

Information Item

Equity Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide Values, Vision, and Goals

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.145
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Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

Staff have conducted numerous engagement activities with the Metropolitan Council and various advisory groups to identify shared regional values, components of a regional vision, and potential goals for the 2050 Regional Development Guide. This included an early engagement session with the Equity Advisory Committee on April 19, 2022.

Based on input from the EAC and many other advisory groups in 2022, staff are developing a working document of regional values and vision statements for Council review and discussion. It will be a tool for further engagement; and it will be a document that can evolve over time. The development of regional goals based on the regional vision will commence soon and be informed by future stakeholder engagement.

Draft content for discussion was presented to the Council on January 11. The presentation and materials are available online. The content in the attached presentation has not been changed based on the Council's feedback but will be shared during the discussion.

Regional Values

Values are core beliefs or principles that guide our work. The challenge in identifying shared values is that different people value different things. However, certain themes have emerged that support a set of cross-cutting issues (identified below), as well as the need for effectively working together and with others.

For purposes of discussion, we have grouped sets of related terms as themes:

- Equity, justice, cultural competence, respect, and compassion
- Leadership, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and innovation
- Transparency, effectiveness, and accountability
- Stewardship, sustainability, and resilience

Four Significant Cross-Cutting Regional Issues

In consultation with the Council's policy and technical leads, informed by feedback through this first phase of engagement and in other planning work, Council members confirmed four cross-cutting issues of regional significance. They are significant policy and programmatic areas that are not the sole responsibility of any one division or organization. They represent potential (and somewhat obvious) areas of policy collaboration and identification of shared regional goals. Consequently, they would be reflected throughout the regional vision and our policy plans.

- Equity
- Climate
- Natural Systems
- Public Health, Safety, and Wellbeing

Regional Vision

Vision is what we want to achieve for the region. State statute empowers the Metropolitan Council to develop a comprehensive development guide prescribing the orderly and economical development of the metropolitan area. The cross-cutting issues impact all this work, but the following will also be addressed in the proposed vision language. They include aspects of development and characteristics of development which will “anchor” the vision to the people, communities, and places in this region.

Regional Development Issues

- Growth management
- Housing needs
- Commerce & industry
- Parks and open space
- Water resources
- Other natural resources

Contextual Issues

- Accessibility and affordability
- Shared economic prosperity
- Welcoming and inclusive

“Anchoring” Principles

- People
- Communities
- Places

Regional System Considerations

- Transportation
- Wastewater
- Regional Parks

Equity Advisory Committee Feedback

When people shared their thoughts about the future of this region, concerns about equity show up consistently and strongly. On January 17, the Committee will see how your prior input fits into the approach and proposed values and vision statements. The Committee will be asked to share additional thoughts and ideas and identify where there might be gaps. The attached presentation provides an overview of the planned discussion.

