

Community Relations

2024 Summary and 2025 Look Ahead



January 8, 2025 Sam O'Connell, Director of Community Relations

Community Relations Team Activities

2023:

- Community Relations added three new staff

2024: Focused on restoring the team's core services to Council Members and expand Tribal and Native Community relationships:

- Outreach to reestablish connection to communities
- Constituent work
- CM Retreat
- Internal and external communications
- State of the Region
- Council-wide Training
- Added admin support; initiating HR, IS sustainable support
- CR team building

Community Relations Team

2025 Goals: Continue to align our community relations work with our staff expertise and advance beyond the historical role:

- Expand function by transitioning into a similar role to our equivalents in other organizations Liaising between Met Council Staff, Council Members, and Stakeholders
- Representing Council Members in meetings members cannot attend
- Strategic advice and policy analysis
- **Support the Council through work with individual members to foster a reputation as an effective, accountable, and collaborative regional partner in growth.**



2024 State of the Region: Sharing our values, vision and impact

Over 200 representatives of city, county, and regional governments attended

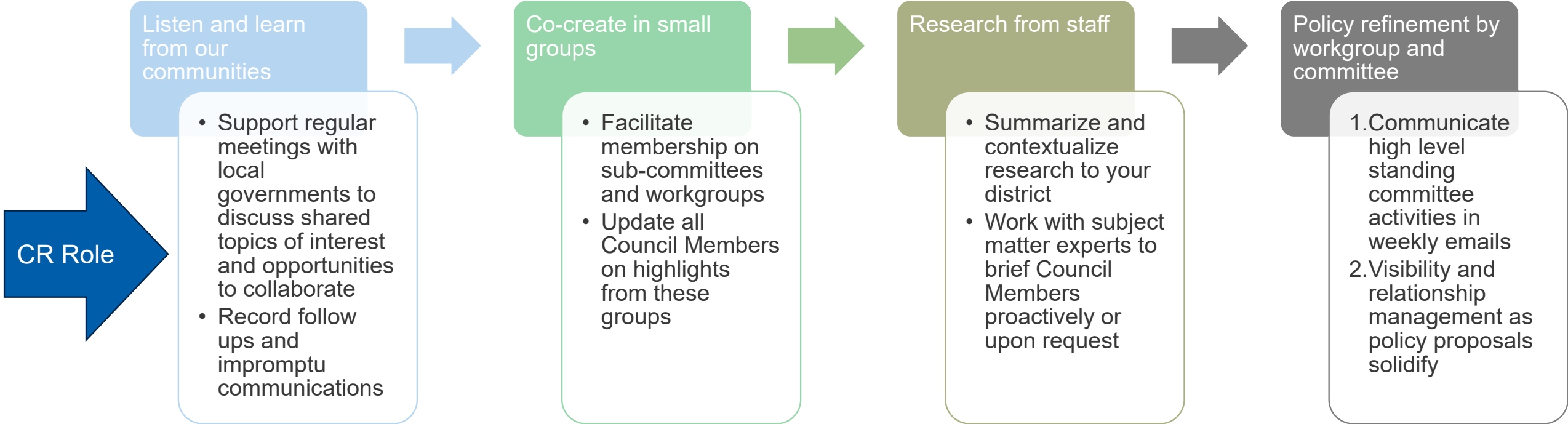
- Connections made at this event led to dozens more meetings with local partners to address issues or coordinate regional affairs
- Attendees were offered resources on council services, information on council members and ways to connect

Panel members shared experiences planning for a brighter future for the Twin Cities

- Speakers outlined the hopes for Imagine 2050 and our renewed commitment to collaboration with local partners
- Attendees reported that they appreciated hearing from regional thinkers who are leading changes to the regional vision for the Twin Cities

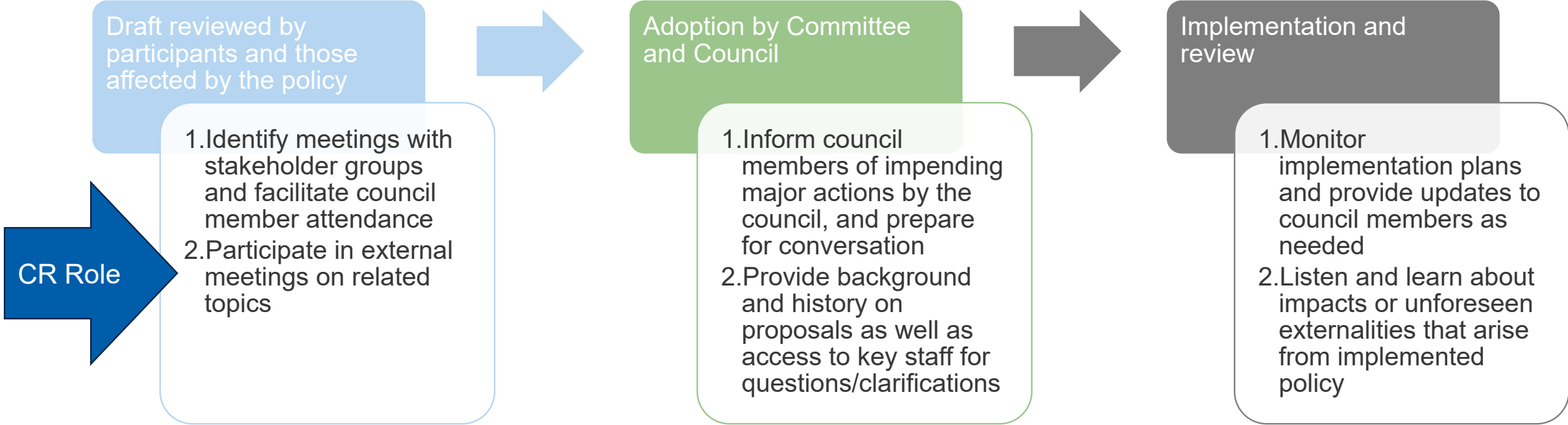
Community Relations Scope and Goal

From communities into policy and action



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2024 Highlights

- 41 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings
 - Major Accomplishments: American Indian Advisory Council commitments, Regional Development Guide 90% Draft, Safety and Security Action Plan
- 76 Committee meetings
 - Major Accomplishments: Workforce Dashboard, LCA program review, Network Now, GHG goals and benchmarks
- 43 meetings of TAB, MPOSC, EAC, LUAC, TAAC and WASAC
 - Major Accomplishments: EAC Bylaws and membership, Water Policy Plan, Land Use policy recommendations
- 52 meetings of TAB and associated groups
 - Regional Solicitation, evaluation policymaker working group
- 54 meetings with jurisdictional partners on major infrastructure projects
 - Major Accomplishments: Blue Line Extension municipal consent and anti-displacement efforts, progress toward Green Line Extension completion, Gold Line, Purple Line, and Hwy 55 meetings



Communities Visited: By the numbers

- Nearly one hundred official city and township visits
- Five county government visits
- Meetings with dozens of County Commissioners
- More than 500 Met Council facilitated meetings that include the public
- More than 200 meetings with non-profits, advocacy groups, regional governments, and associations



Council Member Engagement

Meeting people where they are

- Community Relations submits an official engagement report to the Governor's Office each week
- This report includes events from Council Member calendars and other events that staff know members plan to attend.
- Community Relations estimates that this represents less than half of the actual 'engagement' from council members but gives a good picture of how much goes on in a year

What You've Heard and Emerging Topics

- Transit safety, security, and project planning/construction
- Issues/opportunities for business and economic development discussions
- Equity in all its facets
- Water is life, water is medicine
- Supporting Met Council's mission
- Tell us more!!



Planning for 2025



- State of the Region
- RDG adoption and implementation
- Meetings with townships, cities and counties
- Council Member onboarding, norms, policy and procedure
- Meetings/speaking engagements with local, state, federal and partner organizations
- Council Member action plans designed by members to orient staff in accomplishing their goals
- District Investment Sheets
- Continue to build upon and expand Tribal Consultation and Native Communities work; update the Tribal policy

Questions for Council Members

What is your vision for engagement?

- As an individual council member, how do you hope the whole Metropolitan Council will work with communities, businesses and stakeholders in your area?

What goals do you hope to accomplish?

- How many community visits/conversations do you hope to make this year?
- What emerging groups/stakeholders do you hope to engage?

How can staff support your vision?

- How do you see Community Relations' role in contributing to your goals as a council?