

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: October 22, 2025

Business Item: 2025-274

Release of Draft Imagine 2050 Amendment, Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program, for Public Comment and Set Public Hearing Date

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145-147
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Division/department:	Community Development/Research

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Release the draft amendment to Imagine 2050 on the Outcomes Measurement Program for public comment.
2. Authorize a public comment period from Thursday, October 23, 2025, to Monday, December 22, 2025.
3. Conduct a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting.

Background

Measurement is fundamental to building accountability between government agencies, the partners they work with, and populations they serve. The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program builds on past commitments to monitor trends relevant to the implementation of regional development guides that originated in 2030 Regional Development Framework (2004), followed by Thrive MSP 2040 (2014). With the adoption of Imagine 2050 in February of this year comes the opportunity to advance these efforts by establishing a new, outcomes-focused measurement program through this amendment.

Program development

Community development researchers began a reevaluation of how to best undertake outcomes measurement related to the regional development guide in 2023. Three learning themes derived from 1) a comprehensive audit of policy measurement efforts in local jurisdictions and across peer regions, and 2) staff reflections on the successes and limitations of 2040 indicator projects were shared at the [Metropolitan Council meeting held on January 10, 2024](#).

As regional policy direction and public engagement solidified into chapters of Imagine 2050 throughout 2024, research staff worked closely with policy teams to learn more about the intended outcomes of policies and current or emergent data sources (Summer 2024). Following Imagine 2050's release for public comment (August 2024), additional staff and early (albeit limited) external

stakeholder engagements were conducted, resulting in broad proposals of measurement ideas. Following the adoption of Imagine 2050 (February 12, 2025), research staff completed 2040-related indicator projects and began to solicit input on a new approach to outcomes measurement at [the Committee of the Whole held on June 4, 2025](#). Concurrently, research staff continued their collaboration with policy teams to refine measurement ideas into firmer proposed measures for this amendment.

Since September 3, 2025, seven conversations about the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program were held with the Council and its committees, building to a full picture of the draft amendment. During these discussions, Council Members asked questions about specific proposed measures, suggested data sources or new measurement ideas, and offered additional considerations for the program overall (The Information Item from the [October 15 Committee of the Whole meeting](#) provides a more detailed summary.) This feedback was incorporated into the draft amendment's narrative and proposed measures as described in the presentation.

Draft Amendment

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program draft amendment consists of two documents; both are open for public comment and will be posted on the Met Council's website with other program information at <https://metro council.org/imagine2050outcomes>.

- Part A – Program Narrative: This document describes the commitments, guiding principles, and structure for the program.
- Part B – Technical Appendix: This document provides a list of proposed measures across Imagine 2050's five regional goals and policy areas.

Rationale

Proposed amendments to the regional development guide, Imagine 2050, must hold a 30-day public comment period including a public hearing prior to adoption.

Thrive lens analysis

On February 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Imagine 2050 emphasizes the importance of data-driven decision making from a shared foundation of information. Compiling trends relevant to regional policy direction and related outcomes is consistent with the Imagine 2050 value of Accountability, which states: "We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes."

Funding

This action has no funding implications. The Outcomes Measurements Program will be advanced and developed as part of the work of existing staff across the Council.

Small business inclusion

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

