



Advisory Committee Job Description

Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)

metro council.org

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The LUAC provides advice and assistance to the Met Council on regional land use, comprehensive planning, and matters of regional significance as requested by the Council.

WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE?

LUAC has at least 16 members and a Council Member as the chair. The Committee includes at least one member from each Council District and represents each of the seven counties in the region. At least half of members must be locally elected officials, such as mayors, City Council members, or Town Board members.

VACANCIES

There are a minimum of 16 Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) openings with four-year terms beginning February 2023.

- Districts (1-16)

Use the [find your district](#) tool online to find your LUAC district.

ENVISION YOURSELF IN THIS ROLE

You would:

- give advice and input on new initiatives, policies, or programs, including contributions to the 2050 planning process.
- learn about a broad range of topics, because land use and planning relate to so many issues.
- comment on presentations and discuss topics in depth.
- influence projects or policies and help decide what type of subjects come before the Committee.
- act as a sounding board for the Council and may make recommendations to the Council.

MEETING INFORMATION

Frequency: Meetings are typically held the third Thursday, every other month at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Metropolitan Council, in Downtown St. Paul at 390 Robert Street North.

Approximate time commitment annually: LUAC usually meets every other month for up to two hours. LUAC requires about 12 hours per year to attend regular meetings with additional time needed to review materials before meetings.

BENEFITS

Serving on this commission is a volunteer role without compensation. Members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties including transit fare or local parking and mileage for meetings.

Other benefits include:

- An expanded network by working with elected officials and others interested in land use and planning.
- Further professional development by volunteering on an advisory committee at the Council.
- Gain new experience in public service or build on previous experiences.
- Learn more about regional land use planning and policy to bring to your organization and/or community.
- Address challenges and contribute to effective regional planning.
- Share perspectives from different parts of the region.

Kristina Smitten, a former member of the Land Use Advisory Committee, said,

“On LUAC, I benefit from the opportunity to work with other Committee members to provide advice and guidance on policy and other matters related to regional land use. The meeting structure supports thoughtful dialogue and deeper understanding of the implications and opportunities of regional policy, which provides for more pertinent recommendations to the Council.”

RECENT WORK

- The Committee’s input strengthens efforts to support communities integrating resilience strategies into their comprehensive plans.
- LUAC took the leading role in recommending changes to the Council on how to define Community Designations in Thrive MSP 2040, the long-range plan for the region.
- As the Council begins work on the 2050 regional development guide, LUAC has had in-depth discussions on regional values, emerging issues, and envisioned what the region could be in 2050.
- LUAC also reviewed recommendations on improvements to the comprehensive planning process to better serve local governments. The Committee provided feedback on eligibility criteria for Council grant programs which improve affordable homeownership.
- The Committee is beginning to collaborate with the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee.

WHAT WE DO AT THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Council provides the following services for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region:

- **Plans for Future Growth of the Region:** As the Metropolitan Planning Organization the Council plans for future growth and makes strategic, efficient public investments to support the region’s high quality of life and economic competitiveness.
- **Operates Metro Transit:** Every day, Metro Transit serves bus and rail passengers with award-winning, energy-efficient fleets (nearly 85 million in 2014 or nearly 90% of all regional transit rides). These strategic investments support a growing network of bus and rail transitways, and transit-oriented development.
- **Collects and Treats Wastewater:** This region collects and treats wastewater at rates 40% lower than peer regions, while winning national awards for excellence.
- **Protects and Monitors Clean Water:** The Council works to ensure adequate clean water for the future through water supply planning and lake and river monitoring programs.

- Develops Regional Parks and Trails: The Council plans and develops a world-class regional parks and trails system made up of more than 50 parks and park reserves and more than 340 miles of interconnected trails.
- Provides Affordable Housing: The Council creates and supports affordable housing opportunities throughout the region by providing affordable housing for 6,500 families in 100 communities through the Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and establishing regional housing policies and planning.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete and submit an online application to join LUAC on the Metropolitan Council website by the priority deadline Friday, December 9, 2023.

Applicants can expect the following steps in the recruitment process:

1. Applicant completes and submits [application online](#).
2. Selection Committee reviews your application.
3. Selected candidates will be invited to a structured panel interview in January.
4. Recommendations are made to the Metropolitan Council Chair.
5. Committee members will be appointed by the Metropolitan Council in January or February.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the board or the application process, please contact the following Metropolitan Council staff:

LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development: Lisa.Barajas@metc.state.mn.us
Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance: Angela.Torres@metc.state.mn.us
Katie Driscoll, Appointments Coordinator: 651-602-1938, Katie.Driscoll@metc.state.mn.us

OTHER RESOURCES

Committee materials and more information are available on the [Land Use Advisory Committee](#) on the Metropolitan Council website. There you may find the Committee's meeting minutes, agendas and member roster.