

## Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: June 28, 2017

**Subject:** Generalized Land Use in 2016

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

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

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1135)

**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Planning

### Proposed Action

None, information and discussion only.

### Background

As the Minneapolis-St. Paul region develops land to meet the residential and employment needs of its growing population, land use changes. To capture these changing patterns, the Metropolitan Council periodically takes a snapshot of existing land use, interpreted and classified from region-wide aerial photography.

The Council has now concluded coding and analyzing data from aerial photography taken in Spring 2016; the June 28 presentation will provide highlights from 2016's data and describe how land use patterns in the seven-county region have changed since 2010. Local governments are using the Generalized Land Use data as a land use baseline to inform their comprehensive plan updates.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This presentation provides an opportunity to assess how development is changing the land use of the region and therefore the context for progress on the Thrive outcomes as well as the baseline for implementation of the Thrive Land Use Policy. Data on land use provide a real-time grounding for *Thrive MSP 2040's* long-term forecasts and therefore inform how future infrastructure investments can most effectively align with existing needs, thereby advancing the Stewardship outcome. Data on land use also allow the Council to monitor both land consumption as well as preservation of agricultural land, a key dimension of the Thrive Prosperity outcome.