

Information Item

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: August 27, 2025

Topic

2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	U.S. Economic Development Administration Guidelines for CEDS Imagine 2050 - Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient (p. 69)
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Division/department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

In August 2020, the Met Council adopted the region's first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), called the [Regional Economic Framework](#). The Met Council prepared the plan in collaboration with GreaterMSP and the Center for Economic Inclusion, with financial support from the McKnight Foundation. The Framework described the state of the regional economy and identified shared priorities and strategies to advance economic health and vitality for people across the region. The Framework outlined nine priorities, shaped by input from major stakeholders. The priorities were:

Regional Brand and Image	Racial Inclusion	Workforce and Skills
Talent Migration and Retention	Job Growth	Startups and Innovation
New Climate Economy	Affordability	Transportation and Mobility

Purpose of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

A CEDS is a planning document designed to inform a region's economic development efforts. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires the creation and adoption of a regional CEDS every five years to make a region eligible for EDA grant and funding opportunities. Before 2020, the seven-county metropolitan area did not qualify for EDA funding because it did not have a CEDS plan. The Met Council and its partners co-led an effort to produce the region's first CEDS. This ensures that local governments, nonprofits, and public-private partnerships within the region are able to directly apply to the EDA for funding opportunities.

The EDA provides clear guidelines for the content of a CEDS. It must include:

- An overview of the regional economy, including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Economic development priorities, based on input from key stakeholders who shape the regional economy.
- Strategies and actions for the priorities, including examples of existing or emerging initiatives.
- An implementation framework and indicators of success.

- Plans for economic resilience that identify potential shocks to the economy and how the region would respond and recover.

2025 Update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Met Council regional infrastructure, systems and policies are foundational to the health and function of the regional economy. The 2025 update of the regional CEDS is heavily informed by Imagine 2050 goals and policies, which were shaped by voices from across the region through intensive engagement over several years.

The [2025 CEDS update](#) is being led by the Met Council and supported by consultants from the University of Minnesota. Though not a formal partner on the CEDS update, GreaterMSP and Met Council staff have been collaborating during the process.

The EDA is clear that a CEDS must reflect a collective and collaborative vision and commitment for a region's economy. Met Council engagement with people across the region for the 2025 CEDS update goes beyond our 2020 CEDS engagement. This time, we are engaging in several ways:

- A 26-member CEDS committee of economic stakeholders
- Individual interviews with economic subject matter experts
- A survey sent to over 200 municipal staff or officials
- Small group discussions with the Land Use Advisory Committee, Metro Cities Regional Planners Advisory Group, and an American Indian focus group
- A public hearing and comment period on the Draft 2025 CEDS

The engagement provides the core material to update the 2025 CEDS.

Next Steps

A draft 2025 CEDS update is anticipated by October 2025 and will be brought to the Met Council for review. Input from the Met Council will be incorporated, and a revised draft prepared for public comment and hearing in November and December 2025. Potential adoption of the 2025 CEDS could occur in January 2026.

