

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: July 21, 2014

**Subject:** Local Planning Handbook Update

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statutes Section 473.191

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Angela R. Torres, AICP, Senior Planner (651) 602-1566;  
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**Division/Department:** Community Development, Local Planning Assistance

### Proposed Action

Information item only. No action required.

### Background

Statutes direct the Council to provide planning assistance to communities to accomplish the purposes of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. Now that the Council has adopted Thrive MSP 2040, and work on the regional policy plans are well underway, the Council must focus on how to assist communities in implementing the regional vision locally.

The Council has several roles in the local comprehensive planning process.

- 1) We set policies through Thrive and the regional system policy plans.
- 2) We review local plans to ensure conformance, consistency, and compatibility with regional plans and policies.
- 3) We provide technical assistance with local plan development.

Although the Council provides technical assistance in many ways, all the time, (i.e. Sector Representatives), the Council focuses technical assistance efforts when communities update their local comprehensive plans by developing the Local Planning Handbook. The Handbook is a guide that walks local planners through minimum requirements for the local comprehensive plans and serves as a consistent planning resource as communities work to update their local comprehensive plans.

The Handbook is currently being updated to provide an online platform, create an online submittal process, customize online mapping tools, provide individualized community pages, compile a resource library, and create customized requirements lists for each jurisdiction. The focus is on creating a more personalized, specific set of tools for communities. The goal is to provide assistance in such a way that communities can move beyond minimum planning requirements to the value-added planning that helps implement their local vision.