

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 4, 2020

Subject: Discussion of 2021-2030 Affordable and Life-cycle Housing Goals for Livable Communities Act Re-enrollment

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Livable Communities Act (Minn. Stat. § 473.25)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tara Beard, Livable Communities Manager (651-602-1051)

Division/Department: Community Development/ Livable Communities

Proposed Action

None. Information and discussion only to provide guidance to staff on next steps.

Background

The Livable Communities Act (LCA) is a voluntary grant program adopted by the legislature in 1995 to promote living-wage jobs, a full range of housing options, and compact and efficient development. To participate in the program local governments must meet the following requirements:

- Adopt affordable and life-cycle housing goals
- Establish a housing action plan that states how those goals will be met
- Spend an affordable and life-cycle housing amount (ALHOA)

The May 4 Committee discussion will address the first requirement: affordable and life-cycle housing goals. Goals are determined on a decennial basis, consistent with our 10-year planning cycle and forecasting methods. Current LCA participating cities have adopted affordable and life-cycle housing goals for the 2011-2020 decade. All communities that wish to re-enroll for the 2021-2030 decade must adopt new goals by November 15, 2020, to be eligible to apply for LCA grants in 2021.

Council staff have held multiple meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders to discuss how 2021 - 2030 goals should be determined, including presentations to the [January 16 Land Use Advisory Committee](#) meeting and the [February 3 Community Development Committee](#) meeting. In April, in partnership with Metro Cities, Council staff distributed a survey seeking additional input from local government staff throughout the region. Based on the input received thus far, there is broad consensus that goals should be determined using a consistent and transparent methodology across all participating communities. Other factors have been discussed revealing a variety of perspectives and considerations.

At the May 4 Committee meeting, staff will:

- Provide a summary of survey responses and the discussions that have occurred thus far
- Recommend a methodology to calculate 2021-2030 affordable housing goals. At the February 3 CDC meeting, Council staff had introduced the following options for consideration:
 - Equating the affordable housing goals with forecasted affordable housing need
 - Equating the affordable housing goals with the share of forecasted affordable housing need we expect available funding to be able to support
- Seek Committee feedback and discussion to inform next steps

The input received at this meeting will inform the remainder of the goals negotiation process with local units of government.