



# 2025 Regional Economic Framework Key Takeaways

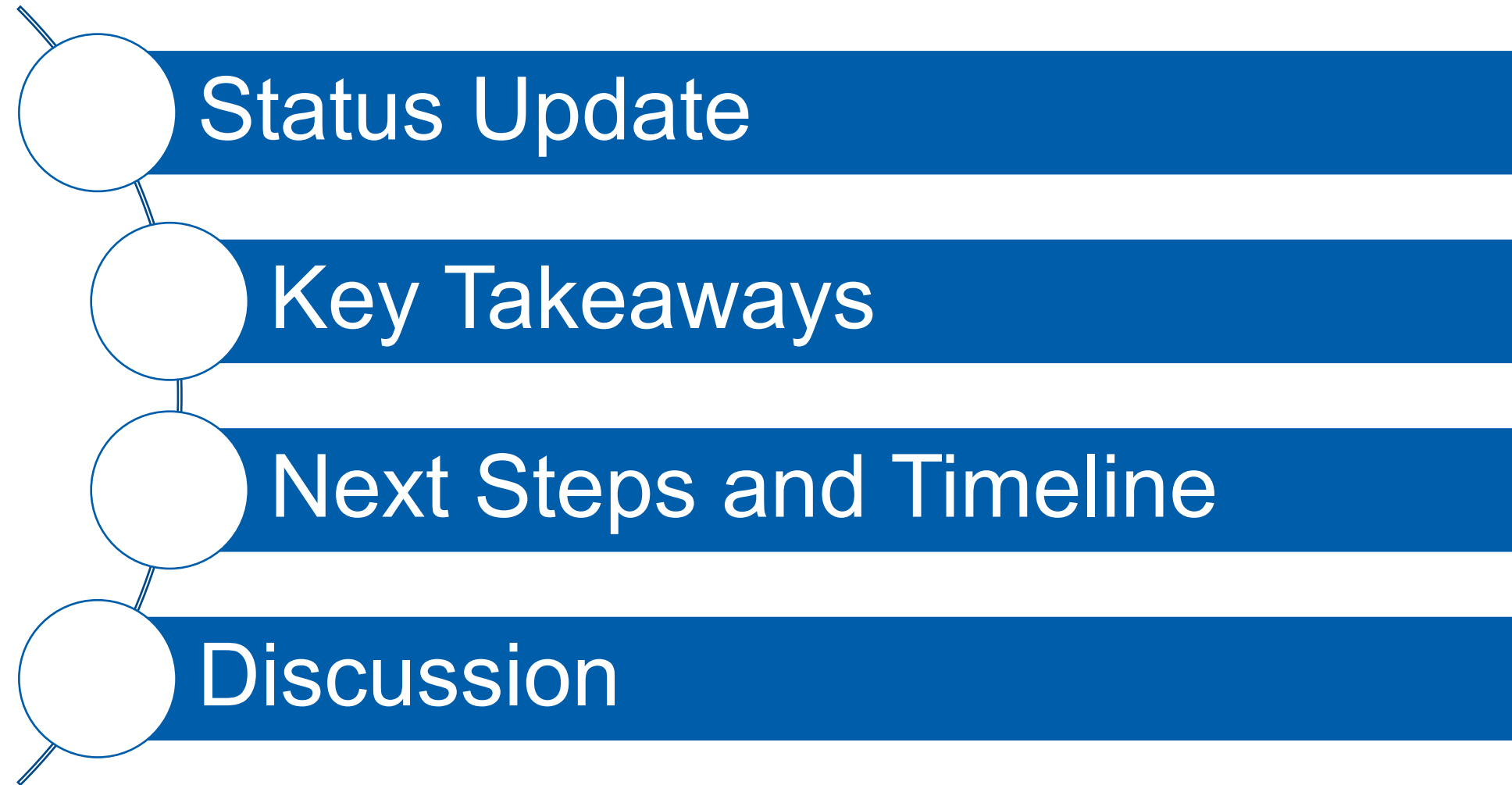
Committee of the Whole  
October 15, 2025



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# Overview



# Strategic Priorities

Regional Brand  
& Image

Racial Inclusion

Workforce &  
Skills

Job Growth

Talent Migration  
& Retention

Startups &  
Innovation

New Climate  
Economy

Transportation  
& Mobility

Affordability

# Current Status

## CEDS Committee

- 26 Member Organizations
- 5 Meetings (May-Sept 2025)

## Expert Interviews

- 16 Interviews

## Targeted Outreach

- American Indian Focus Group
- Survey sent to 200+ Municipalities
- Regional Land Use Advisory Group and LUAC

## Public Feedback

- December 3 Public Hearing
- Nov 13-Dec 22 Public Comment Period

# Key Takeaways



- The jobs exist, but workers and employers are not connecting well due to skills and access gaps.
- The binding constraint is not job openings but the alignment of skills, credentials, and supports.
- Housing affordability and limited transportation options also limit job accessibility, especially for low-income workers.



# Key Takeaways



- Given demographic and migration trends contributing to ongoing workforce shortages, attracting and retaining new talent has become a pressing priority for the region.
- To support this goal, regional branding efforts need to be more coordinated and strategically tailored to showcase the area's high quality of life to both prospective talent and businesses.

# Key Takeaways



- Business growth is stalling after the startup phase.
- The region has strong corporate anchors and solid startup survival, but lags peers in venture capital, incubator capacity, and coordinated post-startup scaling support—limiting net new job creation.



# Key Takeaways



- Despite reduction in some racial gaps, persistent disparities in homeownership, income, educational outcomes, and wages limit access to opportunity for BIPOC residents.
- BIPOC residents are underutilized as workers and business owners, a pattern that impedes regional economic growth and perpetuates intergenerational racial inequities.

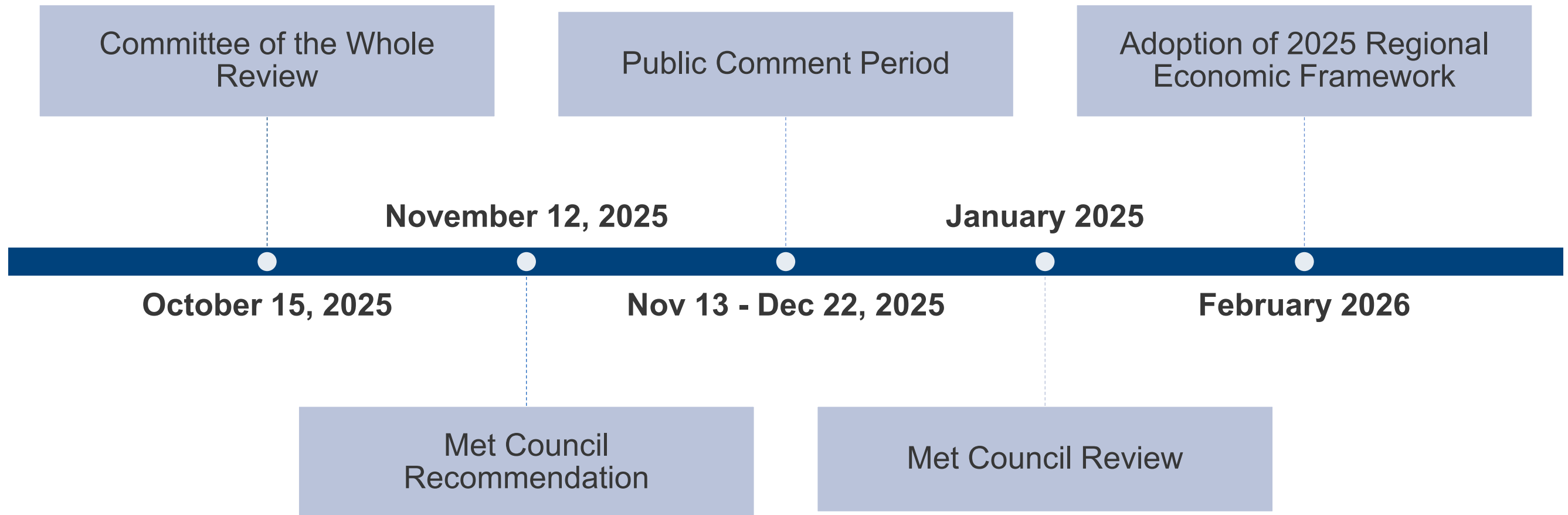


# Key Takeaways



- Climate transition presents both opportunities and challenges. Minnesota's climate goals position the region to become a leader in clean energy and advanced manufacturing and broaden economic participation.
- However, success requires significant investment in infrastructure, the development of local supply chains, and expanded workforce training.

# Timeline





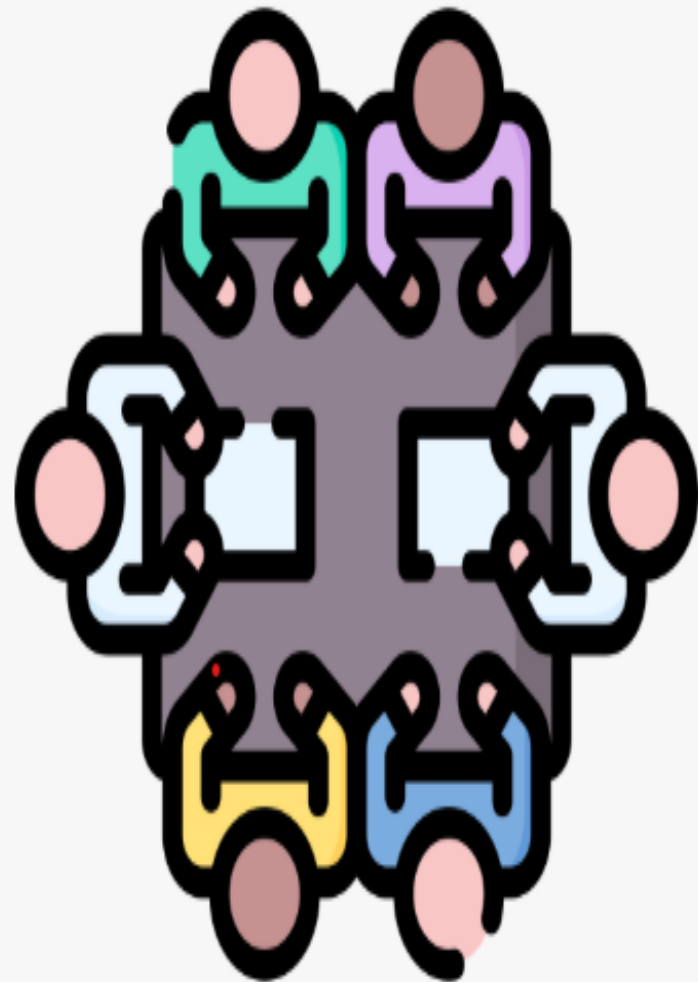
# Implementation



## Council role

- Future convenings
- Data updates
- Letters of support
- Communications
- Partnerships and Support

# Discussion



## Questions

- How well do the key takeaways resonate with you?
- Are any key elements of the regional economic landscape missing from the report?

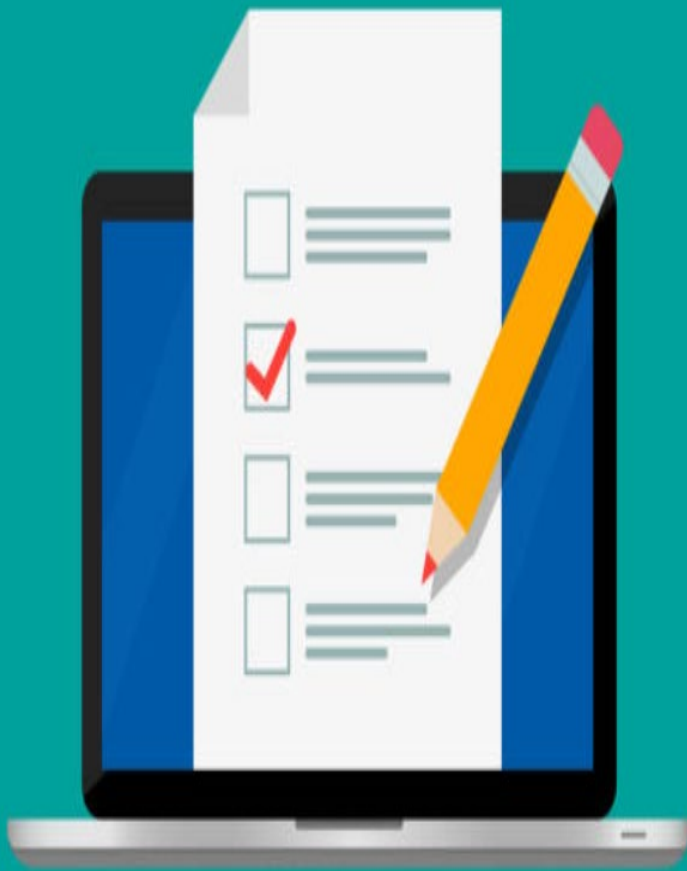


# Survey Link

**We want to hear from you!**

Click the link below to provide feedback on the draft 2025 Regional Economic Framework.

[2025 Regional Economic Framework Review Survey](#)





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