



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

Implementation of Imagine 2050 in Local Comprehensive Plans

Community Development Committee

April 21, 2025



Moving to implementation

Background

Implement Metropolitan Land Planning Act

- “[E]nsure the *coordinated*, orderly, and economic development” (Minn. Stat. 473.851)
- Prepare guidelines and procedures that assist local governments in accomplishing local planning requirements and provisions (Minn. Stat. 473.854)

Milestones

- System statements – issued fall 2025
- Local comprehensive plans due December 31, 2028

Guidance for transition period

- Between now and submittal of local comprehensive plans
- Amendments, forecasts, housing allocations



Proposed Implementation Schedule

February 12, 2024
Imagine 2050 adopted

Fall 2025
System Statements
Issued

**January 1,
2026**

**October 1,
2028**

**Comp Plan
Amendment
Review Standard**

Communities may choose to have amendment reviewed under either:

- Thrive MSP 2040 and its system plans OR
- Imagine 2050 and its system plans

Provided that the proposed amendment is not more likely than not to impact or depart from 2050 system plans

Amendments and updates reviewed under **Imagine 2050** and its system and policy plans

**Forecast
Approach**

Communities may continue to plan and implement their Thrive MSP 2040 forecasts

Council will consider revisions to 2050 forecasts adopted with Imagine 2050 through plan amendments

Council will consider revisions to **Imagine 2050** forecasts included with System Statements

**Affordable
Housing Need
Allocation
Approach**

Council will no longer make revisions to the 2021-2030 affordable housing need allocations.

Council will consider revisions to 2031-2040 affordable housing need allocations alongside changes to Imagine 2050 forecasts through plan amendments

Council will consider revisions to 2031-2040 affordable housing need allocations alongside proposed revisions to Imagine 2050 forecasts included with System Statements

Amendments to 2040 local comp plans no longer accepted.

Metropolitan Council

Proposed Actions

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Issue System Statements to communities in the seven-county metropolitan area in September 2025, with local comprehensive plan updates due to the Council by December 31, 2028.
2. Accept comprehensive plan amendments to 2040 local comprehensive plans through September 30, 2028. Proposed amendments must be submitted and found complete for review by September 30, 2028, in order to be considered by the Council and authorized to be placed into effect. After September 30, 2028, the Council will no longer accept amendments to 2040 local comprehensive plans.

Proposed Actions (cont.)

That the Metropolitan Council:

3. Advise communities that:

- a. All communities must use regional policy and system plans adopted by the Council as a part of Imagine 2050 for all local comprehensive plan updates and for all comprehensive plan amendments submitted to the Council for review after December 31, 2025.
- b. For comprehensive plan amendments submitted and found complete for review before December 31, 2025, communities may choose to have those amendments reviewed under the Thrive MSP 2040 and its system plans *or* under Imagine 2050 and its system plans, provided that the proposed amendment is not found more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from the 2050 metropolitan system plans adopted in 2025.

Proposed Actions (cont.)

That the Metropolitan Council:

- c. For comprehensive plan amendments submitted before the issuance of System Statements, the Council will consider any requests for forecast changes in light of Imagine 2050 forecasts and consider interim revisions to those forecasts for inclusion in 2025 System Statements. Council staff will work with communities on how best to incorporate any proposed forecast changes into 2040 local comprehensive plans.
- d. The Council will no longer make revisions to the allocations of affordable housing need for the 2021-2030 decade, which were originally adopted as a part of Thrive MSP 2040. Any proposed changes to Imagine 2050 forecasts may affect the allocation of affordable housing need for the 2031-2040 decade and will be considered consistent with the forecast revision approach.



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