



# Imagine 2050 Housing Policy Public Comment Summary and Next Steps

Community Development Committee

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# Who commented?



## Public Comments

- 180+ submitted
- 4 counties (Carver, Ramsey, Scott and Washington)
- 25 cities
  - Represented cities in all 7 counties
  - Represented all Community Designations except Agricultural
- 3 housing organizations
- State (MDH) and Metro Cities
- Residents

## Outreach

- American Indian Advisory Council (AIAC)
- 2050 Housing Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Regional housing groups (FHIC, ULI)
- Local governments

# What did we hear?

## Support

- Regional issues and goals identified
- Alignment with local goals
- Appreciation for engagement, resources and technical assistance
- Increased flexibility for different city and township types
- More collaboration between Met Council divisions

## Needs Clarification

- Requirement of specific tools – cities stress the ability to choose tools that fit their situation
- Density requirements (LGAH)
- Reporting requirements
- Understanding existing housing needs, not just future need
- How will policy be implemented via Met Council incentives

## Concerns

- More funding is needed to meet affordable housing need
- How to reduce barriers to funding
- Can the Met Council have more of a “stick” to promote affordable housing development
- More focus on climate mitigation in housing
- Met Council needs to partner more in regional housing issues

# Proposed changes, categorized

## Clarification

- Clarify language that was causing confusion around reporting requirements and choices that cities will have for implementation
- Clarify how existing housing needs data will be available for cities

## Context

- More nuanced description of disparities
- Description of challenges to affordable housing development and limitations of funding

## Content additions and changes

- Specific changes, e.g. “add water-efficiency considerations”
- American Indian Advisory Council recommended commitments
- Provide/Plan/Partner role adjustments – how the Met Council will provide TA to support implementation



# Section 1: Proximity and Choice



# Objectives 1 & 2

## Clarification

- Partnerships with others in the region
- Opportunities to explore support for improved manufactured home infrastructure
- Providing options and TA to support local needs

## Context

- Racial disparities – more about origins of post-WWII residential patterns and disparities
- Deeply-affordable housing development requires deep funding commitment

## Content

- American Indian Advisory Committee recommendations
- Encouraging all types of rental housing for small and large households



# Section 2: Dignity and Decency



# Objectives 3 & 4

## Clarification

- Interaction between comprehensive plan amendments and updates to local housing policies
- How cities will identify and use tools for encouraging affordable housing development – flexibility available to local governments vs. requirements
- Align language for preservation priority with other funders

## Context

- More background on the role of supportive housing

## Content

- Plans should include data about homelessness and need for shelter in the community, and define how the city will address housing instability – more flexible than requiring “identifying tools”
- American Indian Advisory Committee recommendations



# Section 3: Connection and Wellbeing



# Objectives 5, 6, & 7

## Clarification

- Encourage diverse types of rental development, unit sizes, innovative forms of housing
- More detail about how utility costs are considered within housing cost calculations

## Content

- American Indian Advisory Committee recommendations
- Include water efficiency, along with energy efficiency, as a priority
- Will provide TA and tools for communities to support social and economic capital, support the provision of services to residents



# Section 4: Roles, Responsibilities, and Implementation





# Implementation

## Clarification

- Requirements vs options provided for communities to consider
- How (Allocation of) Future Affordable Housing Need is calculated
- Implementation of Land Guided for Affordable Housing requirements
- Relationship of long-range comprehensive plans to tactical affordable housing tools
- Identification of top three housing needs and relevant tools
- Complete plans do not have to commit to using every available tool to meet their housing needs, but must identify specific actions and consider all reasonable resources

## Context

- Large need for deeply affordable housing means we need more financial tools and ongoing investment from all partners in the region

## Content

- Removed proposed requirement to report percentage of discretionary city budget spent on housing

# Next steps



## Work in progress

- Following up with individual commenters to clarify how their concerns are addressed
  - Example: Most comments concerned about Land Guided for Affordable Housing came from cities already meeting the requirement
- Considering additional updates to plan before finalizing
- More detailed implementation guidance will follow plan adoption:
  - Local Planning Handbook
  - Housing Action Plan guidance & annual Housing Policy and Production Survey



# Discussion

## Close to home

- Do the key themes and comments resonate?
- What are your questions about the proposed changes to the Housing Policy Plan?







Find out more at  
[metro council.org/ imagine2050](https://metro council.org/ imagine2050)

