

# Information Item

Land Use Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

## Topic

*Imagine 2050* Land Use Policy 60% Draft Review

**District(s), Member(s):** ALL

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Metropolitan Land Planning Act (§473.145)

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Lisa Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development (651-602-1895)  
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**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Planning

## Background

The Metropolitan Council is charged in statute with preparing a regional development guide for the metropolitan area. The Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) have been integral contributors to the development of the land use components for *Imagine 2050*, the regional development guide (RDG) for 2050. Starting with values and goals, moving into analysis and assessment, then into reviewing drafts of land use objectives, policies, and actions to implement the regional goals, the LUAC has been deeply involved in the work to date in the 60% plan which is shared as an attachment to this memo. Special meetings in February 2024 and April 2024 helped the Committee remain actively involved in land use policy development. A draft plan, meant to represent an approximate 60% completion product, is planned for publication in June for preliminary public feedback prior to the official public comment period which begins in August 2024.

## Summary

The Council endorsed several components of the RDG to date, including the following:

Regional Core Values (4)	Regional Goals (5)
<b>Equity</b> We value the people and communities of our region.	<b>Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive</b> Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.
<b>Leadership</b> We value those in our region who inspire and motivate others for positive change.	<b>Our Communities are Healthy and Safe</b> All our region’s residents live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, dignity, and wellbeing.
<b>Accountability</b> We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes.	<b>Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient</b> Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, accessibility, and affordability.

Regional Core Values (4)	Regional Goals (5)
<p><b>Stewardship</b></p> <p>We value our region’s resources.</p>	<p><b>We Lead on Addressing Climate Change</b></p> <p>We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.</p>
	<p><b>We Protect and Restore Natural Systems</b></p> <p>We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for our region.</p>

**Community Designations**

Throughout 2022, the Land Use Advisory Committee worked on the update to Community Designations. The Committee recommended updated Community Designations to the Council in January 2023. The Council endorsed the Community Designations for *Imagine 2050* at the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

**Scenarios Planning**

In 2023, the Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Scenarios Planning analysis at the January, May, July, and September meetings where the Committee discussed the modeling findings on land use, transportation, housing, water, and regional parks and trails. Consolidated findings from Scenarios Planning were shared in March 2024.

**Density Analysis**

In July of 2023, the Committee began its first discussions on density, a key component to local land use planning. Those conversations extended into the November 2023, and February 2024 meetings as well and will remain a part of the Committee work plan throughout 2024.

**Land Use Objectives, Policies, and Actions**

At the September 21, 2023, meeting, staff provided the first draft of land use objectives which incorporated the information and feedback from the committee on their work to-date as well as the comprehensive community engagement that had concluded at that point. Land use objectives provide direction on how the Council plans to manage the growth and development within the region, which are part of its statutory responsibilities. Updated land use objectives were shared at the February 2024 meeting. In March and April, the Committee reviewed policies and actions that implement each of the eight land use objectives. The objectives are:

1. Respect the relationship with land and water as a foundation for regional growth.
2. Maximize opportunities for growth in places well-served by transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.
3. Establish vibrant, inclusive, connected, and safe communities for people to live, work, and recreate in.
4. Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.
5. Ensure that people in all types of communities find housing opportunities that align with their needs.
6. Remedy past and present discriminatory land use practices.
7. Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.
8. Support the economic wellbeing of our region and its communities.

Attached for review and discussion at the Thursday, May 16, 2024, meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee meeting, is the draft 60% Land Use objectives, policies, and actions for *Imagine 2050*.