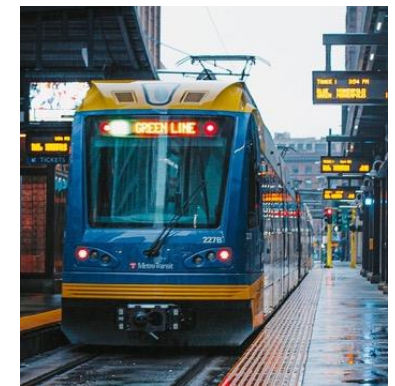


Local forecasts are a Council product

- Version 3 to be included as an Appendix in *Imagine 2050*, scheduled for approval action, Feb. 2025
- Local forecasts will be brought to Council again in summer 2025. Council will authorize version 3 (or version 4) be included in System Statements
 - Council has authority (MN Statutes 473.146 and 473.859) to determine forecasts of when, where, and how much growth is probable, and to use those forecasts to guide regional systems planning

There are opportunities for adjustments throughout the planning cycle

Jan. – Feb. 29, 2024	<p>Review and comment on Preliminary Local Forecasts v. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes population, households, employment for counties, cities, townships
Aug. 15 – Oct. 7, 2024	<p>Review and comment on Public Hearing Local Forecasts v. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes population, households, employment for counties, cities, townships and Transportation Analysis Zones Part of public comment period for <i>Imagine 2050</i>
Sept. – Dec. 2025	<p>Review and comment on System Statement Local Forecasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes population, households, employment for counties, cities, townships, sub-city sewer-service areas and policy areas Part of appeals period for System Statements
2026 – 2028*	<p>Preparation and review of Comprehensive Plan Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met Council and local governments can agree to local forecast revisions as expectations and plans evolve
2026 – 2034	<p>Preparation and review of Plan Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met Council and local governments can agree to local forecast revisions as expectations and plans evolve



Questions



Questions



- Comments on Proposed Local Forecasts, version 3?
 - Readiness to include in final version of *Imagine 2050*?
- Are Council Members satisfied with the practice of “freezing” local forecasts when System Statements are issued (2025); subsequently considering adjustments with plan amendments?
 - *Benefit of this process*: Same forecasts in approved 2050 comp plans and on Council's website
 - *Downside*: Approved forecasts can be up to 9 years outdated
- Would Council Members like to see updated local forecast scenarios provided semi-decennially: in 2024/25 and in 2029?

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