

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: December 20, 2021

Subject: 2021 Work Plan and Housing Strategies Update

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: None

Staff Prepared/Presented: LisaBeth Barajas, Community Development Director, 651-602-1895
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Division/Department: Community Development Division

Proposed Action

No proposed action at this time. This item is for discussion purposes.

Background

In preparation for upcoming work planning discussions for the Community Development Committee, Council staff will report out on the work that the Committee accomplished in 2021, provide a status update on ongoing projects, provide an update on efforts related to the Council's Housing Goal identified in the [Metropolitan Council Strategic Plan](#), and provide an update on this year's Metro HRA activities. Council staff will also seek feedback from the Committee on prioritizing efforts in 2022 to ensure that staff work plans are aligned with Committee expectations.

The Committee's 2021 work plan identified regular business items, such as review of comprehensive plans and plan amendments, as well as a number of initiatives in 2021. As shown in Table 1 below, we had planned for a number of initiatives, some of which we have brought to this committee, some of which we brought to the Committee of the Whole, and others that are still underway. Table 1 at the end of this report summarizes those efforts.

Updated information on the status of the Housing Strategies are detailed in Table 2 at the end of this report. Many items are incorporated as part of the division staff's regular work (labeled "Ongoing"), while several special projects and initiatives were incorporated into the CDC's annual work plan.

In addition to reporting out on the status of planned work and activities for the Committee, Metro HRA staff will provide an end of year update on program activities. There have been a number of new initiatives that the HRA has taken on this year. While we have reported to you at the start of each of these initiatives, staff will provide a consolidated report at the Committee's meeting.

Table 1. 2021 Status of Special Initiatives and Projects

Initiative or Project	Status	Description
Regional Parks Equity Program	Complete	Committee recommended awards on July 6, 2021 (Business Item 2021-161)
Regional Parks Historical Cultural Study	Underway	Project update presented to the Community Development Committee on April 17, 2021, to gather initial feedback for project scoping.
Regional Water Trail Classification exploration	Underway	In discussion with Partner Agencies, to help inform whether classification is needed.
Eligible recreational activities: secondary activities	Underway	Exploration of eligible activities is currently underway, recognizing changing needs of visitors, equitable use, and relevance to the system and community. This work will continue in 2022.
Regional Parks Visitor Study	Underway	Council staff are currently analyzing data and will bring a report to the CDC in early 2022.
Metro Climate Stats	Underway	Launch planned for Q1 2022
Mobility Demonstration Program	Underway	Award from HUD received in Q2. Program planning underway. Updates provided to CDC on July 19, 2021 and November 15, 2021.
Moving to Work authority	Not started	Application submitted to HUD. Discussions with HUD continue on potential implementation of this authority.
System Statement Issuance	Underway	Issuance delayed until Q1 2022 to incorporate recent amendments to the Transportation Policy Plan.
Comprehensive Plan Process Evaluation	Underway	Reporting at CDC planned for Q1 2022.
Residential preferences of HCV program participants	Underway	Working with Procurement and stakeholders to identify appropriate partner to complete this work.
DNR/Greater MN partnership study on parks visitation	Underway	Ongoing. Initial findings of parks visitation compiled in interactive tool. Updates at Committee planned for 2022.
Solar for Vouchers Program pilot	Complete	Program update at December 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole
2020 Land Use Inventory	Complete	Reported at the Committee of the Whole on August 4, 2021
CDC-related components of regional long-range planning	Complete	Comp Plan Composite, Census, Development Trends, Land Use Inventory, and other items presented at Council. Annual reporting presented at the CDC throughout the year as a part of regular business.

CDC-related components of economic value atlas	Underway	This work has been folded into regional planning scenarios work. Future discussions planned for the Council starting in Q1 2022
CDC-related components of the agency-wide climate action plan	Underway	Update provided at April 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Climate Work Group established on September 22, 2021 (Business Item 2021-246)
CDC-related components of the use of Council-owned land for affordable housing	Delayed / Paused	(See update on Housing Strategy Spreadsheet)
Exploration of Section 8 Homeownership Program	Not Started	(See update on Housing Strategy Spreadsheet)
Family Affordable Housing Program - acquisition/disposition policy development	Underway	(See update on Housing Strategy Spreadsheet)
Comprehensive Plan Implementation Program	Underway	Technical assistance resources were developed and distributed throughout 2021. Additional work is planned through 2022, including a housing discussion panel in January.
Development of Regional Parks demographic analysis tool	Complete	Tool for implementing agencies to analyze demographics around parks and trails launched in early 2021 for ongoing use with parks implementing agencies.
Community Profiles - scoping for the update	Underway	Redesign community profiles. Dependent on Tableau. Tableau procured, planned for 2022.
Regional demographic and employment forecast update	Complete	Reported to Committee of the Whole on July 28, 2021
Expanding the Visualizing Regional Inequities dashboard	Underway	Launch in Q2 of 2022 after ACS data release (release has been delayed by Census Bureau)
Composite and Trends in 2040 Comprehensive Plans*	Underway	Several reports provided at Committee of the Whole and the Land Use Advisory Committee throughout 2022. Additional reporting on aging, housing, and local vision/priorities planned through March.
Annual population and household estimates / Comparison to Census Data*	Complete	Reported at the Committee of the Whole on October 6, 2021
Regional Parks use estimates & impacts due to covid*	Underway	Ongoing. Streetlight analyses have been conducted. Working on 2021 use estimate. Release planned for mid-2022.

Table 2. 2021 Status of Housing Strategies

Objective	Strategy	Status
Regional Planning	Explore a housing choice indicator tool to provide more specific recommendations about housing needs in specific communities in the region.	Not started
Regional Planning	Build regional capacity and technical assistance to support the expansion of housing opportunities for people with disabilities.	Underway
Regional Planning	Share expanded housing technical assistance (such as toolkits, model ordinances, etc.) and participate or convene workshops to share housing strategies, tools, and resources to support local governments.	Ongoing
Regional Planning	Participate in, or convene when necessary, helpful workshops or tables to share housing strategies, tools, and resources among local governments.	Ongoing
Regional Planning	Maintain and improve data infrastructure to advance knowledge and awareness of the region's housing stock and demographic characteristics.	Ongoing
Regional Planning	Develop in-place strategies in high poverty areas to assist with resident and child success, such as Homework Starts with Home program - a partnership with school districts in high poverty areas, to provide rent assistance and supports for students experiencing homelessness or housing instability.	Underway
Investment & Operations	Review Livable Communities Act (LCA) programs to ensure alignment with the key objectives above.	Complete
Investment & Operations	Explore a first-time home-buyers program through the Housing Choice Voucher program.	Not started
Investment & Operations	Explore the Council's ability to use Council-owned land to support affordable housing development.	Delayed / Paused
Investment & Operations	Create and contribute to a new collaborative fund to support smaller, low-barrier supportive housing options for people experiencing homelessness throughout the region.	Complete
Investment & Operations	Continue to add general fund dollars to the Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) each year, with funding prioritized toward housing affordable to households earning 30% of AMI or less.	Ongoing
Investment & Operations	Incorporate more nuanced analysis into Council actions and technical assistance to best balance the differing priorities of supporting more housing choice in high-income areas and improving livability outcomes in lower-income areas.	Underway
Investment & Operations	Explore additional affordable homeownership strategies that the Council might take on with a focus on wealth-building for households of color.	Underway
Investment & Operations	Explore the use of, or repurpose, other revenue streams to contribute to affordable housing preservation and production.	Underway
Investment & Operations	Conduct a research project to measure residential preferences of Housing Choice Voucher holders in the region.	Underway
Investment & Operations	Apply for new funding opportunities as they come available through federal or other partners to expand the number of households assisted with rent assistance.	Underway