

## Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: July 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 10, 2013

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**Subject:** Receive the TOD Strategic Action Plan and direct the Regional Administrator to begin implementation

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** N/A

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Pat Born, Regional Administrator (651-602-1723)

**Division/Department:** All

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### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council receives the TOD Strategic Action Plan and directs the Regional Administrator to begin its implementation.

### Background

#### Process

The Council began the TOD Strategic Action Plan in early 2012 with the following objectives:

- Identify appropriate roles for the Council in TOD in relation to its partners, and
- Identify a set of action steps to implement these roles.

Over the course of 2012 and early 2013, a consultant team from PB Placemaking, Center for Transit-oriented Development (CTOD) and Parsons Brinckerhoff worked with a staff team and large group of external stakeholders toward these objectives. In particular, the team interviewed nearly two dozen partners, held a developers' forum, and facilitated two day-long "think tanks" that engaged over 100 partners and staff.

In addition to this in-depth outreach, the TOD Strategic Action Plan is informed by best practices research of other transit agencies and MPOs around the country, as well as an analysis of the Council's legal authority.

#### Goals

The TOD Strategic Action Plan identifies the following four goals:

1. **Collaborate** between the Metropolitan Council and its regional partners to accelerate the implementation of high-quality TOD.
2. **Prioritize** limited resources by targeting investments in TOD to programs and locations where they can have the greatest impact.
3. **Focus on implementation** of, as well as planning for, TOD as part of a larger regional equitable economic competitiveness.
4. **Improve internal coordination** on TOD related programs and projects in order to align investments and priorities and support TOD implementation.

## Roles

TOD is highly collaborative and requires the participation of a variety of partners. Therefore, the TOD Strategic Action Plan recommends that the Council's roles in TOD should be driven by the needs of its partners and the market. The plan recommends that the Council focus on roles that it is uniquely positioned to fill, and those that fill a needed cap.

The plan divides Council roles into three categories:

1. **Lead:** Metropolitan Council takes the primary responsibility for the action.
2. **Convene:** Metropolitan Council initiates the action, but the success of the action requires full participation and input from the regional partners.
3. **Support:** The regional partners take the primary responsibility for the action, with the Metropolitan Council assisting in a support role.

The Council's roles will shift depending on stage of transitway development. For example, different roles are needed during the preliminary engineering stage than during operation. Finally, local jurisdictions will have different needs and capacities, so the Council will need to be flexible, nimble, and adjust its approach accordingly.

## Action Steps

The TOD Strategic Action Plan recommends many action steps for implementation. Specifically, it identifies five immediate next steps:

1. Establish TOD implementation staff capability to work with local partners.
2. Create an internal TOD working group and dedicated TOD program staff.
3. Create an external regional TOD Advisory Group.
4. Adopt a TOD policy, including a joint development and land acquisition policy.
5. Incorporate the goals in the TOD policy into Council funding criteria.

In addition to these immediate steps, the plan recommends strategies and tools in five categories, to be implemented in the short- to medium-term:

1. Collaboration
2. Technical resources, communication and education
3. Planning
4. Development
5. Funding

The specific recommendations in these categories are too numerous to repeat here; please refer to the full report or the presentation for more details (both attached).

## **Rationale**

The TOD Strategic Plan recommendations were shaped in large part by the input of stakeholders in city and county government, the nonprofit sector, and the private sector. Overwhelmingly, these partners expressed support for the Council's approach in regards to the TOD Strategic Action Plan. Over the course of the plan, partner input included themes such as:

- Be brave in creating successful TOD in the region – hold the region to a higher standard for TOD
- Develop a TOD Policy
- Align principles and priorities with TOD policy
- Play a more proactive role
- Focus on implementation, yet continue to plan for TOD
- Be a regional leader by providing TOD expertise
- Build strong partnerships
- Be nimble and flexible
- Improve internal Met Council coordination

As stated above, the recommendations were informed by best practices around the country as well as the constraints and opportunities provided by the Council's unique roles and authorities.

### **Funding**

N/A

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition. See above in "Rationale" for a discussion of support from partners.