

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: March 12, 2025

Business Item: 2025-80

Adopt Resolution 2025-7 establishing Metropolitan Council procedures regarding the Imagine 2050 Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.175
Staff prepared/presented:	Allison Waukau, Tribal Liaison & Native Relations Coordinator, (651) 377-0090 Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance, (651) 602-1566 Gillian Greenberg, Senior Climate Planner, (651) 602-1726
Division/department:	Regional Administration/Community Relations Community Development/Regional Planning

Proposed action

That the Met Council adopt the attached Resolution 2025-7 establishing Metropolitan Council procedures regarding the Imagine 2050 Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement.

Background

The Met Council established an American Indian Advisory Council in March 2024 as part of the development of Imagine 2050, the Council's regional development guide. The purpose of the American Indian Advisory Council was to implement a community-centered engagement approach, to initiate co-creation of a regional land acknowledgement with members of the region's American Indian communities, and to acknowledge the historic harm that Indigenous people in this region have survived.

Based on immediate feedback, the land acknowledgement transformed into a Land, Water, and People Commitments of the Met Council. One of the recommended commitments addresses the topic of acknowledgement, as follows:

1. *As a responsible government agency, the Met Council will lead in publicly recognizing the genocide and displacement that American Indian communities survived and continue to endure.*
 - a. *The Advisory Council is drafting a Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement for the Met Council and to include in Imagine 2050.*
 - b. *The Advisory Council encourages the Met Council to understand the value of a statement is to increase recognition of the seven-county region as Dakota land and promote action.*

After the development and presentation of recommended commitments for the Met Council to take to support the region's American Indian communities, the American Indian Advisory Council

developed a Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement to support the Met Council in meeting its commitment. The Acknowledgement Statement and recommendations for use were presented to the Met Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on [October 16, 2024](#). Both a short statement and a long statement were shared, with recommendations from the American Indian Advisory Council on where and when to use each statement.

At the November 6, 2024, Regional Development Guide Work Group (Work Group) meeting, Committee members discussed use of the Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement in Met Council meetings and activities and the recommendations from the American Indian Advisory Council. In addition to the Acknowledgement Statement being adopted as part of Imagine 2050, the Work Group drafted recommendations for where and when the Met Council should use the two versions of the Acknowledgement Statement. These recommendations were shared by Work Group Committee Chair Toni Carter and discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on [December 4, 2024](#). In that meeting, Met Council Members agreed upon how to use the Acknowledgement. The discussion and consensus are reflected in the procedures described in the attached resolution.

Rationale

The resolution codifies months of conversation by both the Met Council and the American Indian Advisory Council to acknowledge and take action to address historic and ongoing harms faced by American Indian people who have lived and continue to live in the seven-county region. The attached resolution provides clear direction on how the Met Council will take action on the acknowledgement recommendations from the American Indian Advisory Council.

Thrive lens analysis

The Council adopted Imagine 2050 on February 12, 2025, which builds upon the policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. This action advances Imagine 2050's Equitable and Inclusive goal, which includes the Council's commitment to using the Equity Framework in its planning, processes, decision-making, and policies. The Equity Framework identifies three grounding concepts for this work: contextualized, community-centered, and reparative. As part of implementing the Framework during the development of Imagine 2050, the Council established the American Indian Advisory Council, which centered the community in developing shared context and building reparative action through the Advisory Council's recommended commitments. This Council business item and resolution stems from the Advisory Council's recommended commitments incorporated into Imagine 2050.

Funding

There are no funding implications related to the proposed action.

Small business inclusion

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

