

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: July 17, 2017

Subject: Overview of 2016 Population Estimates

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: *Minnesota Statutes 473.24*

Staff Prepared/Presented: Matt Schroeder (651-602-1513)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Background

Under *Minnesota Statutes 473.24*, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the seven-county Twin Cities area. These estimates are the official population and household estimates for state government purposes and are used to determine local government aid and local street aid allocations. By July 15 of each year, the Metropolitan Council certifies the estimates of population, households, and average household size to the State Demographer and to the Commissioner of Revenue.

According to statute, the Council must distribute preliminary estimates to cities by the end of May; this year, the Council mailed out its preliminary estimates on May 16. Local governments had until June 24 to submit written comments, questions or objections to the preliminary estimates.

Following state law, the Council certified [the final 2016 population estimates](#) on July 14; staff transmitted the estimates to the State Demographic Center, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Transportation.

Rationale

Under *Minnesota Statutes 473.24*, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the Twin Cities seven-county area.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Population estimates assist planners across the region in evaluating the need for future investments in transportation, wastewater infrastructure, and housing, aiding progress toward all five Thrive outcomes.

Funding

Developing the annual population estimates is a regular part of the Community Development Division budget.

Known Support / Opposition

During the statutory comment period, 13 communities communicated with the Council about the preliminary estimates. Seven communities concurred with the preliminary estimate or indicated no formal comments; the other six communities corrected the Council's estimate of the city's housing stock or requested revisions to the occupancy rate to reflect more accurately the housing market recovery. Council staff revised the preliminary estimates for these six communities, increasing the estimated regional totals by 103 households and 331 people.