

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: Status and public engagement for indicators for *Thrive MSP 2040*.

Districts, Members: ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: *Thrive MSP 2040*

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Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

Information only.

Summary of Discussion/Questions

In *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Council promises “to collaboratively develop a set of *Thrive* indicators to assess regional progress on the *Thrive* outcomes and strategies. This collaborative process will engage a cross-section of the region and include voices from local government, advocacy organizations, and the region’s residents to build consensus on *Thrive* indicators...

...the Council will use the *Thrive* indicators as a foundation for continuous improvement and public accountability...the Council will use the insights that emerge from analyzing the *Thrive* indicators to guide the Council’s future decisions, including adjusting policies and priorities as needed to more effectively advance the outcomes.” (*Thrive MSP 2040*, p.77)

The presentation will:

- Review the status of indicators developed by staff for discussion with the larger community (see following pages);
- Discuss the overall approach to public engagement envisioned;
- Gather input from Council members.



Proposed Indicators for *Thrive MSP 2040*

Why develop indicators?

Why measure performance? Broadly defined, organizations measure performance because “What gets measured gets done.” Well-crafted performance indicators identify performance problems and lead to strategies for performance improvement.

What is the scope of these indicators?

These indicators focus on **how well the region is doing relative to the *Thrive* vision**. (There are many important aspects of how the region is doing that are outside the scope of *Thrive* – for example, high school graduation rates.)

The number of these indicators is intentionally limited so that policymaker attention can focus on a small number of key indicators – “dashboard indicators.” The Council is focusing attention on indicators that are linked and integrated with goals; that are understandable, maintainable, and meaningful over time; that are meaningful in communicating the *Thrive* vision; and that are informed by evidence-based practice and research connecting processes to ultimate outcomes.

Any indicator here has a cascading set of related indicators that can and should be discussed when the high-level indicator suggests further investigation. For example, indicator 12 looks at overall investment in Areas of Concentrated Poverty; a related indicator would be the value of that investment built using Council funds.

These indicators are deliberately high-level. They supplement a larger collection of indicators that are in, or are connected to, the Council’s systems and policy plans.

Not all concepts that are important to the Council can be quantified. For example, while public engagement is a key element of *Thrive*, simply counting the number of engagement opportunities or participants could easily lead to distorted outcomes that prioritize quantity over quality. Qualitative evaluation will supplement these quantitative indicators.

ID	Proposed indicators	Key strategies addressed	Stewardship	Prosperity	Equity	Livability	Sustainability
1	Acreage lost to development located in (a) significant ecological and wetland areas, (b) prime agricultural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible managing finite natural resources Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity 	⊙	⊙			⊙
2	Acres added to Metropolitan Urban Service Area beyond the “2030 MUSA”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region’s wastewater and highway infrastructure 	⊙				⊙
3	Regional accessibility to destinations by auto (definition to be refined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region’s wastewater and highway infrastructure 	⊙	⊙			
4	Highways in poor or worse condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region’s wastewater and highway infrastructure 	⊙	⊙		⊙	
5	Share of housing in areas with multiple transportation modes (that is, high-frequency transit, bike paths, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging transit investments with higher expectations of land use Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability 	⊙		⊙	⊙	
6	Share of jobs in areas with multiple transportation modes (that is, high-frequency transit, bike paths, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging transit investments with higher expectations of land use Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means 	⊙	⊙		⊙	
7	Rail intermodal yard utilization: freight lifted onto rail vs capacity (definition to be refined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for and investing in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life needed for economic competitiveness 		⊙			
8	Talent attraction & retention: net gain in college grads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for and investing in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life needed for economic competitiveness 		⊙		⊙	

ID	Proposed indicators	Key strategies addressed	Stewardship	Prosperity	Equity	Livability	Sustainability
9	Redevelopment: Housing units added and nonresidential construction on previously developed parcels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging redevelopment and infill development 	⊙	⊙			⊙
10	Affordable housing production as share of all housing production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means 			⊙	⊙	
11	Share of transitway tracts with housing price diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means 			⊙	⊙	
12	Value of new construction in Areas of Concentrated Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using our influence and investment to build a more equitable region 		⊙	⊙		
13	Share of population living in Areas of Concentrated Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using our influence and investment to build a more equitable region 		⊙	⊙	⊙	
14	Visits to regional parks (or visits per capita)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation through regional parks and trails Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments 				⊙	
15	Share of workers commuting via walking, biking, transit, or rideshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means 		⊙		⊙	

ID	Proposed indicators	Key strategies addressed	Stewardship	Prosperity	Equity	Livability	Sustainability
16	Bike network miles open for use and Regional trails miles open for use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting bicycle and pedestrian facilities to promote bicycling for transportation, recreation, and healthy lifestyles Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments 				⊙	
17	Per capita water usage: total, from surface water sources, and from groundwater sources, during May-Oct, and during Nov-April.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the wise use of water 	⊙				⊙
18	Share of groundwater monitoring sites that show increasing water levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the wise use of water 	⊙				⊙
19	Share of lakes that meet water quality target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibly managing finite natural resources 	⊙			⊙	⊙
20	Greenhouse gas emissions per capita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing leadership to support climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience 		⊙			⊙
21	Energy use, by energy type, in wastewater treatment and transit operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating wastewater treatment and transit systems sustainably 		⊙			⊙