

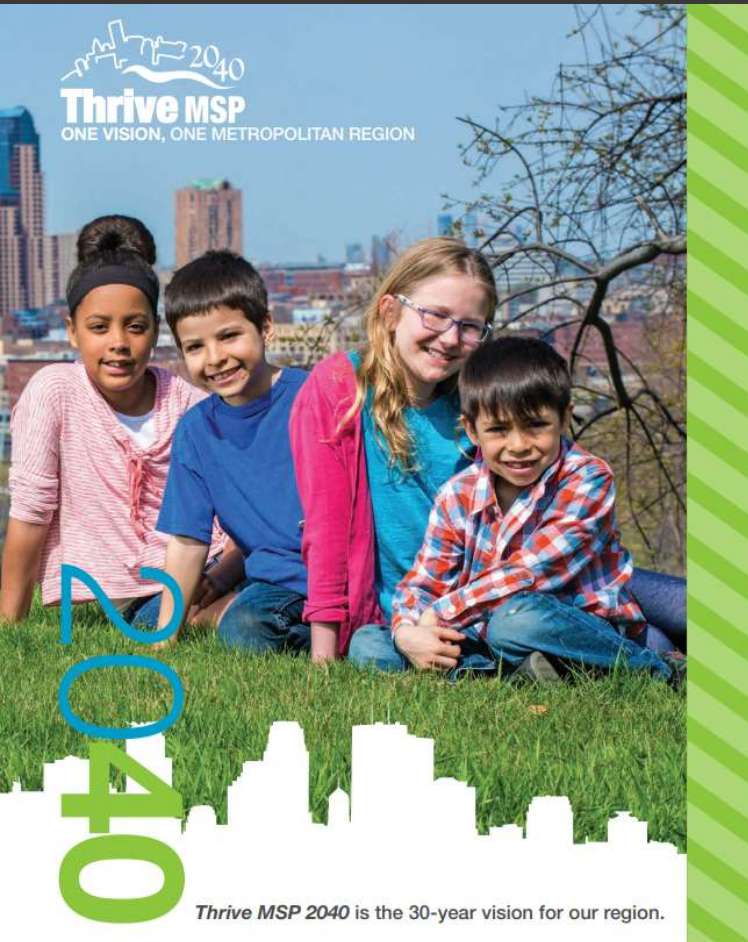
# THRIVE MSP 2040

## PROGRESS ON EQUITY COMMITMENTS



April 2022 [metro council.org](https://metro council.org)

# Promoting Equity means...



## Four integrated strategies:

- Using our influence and investments to build a more equitable region.
  - Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability.
  - Investing in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transit corridors.
  - Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making.
- 
- Core policy authorities in housing, transportation, parks, transit-oriented development, and community engagement
  - **31 specific commitments**

# About this report

## Purpose

- Requested by Council Members & community
- Format easily comparable to the original document
- Demonstrates accountability
  - Speak directly to commitments, not regional trends

## Scope

- This is not a full accounting of our work to advance regional equity.
- Supplements other data, KPIs, reporting
- Does not include
  - Other Thrive outcomes
  - Internal efforts
  - Work underway (but incomplete)
  - Planned or upcoming work

# Using our influence and investments to build a more equitable region



## Highlights

- In Livable Communities (LCA) programs, Council invested \$59.1M in region's high-poverty neighborhoods between 2014 and 2021 (all grant programs); these funds supported
  - nearly 7,900 new housing units
  - Preservation or rehabbed another 1,042 units
  - 49% affordable (<60% area median income)
- Deep engagement with Council staff, local governments, and community organizations on equity metrics
  - Framing matters; consult communities
  - Concentrated poverty focus caused harm with few upsides

# Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability



## Highlights

- Meaningful shifts in our expectations about what **robust and representative** community engagement looks like, and how we use it
- Historic investment in LCA's Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)
- Expanding housing choice and capacity in Metro HRA
  - Mobility counseling and demonstration programs
  - Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs)
  - Homeless Action Team partnership with Metro Transit
- Enhanced equity and engagement requirements in regional parks

# Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability



## Highlights (continued)

- Pivot transportation services to offer essential services - like food distribution - during COVID-19 pandemic
- New models of community partnership
  - Metro Transit's Better Bus Stops program
  - METRO Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Workgroup
- Centering equity in long-term transit planning
  - annual Service Equity Evaluation (2020)

# Investing in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transit corridors



## Highlights

- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) grant program (LCA)
  - awarded \$34.9M between 2015 and 2021
  - Funded roughly 5,300 new housing units; 56% were affordable (<60% AMI)
- New pre-development grants (LCDA, TOD)
  - Prioritizes deep housing affordability, special populations
- FTA pilot program for intensive station area grants for METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension and METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

# Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making



## Highlights

- Public Engagement Plan (2015)
- Organizational partnerships
  - Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) on Rethinking I-94 (2018-19)
  - Center for Economic Inclusion and Greater MSP on the Regional Economic Framework (2020)
- Increasing role of community and diverse voices
  - Advisory committee selection
  - Consultants hired for planning studies, engagement support
- Prioritizing customer audiences in transit service
  - Transit safety study



# 2050 Regional Development Guide



## Takeaways we're applying to 2050:

- Evaluation and metrics discussed now, as a part of the regional planning process
  - Consult with directly impacted populations
  - Systems to make tracking easier
  - Adopt with framework
- Include regional trends and performance indicators
- Communities of practice and frequent reflections on progress and results

What are your thoughts on how we should do this work in the 2050 regional planning process?





**LisaBeth Barajas**

Executive Director, Community Development  
[lisa.barajas@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.barajas@metc.state.mn.us)

**Special thanks to:**

Krysten Ryba-Tures, Senior Researcher  
[krysten.ryba-tures@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:krysten.ryba-tures@metc.state.mn.us)

