

## Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: Sept. 23, 2015

**Subject:** Public Engagement Plan

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** *Thrive MSP 2040*

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Michelle Fure, Public Involvement Manager, 651-602-1545

**Division/Department:** Regional Administration/Communications

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt a resolution acknowledging the contributions of the Community Engagement Steering Committee in the creation of the Council's Public Engagement Plan.

### Background

Thrive MSP 2040 calls for a Council-wide Public Engagement Plan that specifically outlines a new approach to engagement that includes a full cross-section of the community in decision-making. The Community Engagement Steering Committee, which provided leadership on community engagement through the Corridors of Opportunity effort, was one of many advocates for this new approach, and provided specific, detailed options the Council could include in the new Public Engagement Plan.

In addition, the steering committee devoted countless hours to direct collaboration on creating the Public Engagement Plan. Many of the members of this committee volunteered their time to help craft the plan and engage the broader regional community in discussions about engagement principles and best practices. Together, the Council and these community representatives created a common definition of engagement, key principles for engagement, and guidance on how to measure successful engagement.

The resulting Public Engagement Plan meets both the expectations identified by Thrive MSP 2040 and community and local government partners who provided direct feedback during the Thrive MSP 2040 process and other regional engagement discussions. This work would not have been possible without the commitment and leadership of the Community Engagement Steering Committee.

### Rationale

The purpose of creating the Public Engagement Plan is to meet the specific mandate for the process to create the Public Engagement, included in Thrive MSP 2040 (page 45):

- Define consistent expectations of how the Council will engage with the region's residents and constituencies.
- Evaluate what types of policy, planning, and operational decisions need what levels of engagement, recognizing that not all decisions need and merit the same intensity of engagement.
- Collaborate and consult with members of the community, especially historically underrepresented populations.
- Focus on developing lasting relationships with the region's residents and constituencies.
- Highlight best practices for engagement in our region.

- Work toward making decisions with people, not for people.

**Funding**

N/A

**Known Support / Opposition**

None.

**Metropolitan Council Resolution 2015-19**  
**Recognizing the Contributions of the Community Engagement Steering Committee in the Development of the Public Engagement Plan**

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee was created as a community-based working group to advise and support outreach and engagement work within the Corridors of Opportunity initiative; and

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee strives to ensure underrepresented communities are a powerful voice in creating an equitable region; and

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee has continued to engage underrepresented communities in regional policy issues; and

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee devoted countless hours in direct collaboration to help create the Council's Public Engagement Plan and regional engagement principles; and

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee is a valuable partner in engaging a range of voices in regional decision-making; and

**WHEREAS,** The Community Engagement Steering Committee is helping establish and highlight engagement best practices for the Twin Cities region;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Metropolitan Council recognizes, commends, and expresses its appreciation to the leadership and members of the Community Engagement Steering Committee for their many, valuable contributions to this organization and region.

Adopted this 23rd day of September, 2015

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Adam Duininck, Chair

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Emily Getty, Secretary