

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Transportation Committee meeting date: July 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: August 14, 2024

Environment Committee meeting date: July 23, 2024

Community Development Committee meeting date: August 5, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Release Imagine 2050 for public comment.

<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145, 473.146, 473.1565, 473.147, 473.157, & 473.859, subs. 2 and 4; 23 U.S.C. § 134; 49 U.S.C. § 5303
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director CD (651) 602-1895 Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (651) 602-1761 Leisa Thompson, General Manager ES (651) 602-8101
<b>Division/department:</b>	Community Development Committee, Environment Committee, Transportation Committee

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Housing Policy Plan, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, and the 2050 Water Policy Plan for public comment.
2. Authorize a public comment period from August 15, 2024, to October 7, 2024.
3. Conduct a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at the regularly scheduled Metropolitan Council meeting.

### Background

This item consolidates actions taken by various standing committees of the Council into a single business item on Imagine 2050 for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the Community Development, Environment, and Transportation Committees reviewed and took action on specific components of Imagine 2050. In addition, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission recommended to the Community Development Committee to release the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Similarly, the Transportation Advisory Board and its technical committees recommended the release of the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public comment. The Council's action consolidates the individual committee actions releasing the respective components of Imagine 2050. This action also establishes the public comment period and schedules the public hearing date. A draft public notice is included in Attachment A.

The Metropolitan Council is required by Minn. Stat. § 473.145 to create a long-range plan to establish the vision, values, goals, and land use objectives, policies, and actions to guide the growth and development of the Twin Cities metro region. Imagine 2050 includes the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (Minn. Stat. § 473.147) and the Housing Policy Plan, which provides an expanded policy framework related to the housing elements identified in statute (Minn. Stat. 473.859, subs. 2 and 4) as well as direction of the Council's housing-related programs.

Imagine 2050 also includes a plan focused on the water resources (Minn. Stat. § 473.157), the regional wastewater treatment system (Minn. Stat. § 473.146), and water supply planning (Minn. Stat. § 473.1565) for the seven-county region.

The Metropolitan Council is required to produce a regional long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law. Minn. Stat. § 473.146 requires a transportation chapter of the regional development guide for all transportation modes, including aviation. In addition, 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303 require the development of long-range transportation plans for all metropolitan regions in the country that addresses all surface transportation modes.

The drafted regional planning document, Imagine 2050, sets cross-cutting goals and expectations that apply to and are supported by policy plans – the Transportation Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Plan, the Regional Housing Plan, and the Water Policy Plan.

### ***Draft Imagine 2050 Documents***

Included with this business item and posted separately on the Council’s agenda for the Council meeting are the following documents that are the subject for release for public comment:

1. Imagine 2050 Regional Vision, Values, & Goals
2. 2050 Land Use Policy
3. 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
4. 2050 Housing Policy Plan
5. 2050 Water Policy Plan
6. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan documents
  - Overview/Imagine 2050 Transportation Chapter
  - Policies and Actions
  - Regional Transportation Finance
  - Highway Investment Plan
    - Functional Classification
    - Preliminary Interchange Approval Process
    - Congestion Management Process
  - Transit Investment Plan
    - Transit Design and Performance Guidelines
  - Bicycle Investment Plan
  - Pedestrian Investment Plan
  - TDM Investment Plan
  - Freight Investment Plan
  - Aviation System Plan
    - Aviation Supporting Information
  - Evaluation and Performance
  - Work Program
  - Long-Range Highway and Transit Capital Project Lists
  - Environmental Justice Analysis

### **Rationale**

After several years of engagement, analysis, and planning, the draft content for Imagine 2050 is ready for public comment ahead of the Council’s final adoption scheduled for February 2025. Imagine 2050 and all of the components are required under state statute, including federal law for transportation, and must include a public comment period. Imagine 2050 fulfills planning requirements under the law, allows the region to continue to receive federal and state funding, and begins the state-required process for local comprehensive plan updates.

The Council conducted an extensive process for developing the draft Imagine 2050 in consultation with many partners, residents, and stakeholders, as described in the attached committee reports. In addition to each of the standing committees, the release for public comment was also recommended by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Transportation



Advisory Board and its technical committees.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The regional development guide, Imagine 2050, and the different system and policy plans within it have been developed in the spirit of the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. With each 10-year planning cycle, the resulting regional policy builds on the prior regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes responses to the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes, as well as an updated vision and goals for the region in 2050. It also contains the shared regional goals that guide all of the policy work, including additional detail related to equity, addressing racial disparities, and climate change.

### **Funding**

The public comment process will be conducted by Council staff through already authorized resources.

### **Small business inclusion**

There are no direct impacts to small business with the proposed action.



## Attachment A. DRAFT Public Notice to be Posted after Met Council Release of Imagine 2050

Metropolitan Council

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for Metropolitan Development Guide, Imagine 2050

The Metropolitan Council has released the comprehensive development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Imagine 2050, for public comment. Imagine 2050 includes the following system and policy plans: 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, 2050 Water Policy Plan, 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, 2050 Housing Policy Plan, 2050 Land Use Policy, and regional policy guidance related to climate and equity.

**The public is encouraged to review Imagine 2050 and provide public comment, by 5:00 p.m. Monday, October 7, through the Met Council online engagement site: [engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org).**

If you are unable to use the online tool to submit comments, you may use any the following methods:

- Written comments: Metropolitan Council 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, 55101
- Record comments on Council's Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- Send TTY comments to 651-291-0904

Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2024.

The Metropolitan Council has planned a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul.

All interested people are encouraged to attend the public hearings and offer comments. Those attending may register in advance to speak by calling the Met Council at 651- 602-1500.

Individuals who speak languages other than English and individuals with disabilities may request reasonable modifications from the Met Council that they believe will enable them to fully participate in our programs, activities, and services. We are committed to full inclusion of everyone we interact with. If you need a reasonable modification, or to have this information in another language or alternative format, call 651-602-1500 or email [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). We appreciate you providing your requests to us at least one week in advance.

Met Council staff will review the public comments and evaluate changes to the proposed policies to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final adoption of the Imagine 2050 plan will be considered by the Metropolitan Council in early 2025.

# Committee Report

Community Development, Environment, and Transportation Committees



Transportation Committee meeting date: July 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: August 14, 2024

Environment Committee meeting date: July 23, 2024

Community Development Committee meeting date: August 5, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Release Imagine 2050 for public comment.

### Proposed Consolidated Action

That the Metropolitan Council release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Housing Policy Plan, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, and the 2050 Water Policy Plan for public comment.

### Summary of July 22, 2024, Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planning Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item to release the draft Transportation Policy Plan of Imagine 2050 for public review and comment. Chair Barber thanked staff and Council members for their work on this. There were no questions from Council members.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Pacheco. Motion carried.

### Summary of July 23, 2024, Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

Assistant Manager of Water Policy and Planning Jennifer Kostrzewski presented the business item to release the 2050 Water Policy Plan for formal public comment. Council members thanked staff for their work on the process and the plan.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Morales. Motion Carried

### Summary of August 5, 2024, Community Development Committee Discussion/Questions

Executive Director LisaBeth Barajas, Senior Manager Angela Torres, Senior Manager Sarah Berke, and Senior Manager Emmett Mullin presented the staff's report to the Committee and recommendation to release those portions of Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment. Council Member Wulff shared her concern with the process for reviewing draft content and did not feel that there was sufficient public conversation about some of the draft content. She also shared her concern with increasing minimum average densities for Suburban Edge communities from 3 units per acre to 4 units per acre and her concern that this limits the ability to develop affordable single family homes.

Council Member Vento shared similar concerns about increasing density, particularly in areas in the east metro affected by water quality and water quantity issues. She also expressed support for language in the housing policy plan regarding dignity in housing and suggested coupling supportive housing for older adults with evolving transportation needs.

Council Member Johnson asked clarifying questions around encouraging a diversity of housing types and what that looks like in practice, in addition to how neighborhood is defined. Barajas responded that neighborhood will be defined by local governments in their local planning process, and that the intent to was encourage a more diverse array of housing types within communities in response to what we had been hearing through resident engagement. Council Member Johnson

also reiterated the Council's role in managing regional growth emphasizing that we are all in this together and that policy is meant to address bigger issues.

Council Member Chamblis expressed her appreciation for inclusion of discussion regarding the wealth gap and housing affordability. She also noted that the drafts were available in May as 60% drafts and that Council Members have had a lot of discussion about the content. She also stated that she was looking forward to continuing to review as the plan is finalized and hearing from constituents.

Council Member Wulff reiterated her disagreement with some directions in the plans and stated her support for local decision-making.

Council Members discussed housing affordability and income not keeping up with housing costs. They noted that there are a lot of elements that the Council does not have control over, and that it will require partnerships to tackle some of the toughest challenges around living wages, crime, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Council Member Carter expressed her appreciation for all of the work and engagement that went into developing these plans and that they reflect the Council's stated values and goals. She also indicated that she was looking forward to hearing from communities in the region on the plan.

Council Member Lindstrom expressed his optimism that the plan moves us forward and that he also was looking forward to receiving feedback on the plan.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Carter. Motion carried, 5-2.



# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: August 14, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Release for Public Comment

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	M.S. 473.146 & 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (651) 602-1761 Amy Vennewitz, Director, Deputy Director, (651) 602-1058 Cole Hiniker, Senior Manager of Multimodal Planning (651) 602-1748
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release the draft Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment.

### Background

This item is part of the Imagine 2050 plan and will be brought forward as part of the consolidated action with the same business item for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the committees will review and take action on specific components of Imagine 2050.

The Met Council is required to produce a regional long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law.

- Minn. Stat. § 473.146 requires a transportation chapter of the regional development guide for all transportation modes, including aviation.
- 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303 require the development of long-range transportation plans for all metropolitan regions in the country that addresses all surface transportation modes.

Every ten years, the Met Council updates the Regional Development Guide and the Transportation Policy Plan to align with state and federal law. The Met Council must collaborate with the Transportation Advisory Board in the development of the Transportation Policy Plan.

### **2050 Transportation Policy Plan Development Process**

The Met Council began development of the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in early 2022. Two primary advisory groups were created and used to inform the development of the Plan:

- The [2050 TPP Advisory Work Group \(AWG\)](#) was a group of Met Council and TAB members along with representatives from state agencies and transit providers. The AWG met 15 times to advise on the plan content.
- The [2050 TPP Technical Working Group \(TWG\)](#) included staff from agencies that were represented on TAC Planning Committee and other perspectives like the University of

Minnesota, Department of Health, and the Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative. The TWG met 23 times to advise on the plan content.

There were several phases of the plan development that contributed to the draft being considered:

- [Transportation System Performance Evaluation](#) – a comprehensive look back at system performance over the past decade using performance metrics from the 2040 TPP for insights and trends.
- Contributing studies and plans – conducted over many years on a wide range of topics that helped inform policy direction, investment needs, and evaluation of the plan. See an early overview and [presentation of this work from the June 2022 TPP Technical Working Group](#).
- Early 2023 listening sessions – over 50 listening sessions and interviews with a variety of stakeholders on the transportation system vision and needs going forward. See a [summary presentation from April 2023 Met Council Committee of the Whole](#).
- Policy development teams – eight policy development teams were formed to advise on topically specific policies and actions. This work resulted in over 25 meetings on content development and culminated in 3 workshops to provide additional review across all the policy topics. Additional review was conducted with discussions with community partners.
- Document drafting and circulation for informal review – The content for the draft Imagine 2050 TPP was circulated to the AWG and TWG for informal review in late 2023-early 2024 and revisions were made to improve the drafts based on the feedback received. Drafts were also shared with Met Council members, TAB members, and TAB's Technical Advisory Committee members for further review. Over 3,000 comments were generated during this informal review process.

Met Council staff also worked with other advisory committees to review specific parts of the draft Imagine 2050 TPP. These groups include the Transit Planning Technical Working Group, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group, and the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. The documents put forth for public consideration are the culmination of this work and the direction from Met Council members.

### **2050 Transportation Policy Plan Public Comment Release Purpose**

The Met Council is required to provide an opportunity for public comment on the TPP. This action is to release the draft Imagine 2050 TPP for public comment. After the public comment period closes, the Met Council and TAB will review and respond to the comments and prepare a revised final plan for consideration of adoption.

Most of the changes to the draft after the public comment period will be in response to comments, with a few exceptions noted below:

- Content coordination or language alignment with Imagine 2050 and other system plans,
- Corrections to errors or additions of content that was not ready but is reflected with placeholders in the draft.
- Updated performance outcomes as a result of modeling or demographic forecast updates.

In addition to the maps within the document, staff is producing an interactive map with the same data. A link to the draft interactive map will be included with the public comment materials once finalized.

### **Rationale**

The Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) is required under state and federal law and must include a public comment period. The Imagine 2050 TPP allows the region to continue to receive federal and state transportation funds and begins the state-required process for local comprehensive plan updates.

The Council conducted an extensive process for developing the draft Imagine 2050 TPP in consultation with many partners, as described in Background. The release for public comment was recommended by the Transportation Advisory Board and its technical committees.



## Thrive Lens Analysis

The Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan establishes a transportation framework for implementing Imagine 2050 and its vision, values, and goals. The plan's development process reflected the Imagine 2050 values of equity, leadership, accountability, and stewardship.

- Equity – MTS utilized specialized engagement consultants to reach communities beyond traditionally represented government partners at multiple stages in the plan development process, with a focus on marginalized communities.
- Leadership – MTS and Councilmembers engaged in cross-sector conversations about the draft content early in the process and continued engaging throughout with key questions at important decision points.
- Accountability – The plan development process included ongoing follow-up on previous discussions with engaged stakeholders. The plan also includes performance outcomes to measure progress against transportation objectives.
- Stewardship – The plan is fiscally constrained while also placing an emphasis on sustainable practices in investing in the transportation system, both financially and environmentally.

## Funding

The public comment process will be conducted by Council staff through already authorized resources.

## Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business with the proposed action.



# Business Item

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 23, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: August 14, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Release the 2050 Water Policy Plan for Public Comment

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All Council Members
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn Stat. § 473
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Jennifer Kostrzewski Assistant Manager Water Policy and Planning (651) 602-1078
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Environmental Services

### Proposed Action

The Environment Committee recommends to the Metropolitan Council to release the 2050 Water Policy Plan for formal public comment.

### Background

This item is part of the Imagine 2050 plan and will be brought forward as part of the consolidated action with the same business item for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the committees will review and take action on specific components of Imagine 2050.

The Metropolitan Council is required by Minnesota Statute 473 to create a long-range plan to establish the vision, values, goals, and actions to guide the growth and development of the Twin Cities metro region. This includes a plan focused on the water resources (Minn. Stat. § 473.157), the regional wastewater treatment system (Minn. Stat. § 473.146), and water supply planning (Minn. Stat. § 473.1565) for the seven-county region. The drafted regional planning document, Imagine 2050, sets cross-cutting goals and expectations that apply to and are supported by policy plans – the Transportation Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Plan, the Regional Housing Plan, and the Water Policy Plan.

The 2050 Water Policy Plan is an integrated plan that is dedicated to ensuring sustainable water resources of the region. It provides a framework of addressing current and future water concerns through three distinct components – water policies, the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan. This cycle, policy makers decided to include these components as one document to support water planning, management, and utility operations collectively, as water is interconnected flows through and across the natural and built environments. The policies and actions included in this plan will influence the Met Council's and local water planning and operations over the next decade to foster partnerships, collaboration, and shared action to achieve our desired outcomes.

Met Council staff have been engaging with policy makers and stakeholders to create this content since early 2020, starting with our policy research project. This process has allowed us to explore areas of concern and identify approaches and actions to address them at the regional level. Met Council staff carried out a robust stakeholder engagement process throughout the development of the 2050 Water Policy Plan policy development in 2023-2024, resulting in over 500 comments which allowed for co-creation and directly informed the Draft 2050 Water Policy Plan.

### **Advisory Committees**

In addition to the robust stakeholder engagement, the Water Policy Plan had four formal advisory committees working with Met Council staff in the development of content:

1. Metropolitan Council Environment Committee
2. Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)
3. Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee Technical Advisory Committee (MAWSAC-TAC)
4. Water Advisory Committee

These groups were composed of policy makers, state agency staff, local water utility and public works staff, watershed administrators, and industry water professionals. They all provided insight and guidance throughout the plan's development.

MAWSAC holds an additional responsibility in the approval body for the Metro Area Water Supply Plan. On July 11, 2024, they recommended moving the Draft 2050 Metro Area Water Supply Plan for public comment.

### **Public Comment Process**

The Metropolitan Council will release the comprehensive development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Imagine 2050, for public comment. Imagine 2050 includes the following system and policy plans: 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, 2050 Water Policy Plan, 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, 2050 Housing Policy Plan, and regional policy guidance related the land use, climate, and equity.

**The public is encouraged to view the plan and provide public comment, by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, through the Met Council online engagement site: [Engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org).**

If you are unable to use the online tool to submit comments, you may use any the following methods:

- Written comments: Metropolitan Council 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, 55101
- Record comments on Council's Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- Send TTY comments to 651-291-0904

Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 7.

The Metropolitan Council has planned a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul.

All interested people are encouraged to attend the public hearings and offer comments. Those attending may register in advance to speak by calling the Met Council at 651- 602-1500.

Individuals who speak languages other than English and individuals with disabilities may request reasonable modifications from the Met Council that they believe will enable them to fully participate in our programs, activities, and services. We are committed to full inclusion of everyone we interact with. If you need a reasonable modification, or to have this information in another language or alternative format, call 651-602-1500 or email [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). We appreciate you providing us your requests at least one week in advance.

Met Council staff will review public comment and evaluate changes to the proposed policies to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final adoption of the Imagine 2050 plan will be considered by the Metropolitan Council in early 2025.

### **Draft Water Policy Plan Documents**

Attached to this business item are two versions of the Water Policy Plan.

1. Imagine\_2050\_WPP\_ChangesForPublicCommentDraft.pdf document highlights the edits

(in green font) that were made to the last version of the Water Policy Plan shown to the Environment Committee on June 11, 2024.

2. Imagine\_2050\_WPP\_PublicCommentDraft.pdf is a clean version without edits highlighted.

### **Thrive Analysis Section**

The Regional Development Guide and the different system and policy plans within it have been developed in keeping with the spirit of the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes. With each 10-year planning cycle, the resulting regional policy builds on the prior regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes responses to the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes, as well as an updated vision and goals for the region in 2050. It also contains the shared regional goals that guide all of the policy work, including additional detail related to equity, addressing racial disparities, and climate change.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.



# Business Item

Community Development Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** August 5, 2024

**For the Metropolitan Council:** August 14, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145, 473.147, & 473.859, subds. 2 and 4.
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance Emmett Mullin, Senior Manager, Regional Parks and Trails Sarah Berke, Senior Manager, Housing and Livable Communities
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Regional Planning

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release Imagine 2050, including land use policy, the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, and the 2050 Housing Policy Plan for public comment.

### Background

These items are part of the Imagine 2050 plan and will be brought forward as part of the consolidated action with the same business item for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the appropriate Council committees and commissions will review and take action on their specific components of Imagine 2050.

The Metropolitan Council is required by Minn. Stat. § 473.145 to create a long-range plan to establish the vision, values, goals, and land use objectives, policies, and actions to guide the growth and development of the Twin Cities metro region. Imagine 2050 includes the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (Minn. Stat. § 473.147) and the Housing Policy Plan, which provides an expanded policy framework related to the housing elements identified in statute (Minn. Stat. 473.859, subds. 2 and 4) as well as direction of the Council's housing-related programs. The draft regional planning document, Imagine 2050, sets cross-cutting goals and expectations that apply to and are supported by policy plans – the Transportation Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Policy Plan, the Housing Policy Plan, and the Water Policy Plan.

The Council initiated the 2050 planning process starting with a review of findings and trends from 2040 local comprehensive plans which had largely been completed. This comprehensive plan composite, along with the Council's work on scenarios planning, new inputs from the 2020 Census, the Regional Parks Visitor Study, regional and local forecasting, and annual analysis and reporting on population and development trends, such as housing and affordable housing production, land use inventory reporting, employment trends, Plat Monitoring Program, Agriculture Preserves Program reporting, and trends in comprehensive plan amendments among others, all serve as a foundation for the long-range planning process.

The Council has been engaging with underrepresented and historically marginalized voices from across the region, with policy makers, and with local government representatives having held more than 1,000 conversations with all of these groups. The Council has engaged and continued to

engage with American Indian leaders through the American Indian Advisory Council. Resident engagement has ranged from formal policy cohorts ([Youth Leaders Collaborative](#) and [Community Leaders Collaboration](#)) to more informal (focus group conversations, workshops, and surveys). Council staff presented an [engagement summary](#) last fall to the full Council. Residents across the region will continue to be engaged through the public comment period and beyond through the [Council's Art + Policy](#) project.

### ***Committees, Technical Advisory Groups, and Work Groups***

In addition to the robust resident engagement, the land use, housing, and parks sections each had formal advisory groups working with Council staff in the identification of issues, analysis, and development of content.

#### ***Formal Committees***

- Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee
- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)
- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)
- Equity Advisory Committee

#### ***Council Member Work Groups***

- 2050 Regional Development Guide Work Group
- Housing Work Group
- Climate Work Group

#### ***Local government representatives, organization, and other stakeholder groups***

- Regional Planning Advisory Group: convened in partnership with Metro Cities with municipal administrators, managers, planning directors, and city planners.
- Community Designations Focus Group
- Land Use Focus Group
- Community Leaders Technical Advisory Group
- Rural and Agricultural Policy Engagement Series: Sessions with local governments, large and small producers, and farmers of color organizations.
- Regional Climate and Natural Systems Work Group: convened in partnership with the Metro Conservation Network with representatives from watersheds, counties, soil and water conservation districts, regional parks implementing agencies, the National Park Service, and conservation organizations.
- Local Government Climate and Natural Systems Technical Advisory Team: municipal staff from across the region.
- Housing Policy Technical Advisory Group: with representatives from municipalities, counties, public housing agencies, private and non-profit development companies, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and Minnesota Housing.
- Regional Park Implementing Agency-Council monthly partner meetings.
- Regional Parks Technical Work Groups:
  - Community Engagement Work Group
  - Mission, Vision, Values Work Group
  - Regional Trails and Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Work Group
  - Sustainable Funding Work Group
  - Recreation Activities and Facilities Work Group
  - Park and Trail Plan Requirements Work Group
  - System Plan Considerations Work Group

#### ***Public Comment Process***

The Metropolitan Council will release the regional development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Imagine 2050, for public comment. Imagine 2050 includes the following system



and policy plans: 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, 2050 Water Policy Plan, 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, 2050 Housing Policy Plan, and regional policy guidance related to land use, climate, and equity.

The public is encouraged to review the plan and provide public comment by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7, through the Met Council online engagement site: [engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org). The Council will accept comments in a variety of formats and avenues. The Council will also hold a public hearing on Imagine 2050 at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Council Chambers.

A draft public notice is included in this report as Attachment A.

### **Draft Imagine 2050 Documents**

Included with this business item and posted separately on the Council's agenda for the Committee's meeting are the following documents that are the subject for release for public comment:

- Imagine 2050 Regional Vision, Values, & Goals
- 2050 Land Use Policy
- 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
- 2050 Housing Policy Plan

### **Rationale**

After several years of engagement, analysis, and planning, the draft content for Imagine 2050 is ready for public comment ahead of the Council's final adoption scheduled for February 2025.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The Regional Development Guide and the different system and policy plans within it have been developed in the spirit of the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. With each 10-year planning cycle, the resulting regional policy builds on the prior regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes responses to the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes, as well as an updated vision and goals for the region in 2050. It also contains the shared regional goals that guide all of the policy work, including additional detail related to equity, addressing racial disparities, and climate change.

### **Funding**

The planning process and engagement activities have been funded as a regular part of the Community Development annual budget.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.



## Attachment A. DRAFT Public Notice to be Posted after Met Council Release of Imagine 2050

Metropolitan Council

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for Metropolitan Development Guide, Imagine 2050

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The Metropolitan Council has planned a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul.

All interested people are encouraged to attend the public hearings and offer comments. Those attending may register in advance to speak by calling the Met Council at 651- 602-1500.

Individuals who speak languages other than English and individuals with disabilities may request reasonable modifications from the Met Council that they believe will enable them to fully participate in our programs, activities, and services. We are committed to full inclusion of everyone we interact with. If you need a reasonable modification, or to have this information in another language or alternative format, call 651-602-1500 or email [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). We appreciate you providing your requests to us at least one week in advance.

Met Council staff will review public comment and evaluate changes to the proposed policies to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final adoption of the Imagine 2050 plan will be considered by the Metropolitan Council in early 2025.