

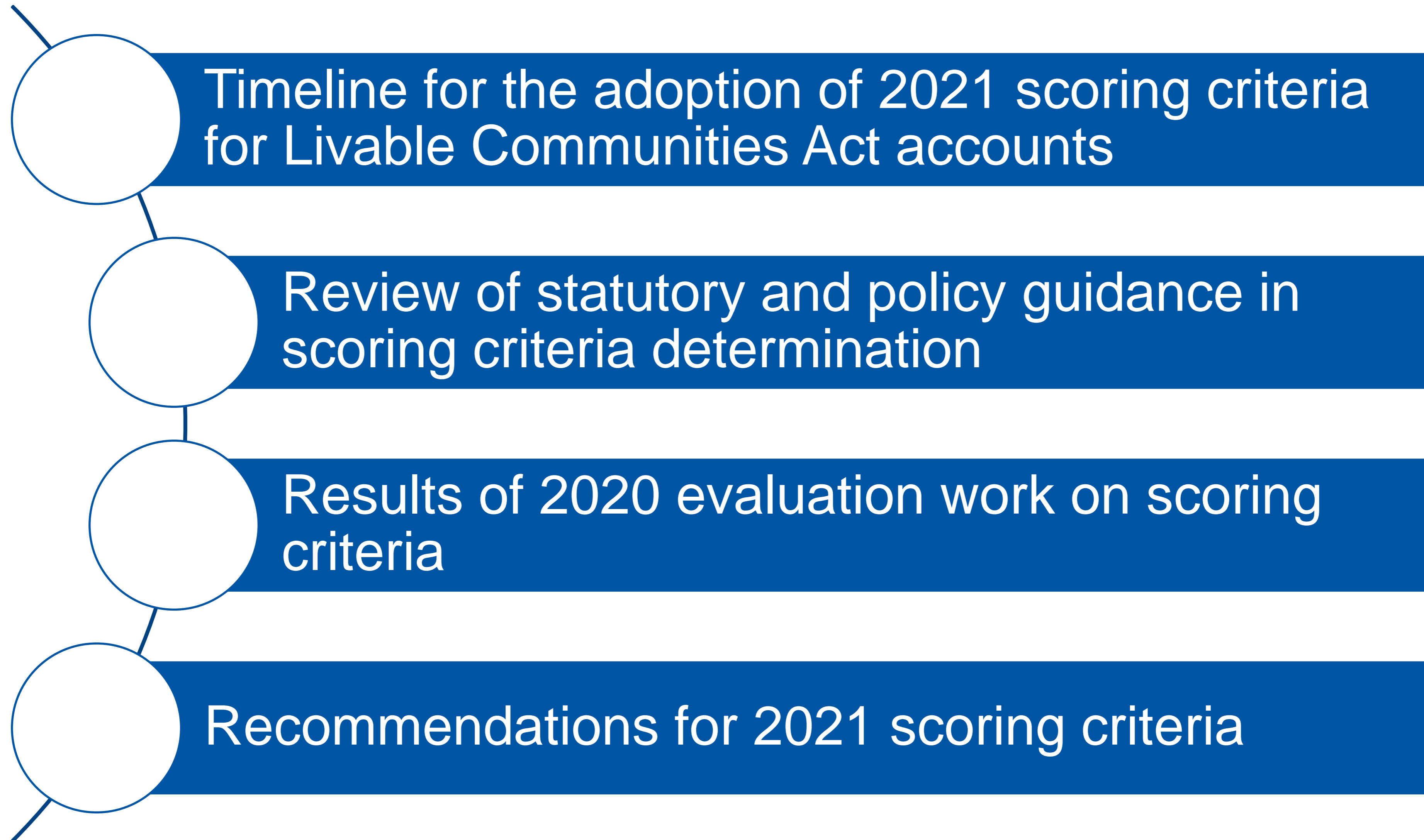
# 2021 Livable Communities Act scoring criteria

Land Use Advisory Committee

November 19, 2020



# Today's discussion



# 2021 timeline for scoring criteria adoption

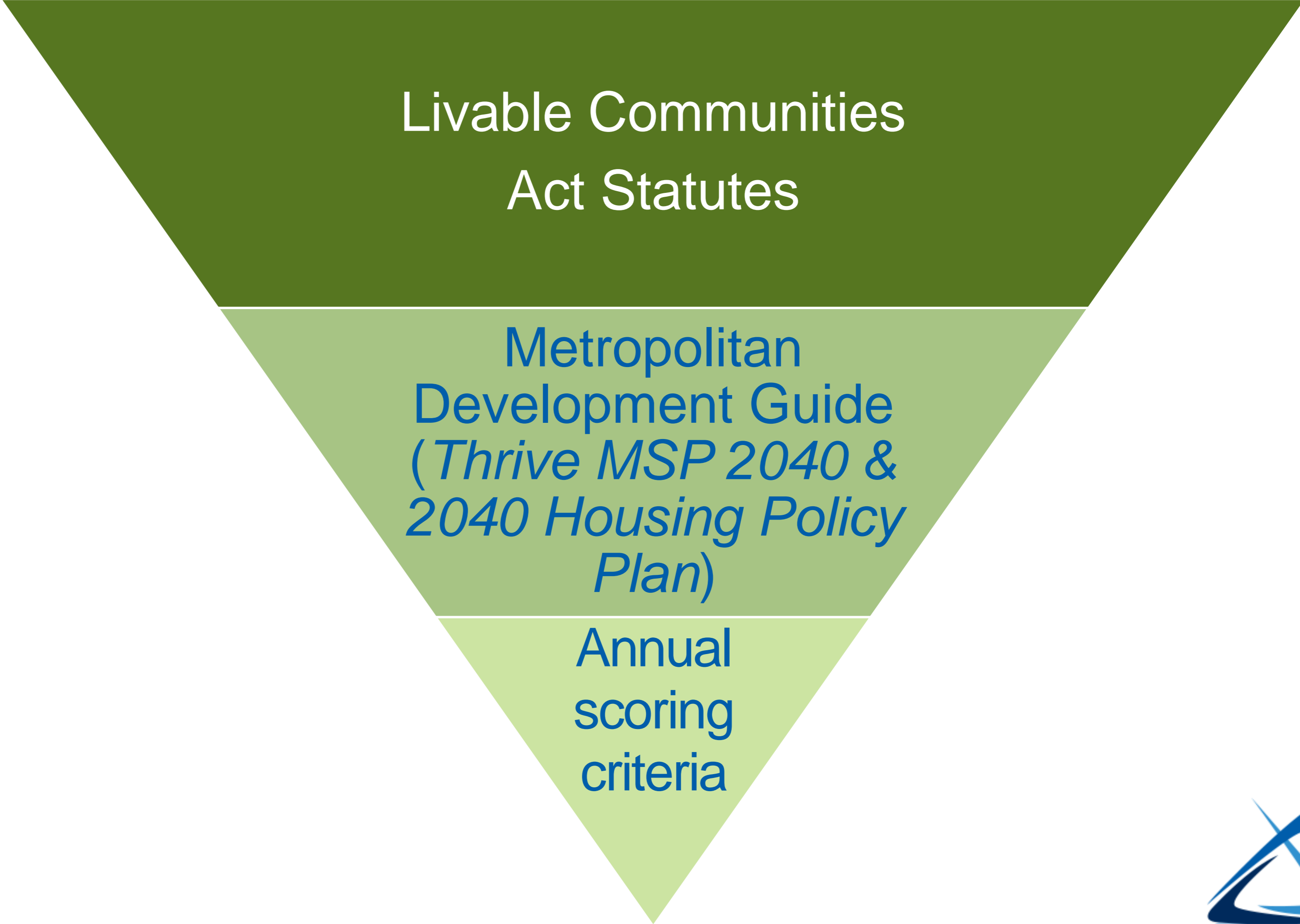
Community Development Committee Meeting	Topic	Intended Outcome
November 16, 2020	Scoring criteria – high level	Discussion and Committee direction
December 21, 2020	Scoring criteria – key criteria	Discussion and Committee direction
January 19, 2021	Final scoring criteria	Recommend adoption of 2021 scoring criteria



Metropolitan Council meeting	Topic	Intended Outcome
January 27, 2021	Final scoring criteria	Adoption of 2021 scoring criteria

# Minn. Stat. § 473.25 Subd. (d)

*“The council shall prepare an annual plan for distribution of the fund based on the criteria for project and applicant selection.”*



# 2020 LCA evaluation questions (high level)



Is the scoring criteria clearly linked to statutory guidance and *Thrive MSP 2040*?

Do point values in each scoring category accurately reflect scoring priorities?

Is the scoring criteria well defined, easy to understand, and objectively measurable?

# 2020 LCA evaluation activities

- Outreach and engagement
  - Meetings with Metro Cities and participant city focus group
  - Online survey to participating communities and development partners
  - Meetings with Land Use Advisory Committee
  - Conversations with Livable Communities Advisory Committee
  - Meetings with Council staff that score applications
  - Many ad hoc conversations with participants, applicants, and other stakeholders
  - Multiple meetings with the Council's Housing Work Group
- Data collection and analysis

# Outreach and engagement: what we heard

- Some communities with more suburban development patterns feel that they are not competitive
- Some smaller communities with less staff capacity feel that they are not competitive
- Criteria is not well-defined, allows too much subjectivity in scoring
- Understanding of innovation and demonstration criteria varied widely and was particularly unclear
- Criteria prioritizes projects that do “all things”; our scoring criteria should communicate what kinds of projects we want to see

# Data collection and analysis: what we learned

- Some scoring criteria is not clearly linked to statute or Council policy
  - Innovation
  - Demonstration value

“Ability to glean and share demonstration and/or innovation findings...”

“New development concepts, strategies, elements...”

“...demonstrates TOD design principles beyond a conventional project...”

“Being a model of LCDA goals...”



# Data collection and analysis: what we learned

- Some scoring criteria is not able to be measured objectively or consistently
  - Catalyst

“The extent to which the proposed project will support wealth building for residents ...”

“The proposed development project will catalyze additional efforts to further community development goals”

# Data collection and analysis: what we learned

- Scoring categories are numerous and can overlap in intent
  - “TOD Design” vs. “Transit Accessibility, Walkability and Ridership” vs. “TOD Innovation and Demonstration”
  - Eight scoring categories each for LCDA and LCDA-TOD
  - Potential for “double counting” a project for certain characteristics
- Providing feedback and technical assistance can be challenging
- Re-scoring for project amendment requests can be difficult

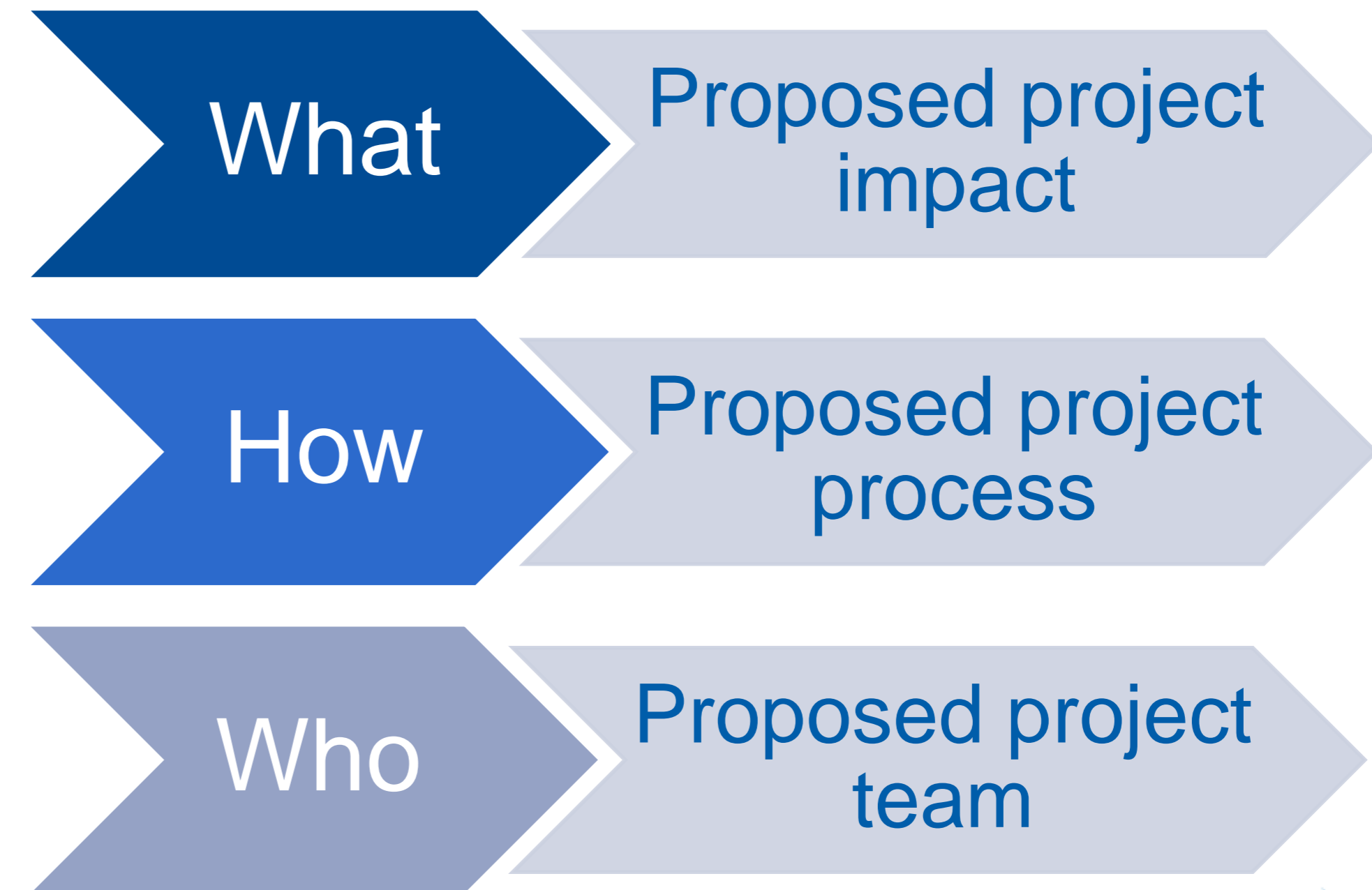
# Principles for Changes

- Clearer alignment with statute and Thrive priorities/policies
- Improve accessibility of program to smaller communities
- Improve accessibility of program to smaller / new developers
- Make the scoring methodology easier to understand
- Simplify the application process and remove repetition

# Recommendations for 2021 scoring criteria

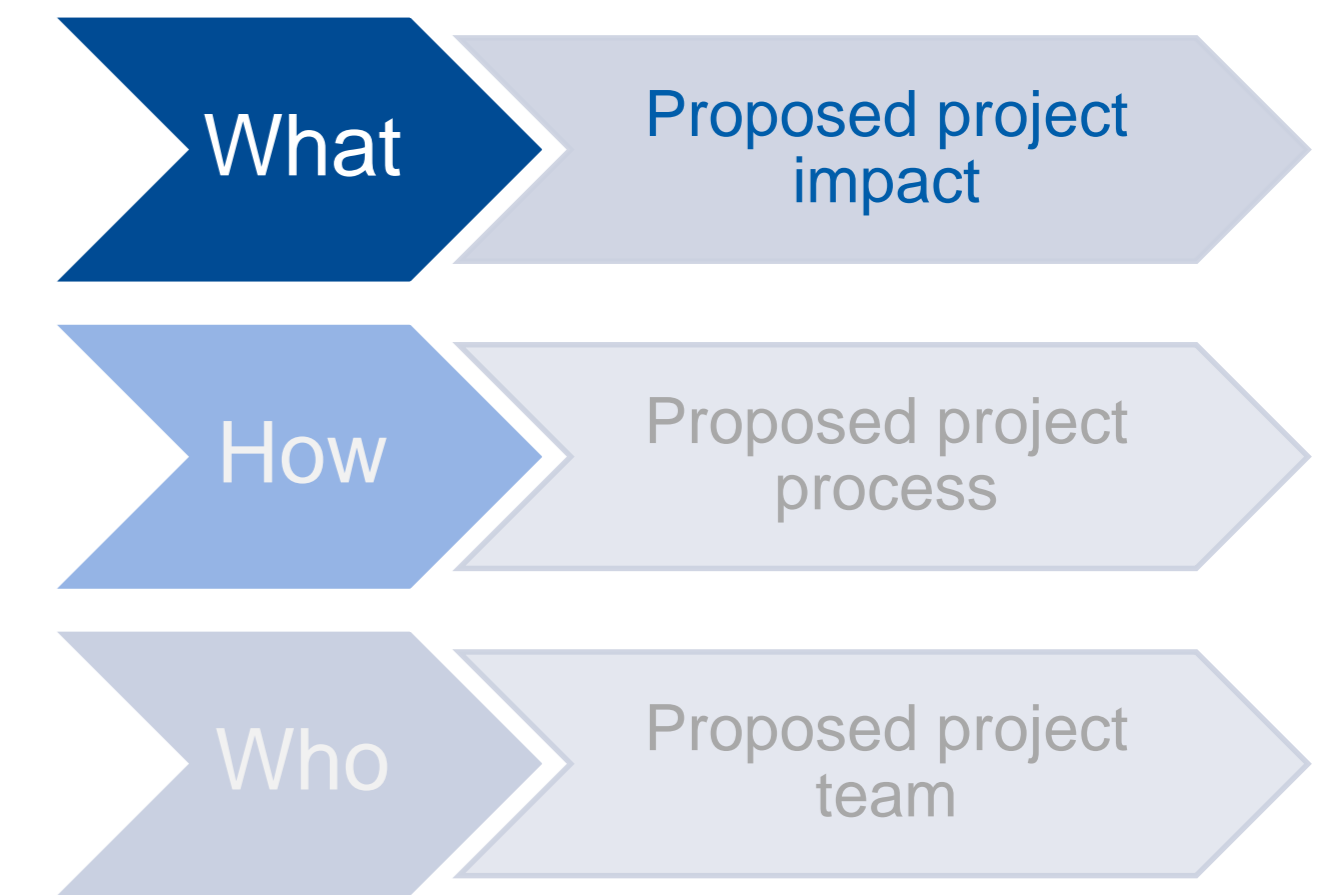
- Remove Innovation and Demonstration scoring criteria
  - Innovative, above-and-beyond projects will still be competitive!
  - Some frequent applicants and some long-time scorers may question this change, but criteria will remain that keep “above and beyond” projects competitive

- Reorganize scoring criteria into three impact related categories:



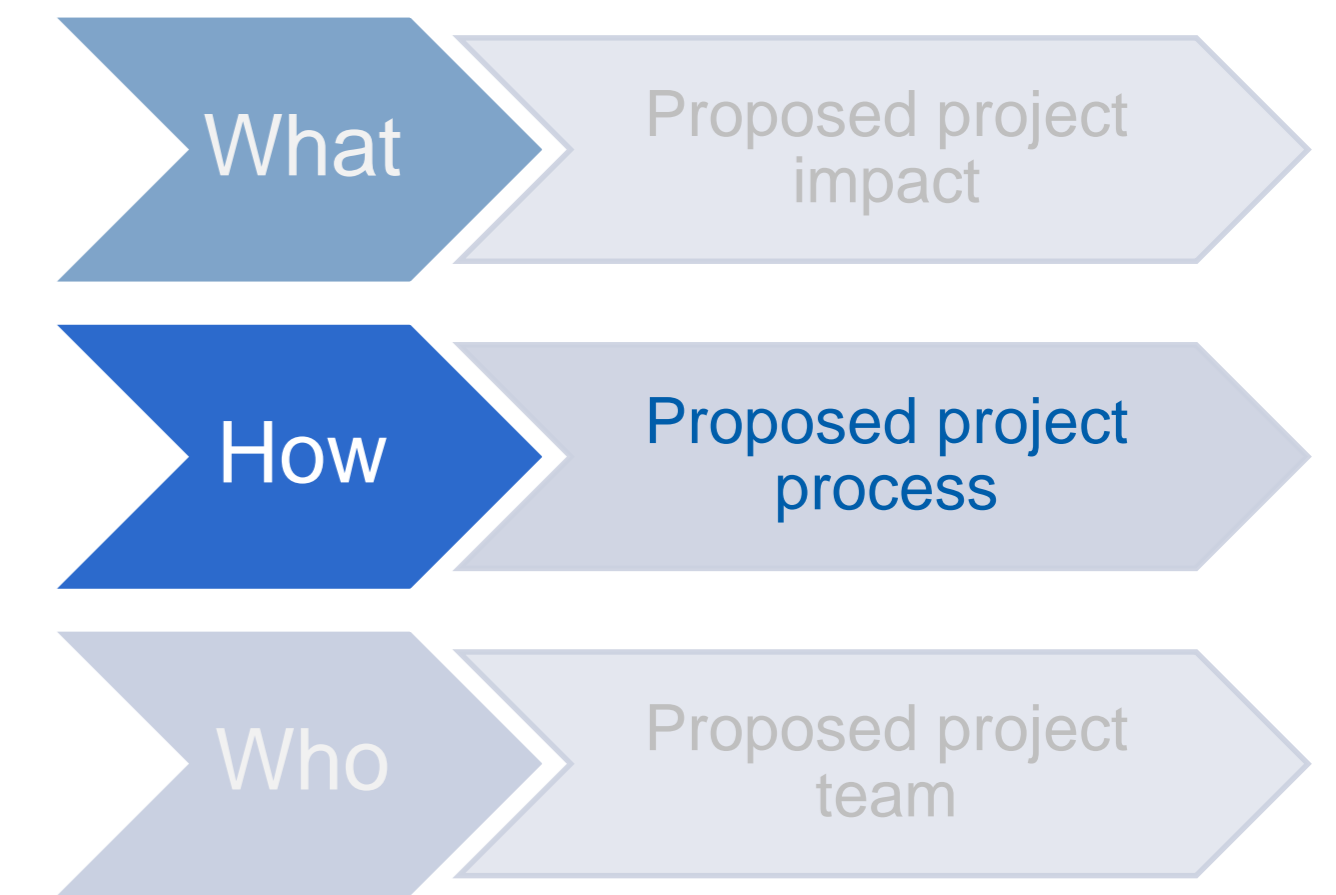
# What: Proposed project impact

- Criterion that evaluates outcomes prioritized by statute and Thrive MSP:
  - Accessible, living wage jobs
  - Housing choices with an emphasis on affordable housing
  - Compact, efficient development
  - Interconnectedness in the project area and across the region
  - Sustainable development outcomes
  - Access to regional parks and trails
  - Enhanced quality of life
  - Equitable development outcomes in the project area and across the region



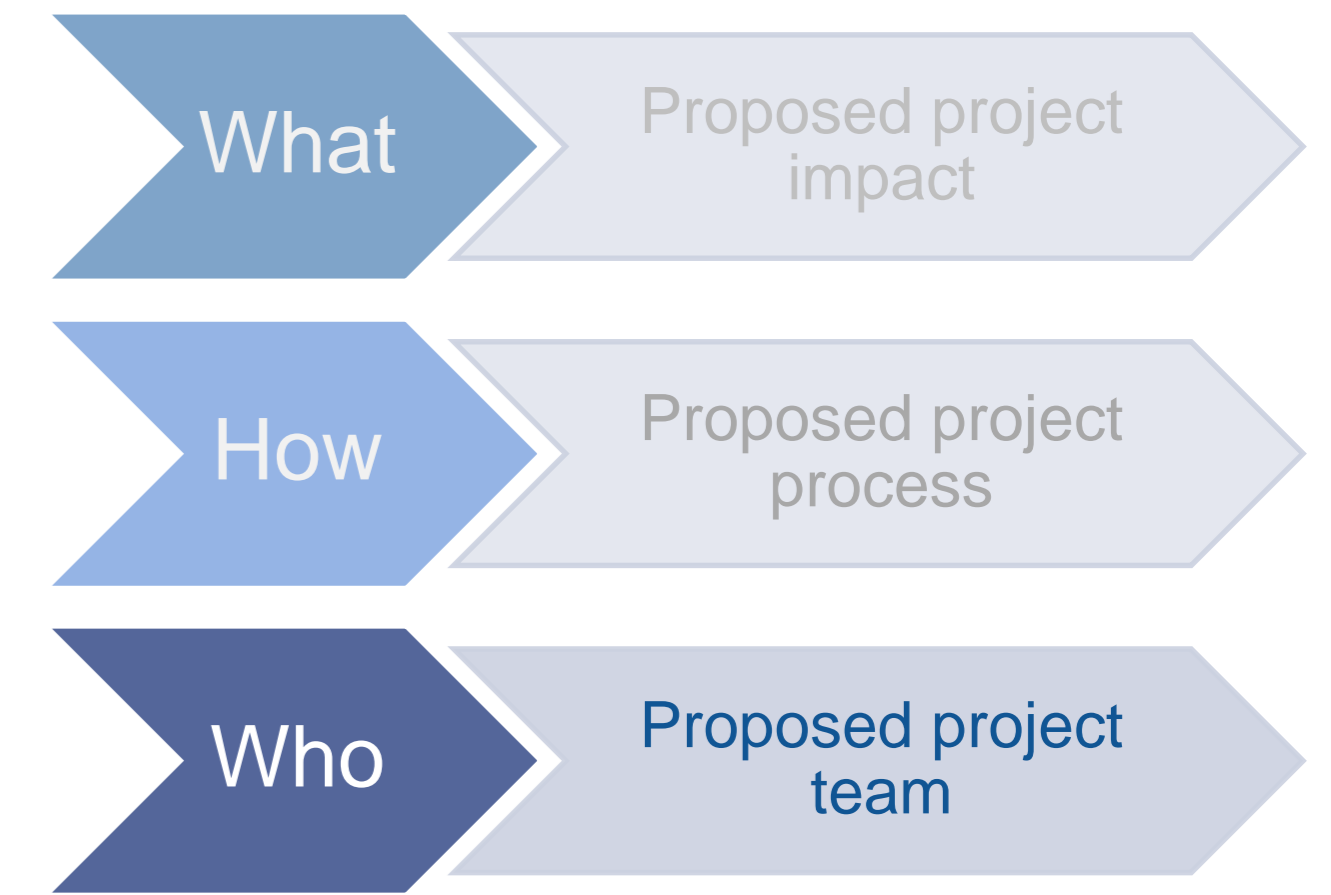
# How: Proposed project process

- Criterion that prioritizes equitable and meaningful engagement with the community
  - Outreach that is centered toward those most affected and least empowered
  - Efforts to increase equitable access and inclusivity in less diverse parts of the region
  - Understanding of inequitable development patterns, in the project area and across the region
  - An analysis of who benefits, and how much, throughout project development



# Who: Proposed project team

- Criterion that prioritizes project partners that:
  - Are equally supportive, engaged, and committed to the project
  - Are capable of completing the grant activities during the term of the grant
  - Are reflective or otherwise responsive to the community served by the project, and/or are most impacted and least represented in the project area



# Questions and discussion

- Does this organization help you better connect LCA programs to statute and Thrive priorities?
- Is there additional information that would be useful in the upcoming conversation?



# Thank you!

Tara Beard, AICP  
Livable Communities Manager  
[Tara.Beard@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Tara.Beard@metc.state.mn.us)

