

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: December 2, 2024

Topic

Imagine 2050 Land Use Policy: Public Comment Summary

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.175
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651) 602-1566
Division/Department:	Community Development/Regional Planning

Proposed Action

This is an Information Item only. No action is proposed at this time.

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, land use, and housing.

At the November 18, 2024, Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting, Council staff will share a summary of the public comments that focus on the Land Use Policy Chapter and outline next steps. While the focus of the November CDC meeting will be on public comments received during this specific period, it is important to remember that the Met Council has been engaging residents, community organizations, young leaders, agency partners, local governments, and Met Council members across the region for several years. The 90% draft plan for public comment is a culmination of those efforts and combined contributions of the people in the region.

Comments on the draft policy plan were received from agencies, local governmental units, and the public. Many commenters provided feedback via an online platform implemented by the Met Council specifically for the Imagine 2050 public comment period. Others provided comments via email/mail, during the public hearing, or at one of over 20 Art + Policy engagement events.

Given the variety of engagement opportunities at multiple scales, comments ranged from very broad (e.g., responding to the prompt, "what are your dreams for the region?") to highly specific (e.g., commenting on a draft action within the policy plan). Broad comments primarily came from the public and those attending Art + Policy engagement events. Specific comments came from local government partners. At the November 18, 2024, CDC meeting, Council staff will share key themes emerging from the public comment process, identify areas of support and areas of concern, and seek guidance on policy direction.

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 proposed for adoption by the Metropolitan Council on February 12, 2025 (Table 1).

Table 1: Schedule for Finalizing Imagine 2050 including the Land Use Policy Chapter

Date/Timing	Milestone
October 7, 2024	Public comment period closes
December 2, 2024	CDC review of high-level summary of public comments received on the Draft Land Use Policy (info item)
January 21, 2025 (Tuesday)	CDC Draft final Land Use Policy and public comment report (Business Item)
February 12, 2025	Metropolitan Council adoption of Imagine 2050

The draft policy plan is the result of numerous discussions with regional partners, the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC), CDC, the Council Member RDG Work Group (RDG WG), Met Council's Committee of the Whole (COW), as well as extensive outreach to residents, prioritized communities, community organizations, and local governments. Engagement on draft land use policy and density began in July 2023 following development of preliminary regional vision, values, and goals, as well as critical informative analysis on Community Designations and Scenario Planning. This work was also done with intentional collaboration with the policy teams from housing, parks, water, and transportation. A summary of this engagement appears in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of land use and density policy engagement with Met Council Committees

Meeting Date	Met Council Committee and Agenda Item
July 20, 2023	LUAC Density Analysis by Community
September 21, 2023	LUAC Draft Land Use Objectives
November 16, 2023	LUAC Minimum Density Requirements
December 4, 2023	CDC Draft Land Use Objectives
December 20, 2023	RDG WG Density and Land Use Approaches
January 3, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies: Growth Management; Transportation
January 17, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies: Community Wellbeing & Safety; Natural Systems; Housing; and Equity
February 7, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies: Climate Change; Economic Wellbeing
February 20, 2024	CDC Draft Land Use Objectives and Policies; Density and Land Use Approaches
February 22, 2024	LUAC Density Approaches; Updated Land Use Objectives
March 18, 2024	CDC Draft Land Use Policies and Actions: Growth Management
March 20, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies and Actions; Growth Management
March 21, 2024	LUAC Draft Land Use Policies and Actions: Growth Management
April 1, 2024	CDC Draft 2050 Land Use Policies and Actions: Community Wellbeing & Safety; and Equity
April 3, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies and Actions: Community Connection & Safety, Equity; Natural Systems; and Climate
April 15, 2024	CDC Draft Land Use Policies and Actions: Natural Systems and Climate
April 17, 2024	RDG WG Land Use Policies and Actions: Transportation, Housing, and



Meeting Date	Met Council Committee and Agenda Item
	Economic Wellbeing
April 17, 2024	COW Land Use Policy Update
April 18, 2024 (Special)	LUAC Draft Land Use Policies and Actions: Natural Systems, Climate Change, Transportation, Housing, and Economic Wellbeing
May 15, 2024	COW Imagine 2050 60% Draft Plan
May 15, 2024	RDG WG Density Recommendations
May 16, 2024	LUAC 60% Draft Plan Review
May 20, 2024	CDC Imagine 2050 Land Use Policy 60% Draft Review
July 1, 2024	CDC Density Analysis with Recommendations
July 15, 2024	CDC Imagine 2050 Community Development Policy Update
July 17, 2024	RDG WG follow-up on CDC density presentation; MUSA Expansion Criteria; and Transit Station Area densities
July 18, 2024	LUAC MUSA Expansion Criteria; Transit Station Area densities
August 5, 2024	CDC Release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment
November 20, 2024	RDG WG review of Community Designation changes; High-level summary of public comments received on the Draft Land Use Policy
November 21, 2024	LUAC review of Community Designation changes; High-level summary of public comments received on the Draft Land Use Policy

