



2025 Local Planning Assistance Work Plan Update

Community Development Committee

Angela R. Torres, AICP, Senior Manager

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Regional Planning Cycle



Kicking off the Local Comprehensive Planning Process



Decennial System Statements

Purpose

- Individualized for the local unit of government
- Explains the implications of system plans and capital budgets *in that community*
- Includes forecasted growth and general development expectations

Content

- Vision, Values, and Goals
- Community designation(s) and forecasted growth
- Future affordable housing need allocation
- Regional parks and trails
- Metropolitan sewer service, surface water, water supply
- Metropolitan highway system and transit system, aviation system
- Other planning considerations

Timeline

- Distributed in mid-September 2025
- Opportunity to resolve questions or disputes with system statements
- 2050 comp planning starts with December 31, 2028, submittal deadline

2050 Local Planning Handbook Update

Process and Timeline

- Internal scoping and planning
- Test the user experience (current site)
- Engagement with local governments on clarity and comprehension of minimum requirements checklists, user testing of website, and overall functionality feedback
- Update tools, content, and online platform to reflect Imagine 2050 policy direction
- Test user experience on new platform
- Launch the updated Local Planning Handbook in mid-September 2025



2050 Programs and Process Updates

Analyze, review, and revise process guidance as needed

- Most recent (November 2022):
Administrative Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Assess Net Residential Density Calculation Guidelines
 - Plat Monitoring Program Update
 - MUSA Implementation Guidelines Update
 - Stormwater management area impacts analysis
- Flexible Development Guidelines
- Preliminary Plan Review Process
- Comprehensive Plan Review Process
- Others as identified/needed



PlanIt

2016 – 2018 PlanIt Program: Comprehensive planning technical assistance

Webinars

Workshops

Conference

Online Resources

Podcasts

News blasts

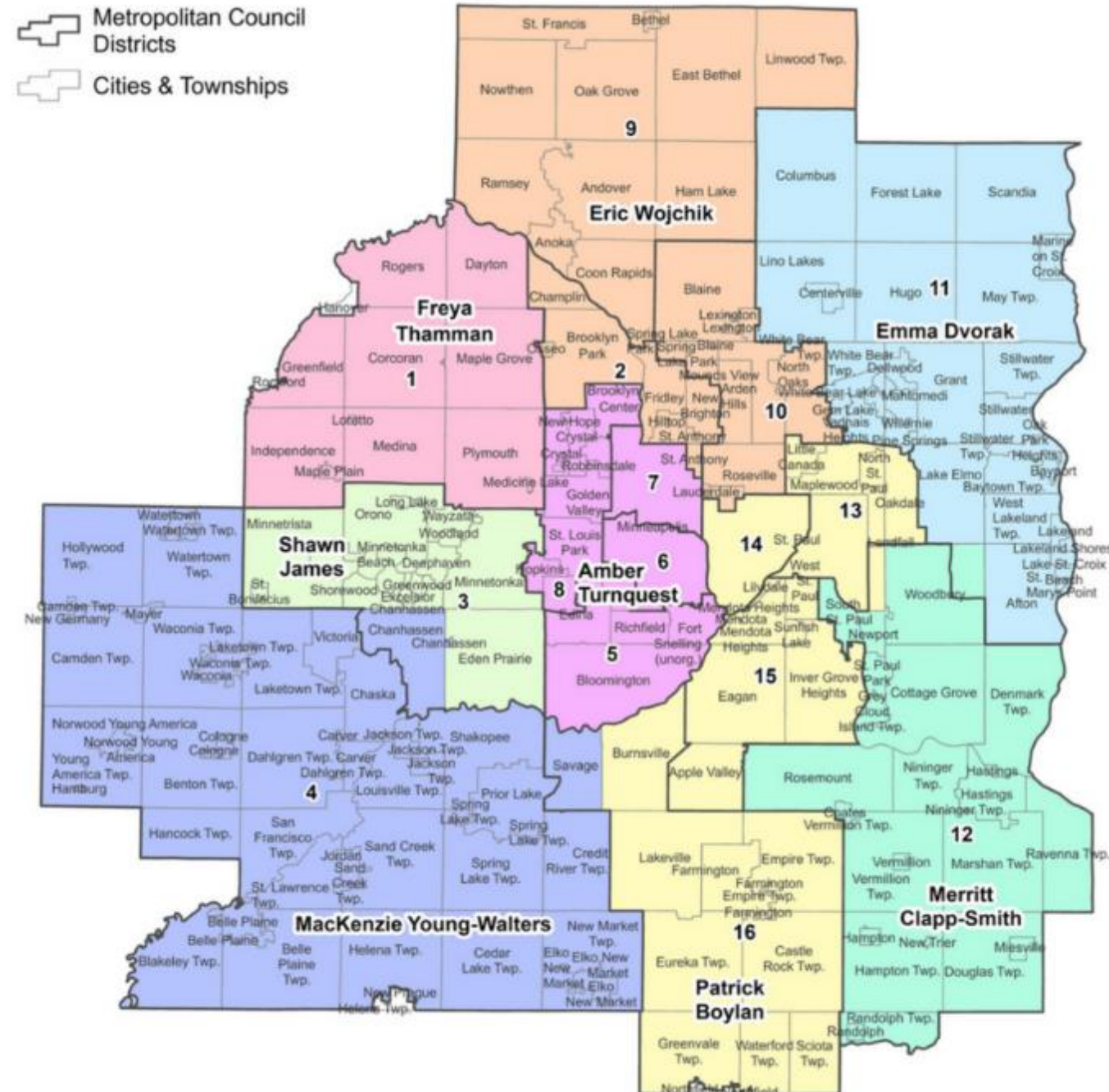


Technical Assistance Programs

Sector Representatives

- Communicate across boundaries and work units
- Provide technical assistance to local governments
- Coordinate the Council's review process
- Develop and implement regional policy

[Link to Current Sector Representatives Map](#)



New Planning Program and Funding



Statutory Authority for Planning Assistance

Minnesota Statute 473.191

Local Planning Assistance, subdivision 1, enables the Metropolitan Council to enter contracts or make other arrangements with local governmental units to provide services or assist with comprehensive community planning.

Minnesota Statute 473.867

Planning Assistance; Grants; Loans, subdivision 3, states that in making grants and loans, the council shall base its decisions on the recipient's demonstrated need and available financial resources.*

**Underlining added to slide for emphasis*

2040 Planning Grants Program: Lessons Learned



Informing Imagine 2050 Grants Program

- Local governments rely on the grant program.
- Focusing on criteria to build the grant program was the most helpful approach.
- Often consultant costs were higher than expected.
- Growth didn't appear to impact the effort communities undertook to update their plan.
- Standards for reporting expenditures may better help understand the extent of assistance planning grants provide to local governments.
- Grants alone were not sufficient to help the small communities complete their plans.
- Small communities struggled with having technical and professional resources available.

2050 Small Communities Planning Program

Program Intent

Provide technical assistance to update comprehensive plans for the region's smallest communities.

Program Goal

Reduce burden of comprehensive plan updates for the communities with the least capacity to manage them.

Program Method

- Determine eligibility criteria
- Identify list of eligible communities
- Prepare detailed program workplan
- Staff the program to complete technical work of comprehensive plan updates for 20-30 eligible communities.

Next Steps



2025 Tentative Schedule

May 2025 Information Items

- Planning Assistance Grant Eligibility Criteria
- Small Communities Planning Program Eligibility Criteria
- Systems Statements
- Local Planning Handbook Update

Summer 2025 Business Items (BI)

- Planning Assistance Grant Criteria
- Small Communities Planning Program Eligibility Criteria

Fall 2025 Information Items

- Plat Monitoring Program Updates (BI)
- System Statements and Local Planning Handbook Update Rollout

Winter 2025-2026 Information Items

- PlanIt Program
- MUSA Implementation Guidelines Update (BI)
- Flexible Development Guidelines Update (BI)



Questions

Angela R. Torres, AICP, Senior Manager

Local Planning Assistance

angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us

(651) 602-1566

