

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 19, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 27, 2019

**Subject:** Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 21913-1

**District(s), Member(s):** District 12, Harry Melander

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Metropolitan Land Planning Act (Minn. Stat. § 473.175)

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Corrin Wendell, AICP, Sector Representative (651-602-1832); Angela R. Torres, Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1566)

**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Planning

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize Washington County to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. Advise the County to:
  - a. Adopt the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area component of their 2040 Comprehensive Plan within 60 days after receiving final approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and submit a copy of the final adopted plan and evidence of adoption to the DNR, Council, and National Park Service within ten days after the adoption.
3. Advise the County to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Forecasts and Transportation.

## *Advisory Comments*

The following Advisory Comments are part of the Council action authorizing Washington County to implement its 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan).

### **Community Development Committee**

1. As stated in the *Local Planning Handbook*, the County must take the following steps:
  - a. Adopt the Plan in final form after considering the Council's review recommendations as contained in the body of this report.
  - b. Submit one hard copy and one electronic copy of the Plan to the Council. The electronic copy must be submitted as one unified file.
  - c. Submit to the Council a copy of the County Board resolution evidencing final adoption of the Plan.
2. The *Local Planning Handbook* also states that local governments must formally adopt their comprehensive plans within nine months after the Council's final action. If the Council has recommended changes to the Plan, local governments should incorporate those recommended changes into the Plan or respond to the Council before "final adoption" of the comprehensive plan by the governing body of the local governmental unit. (Minn. Stat. § 473.858, subd. 3)
3. Local governments must adopt official controls as identified in their 2040 comprehensive plans and must submit copies of the official controls to the Council within 30 days after the official controls are adopted. (Minn. Stat. § 473.865, subd. 1)
4. Local governmental units cannot adopt any official controls or fiscal devices that conflict with their comprehensive plans or which permit activities in conflict with the Council's metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stat. §§ 473.864, subd. 2; 473.865, subd. 2). If official controls conflict with comprehensive plans, the official controls must be amended within 9 months following amendments to comprehensive plans (Minn. Stat. § 473.865, subd. 3).

## Background

Washington County encompasses 423 square miles of land and water surface and is located on the east side of the metro area with six townships within its borders. The townships assume general land use and zoning responsibilities for their respective jurisdictions except in those instances where the township and County have determined that the County will continue to have some official controls, such as in shoreland areas and for extractive uses. The St. Croix River serves as the boundary along the eastern border while the Mississippi River forms the southern and southwestern border. *Thrive MSP 2040* identifies the County as six different community designations including: Urban, Suburban, Suburban Edge, Emerging Suburban Edge, Diversified Rural, and Rural Residential (see Figure 2).

The County submitted its 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan) to the Council for review to meet the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requirements (Minn. Stat. §§ 473.851 to 473.871) and the Council’s 2015 System Statement requirements.

## Review Authority & Rationale

Minn. Stat. § 473.175 directs the Metropolitan Council to review a local government’s comprehensive plan and provide a written statement to the local government regarding the Plan’s:

- **Conformance** with metropolitan system plans
- **Consistency** with the adopted plans and policies of the Council
- **Compatibility** with the plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts

By resolution, the Council may require a local government to modify its comprehensive plan if the Council determines that “the plan is more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans” (Minn. Stat. § 473.175, subd. 1).

The attached Review Record details the Council’s assessment of the Plan’s conformance, consistency, and compatibility, and is summarized below.

Review Standard	Review Area	Plan Status
Conformance	<i>2040 Water Resources Policy Plan</i> (Wastewater Services and Surface Water Management)	Conforms
Conformance	<i>2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan</i>	Conforms
Conformance	<i>2040 Transportation Policy Plan</i> , including Aviation	Conforms
Consistency with Council Policy	<i>Thrive MSP 2040</i> and Land Use	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Forecasts	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	<i>2040 Housing Policy Plan</i>	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Water Supply	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Community and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)	Consistent
Compatibility	Compatible with the plans of adjacent and affected governmental districts	Compatible

## Thrive Lens Analysis

The proposed 2040 Plan is reviewed against the land use policies in *Thrive MSP 2040*. To achieve the outcomes identified in Thrive, the metropolitan development guide defines the Land Use Policy for the

region and includes strategies for local governments and the Council to implement. These policies and strategies are interrelated and, taken together, serve to achieve the outcomes identified in Thrive.

### **Funding**

None.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known local opposition to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

# REVIEW RECORD

## Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan

### Review File No. 21913-1, Business Item No. 2019-45

The following Review Record documents how the proposed Plan meets the requirements of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and conforms to regional system plans, is consistent with regional policies, and is compatible with the plans of adjacent and affected jurisdictions.

### Conformance with Regional Systems

The Council reviews plans to determine conformance with metropolitan system plans. Council staff have reviewed the County's 2040 Plan and finds that it conforms to the Council's regional system plans for Regional Parks, Transportation (including Aviation), and Water Resources.

#### *Regional Parks and Trails*

*Reviewer: Corrin Wendell, AICP, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1832)*

The Plan conforms to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP)* for the Regional Parks System element. The Regional Parks System components as identified in the RPPP. Washington County is the Park implementing agency for the regional parks system for which the Plan accurately describes the regional parks systems components, as listed below.

#### Regional Parks, Park Reserves, and Special Recreation Features

- Big Marine Park Reserve
- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park
- Grey Cloud Island Regional Park
- Lake Elmo Park Reserve
- Pine Point Regional Park
- Square Lake Special Recreation Feature
- St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park

#### Regional Trails

- Afton Bluffs Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Central Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Glacial Hills Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- Lake Links Regional Trail
- Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Point Douglas Regional Trail
- Prairie View Regional Trail Search Corridor
- St. Croix Valley Regional Trail

The County also adequately plans for (Figure 1) State lands within the communities of the County.

## ***Regional Transportation, Transit, and Aviation***

*Reviewers: Russ Owen, Metropolitan Transportation Services – Systems Planning (651-602-1724); Heidi Schallberg, Metropolitan Transportation Services – Systems Planning (651-602-1721)*

The Plan conforms to the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)* adopted in 2015. It accurately reflects transportation system components of the TPP as well as applicable land use policies for regional transitways. The Plan is also consistent with Council policies regarding community roles, the needs of non-automobile transportation, access to job concentrations, and the needs of freight. It accurately incorporates and integrates transportation system components of the TPP as well as applicable land use policies for regional transitways.

### **Roadways**

The Plan conforms to the Roadways system element of the TPP. The County's Plan accurately accounts for the metropolitan highway system of principal arterials.

The Plan identifies proposed new or improved interchanges at Trunk Highway (TH) 36 and TH 120, that has been reviewed and approved by the MnDOT/Metropolitan Council joint interchange committee but has not yet been funded and therefore is not identified in the Current Revenue Scenario of the TPP. However, the county's Plan does acknowledge funding and approvals that have not occurred.

The Plan also identifies new interchanges at I-35E and County Road 4 and TH 36 and County State Aid Highway 17 that are proposed by the community but have not yet been reviewed by the MnDOT/Metropolitan Council joint interchange committee. However, the Plan acknowledges that this interchange must be submitted for approval under the Highway Interchange Request Review Procedure before it is added to the TPP or constructed.

The County's Plan accurately reflects the regional functional classification map of A-minor arterials and has delineated major and minor collectors.

The Plan identifies all the required characteristics of the community's roadways, including existing and future functional class, right-of-way preservation needs, and existing and forecasted traffic volumes for principal and A-minor arterials. Forecasting was done consistent with regional methodology. The Plan also includes guidelines on how access will be managed for principal and A-minor arterials.

### **Advisory Comments**

The following discrepancies exist between the County's functional classification map and the Council's:

- The East/West stretch of Grey Cloud Trail South on Lower Grey Cloud Island is identified as a collector on the Council's map and needs to be reflected within the Plan.
- Lamar Ave S. in Cottage Grove, just N of 70<sup>th</sup> St. Small stretch of minor collector labeled as major collector.

Figure 30 shows funded/unfunded and approved/non-approved all with the same symbology as part of the "2040 Future Highway System Summary". The Council suggests distinguishing those that are funded and approved vs. those that are not.

### **Transit**

The Plan The Plan conforms to the Transit system element of the TPP. It shows the location of existing transit routes and facilities and acknowledges that parts the County are within Transit Market Areas III, IV, and V, along with two freestanding town centers.

The Plan incorporates one future transitway that is part of the Current Revenue Scenario in the TPP; the METRO Gold Line. The Plan incorporates guiding land use for station areas that meet the minimum density targets of the TPP. (See Land Use section of this Review Record for land use and density analysis.)

The Plan also incorporates transitways that are part of the Increased Revenue Scenario in the TPP. The Plan's maps and narrative acknowledge the uncertainty of these transitways. These include the Red Rock Corridor, the Rush Line, and the Trunk Highway 36 Corridor.

The Plan is consistent with the policies of the Transit system element of the TPP. The Plan addresses community roles related to its Community Designations, as well as the opportunities and challenges related to its Transit Market Areas.

### Advisory Comments

The Red Rock Corridor is shown on a list of "Transitway Expansion in CTIB Phase I Program of Projects." Because the charge is to be consistent with the 2015-created Transportation Policy Program, this is compliant. However, given that CTIB is defunct, we suggest removal of the reference to CTIB and inclusion of the Red Rock Corridor with the Increased Revenue Scenario projects.

Page 5-33, under *Express Service* – "Each of the commuter corridor is a candidate for fixed-guideway transit..." This statement may need to be clarified. If we are supposed to assume fixed-guideway is referring to a dedicated guideway like the METRO Gold Line, then this is incorrect.

Page 5-33, under *Local Service* – Route 219 also serves the City of Oakdale, in addition to the City of Landfall within Washington County.

Page 5-34, under *Transit Link* – The description of transit link service needs further clarification. Transit Link is the Twin Cities' *shared* dial-a-ride service for the general public and is available where regular *fixed-route service is more than a ½ mile away (1/4 mile in winter)*.

Page 5-37, under *Park-and-Pool Facilities* – Metro Transit does not own or operate park-and-pool facilities in Washington County; MnDOT does.

Page 5-65, under *Park-and-Ride Facilities* – the I—94 & Manning Ave Park & Ride is now scheduled to open by the end of 2019 and may attract existing riders from the Guardian Angels Park & Ride and the Woodbury Theatre Park & Ride.

There are times in the transit section when transit service could be inferred as being operated by the county: "Washington County transit service delivery" on page 5-30.

### **Aviation**

The Plan conforms to Aviation system element of the TPP. The Plan includes policies that protect regional airspace from obstructions, and addresses seaplane use.

The Plan identifies the Lake Elmo and Daniel DePonti Airports and addresses elements of the Lake Elmo Airport's long-term comprehensive plan. The Plan addresses issues including land use compatibility, noise sensitivity, and the protection of airspace from obstructions. The Plan addresses future roles of both airports. Responsibility for zoning will fall to the local communities. The Lake Elmo Airport will convene a Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB).

## **Bicycling and Walking**

The Plan is consistent with the Bicycling and Pedestrian chapter of the TPP. The Plan identifies existing and future segments of and connections to the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) and regional trails.

The Plan is also consistent with Bicycle and Pedestrian policies of the TPP by planning for local pedestrian and bicycle connections to transit, regional trails, regional job concentrations, and other regional destinations as identified on the RBTN map.

### Advisory Comment

Recommend defining difference between RBTN corridors and alignments “planned” vs. “to be planned.”

## **Freight**

The Plan is consistent with Freight policies of the TPP. The Plan identifies the needs of freight movement in and through the community, including accessibility to freight terminals and facilities. These specific needs include truck access. (See also the Land Use section of this Review Record.)

## **Transportation Analysis Zones**

The Plan conforms to the TPP regarding TAZ allocations. The City’s TAZ allocations for employment, households and population appropriately sum to the Metropolitan Council’s citywide forecast totals for all forecast years.

## *Water Resources*

### **Wastewater Service**

*Reviewer: Kyle Colvin, Manager, Environmental Services - Engineering Services (651-602-1151)*

The Plan conforms to the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP)*. The Plan includes a Wastewater Plan Element that describes its requirements and authority over local Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS). Washington County does not have any jurisdictional control over centralized wastewater collection or treatment issues; therefore, the County is not required to submit a Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

### **Surface Water Management**

*Reviewer: Judy Sventek, Environmental Services – Water Resources (651-602-1156)*

The Plan is consistent with Council policy requirements and in conformance with the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP)* for local surface water management. The Plan effectively integrates activities, strategies, and goals and policies related to the protection of water resources within the County. While the County is not mandated to prepare a local surface water management plan, the County does have a significant role in water management within the County. A few examples of their roles include enforcement over activities in the floodplain and shoreland, their partnership with others to protect wetlands and serve as technical advisors for wetland issues, monitoring the water quality of lakes and streams within the County, and their role in overseeing and coordinating watershed management within the County.

## **Consistency with Council Policies**

The Council reviews plans to evaluate their apparent consistency with the adopted plans of the Council. Council staff have reviewed the County’s Plan and find that it is consistent with the Council’s policies, as detailed below.



## Forecasts

Reviewer: Todd Graham, Community Development – Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1322)

The Plan’s forecast related material is complete and consistent with Council policy.

Table 1. Metropolitan Council Forecasts for Landfall

	Census	Estimated	Council Forecasts		
	2010	2017	2020	2030	2040
<b>Population</b>	238,136	256,905	269,270	304,710	335,790
<b>Households</b>	87,859	94,995	102,490	118,520	132,400
<b>Employment</b>	71,897	84,736	88,860	96,540	103,490

### Advisory Comments

The Plan includes county total forecasts in Chapter 2 (Table 1, as well as Figures 3, 6, 10). Forecasts for Washington County have changed in 2018, due to local forecast changes and Plan Updates in Landfall, Oakdale, and Stillwater Township.

The demographic forecast by age group in Chapter 2 (Figure 7 and Table 3) differs substantially from the Council’s demographic forecast. This is repeated in Appendix B. We expect a larger total population in Washington County than what the Plan describes; and also a significantly larger share of the population who are middle-aged (45-64). We recommend using the Council’s forecast in order to avoid confusing or misleading readers of the Plan. The Council’s forecasts are the official population and households forecasts used in planning, per state law.

Also, the descriptions on page 2.4 are inaccurate: “quadrant” or “ring” concepts are not a part of the Council’s forecast methodology. Instead, the Council’s forecasts are a predictive modeling of growth probabilities and capacity. The Council is forecasting where growth is most likely to occur, considering starting point situation, geography and accessibility to destinations, urban services provision, land supply and capacity (accounting for local plans), and other local conditions.

Some cities may request forecast adjustments with submission of Plan; this will affect the forecasts found in Chapter 2 and Appendices B through E. County staff are welcome to call the Council staff to discuss.

An allocation of forecasts to Transport Analysis Zones (TAZs) is found in Transportation Appendix J. Please note that the Council will update its own TAZ files using the allocations provided by cities and townships in 2019. The County is advised to follow suit. In some zones, the population, households or employment allocations will be significantly different.

## *Thrive MSP 2040 and Land Use*

Reviewer: Corrin Wendell, AICP, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1832)

The Plan is consistent with *Thrive MSP 2040* (Thrive) and its land use policies. Thrive designates the County as six different community designations including: Urban, Suburban, Suburban Edge, Emerging Suburban Edge, Diversified Rural, and Rural Residential (see Figure 2). Thrive directs communities to accommodate forecasted growth at varying levels of overall residential densities for development and redevelopment. As discussed further below, the County’s land use authority is now limited in nature. The County ensures the protection of natural, cultural, and water resources along the shoreland, stream, and riverway areas of Washington County. Additionally, the County seeks the continuation of the extraction of valuable mineral resources while protecting the County’s adjacent land uses and natural, cultural, and water resources. Local land use plans help promote Washington County

principles; to preserve the existing natural resources, retain existing character, and provide a high quality of life.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Plan Update, Washington County's land use jurisdiction has changed, shifting that authority to the Townships. Together, the County and the townships determined that many planning issues are local in nature and that the townships should have the ability to regulate land use. Baytown Township has their 2040 comprehensive plan adopted, in conformance with regional system plans (Review File No. 21746-1, Business Item 2018-31). All other townships in the County currently have adopted 2030 comprehensive plans that are in conformance with the regional systems, and all have local zoning codes in place. Further, the Township and County have determined that the County will continue to have the following official controls with the townships: Subdivision, St. Croix River Bluffland and Shoreland Management, Official Map, Shoreland Management, Mining, Floodplain, and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS).

All local governments in the Mississippi River corridor are required to have a plan that meets the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) requirements. Grey Cloud Island and Denmark Townships are within the MRCCA and are classified as a rural and open space, river neighborhood, and separated from river districts. Washington County has land use authority in the shoreline management districts; however, Grey Cloud Island Township and Denmark Township create and administer zoning and land use plans. The County ensures education, outreach, and coordination with local jurisdictions in regard to MRCCA.

The 2040 Plan is consistent with Thrive land use policies for natural resources protection, water sustainability, and resilience.

## *Housing*

*Reviewer: Hilary Lovelace, AICP, Community Development – Regional Policy and Research (651-602--1555)*

The Plan is consistent with the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*. The County currently has more than 96,000 housing units and boasts a homeownership rate of 80.5%. Roughly 82% of the County's housing units are single family, and the Plan notes that the County has relatively high rents that are unaffordable to many renter households. While more than 53% of housing in Washington County is affordable to households earning 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or less, 18% of its households are housing-cost-burdened.

The County states that it will continue to work with private non-profit and for-profit developers to maximize the financial resources available to increase annual production of affordable rental units, which will increase housing choices in the County. Council staff encourage the County to be thoughtful about where in the County it deploys its resources to ensure a range of housing choices throughout its geography.

The Plan identifies other specific housing priorities for the County, including new construction of senior housing affordable to those with incomes at or below 30% Area Median Income, home improvement assistance for low-income homeowners at or below 80% Area Median Income, homeownership and homebuying support for underserved populations, and assistance for vulnerable and homeless populations.

The County does not have land use authority, so it does not guide housing development. The County does support efforts to address the allocation of affordable housing need by continuing the housing programs it currently runs and by considering the issuance of housing bonds.

## **Water Supply**

*Reviewer: Lanya Ross, Environmental Services – Water Supply Planning (651-602-1803)*

The Plan is consistent with *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* policies for local water supply management. The Plan effectively integrates activities, strategies, and goals and policies related to sustainable water supplies within the County. While the County is not responsible for local water supply plans, the County does have a significant role in water supply management within the County. Some examples of their roles include implementation of the Groundwater Plan, supporting local water suppliers to develop water conservation/efficiency programs, promoting testing of private wells, supporting periodic update of the County's geologic atlas, raising awareness of well vulnerability to changing climate and weather patterns, and promoting best management practices to reduce groundwater pollution related to water supply, including the policy on sustainable water supplies, the policy on assessing and protecting regional water resources, and the policy on water conservation and reuse.

## **Community and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)**

*Reviewer: Jim Larsen, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)*

The Plan is consistent with *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* policies for community wastewater treatment and subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). Community wastewater treatment systems and individual SSTS are widely used throughout the County where the Metropolitan Disposal System is unavailable. The County's Ordinance regulates the location, design, installation, use, and maintenance management for both types of systems in all Washington County cities and townships.

Current County records indicate that there are approximately 31 community wastewater treatment systems and 17,000 SSTS currently in operation in the County. The County ensures proper installation, operation, and maintenance of SSTS through its administration of Chapter #206, adopted on June 5, 2018. The ordinance is consistent with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080-7083) and *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* requirements.

The County uses a central database to track maintenance, permitting, and compliance inspections of SSTS. Design, inspection, and maintenance records are linked to parcel records and available to homeowners, compliance inspectors, real estate agents, and County staff for purposes of determining compliance with the County's Ordinance.

## **Special Resource Protection**

### **Solar Access Protection**

*Reviewer: Cameran Bailey, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1212)*

The Plan is complete and consistent with statutory requirements (Minn. Stat. 473.859) and Council policy regarding planning for the protection and development of access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA). Even with limited land use authority, the Plan is complete and consistent for including the four (4) solar planning elements.

### **Aggregate Resource Protection**

*Reviewer: Jim Larsen, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)*

The Plan is consistent with Council policy for aggregate resource protection. The Council's aggregate resources inventory information contained in *Minnesota Geological Survey Information Circular 46*, indicates that there is a significant amount of viable aggregate resources available for mining within the County. The Plan indicates that the County currently regulates nine mining operations in Grey Cloud Island, Denmark, West Lakeland, Baytown, Stillwater, and May Townships. The Plan acknowledges that aggregate resource materials are vital to the economic well-being of the region, and the County is

committed to working with the mining industry to maintain appropriate regulation through its County Mining Ordinance to provide for the orderly, economic, and safe removal and processing of aggregate resources and the reclamation of mined sites in the County.

### **Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA)**

*Reviewer: Jim Larsen, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)*

The Plan includes a Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Plan (MRCCA Plan) element that was reviewed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and found to be substantially consistent with Minnesota Statutes Section 116G and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6106. Council staff also find the MRCCA Plan element to be consistent with *Thrive MSP 2040* land use policies and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6106. The DNR's January 4, 2019, conditional approval letter is attached (Figure 3). Final DNR approval of the MRCCA Plan will be sent to the County after the Council authorizes the County to put the 2040 Plan into effect.

#### Advisory Comments

Within 60 days after receiving final DNR approval, the County must adopt the MRCCA Plan; and submit a copy of the final adopted plan and evidence of adoption to the DNR, Council, and National Park Service within ten days after the adoption.

### **Historic Preservation**

*Reviewer: Corrin Wendell, AICP, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1832)*

The Plan appropriately addresses historic preservation in the community. Washington County is home to some of the state's most successful historic preservation programs and restoration projects. The County relies on the efforts of individuals, communities, and the State Historic Preservation Office to assess cultural resources. Federal, state, tribal, and local partnerships work to protect historic properties. This section calls particular attention to historic and cultural resources within Washington County jurisdiction – locations along County roadways, the protected St. Croix Scenic Riverway, or shoreline districts.

Forty-two properties and four districts within Washington County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, 137 known archaeological sites are protected by the Office of the State Archaeologist and one cemetery is protected through the Minnesota Private Cemetery Act. Washington County owns and operates the Washington County Historic Courthouse, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 as the oldest standing courthouse in Minnesota.

Washington County does not have a formal historic preservation commission or historic preservation ordinance that regulates historic structures, sites, or districts. However, the County strives to preserve and enhance the character of historic villages and rural areas through its land development process in unincorporated areas. Also, the County evaluates the potential impact on historical and archaeological resources of its capital projects and attempts to avoid or mitigate any potential impacts.

### **Plan Implementation**

*Reviewer: Corrin Wendell, AICP, Community Development – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1832)*

The Plan appropriately addresses the implementation elements required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. The Plan includes a description of public programs, a Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and the MRCCA requirements.

## Compatibility with Plans of Adjacent Governmental Units and Plans of Affected Special Districts and School Districts

The Plan is compatible with the plans of adjacent jurisdictions. No compatibility issues with plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts were identified.

### Documents Submitted for Review

In response to the 2015 System Statement, the County submitted the following documents for review:

- April 18, 2018: Washington County 2040 Preliminary Comprehensive Plan for review
- December 5, 2018: Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan for official review
- December 19, 2018: Updated transportation and environment information

### Attachments

Figure 1: Location Map with Regional Systems

Figure 2: *Thrive MSP 2040* Community Designations

Figure 3: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Conditional Approval Letter, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Figure 1. Location Map with Regional Systems

**Regional Systems**

**Transportation**

**Transitways**

- Existing Fixed Guideway Alignments
- - - Existing Bus Rapid Transitways
- - - Planned Fixed Guideway Transitways
- - - Planned Bus Rapid Transitways
- Existing Fixed Guideway & BRT Stations
- Planned Fixed Guideway Stations

**Regional Highway System**

- Interstates
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Roads

**Recreation Open Space**

**Regional Parks**

- Existing (Open to Public)
- In Master Plan (Not Open to Public)
- Planned Units

**Regional Trails**

- Existing (Open to Public)
- - - Existing (Not Open to Public)
- - - Planned

- Other Parks, Preserves, Refuges and Natural Areas
- Existing State Trails

**Wastewater**

- M Meters
- L Lift Stations
- MCES Interceptors
- MCES Treatment Plants
- Airports
- Ncompass Street Centerlines
- 2040 Metropolitan Urban Service Area

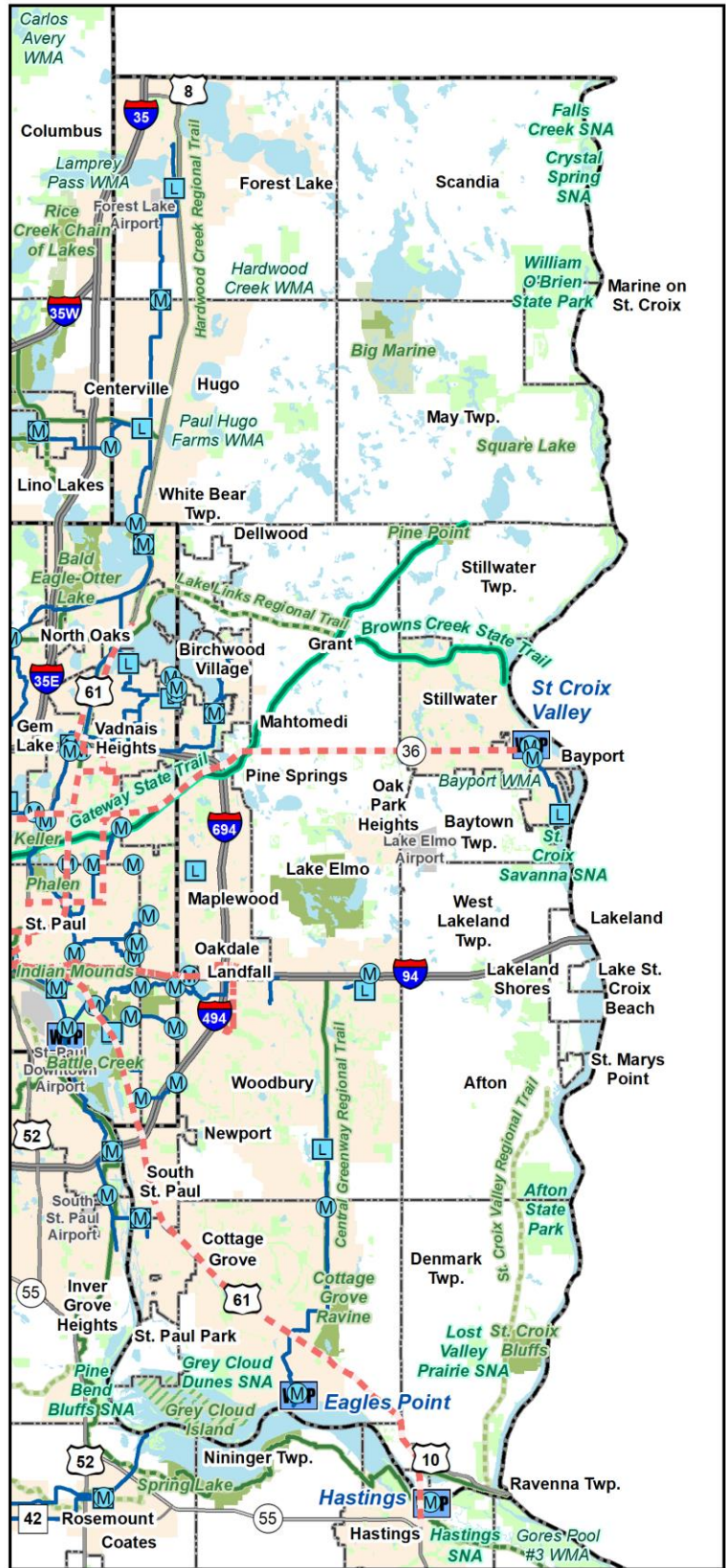


Figure 2. Thrive MSP 2040 Community Designations

**ThriveMSP 2040 Community Designations**

- Agricultural
- Rural Residential
- Diversified Rural
- Rural Center
- Emerging Suburban Edge
- Suburban Edge
- Suburban
- Urban
- Urban Center

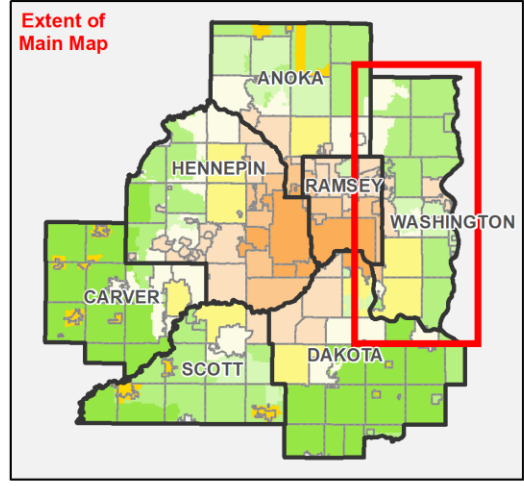
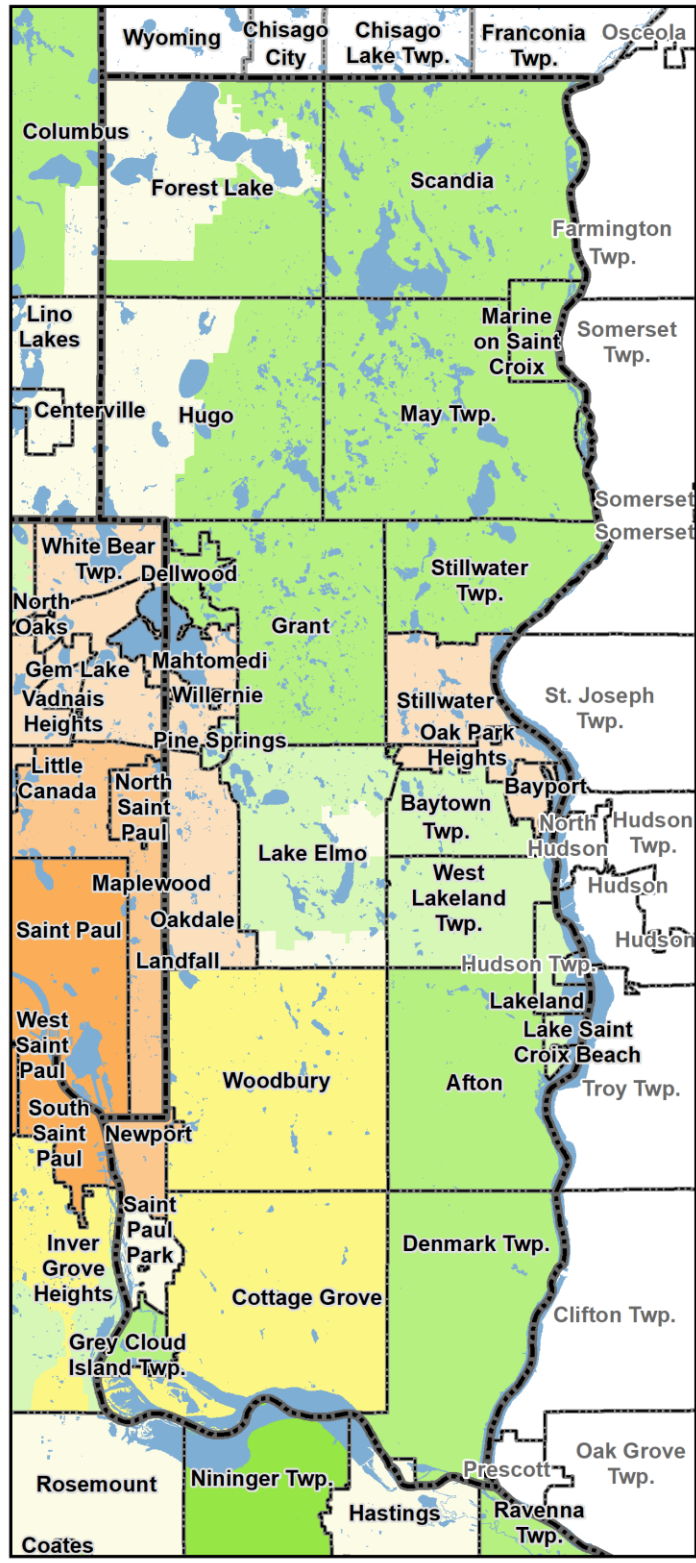


Figure 3. Conditional Approval of Washington County MRCCA Plan



January 4, 2019

Hally Turner  
Washington County  
11660 Myeron Rd North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**Re: Conditional Approval of Washington County MRCCA Plan**

Dear Ms. Turner:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conditionally approves the Washington County Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) plan.

We reviewed the MRCCA Plan chapter of your 2040 Comprehensive Plan submitted to the Metropolitan Council on December 5, 2018. We have found that the MRCCA plan is substantially consistent with Minnesota Statutes, §116G, and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6106. We will send final approval of your MRCCA plan after the Metropolitan Council authorizes Washington County to put the comprehensive plan into effect. Within 60 days of receiving DNR final approval, Washington County must adopt the MRCCA plan. Washington County must then submit a copy of the final adopted plan, with evidence of adoption, to the DNR, the Metropolitan Council, and the National Park Service within ten days of the adoption.

Only MRCCA plans and plan amendments approved by the DNR have the force and effect of law. Once in effect, local governments must implement and enforce the DNR-approved plans.

We appreciate your efforts to develop and adopt the MRCCA plan, which provides a solid basis for future ordinance amendments and MRCCA management. Please contact Dan Petrik at 651-259-5697 or at [daniel.petrik@state.mn.us](mailto:daniel.petrik@state.mn.us) if you have any questions about next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Shillcox'.

Jennifer Shillcox  
Land Use Unit Supervisor

c: Raya Esmaeili, Metropolitan Council  
Rory Stierler, National Park Service  
Jen Sorenson, DNR Region 3 Area Hydrologist  
Dan Petrik, DNR Land Use Unit