Community Designations

2050 Regional Development Guide

Raya Esmaeili, AICP, Senior Planner
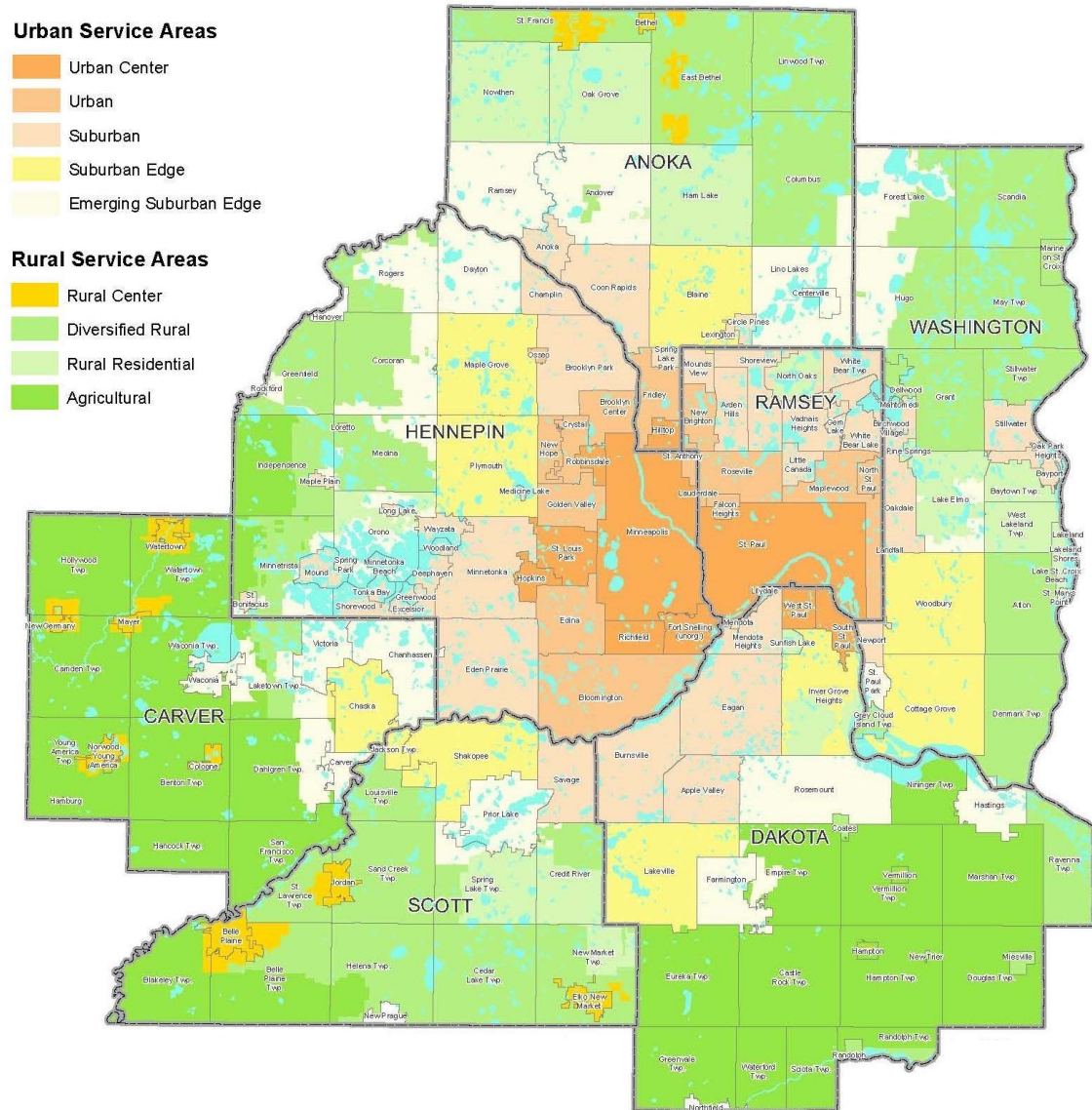
June 8, 2022

Why are they important?

Background

- Further regional policy outcomes
- Plan and implement regional policies at the local level
- Basis for land use policies and density expectations
- Recognize diversity and commonality of communities in the region
- Guide growth in areas with urban infrastructure
- Protect agricultural land and natural amenities

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Thrive MSP 2040

1. Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA)
2. Percentage of developable land
3. Age of the housing stock
4. Intersection density
5. Long-term Wastewater Service Area

Urban Service Areas
- Urban Center
- Urban
- Suburban
- Suburban Edge
- Emerging Suburban Edge

Rural Service Areas
- Rural Center
- Diversified Rural
- Rural Residential
- Agricultural

Process
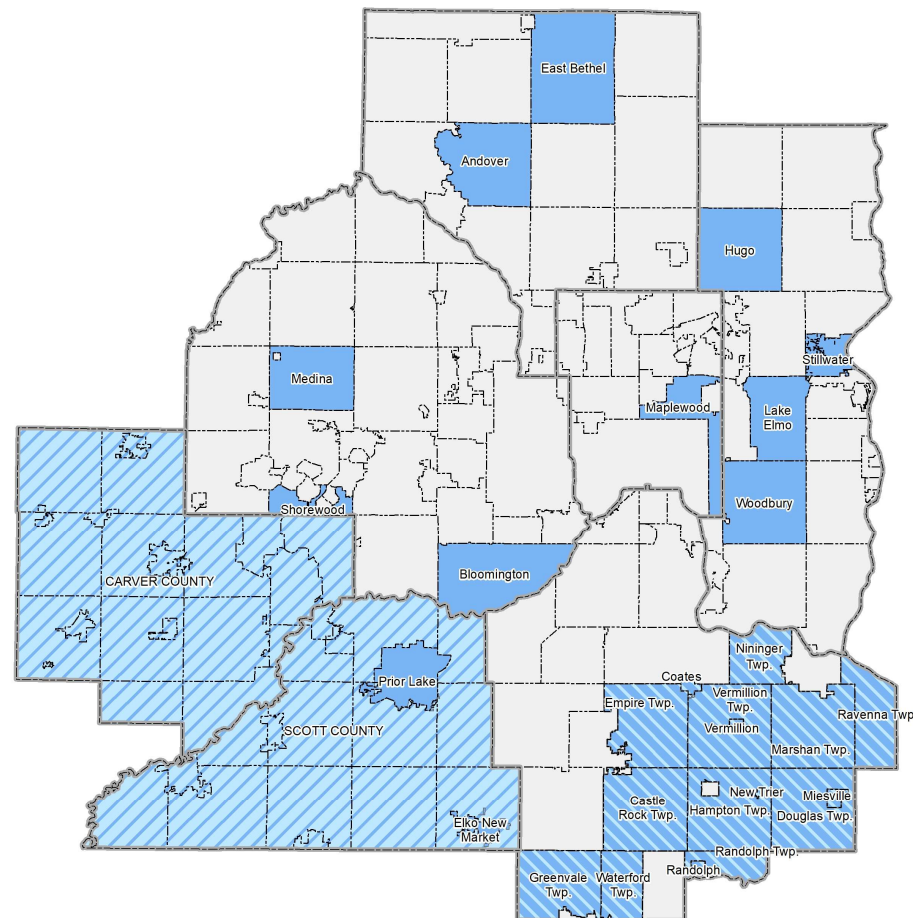
Iterative process throughout 2022

Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement
  - External partners
  - Internal technical staff
  - Other Committees
- Coordination with other regional planning efforts

Analysis

- Evaluate current community designations
- Review and adjust previous approaches
- Analyze variables
- Conduct a spatial analysis

External Focus Group

- City of Andover
- City of Bloomington
- City of East Bethel
- City of Elko New Market
- City of Hugo
- City of Lake Elmo
- City of Maplewood
- City of Medina
- City of Prior Lake
- City of Shorewood
- City of Stillwater
- City of Woodbury
- Carver County
- Scott County
- Bolton & Menk Consulting (Dakota County Collaborative)

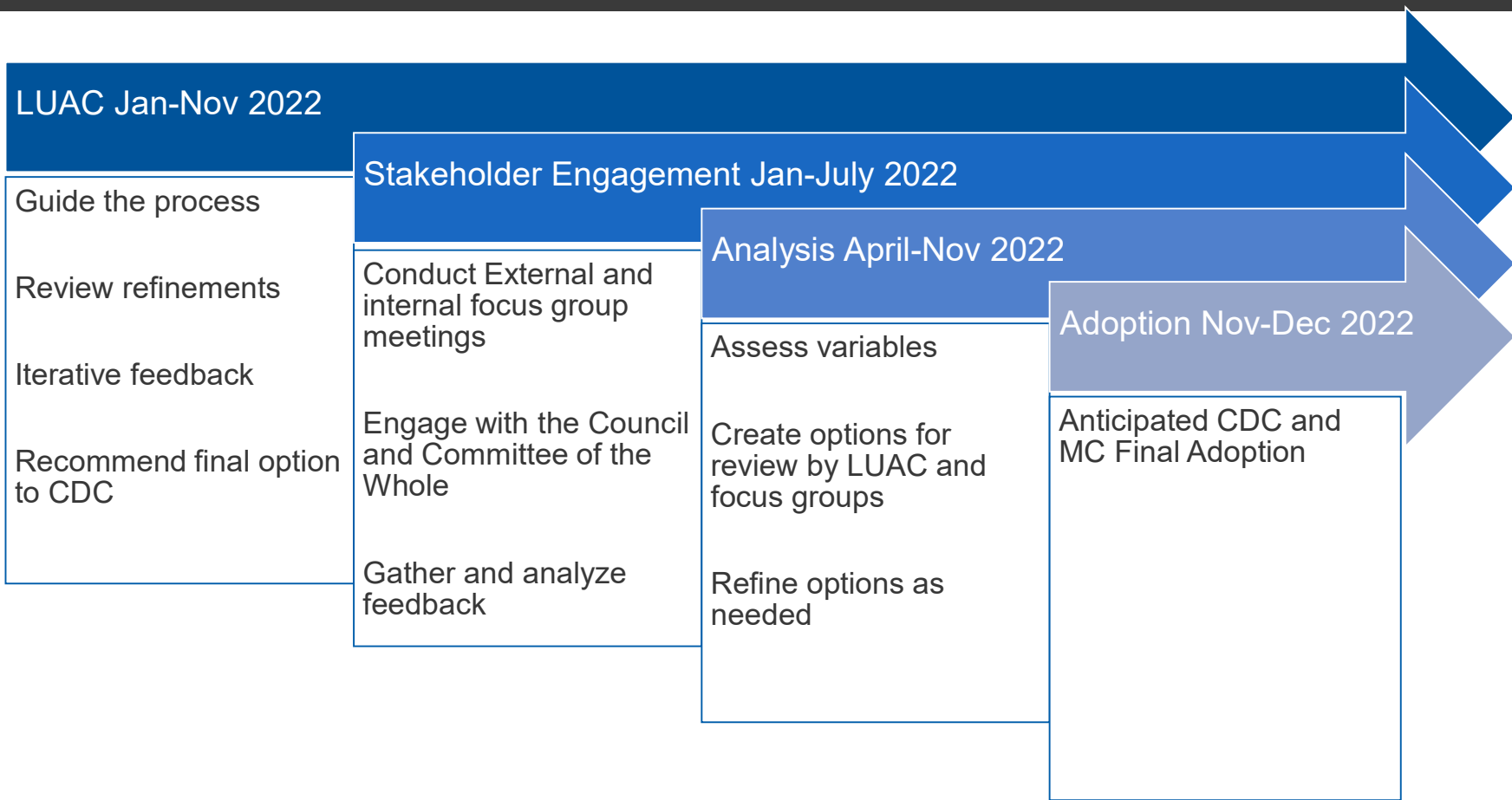# Internal Focus Group

Representatives from a variety of areas

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Regional Parks
- Wastewater
- Surface Water
- Water Supply
- Transit
- Housing
- TOD
- Equity
- Research

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What did we hear?

- Refine existing variables, such as developable areas
- Consider preservation of natural resources
- Explore addressing climate concerns
- Consider water supply and sensitive water areas
- Coordinate efforts upfront
- Consider compact development policies
- Add more flexibility within a community designation
- Consider consequences and unintended outcomes
- Ensure simple and easy to implement approaches

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Timeline

LUAC Jan-Nov 2022

Guide the process

Review refinements

Iterative feedback

Recommend final option to CDC

Stakeholder Engagement Jan-July 2022

Conduct External and internal focus group meetings

Engage with the Council and Committee of the Whole

Gather and analyze feedback

Analysis April-Nov 2022

Assess variables

Create options for review by LUAC and focus groups

Refine options as needed

Adoption Nov-Dec 2022

Anticipated CDC and MC Final Adoption

Deliverables

A set of criteria for defining community designations

Proposed community designation(s) for each jurisdiction responsible for planning in the region

Descriptions of each community designation

Density expectations based on community designation

Maps for community designations

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For more information

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