



Proposed Outcomes, Principles and Policies

As of October 2013

Proposed Outcomes

Thrive MSP 2040 asserts five desired outcomes to define policy priorities:

Stewardship *and* Prosperity *and* Equity *and* Livability *and* Sustainability

These five outcomes, identified during the Metropolitan Council's two years of *Thrive* outreach and engagement, emerged as common themes defining a shared regional vision. Plans, policies and projects that balance all five of these outcomes tend to create positive change, while efforts that advance only one or two outcomes at the expense of the others may be disappointments over the long term. Policymakers make tough decisions at the intersections among these five outcomes, weighing the benefits and costs of their options against these five outcomes. Focusing on outcomes allows for flexibility in implementation, both for the Council's systems and policy plans and for local comprehensive plans, yet prioritizes a shared strategic vision.

Stewardship advances the Council's longstanding mission of orderly and economical development, responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources and making strategic investments in our region's future.

Prosperity results from investments in infrastructure, amenities and quality of life that create regional economic competitiveness, thereby attracting and retaining successful businesses, a talented workforce, and consequently wealth.

Equity connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable options for people of all races, ethnicities and incomes so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change.

Livability focuses on the experience of our people and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the high quality of life that makes our region a great place to live.

Sustainability protects our regional vitality for generations to come by taking a long-term perspective to preserve our assets, resources, and strengths.

Proposed Principles

Thrive defines three principles to guide how the Council implements its policies both internally and externally to advance the five outcomes:

Integration *and* Collaboration *and* Accountability

These three principles reflect the Council's understanding of its role integrating policy areas, supporting local governments and regional partners, and promoting and implementing this regional vision. These principles govern how the Council implements Thrive systems and policy plans and how the Council advances these outcomes, both individually and collectively.

Integration leverages multiple policy tools to address complex regional challenges and opportunities.

Collaboration recognizes that shared efforts and effective partnerships among local and regional partners move our region forward most effectively toward our shared outcomes.

Accountability requires a commitment to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our policies and a willingness to adjust course as necessary.

*For more information about Thrive MSP 2040, visit thriveMSP.org
To share your reactions and comments to these outcomes, principles and proposed policies,
e-mail the Council at thriveMSP@metc.state.mn.us*

To advance the five outcomes, working within the three principles, the Council has identified a series of policy directions in Thrive. Detailed policies implementing the *Thrive* policy direction will emerge and be formally adopted in the *Thrive* systems and policy plans: the Housing Policy Plan (summer 2014), the Transportation Policy Plan (late 2014), the Water Resources Policy Plan (summer 2014), and the Regional Parks Policy Plan (early 2015).

Stewardship:

- Prioritize protection of and minimize impacts to natural resources;
- Focus on maintaining existing infrastructure – wastewater infrastructure, highways and bridges – rather than expanding to serve new areas;
- Strategically invest in new infrastructure capacity that supports land use patterns;
- Expand alignment of wastewater, transit and other infrastructure investments with local land use.

Prosperity:

- Foster the conditions for shared economic vitality by balancing major investments across the region;
- Deliver cost-effective wastewater treatment and efficient transportation that reduces costs of doing business here;
- Provide amenities and great places that attract and retain businesses and workers;
- Reduce the cost differential between redevelopment and greenfield development sites;
- Inventory industrial land across the region to preserve the best sites for jobs;
- Partner to develop a shared economic competitiveness strategy.

Equity:

- Invest in the creation and preservation of racially-integrated, mixed-income neighborhoods across the region;
- Use transportation investments to improve access to opportunity;
- Preserve a mix of housing affordability along the region's transitways and create new affordable housing close to jobs and education;
- Convene leaders to develop shared investment strategies in racially-concentrated areas of poverty.

Livability:

- Provide transportation choices that reduce the financial and time cost of transportation;
- Preserve natural resources and support outdoor recreational opportunities through the regional park and trail system;
- Communicate the regional bicycle network to promote bicycling for transportation and recreation;
- Align resources to support transit-oriented development that creates great places.

Sustainability:

- Promote the wise use of water through expanding water conservation and reuse, increasing aquifer recharge; and rebalancing surface water and groundwater use;
- Continue sustainability practices in the Council's wastewater and transit operations;
- Offer leadership, information and technical assistance to local governments to support climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

Integration:

- Align and leverage all of the Council's divisions, roles and authorities to address regional issues;
- Coordinate Council activities with partners and stakeholders across and throughout the region.

Collaboration:

- Convene conversations to address key regional issues;
- Provide expanded information and technical assistance to support local planning and decisionmaking.

Accountability:

- Monitor performance against key regional indicators;
- Adjust and revise policies as necessary.