

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: August 4, 2014

Subject: Economic Competitiveness Work Program

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Information only

Staff Prepared/Presented: Mark VanderSchaaf; Janna King

Division/Department: Community Development Division

Thrive MSP 2040 has identified economic competitiveness as an important new emphasis for our region, and one in which the Council should play a role. Concurrently, GREATER MSP has articulated a regional economic development strategy, identified a need to "localize" the regional strategy, and acknowledged an appropriate lead role for the Metropolitan Council to play in localizing that strategy for the seven-county Metropolitan Area.

During the second quarter of 2014, Council staff has met with planning and economic development staff from the region's seven counties, from the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and from Metro Cities to explore their interest in drawing on Council research and technical assistance resources to advance both local and regional economic competitiveness. Initial county and city responses have been positive, leading to a series of planned workshops that will begin in late June to explore more fully what resources could be most useful.

Also, GREATER MSP has convened a task force in June, chaired by Council Member Jon Commers, to consider more broadly what is needed to craft a robust collaboration to translate the region's economic development strategy to the local level. The results of this task force will inform the workshops that Council staff will conduct.