

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 21, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of N/A

Subject: Regional Housing Policy Plan Update

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes 473.859

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tara Beard, Housing Planning Analyst, Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1051) and Jonathan Stanley, Housing Planning Analyst, Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1555)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning and Research

Proposed Action

No Action – Information Item.

Background

In support of *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Metropolitan Council has embarked on its first Housing Policy Plan since 1985. This new Housing Policy Plan will:

- Set the Council's housing policy direction;
- Identify regional needs and priorities;
- Connect housing to the other Council system and policy plans (e.g. Transportation, Water Resources, and Regional Parks);
- Incorporate recommendations from the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA); and,
- Inform and provide guidance for local housing planning.

The Metropolitan Council formed the new Housing Policy Plan Work Group in July 2013 to advise the Council on a Housing Policy Plan that identifies key housing issues, policies, and implementation options. This diverse 28-member work group brings together people from throughout the region, including local government officials, housing advocates, developers, communities of color, and other stakeholders.

The work group held its first meeting on July 16 and anticipates meeting monthly through its completion in summer 2014. To date, the work group meetings have included:

- An introduction to the Metropolitan Council including its history, planning responsibilities, current housing policy, and operations.
- An overview of Thrive MSP 2040.
- An open forum where each member shared housing perspectives, policy topics, and questions to begin framing the policy plan and identifying housing topics to be addressed throughout this planning process.
- An initial review of regional housing and demographic data.
- An introduction to the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA), the draft data section, and upcoming activities. The most recent FHEA draft was the topic of discussion at this morning's work group.
- Small group discussions to begin identifying outcomes and goals for the Housing Policy Plan; considerations for reviewing the housing performance score; and considerations for reviewing the allocation of regional affordable housing need.
- A presentation on "naturally-occurring" affordable housing, including opportunities and challenges to its preservation, with a group discussion afterward.

- A presentation, panel and discussion about the challenges and complexities of developing affordable housing.

As mentioned above, two subgroups have been formed to consider specific Council processes in order to help identify outcomes and goals for the Housing Policy Plan. One group is working on reviewing the Housing Performance Scores, which measure each community's strategies to create, support and/or encourage the creation of affordable and life-cycle housing. A community's score is one of the tools used by the Council to help evaluate and prioritize the allocation of specific Council resources, including Livable Communities Act funding programs and the Regional Solicitation for transportation funding. The Housing Performance Score subgroup will be meeting the second Thursday of the month from noon to 2pm, beginning in February 2014, and consists of the following HPPWG members:

- John Đoàn, Hennepin County
- Cecile Bedor/Al Carlson, City of St. Paul
- Tim Thompson, Housing Preservation Project
- Darielle Dannen, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
- Bryan Schafer, City of Blaine
- Cathy Bennett, Urban Land Institute
- Mayor Debbie Goettel, City of Richfield
- Charlie VanderAarde, Metro Cities
- Nelima Sitati-Munene, Organizing Apprenticeship Project

The second subgroup will review the Allocation of Regional Affordable Housing Need. The allocation, which is required to give communities the information they need to fulfill required sections of their comprehensive plans, includes demographic forecasts and each community's share of the regional need for low and moderate income housing, both provided by the Council. The Allocation of Regional Affordable Housing Need subgroup will identify considerations for reviewing the current process that will help identify outcomes and goals for the Housing Policy Plan. This subgroup will meet on the second Monday of the month from 2-4pm beginning in February, and consist of the following HPPWG members:

- Patricia Nauman, MetroCities
- Tim Thompson, Housing Preservation Project
- Margaret Kaplan, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Karl Batalden, City of Woodbury
- Owen Duckworth, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Mayor Mike Maguire, City of Eagan
- Barbara Dacy, Washington County HRA
- Jacqueline King, Federal Reserve Bank
- Rick Packer, Builders Association of the Twin Cities / Mattamy Homes
- Jamie Verbrugge, City of Brooklyn Park

Rationale

This informational update provides an overview of the housing policy planning process and timeline.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

None