

## Metropolitan Council

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 9, 2014

**Subject:** Overview of 2040 Housing Policy Plan

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statutes 473.145, 473.254, and 473.859

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Libby Starling (651-602-1135), Tara Beard (651-602-1051), and Jonathan Stanley (651-602-1555)

**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

### Proposed Action

None. Information only.

### Background

The Council is currently preparing a Housing Policy Plan – its first stand-alone housing policy document since 1985 – as part of the systems and policy plans accompanying *Thrive MSP 2040*. Key dates in this process:

- July 7: Discussion at the Community Development Committee meeting
- July 9: First presentation to the full Council
- July 21: Community Development Committee recommends draft for public comment
- July 23: Council accepts draft for public comment
- September 15: Public hearing
- September 25: End of the public comment period

On July 9, Council staff will provide:

- Background on the purpose of the Housing Policy Plan
- A review of the Council roles in housing
- An outline of the Housing Policy Plan to accompany the preliminary Housing Policy Plan draft that will be available for Councilmember review
- Discussion of key policy tensions emerging in the Housing Policy Plan:
  - How should the Council review the Housing Elements and Implementation Plans of local comprehensive plans?
  - What constitutes a fair Allocation of Affordable Housing Need?
  - What key indicators go into the Council's Housing Performance Scores?
  - What Council mechanisms are available to support affordable housing development?

### Rationale

Under state statute, the Council has several key roles in housing, including both reviewing comprehensive plans and negotiating Livable Communities affordable and life-cycle housing goals with municipalities. In conjunction with Thrive and the other metropolitan systems plans, the Housing Policy Plan provides an opportunity for the Council to align these functions more clearly and communicate more effectively with local jurisdictions.

## **Funding**

Developing the Housing Policy Plan is a regular part of the Community Development Division budget.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Council staff has been working with a 28-member Housing Policy Plan Work Group to advise the development of the Housing Policy Plan.