

# Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: May 20, 2024

## Topic

*Imagine 2050* Land Use Policy 60% Draft Review

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Metropolitan Land Planning Act (§473.145)

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Lisa Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development (651-602-1895)  
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**Division/Department:** Community Development/Regional Planning

## Background

The Metropolitan Council is charged in statute with preparing a regional development guide for the metropolitan area. The Community Development Committee (CDC) have been integral contributors to the development of the land use components for *Imagine 2050*, the regional development guide (RDG) for 2050. Starting with values and goals, moving into analysis and assessment, then into reviewing drafts of land use objectives, policies, and actions to implement the regional goals, the Committee has been deeply involved in the work to date in the 60% plan which is shared as an attachment to this memo.

Several members of the Committee also participate in the Regional Development Guide Work Group (RDG WG) initiated in November 2023 and chaired by Council Member Toni Carter. Participants include CDC Chair Robert Lilligren and Council Members Gail Cederberg and Judy Johnson. A draft plan, representing an approximate 60% completion product, is planned for publication in early June for preliminary public feedback prior to the official public comment period which begins in August 2024.

## Summary

The Council endorsed several components of *Imagine 2050* to date, including the following:

Regional Core Values (4)	Regional Goals (5)
<b>Equity</b> We value the people and communities of our region.	<b>Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive</b> Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.
<b>Leadership</b> We value those in our region who inspire and motivate others for positive change.	<b>Our Communities are Healthy and Safe</b> All our region's residents live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, dignity, and wellbeing.

Regional Core Values (4)	Regional Goals (5)
<p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p>We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes.</p>	<p><b>Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient</b></p> <p>Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, accessibility, and affordability.</p>
<p><b>Stewardship</b></p> <p>We value our region's resources.</p>	<p><b>We Lead on Addressing Climate Change</b></p> <p>We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.</p>
	<p><b>We Protect and Restore Natural Systems</b></p> <p>We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for our region.</p>

**Community Designations**

At the direction of the CDC, the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) worked on the analysis and update to Community Designations throughout 2022. The LUAC referred their recommendations to the CDC at their January 18, 2023, meeting. The CDC reviewed and recommended updated Community Designations to the Council on February 6, 2023. The Council endorsed the Community Designations for *Imagine 2050* at the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

**Equity Frameworks**

The Council endorsed a regional Equity Framework at its Committee of the Whole meeting on September 20, 2023, to guide the development of *Imagine 2050* to center equity in both the process of developing the guide and in the policies developed as a part of the guide.

At the April 3, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, the Council endorsed additional concepts within the Equity Chapter of *Imagine 2050*. This consists of several Frameworks to guide the Council's work and include not only the already endorsed regional Equity Framework, but an environmental justice framework, a community-centered engagement framework, an anti-displacement framework as well as the work of the American Indian Advisory Council. The CDC received an additional update on the work of the American Indian Advisory Council at its meeting on May 6, 2024.

**Land Use Objectives Policies and Actions**

Starting in March 2023, the Committee began reviewing the plans, engagement, and analysis for the land use objectives, policies, and actions. These discussions included the land use findings related to scenarios planning efforts as well as discussions on the density and land use approaches. The density policy discussions continue with the Land Use Advisory Committee and the RDG WG through the summer towards development of the 90% draft that will be made available for formal public comment in August. The CDC will review the final drafts of those policies as the RDG WG and the LUAC finalize their recommendations.

The Committee has reviewed draft land use objectives several times, and each policy and action to implement those objectives has been in front of the Committee for feedback as a complement to the robust engagement with community organizations, young leaders, local governments, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders the Committee is aware of as well. Updated land use objectives and policies were shared at the April 17, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Land use objectives provide direction on how the Council plans to manage the growth and development within the region, which are part of its statutory responsibilities. The objectives are:



1. Respect the relationship with land and water as a foundation for regional growth.
2. Maximize opportunities for growth in places well-served by transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.
3. Establish vibrant, inclusive, connected, and safe communities for people to live, work, and recreate in.
4. Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.
5. Ensure that people in all types of communities find housing opportunities that align with their needs.
6. Remedy past and present discriminatory land use practices.
7. Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.
8. Support the economic wellbeing of our region and its communities.

Attached for review and discussion at the Wednesday, May 15, 2024, CDC meeting, is the draft 60% Land Use objectives, policies, and actions for *Imagine 2050*.

