Land Use Advisory Committee
Meeting date: March 17, 2022

Subject: Community Designations	
District(s), Member(s): All	
Policy/Legal Reference: Bylaws of the Metropolitan Council Land Use Advisory Committee, Art. I. B.1(a).	
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Raya Esmaeili, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1616)
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Division/Department: Community Development/Regional Planning	

Proposed Action
None. This item is presented for informational purposes to support the Land Use Advisory Committee's continuous effort to develop recommendations for community designations for the 2050 regional development guide as requested by the Community Development Committee on January 18, 2022.

Background
At the Committee meeting on January 20, 2022, Council staff presented *background information* on the community designations update. The update is part of the overall regional planning process and is the basis for land use policies in local comprehensive plans. Community designations have been a part of every regional development guide in the past and in *Thrive MSP 2040* (Thrive), were created through a spatial analysis of five variables:

1. the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA);
2. the percentage of developable land committed to urban uses;
3. the age of the housing stock (as a proxy for infrastructure age and development characteristics);
4. intersection density (as a proxy for connectivity, urban form, and accessibility to transit); and
5. the Long-term Wastewater Service Area.

Thrive identified *nine different community designations*, grouping communities within either the urban or rural service area. Each designation represents communities with similar characteristics and planning challenges. The final variables and established designations were results of an iterative analysis and ongoing discussion with this Committee in 2013, making final *recommendations to the Council*. Separate from Community Designations, Thrive also outlined additional variables as *special features* to identify more granular information in differentiating between communities. These variables were incorporated in the regional land use policies which followed the Community Designations analysis.

At the Committee meeting on March 17, staff will present community feedback from the 2040 Debrief project, show the five variables, identify areas where community designations needed to be modified, and cover the special features in Thrive. Staff will present information to engage Committee members in discussion about previous and future variables, and to receive direction on future analysis.

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