

# Business Item

Community Development Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** August 5, 2024

**For the Metropolitan Council:** August 14, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145, 473.147, & 473.859, subds. 2 and 4.
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance Emmett Mullin, Senior Manager, Regional Parks and Trails Sarah Berke, Senior Manager, Housing and Livable Communities
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Regional Planning

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment.

### Background

These items are part of the Imagine 2050 plan and will be brought forward as part of the consolidated action with the same business item for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the appropriate Council committees and commissions will review and take action on their specific components of Imagine 2050.

The Metropolitan Council is required by Minn. Stat. § 473.145 to create a long-range plan to establish the vision, values, goals, and land use objectives, policies, and actions to guide the growth and development of the Twin Cities metro region. Imagine 2050 includes the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (Minn. Stat. § 473.147) and the Housing Policy Plan, which provides an expanded policy framework related to the housing elements identified in statute (Minn. Stat. 473.859, subds. 2 and 4) as well as direction of the Council's housing-related programs. The draft regional planning document, Imagine 2050, sets cross-cutting goals and expectations that apply to and are supported by policy plans – the Transportation Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Policy Plan, the Housing Policy Plan, and the Water Policy Plan.

The Council initiated the 2050 planning process starting with a review of findings and trends from 2040 local comprehensive plans which had largely been completed. This comprehensive plan composite, along with the Council's work on scenarios planning, new inputs from the 2020 Census, the Regional Parks Visitor Study, regional and local forecasting, and annual analysis and reporting on population and development trends, such as housing and affordable housing production, land use inventory reporting, employment trends, Plat Monitoring Program, Agriculture Preserves Program reporting, and trends in comprehensive plan amendments among others, all serve as a foundation for the long-range planning process.

The Council has been engaging with underrepresented and historically marginalized voices from across the region, with policy makers, and with local government representatives having held more

than 1,000 conversations with all of these groups. The Council has engaged and continued to engage with American Indian leaders through the American Indian Advisory Council. Resident engagement has ranged from formal policy cohorts ([Youth Leaders Collaborative](#) and [Community Leaders Collaboration](#)) to more informal (focus group conversations, workshops, and surveys). Council staff presented an [engagement summary](#) last fall to the full Council. Residents across the region will continue to be engaged through the public comment period and beyond through the [Council's Art + Policy](#) project.

### ***Committees, Technical Advisory Groups, and Work Groups***

In addition to the robust resident engagement, the land use, housing, and parks sections each had formal advisory groups working with Council staff in the identification of issues, analysis, and development of content.

#### *Formal Committees*

- Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee
- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)
- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)
- Equity Advisory Committee

#### *Council Member Work Groups*

- 2050 Regional Development Guide Work Group
- Housing Work Group
- Climate Work Group

#### *Local government representatives, organization, and other stakeholder groups*

- Regional Planning Advisory Group: convened in partnership with Metro Cities with municipal administrators, managers, planning directors, and city planners.
- Community Designations Focus Group
- Land Use Focus Group
- Community Leaders Technical Advisory Group
- Rural and Agricultural Policy Engagement Series: Sessions with local governments, large and small producers, and farmers of color organizations.
- Regional Climate and Natural Systems Work Group: convened in partnership with the Metro Conservation Network with representatives from watersheds, counties, soil and water conservation districts, regional parks implementing agencies, the National Park Service, and conservation organizations.
- Local Government Climate and Natural Systems Technical Advisory Team: municipal staff from across the region.
- Housing Policy Technical Advisory Group: with representatives from municipalities, counties, public housing agencies, private and non-profit development companies, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and Minnesota Housing.
- Regional Park Implementing Agency-Council monthly partner meetings.
- Regional Parks Technical Work Groups:
  - Community Engagement Work Group
  - Mission, Vision, Values Work Group
  - Regional Trails and Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Work Group
  - Sustainable Funding Work Group
  - Recreation Activities and Facilities Work Group
  - Park and Trail Plan Requirements Work Group
  - System Plan Considerations Work Group



### **Public Comment Process**

The Metropolitan Council will release the regional development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Imagine 2050, for public comment. Imagine 2050 includes the following system and policy plans: 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, 2050 Water Policy Plan, 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, 2050 Housing Policy Plan, and regional policy guidance related to land use, climate, and equity.

The public is encouraged to review the plan and provide public comment by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7, through the Met Council online engagement site: [engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org). The Council will accept comments in a variety of formats and avenues. The Council will also hold a public hearing on Imagine 2050 at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Council Chambers.

A draft public notice is included in this report as Attachment A.

### **Draft Imagine 2050 Documents**

Included with this business item and posted separately on the Council's agenda for the Committee's meeting are the following documents that are the subject for release for public comment:

1. Imagine 2050 Regional Vision, Values, & Goals
2. 2050 Land Use Policy
3. 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
4. 2050 Housing Policy Plan

### **Rationale**

After several years of engagement, analysis, and planning, the draft content for Imagine 2050 is ready for public comment ahead of the Council's final adoption scheduled for February 2025.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The Regional Development Guide and the different system and policy plans within it have been developed in the spirit of the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. With each 10-year planning cycle, the resulting regional policy builds on the prior regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes responses to the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes, as well as an updated vision and goals for the region in 2050. It also contains the shared regional goals that guide all of the policy work, including additional detail related to equity, addressing racial disparities, and climate change.

### **Funding**

The planning process and engagement activities have been funded as a regular part of the Community Development annual budget.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.



## Attachment A. DRAFT Public Notice to be Posted after Met Council Release of Imagine 2050

Metropolitan Council

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for Metropolitan Development Guide, Imagine 2050

The Metropolitan Council has released the comprehensive development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Imagine 2050, for public comment. Imagine 2050 includes the following system and policy plans: 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, 2050 Water Policy Plan, 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, 2050 Housing Policy Plan, and regional policy guidance related the land use, climate, and equity.

**The public is encouraged to review the plan and provide public comment, by 5:00 p.m. Monday, October 7, through the Met Council online engagement site: [engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org).**

If you are unable to use the online tool to submit comments, you may use any the following methods:

- Written comments: Metropolitan Council 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, 55101
- Record comments on Council's Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- Send TTY comments to 651-291-0904

Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2024.

The Metropolitan Council has planned a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul.

All interested people are encouraged to attend the public hearings and offer comments. Those attending may register in advance to speak by calling the Met Council at 651- 602-1500.

Individuals who speak languages other than English and individuals with disabilities may request reasonable modifications from the Met Council that they believe will enable them to fully participate in our programs, activities, and services. We are committed to full inclusion of everyone we interact with. If you need a reasonable modification, or to have this information in another language or alternative format, call 651-602-1500 or email [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). We appreciate you providing your requests to us at least one week in advance.

Met Council staff will review public comment and evaluate changes to the proposed policies to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final adoption of the Imagine 2050 plan will be considered by the Metropolitan Council in early 2025.