Livable Communities Act

Program Update & Alignment with Imagine 2050 Update

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Community Development Committee | August 18, 2025

Imagine 2050 Alignment Project Timeline

What We've Heard
Alignment with Imagine 2050

How can LCA programs affect livability?

Safety
- Physical: Safely cross streets or ride a bike
- Psychological: Being welcome, community support

Ability to Stay in Community
- Recreation, community gathering options
- Keep community spending power in the community
- Limit risk of displacement

Choice in Housing and Transportation
- Variety of types of housing, options to rent or own, different affordability bands
- Choice to drive, bike, walk, or roll to destinations
- Backup transportation options, even if it is not your preferred method

Key Themes

- **Alignment with Imagine 2050.** Continuity with Thrive MSP 2040, no major changes to program goals.
- **Focus on outcomes, less on acronyms.** We are simplifying the process.
- **Every community is part of a livable region.** Suburban and small projects that are aligned with regional goals will be competitive.

Public Survey

Additional Outreach

- Survey sent three times to LCA email list (nearly 1000 people)
- Posted on LCA website
- Single Option Questions
  - Role
  - Primary work location
  - Desired funding split
- Open-ended questions
  - What additional information is needed
  - Comments on the proposal

Feedback

- Mirrored feedback from the past few years
- Desire for local context to play a larger role in scoring
- Preference for funding development stage projects, over pre-development stage
- Slight preference for funding rental units, over ownership units
- Concern that LCA is will favor funding housing projects over job projects

Proposed Scoring Structure (90% Draft)

Outcomes Score

Outcomes A

Project meets 1 – 3 priorities
Earn 16 points

Project meets 4 or more priorities
Earn 24 points

Outcomes B
(Development Projects Only)

Project meets 1 – 3 priorities
Earn 8 points

Project meets 4 or more priorities
Earn 12 points

Quality Score

Reviewer's assessment of how well the project is meeting Met Council objectives
Points vary by objective

Development Projects Outcomes Score (90% Draft)

Outcomes A

Housing

- Build housing that is 100% affordable **OR** the income of residents in all units in the project averages to an affordability band needed in the city
- Create new affordable homeownership opportunities for households earning 80% AMI or less
- Rehab or preserve existing homes affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below for rental projects or 80% AMI or below for ownership projects

Commercial

- Support business incubators and/or small business development spaces
- Add at least 10 living wage jobs and/or have job training for at least 10 residents annually

All Types of Development Projects

- Environmental cleanup in Environmental Justice areas
- Reduce vacant or underutilized land through infill or redevelopment, **OR** project is in an eligible transit area

AMI=Area Median Income (30% AMI= $39,700, 60% AMI=$79,440, 80% AMI=$104,200 in 2025)

Development Projects Outcomes Score (90% Draft)

Outcomes B

Housing

- Build new rental housing with at least 10% of units in the project affordable to households living on 30% AMI or less **OR** the project meets 10% of the city's need for units affordable to households living on 30% AMI
- Project includes at least three 3+ bedroom units for families, affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below for rental units **OR** all units are three bedrooms and affordable below for 80% AMI or below for ownership projects
- Create senior or youth-serving (aged 16-24) housing affordable to households living at 60% AMI or below
- Build or rehab housing that serves people who have experienced homelessness

All Types of Development Projects

- Project includes permanent community space that is accessible, open to the public, and intended to provide gathering space through amenities, community rooms, or other infrastructure that supports community gathering
- Energy-saving activities that result in decarbonization, water efficiency, or reduced energy costs for cost-burdened residents beyond in-unit fixtures and furnishings
- Design beyond minimum ADA requirements through universal design or similar strategies

AMI=Area Median Income (30% AMI= $39,700, 60% AMI=$79,440, 80% AMI=$104,200 in 2025)

Examples of Outcomes Score

	Example A Urban	Example B Suburban Edge
Outcomes A	1. Affordable housing 2. In TOD area 3. Cleanup in EJ area	1. Affordable housing
Outcomes A Score	16 Points	16 Points
Outcomes B	1. Affordability at 30% AMI 2. 3+ bedroom units 3. People experiencing homelessness	1. 3+ bedroom units
Outcomes B Score	8 Points	8 Points
Outcomes Total Score	**24 Points**	**24 Points**

Both projects meet 1-3 priorities

Both projects meet 1-3 priorities

Development Projects Quality Score (90% Draft)

Criteria	Max Score
How is the project helping the city to meet its identified development needs that are aligned with regional goals?	9
How is the project benefiting people who live on the lowest incomes, are Black, American Indian, or part of another community of color?	9
How does the project improve access and safety in the neighborhood and provide direct, convenient connections to existing or planned transit or trails?	5
Whose perspective is represented in the project through community engagement and/or as part of the development team? And how are their perspectives represented?	9
How does the project maintain residents' and businesses' ability to stay in the community and maintain cultural and social community connections?	9
How ready is the project to begin? Are the team and funding sources identified?	4
Total possible Quality Score without cleanup request	**45**
What is the severity of and risk of exposure to environmental contamination?	20
What is the impact on the property tax base?	20
Total possible Quality Score with cleanup request	**85**

Policy Projects
Proposed Scoring Structure (90% Draft)

Outcomes Score
Meet at least 1 priority = 16 pts
• Encourage more development or preservation of affordable housing, both rental and ownership • Incentivize environmentally sustainable development and green infrastructure • Mitigate or prevent future displacement of residents and businesses • Increase housing choice through type, tenure, and/or accessibility

Quality Score	
Criteria	**Max Score**
How does the policy benefit deeply affordable housing?	5
How will you prevent, mitigate, or repair potential negative impacts of the proposed policy on Black, American Indian, other residents of color, or residents living on the lowest incomes?	5
Do you have a clearly defined work plan/scope? What is it?	2
What is the per capita net tax capacity (NTC) of the city? Projects in cities with lower per capita NTC will be prioritized.	3
Total possible Quality Score	***15***

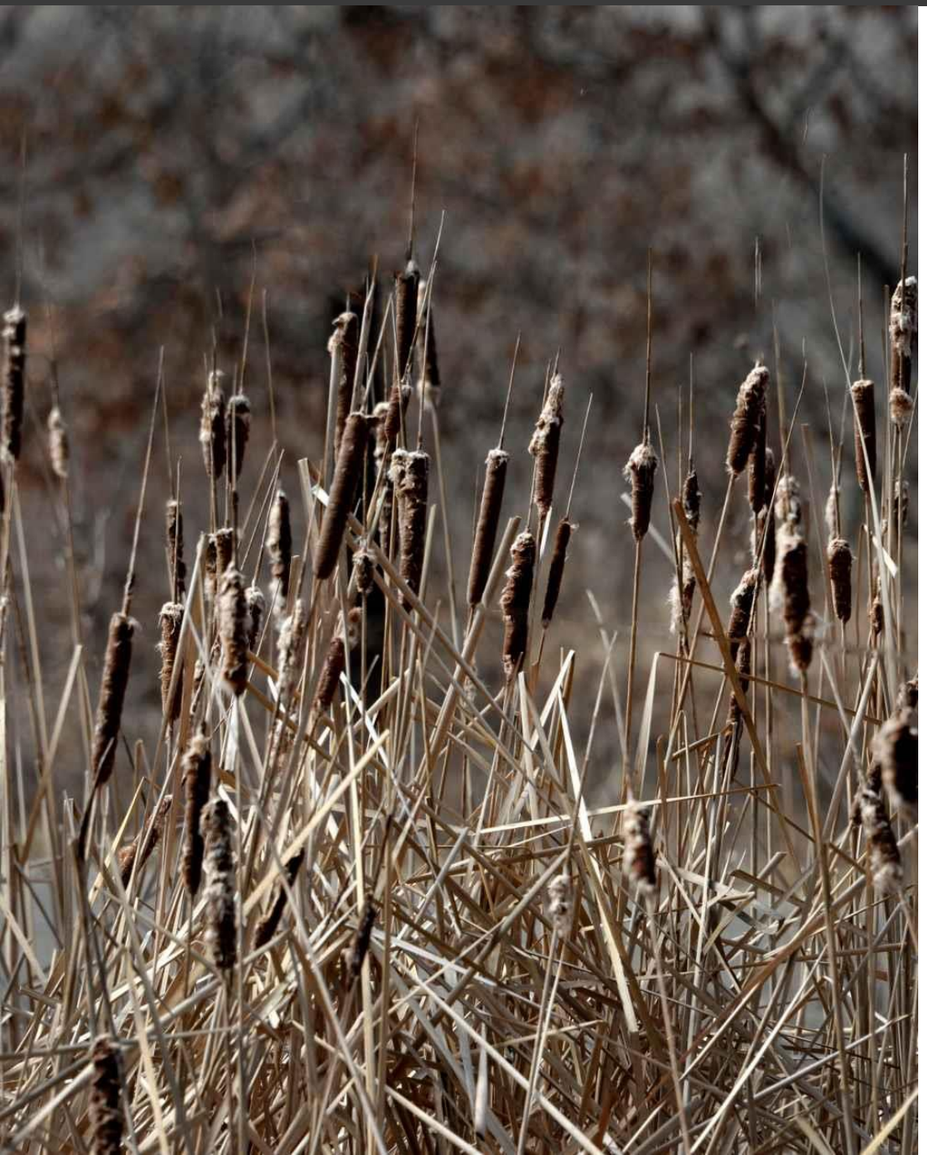
Small Area Planning Projects
Proposed Scoring Structure (90% Draft)

Small Area Planning Projects Outcomes Score
Meet 1-3 Priorities = 16 pts *Meet 4+ Priorities = 24 pts*
• Situate affordable housing near transportation options and amenities • Plan for mixed-use areas on infill or redevelopment sites • Create or improve small-scale commercial spaces and/or commercial corridors • Establish or improve multi-modal transportation options with housing, jobs, and transit • Establish or improve a cultural corridor • Protect areas of ecological significance within planned development areas and/or incorporate strategies to promote public and ecosystem health • Include public gathering space or incorporate green infrastructure elements

Small Area Planning Projects
Proposed Scoring Structure (90% Draft)

Quality Score	
Criteria	**Max Score**
Amenities and connectivity are designed to prioritize serving residents who have been impacted by disinvestment or displacement pressures	5
How will you prevent, mitigate, or repair potential negative impacts on of the plan on Black, American Indian, other residents of color, or residents living on the lowest incomes?	5
Do you have a clearly defined work plan/scope? What is it?	2
Whose perspective is or will be represented in the plan through community engagement and/or as part of the planning team? And how are their perspectives represented?	5
What is the per capita net tax capacity (NTC) of the city? Lower NTC/capita will be prioritized.	3
Total possible Quality Score	***20***

Proposal for Continuous Improvement



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Assessing both project outcomes and internal processes
- Integrating more data collection into the grant process without burdening the grantee
- Collecting data at different points, from annually to every 10 years
- Allowing enough time to see impact of program update changes.

Discussion

- What do you like about this update?
- Are there parts of the plan that could be simplified or reframed to make the program clearer and more compelling for partners?
- From what you've seen today, what additional information do you need to move forward with approval in September?

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