



# Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

Proposed outcomes measurement for regional goals

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# Today's information item



## Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

- 1 Overview
- 2 Future action: Imagine 2050 Amendment
- 3 Review select measures for regional goals
- 4 Discussion & next steps

# Outcomes Measurement Program



## A redesign for Imagine 2050

### Within scope

- Facilitate measurement development and selection
- Lead Imagine 2050 amendment adoption
- Develop data infrastructure and documentation
- Create user-centered reporting tools
- Consult on data development projects and in-dept

### Out of scope

- Program or policy evaluation
- Replace other legislative, strategic, or annual reporting
- Integrated enterprise performance measurement
- Cannot mandate data collection (only encourage!)

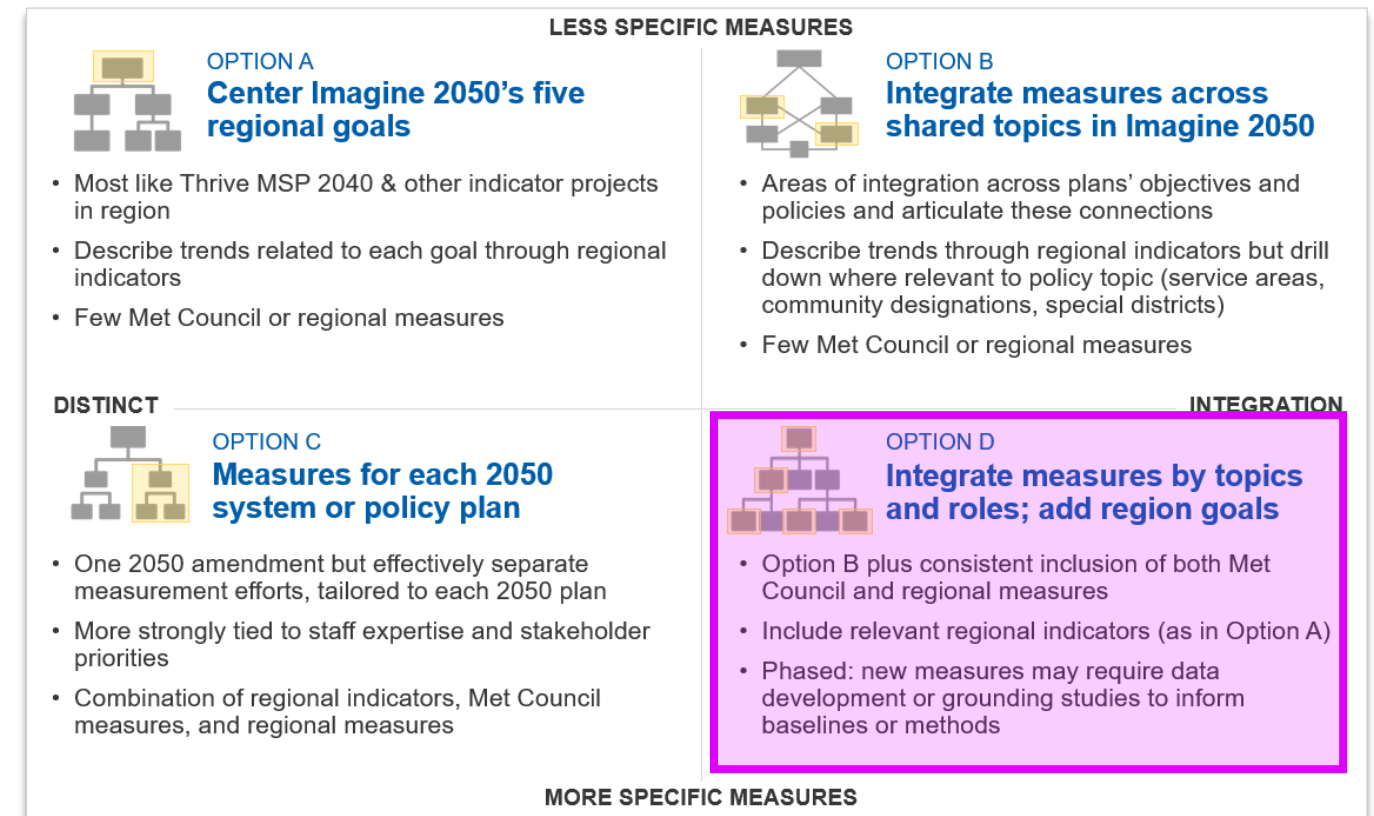
# Input on 2050 program direction

## Support for a robust approach

- Regional indicator valuable, particularly those that illustrate region's standing among peers
- Strong interest in capturing “on the ground” efforts; acknowledged the challenges and time required
- New regional policies/planning doesn't shift local priorities overnight; consider measures rooted in continuity

## OUR TAKEAWAY

- ✗ “Project” approach with limited number of high-level indicators falls short.
- ✓ Programmatic approach that strategically aligns research, monitoring, and policy holds promise.



Four options were discussed at Committee of the Whole on June 4, 2025

# Future Action: Imagine 2050 Amendment

SEPT  
**3** COW  
**Regional Goals**

SEPT  
**15** CDC  
**Land Use, Housing  
& Parks and Trails**

SEPT  
**23** ENVIROMENT  
**Water Resources**

OCT  
**8** MET COUNCIL  
**All Policy Measures**

OCT  
**22** MET COUNCIL  
**Release draft amendment**

JAN  
**14** MET COUNCIL  
**Adopt amendment**

## A

### How: Outcomes Measurement Program

- Builds on Accountability value
- Describes purpose, scope, and guiding principles
- Sets internal commitments and expectations

## B

### What: Initial outcome measurement slate

- Technical Appendix C
- Fulfills Imagine 2050 placeholders
- Does not supplant adopted 2050 Transportation Policy Plan performance measurement chapter



# Proposed measures for regional goals



# Measure development for regional goals

## Sources and inspiration for proposed measures

### External sources

- 2050 engagement and public comments
- Qualitative research
- Peer regions/agencies
- Local indicator projects
- State of Minnesota
- Local partners
- Nonpartisan public policy research
- Academic studies

### Internal development

- Past efforts
- Inclusive staff brainstorming
- Technical expertise
- Research
- Met Council Plans
- Annual reporting
- Committee and Council discussions

... And a few ideas we've  
squirreled away over the years



# Measures are organized by type (role)

## Regional indicators

- Population-level (disaggregating where possible)
- Provide context—build shared understanding macro conditions
- “Big needles” that require collective action to move; no single actor or sector

## Regional measures

How are local partners advancing 2050 goals and policies?

- 2050 updates and other long-range plans
- Policies and strategies (developed/adopted)
- Programs, fiscal tools, funding
- Engagement and participation

## Met Council measures

How are we advancing 2050 goals and policies?

- Policies (“provide”)
- Grants and programs
- Processes
- Engagement and relationships (“partner”)



# Considerations for proposed measures



## Slides that follow, please keep in mind

- **Select measures to illustrate program direction**
  - Refer to agenda materials for full list
- Half measures are cross-listed (multiple goals)
- Under staff review, still vetting
  - Update frequency
  - Redundancies
  - Disaggregation potential
- Significant and frequent changes in data availability



# Our region is equitable and inclusive



## Essential topics recap

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

### PREVIOUSLY

- Disparities
- Concentrated poverty
- Public engagement plan



### IMAGINE 2050

- Leading with race
- Historical and reparative context
- Equity frameworks

- The adopted equity frameworks: Environmental justice, anti-displacement, community-centered engagement, and Land, water, and people commitments.
- **More deeply integrated across Imagine 2050**

# Equitable and inclusive: select measures

## Regional indicators

- Disaggregating by demographic groups, for example:
  - Rate of households experiencing housing cost burden
  - Median net worth (households)
  - Number or rate of people experiencing food insecurity
- Bias-motivated crime rate

## Regional measures

- Disaggregating spatially, for example:
  - Overburdened communities (EJ)
  - Formerly redlined neighborhoods
  - Ethnic enclaves
- Regional Parks and Trail System visitation inequities

## Met Council measures

“*The Met Council will use these [adopted equity] frameworks in projects, policy, processes, and procedures...and report on implementation and related commitments... (p.30)*

- Cross-divisional team for equity framework implementation will develop measures in 2026

\* See supporting materials linked in meeting agenda for a full list of proposed measures



# Our communities are healthy and safe



## Essential topics recap

- All our region's residents live healthy and rewarding lives with a sense of dignity and well-being.

### PREVIOUSLY

- Public health role limited to operations: water quality, wastewater, transit system



### IMAGINE 2050

- All regional systems
- Social Determinants of Health & environmental justice
- Design of built environment impacts individual, social health

- Two truths: Inequities in health and safety outcomes exist and all population groups stand to improve.

# Healthy and safe: select measures

## Regional indicators

- Share of the region's population under age 65 without health insurance
- Number or rate of people experiencing homelessness
- Average number of poor mental or physical health days experienced within the past 30 days

## Regional measures

- Visits to regional parks and trails per capita

## Met Council measures

- Total crimes recorded by Metro Transit Police department per 100,000 rides
- Wastewater treatment facilities meet effluent compliance requirements

*\* See supporting materials linked in meeting agenda for a full list of proposed measures*



# Our region is dynamic and resilient.



## Essential topics recap

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

### PREVIOUSLY

- Economic competitiveness
- Infrastructure & investments, specifically transit expansion
- Relative affordability



### IMAGINE 2050

- Economic mobility & wealth creation
  - Entrepreneurs and small business
  - Climate resiliency & energy independence
- Regional Economic Framework (2020) and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2025)

# Dynamic and resilient: select measures

## Regional indicators

- Regional acreage of Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)
- Rate of households experiencing housing cost burden (per 100,000)
- Share of full-time workers age 25 – 64 earning a family sustaining wage
- Change in median hourly wage compared with change in cost of living

## Regional measures

- Total acreage of contaminated land returned to productive uses

## Met Council measures

- Total acreage of contaminated land returned to productive uses supported by Met Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) program

*\* See supporting materials linked in meeting agenda for a full list of proposed measures*



# We lead on addressing climate change



## Essential topics recap

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

### PREVIOUSLY

- Sustainability
- Operations-focus
- Water conservation and reuse



### IMAGINE 2050

- Statutory changes
  - Met Council Climate Action Workplan
  - All infrastructure & investments
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting climate impacts on infrastructure and natural systems, and calling attention to disproportionate climate burdens

# Climate: select measures

## Regional indicators

- Regional average of daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita
- Regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita

## Regional measures

- Total annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from regional transportation
- Share of transportation and transit assets in Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)

## Met Council measures

- Total greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons) from Met Council operations
- Share of Met Council fleets transitioned to electric and alternative fuel vehicles

*\* See supporting materials linked in meeting agenda for a full list of proposed measures*



# We protect and restore natural systems



## Essential topics recap

- Natural systems include the land, air, water, vegetation, and wildlife as well as their connections within ecosystems, natural cycles, and human society.

### PREVIOUSLY

- Conservation
- Resource management
- Parks & water focus
- Human livability



### IMAGINE 2050

- Protection
- Integration
- Restoration
- All regional systems
- Intrinsic value

- Challenges for natural systems include climate impacts, drought and flooding, contaminants/ pollution, loss of green space and biodiversity



# Natural systems: select measures

## Regional indicators

- Regional average of tree canopy coverage
- Metric tones of CO2 equivalent sequestered by the region's natural systems
- Pollutant trends for contaminants of concern in Priority Waters

## Regional measures

- Metric tones of CO2 equivalent sequestered by the Regional Parks and Trails System per acre
- Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned-up

## Met Council measures

- Trees planted in areas with extreme heat supported by Met Council Community Tree Planting Grants
- Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned-up funded by Met Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) program

*\* See supporting materials linked in meeting agenda for a full list of proposed measures*

# We welcome your feedback



## Discussion questions

1. Clarifying questions about the Imagine 2050 amendment?
2. With additional examples of this program direction, are we on the right track with this approach?
  - Focus on “how” (not specific indicators)
  - Extent of Met Council measures for goals
3. Other comments or questions?

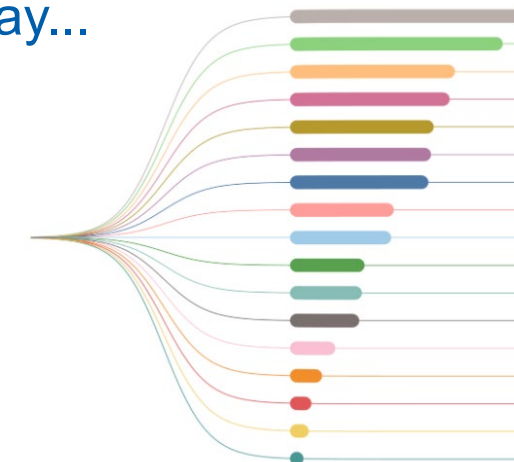
# Next steps

## Informal public engagement

- Committee presentations on policy outcome measurement
  - 9/15 Committee Development
  - 9/23 Environment Committee
- (Informal) public engagement  
<https://metro council.org/Imagine2050>
  - Interactive tool to visualize relationships across measures
  - Feedback form
- **Return on Oct 8 with full picture of proposed measures**

Measure description	Measure type	Target trend	Relevant regional goals					Data source(s)
			Climate	NatSyst	Dynamic & Resilient	Equitable & Inclusive	Healthy & Safe	
Regional average of tree canopy coverage in areas with extreme heat	Regional indicator	Increase	X			X		Met Council Land Surface Temperature Map; Met Council tree canopy data (Growing Shade)
Number of trees planted in areas with extreme heat supported by Met Council Community Tree Planting Grants	Regional measure	Increase		X			X	MetC Community Tree Planting Grant program data
Number of ash tree removals supported by Met Council Community Tree Planting Grants	Regional measure	NA		X				MetC Community Tree Planting Grant program data
Regional acreage of Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)	Regional indicator	Decrease		X	X	X		Met Council Localized Flood Map Screening Tool
Share of region's population living in Flood Impact Zones (FIZ), i.e., areas with heightened risk of localized flooding	Regional indicator	Decrease	X			X	X	Met Council Localized Flood Map Screening Tool
Share of region's housing units at high risk for localized flooding	Regional indicator	Decrease (driven by reduction in FIZ and/or increased mitigation)			X			Met Council Localized Flood Map Screening Tool
Share of transportation and transit assets in Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)	Regional measure	Decrease	X		X			Met Council facilities tracking

Development of an interactive tool of proposed measures is underway...







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