

Information Item

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: Sept. 25, 2024

Public hearing for Imagine 2050

Public hearing for Imagine 2050, including the Housing Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Policy Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, and the Water Policy Plan.

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145, 473.146, 473.147, 473.157, 473.859, subds. 2 and 4, and 473.1565 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303

Background

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 Housing Policy Plan, the Regional Parks Policy Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, and the Water Policy Plan, in accordance with the relevant state and federal laws identified above.

The draft regional planning document, Imagine 2050, sets cross-cutting goals and expectations that apply to and are supported by policy plans.

The Met 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 Met 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.

Imagine 2050 includes a plan focused on the water resources, the regional wastewater treatment system, and water supply planning for the seven-county region. 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.

The Transportation Policy Plan portions of Imagine 2050 were informed by the Transportation System Performance Evaluation, contributing studies and plans, listening sessions with stakeholders, policy development teams, and several technical working groups. It provides policy guidance for highways, transit, bicycles, pedestrians, aviation, freight, and related a variety of related issues the cut across planning areas.

The Met Council has been engaging with underrepresented and historically marginalized voices from across the region, with policymakers and with local government representatives, having held more than 1,000 conversations with all of these groups. The Met Council has engaged and continues 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). Met Council staff presented an [engagement summary](#) last fall to the full Metropolitan Council. Residents across the region will continue to be engaged through the public comment period and beyond through the [Council's Art + Policy](#) project.

In addition, Met Council staff and leadership have engaged with subject-specific stakeholder groups and Met Council advisory committees, including the Land Use Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, and the Transportation Advisory Board, and relevant technical subcommittees of these groups.

This public hearing is one opportunity for residents and stakeholders of the regional to share their feedback with the Council. Other venues include the Council's website (engage.metrocouncil.org), email, mail, and phone. The public comment period will close on October 7, 2024. Over the remainder of 2024, Council staff will then assemble all submitted feedback and discuss feedback at the applicable standing and advisory committees of the Council on proposed responses to the feedback received, including any resulting revisions to the draft plan.

Draft Imagine 2050 Documents

All Imagine 2050 documents are posted on the Council's website and can be accessed through the links below.

- [Imagine 2050 Regional Vision, Values, & Goals](#)
- [2050 Land Use Policy](#)
- [2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan](#)
- [2050 Housing Policy Plan](#)
- [2050 Water Policy Plan](#)
- 2050 Transportation Policy Plan
 - [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](#)

