

# Information Item

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** December 2, 2024

## Topic

Imagine 2050 Housing Policy: Public Comment Summary

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>District(s), Member(s):</b>   | All   |
| <b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>   | Minn. Stat. § 473.145<br>Minn. Stat. § 473.859, subd. 2   |
| <b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b> | Sarah Berke, Senior Manager, 651-602-1198<br>Olivia Boerschinger, Senior Planner, 651-602-1327<br>Maia Guerrero-Combs, Senior Planner, 651-602-1060<br>Madeline Schwartz, Associate Planner, 651-602-1463 |
| <b>Division/Department:</b>      | Community Development / Livable Communities & Housing   |

## Background

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

At the December 2, 2024, Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting, staff will share a summary of public comments received that focus on the draft Housing Policy Plan and outline next steps toward finalizing the plan for the Committee's consideration and final adoption by the Met Council.

Approximately 180 comments were received related to housing. These comments on the draft policy plan were received from agencies, local governmental units, representatives of nonprofit and advocacy organizations, and the public. Comments were received via an online platform, via email, from the Met Council American Indian Advisory Council, during a public hearing, and at more than 20 Art + Policy engagement events.

In addition to the public comments documented here, staff have presented draft policy plan content and hosted discussions with the following groups in recent months:

- Fair Housing Implementation Council
- Metro Cities Housing & Economic Development Committee
- Regional Council of Mayors
- Regional Planning Advisory Group
- Urban Land Institute Housing Committee

While comments ranged in their support for the plan, many were positive, and most supported the values and goals driving the plan. Policies and actions in the draft plan were informed in advance by proactive and intentional conversations with groups of residents of the region, local governments and other key prospective users of the plan, and partners concerned about and engaged with addressing housing needs. These conversations and engagements began in 2022 and 2023, and continued throughout the public comment period.

In the coming weeks, staff will continue to document responses to public comments and to finalize the proposed draft of the Housing Policy Plan. On January 21, 2025, Council staff will share a draft final policy plan and public comment report for the Committee’s consideration. Imagine 2050 is anticipated to be considered for adoption by the Metropolitan Council on February 12, 2025 (Table 1).

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

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

At the December 2 Committee meeting, staff will provide an overview of comments received on the draft Housing Policy Plan, and highlight redlined changes suggested toward finalizing the policy plan text.

Changes committee members will see in the updated draft include:

- Clarification of language and proofreading updates to text and visuals
- Context that provides background for policies; e.g. discussion of history of disparities in the region; acknowledgement of the systemic challenges for funding deeply affordable and supportive housing development
- Content changes and additions in response to public comment suggestions and feedback; e.g. inclusion of new commitments in response to recommendations from American Indian Advisory Committee; inclusion of water efficiency in addition to energy efficiency considerations

### **Attachments**

- Housing Policy Plan Public Comments
- Imagine 2050 Housing Policy Plan – Working Draft

