

# Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: December 2, 2024

## Topic

Imagine 2050 Vision, Values, Goals: Public Comment Summary and Next Steps

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. 473.145
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development (651-602-1895)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development

## Background

On October 7, 2024, the public comment period closed the draft Imagine 2050 Plan, the Met Council's regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes each of the Council's system and policy plans, including land use, regional parks and trails, transportation, housing, and water.

At the December 2, 2024 Community Development Committee meeting, Council staff will share a summary of the public comments that focus on the regional development guide portion of the plan including the Vision, Values, and Regional Goals. Council staff will also discuss next steps.

Comments on this section of the plan were received from local governments and government agencies, residents in the region, and various non-profit and advocacy organizations. Many commenters provided feedback using the online platform made available for the Imagine 2050 public comment period, particularly residents in the region. Organizations and governments typically provided their comments via email, letter, or at the public hearing. In addition, residents provided comments at one of over 20 Art + Policy engagement events. In addition to the more conventional narrative comments, over 200 flags were sewn, 144 mural blocks were painted, and 16 Indigenous youth manifestos were written.

Given the variety of engagement opportunities at multiple scales, comments ranged from broad (e.g. responding to the prompt, "What are your dreams for the region?") to highly specific (e.g. commenting on a specific paragraph or commitment in the plan). Broad comments primarily came from residents and those attending Art + Policy events. Specific comments often came from local governments and advocacy organizations. At the December 2, 2024, Council staff will share themes emerging from the public comment process, provide examples of comments received, and discussed proposed revisions to the plan.

While the focus of the CDC meeting will be on the public comments received, work continues on the specific responses to each of the comments that will be included as a part of the public comment report that will accompany the Council's adoption of Imagine 2050. As an attachment to this business item, Council staff have included a table with the public comments received on the regional development guide portion of Imagine 2050, as well as a working draft of proposed revisions to the Plan.

On January 21, Council staff will return to the Committee with a draft final plan and a public comment report for the Committee's consideration. Imagine 2050 is proposed for adoption by the governing body of the Metropolitan Council on February 12, 2025 (Table 1.)

Table 1: Schedule for finalizing *Imagine 2050* and public comment report

Date/Timing	Milestone
October 7, 2024	Public comment period closes
December 2, 2024	Summary of public comments received on the draft Regional Development Guide and discussion of proposed revisions (information item)
December – January	Prepare final public comment report Finalize proposed revisions to the plan
January 21, 2025	Draft final Regional Development Guide and public comment report (business item)
February 12, 2025	Metropolitan Council adoption of <i>Imagine 2050</i>

The draft plan is the result of numerous discussions with the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole, Community Development Committee, numerous local government work groups and local organizations, as well as extensive outreach to prioritized communities and the public. 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.

In addition, the Council engaged 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 continues 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.

### Attachments

- Imagine 2050 Public Comments
- Imagine 2050 Vision, Values, Goals Proposed Revisions – Working Draft

