



Metropolitan Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Kick-Off

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

October 6, 2022



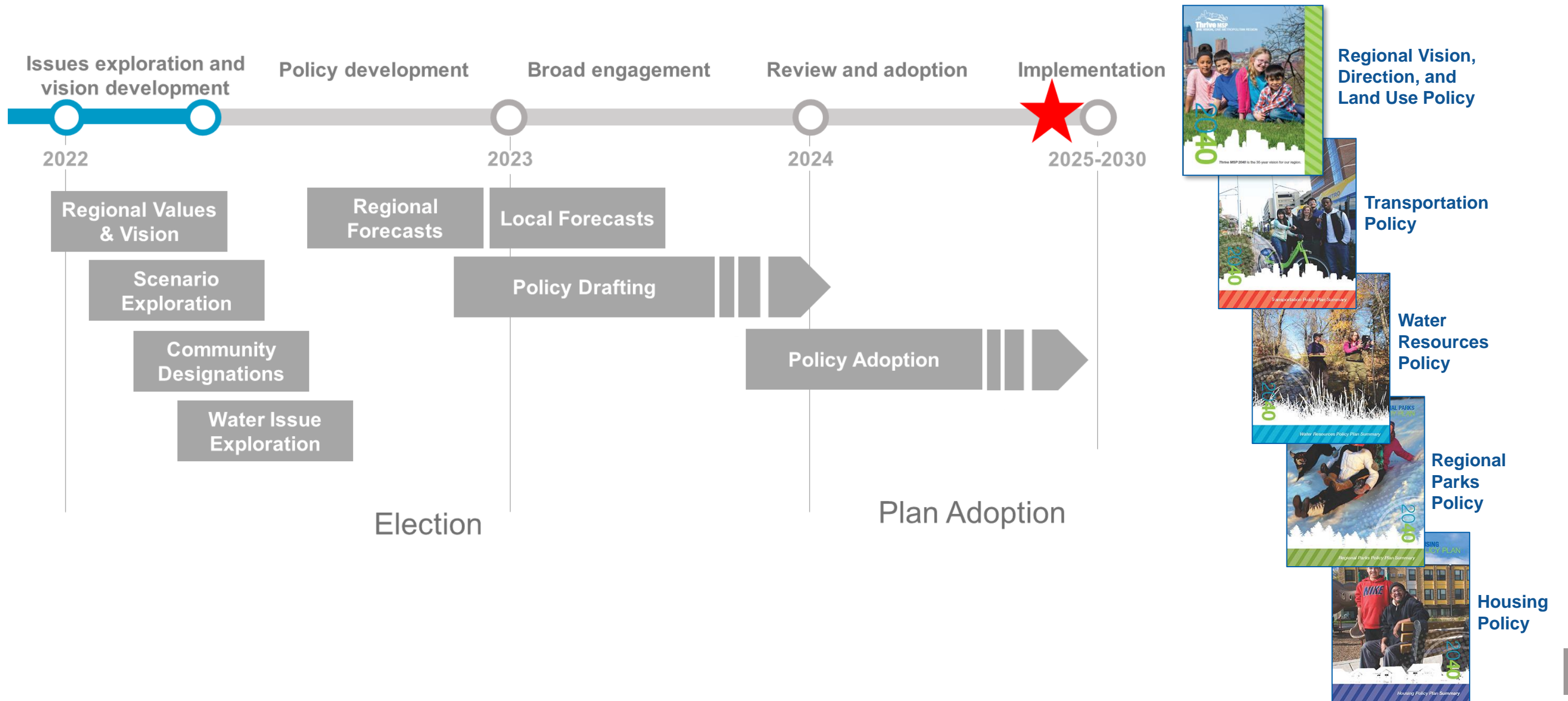
Today

- Regional Development Guide and Parks Policy Plan Process and Request for Input
- Four Question Survey – What we heard?
- Discussion – What resonates, where are there gaps, new ideas?



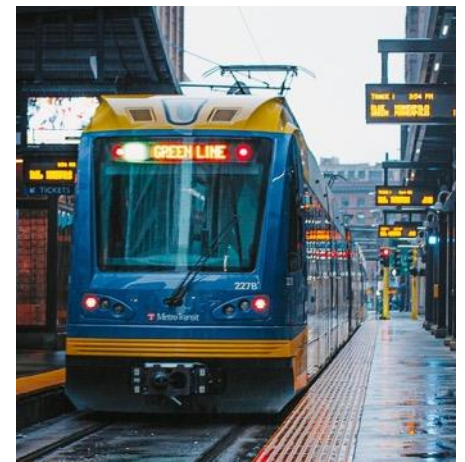
2050 Plans Timeline

Regional Development Guide, System Plans, and Policy Plans



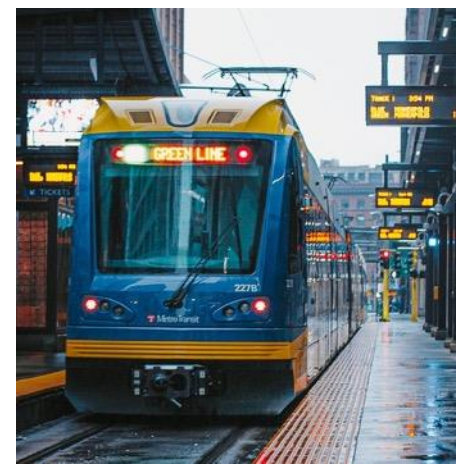
Values and Vision Considerations

- Local comprehensive Plans
- Regional research and emerging issues
- Themes from Council and advisory groups
- Policy plan needs / reflection
- Outreach and engagement



Subject Matter Expertise

- Economic forecasting
- Land use / development
- Transportation
- Water resources
- Regional parks
- Housing
- Equity / systems change
- Scenario planning



Outreach and Engagement

Stakeholders

- Metropolitan Council Members
- Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)
- Regional Planning Advisory Group
- Water Supply Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
- Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
- Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Advisory Groups
- Tribal Nations / Communities
- Local government and agencies
- State agencies
- Civic Organizations
- Community based organizations
- Equity advocates and allies
- Business / economic organizations
- “People in the region”

From General to Specific From Knowledge to Practice From Guidance to Action

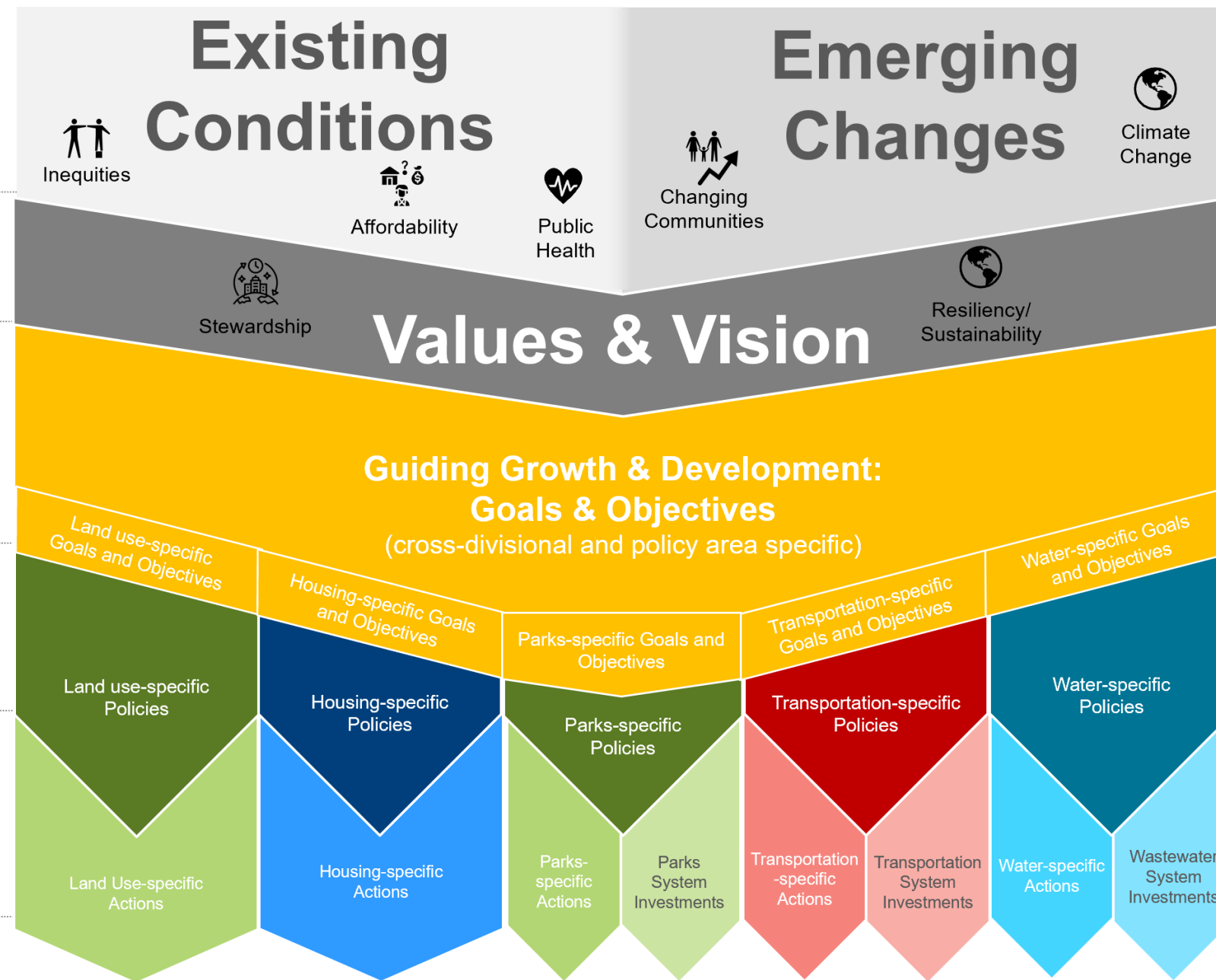
Our work reflects the region's existing conditions and emerging changes

Our shared values reflect the **core beliefs** that guide how we work toward the vision of **what we want to achieve**.

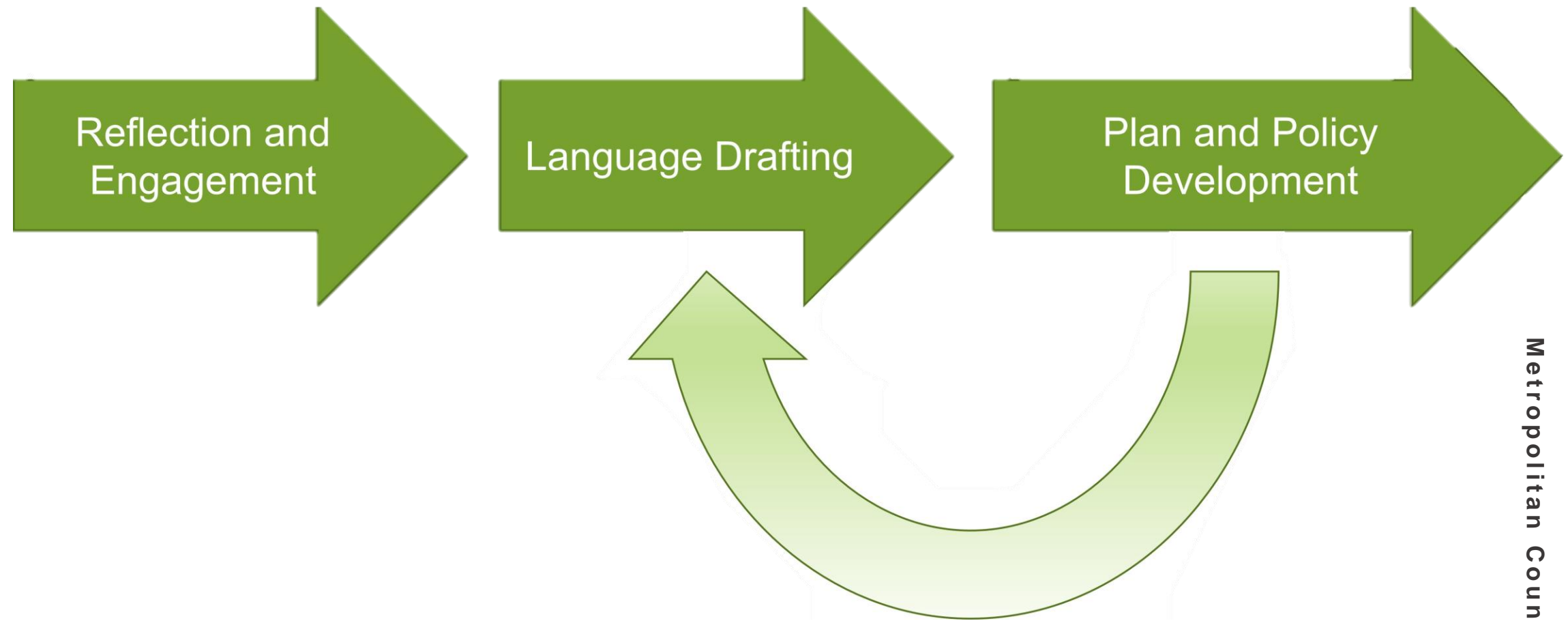
The goals and objectives articulate **desired end states** and **achievable results** that advance toward them, to achieve the vision.

Policies set the **intent and approach to regional issues** that will help achieve goals and objectives – policies clarify expectations for both Council and partners.

Policies are implemented through **specific actions by the Council and partners**.



Vision Process



Values: Current Themes



Values: Current Themes



Regional Vision: Current Themes

Racial inequities are eliminated.

Individuals and communities feel welcome, valued, and safe.

The region's diversity and entrepreneurship help drive economic growth.

Development and redevelopment preserve and restore natural systems.

The region becomes more interconnected and navigable for those without personal vehicles.

A diversity of existing and emerging "places" contribute to vibrancy and sense of community throughout the region.

Affordable housing and workforce opportunities exist throughout the region.

Public investments support economic growth, sustainable development patterns, equitable outcomes, and GHG reduction.

MPOSC Discussion: August 4th

How Does the Regional Park System Relate?

- Preservation and restoration of natural systems
- Equitable, welcoming, and safe
- Investments in sustainability
- Vibrancy and sense of community
- Interconnected and navigable
- Economic growth

MPOSC Discussion: August 4th

How Does the Regional Park System Relate?

- Implementing agencies should be involved early in a collaborative process
- Regional Parks System is a driver of economic growth
- Transportation to Regional Parks is an issue
- Importance of outreach and education on sustainability
- Environmental resources should help shape regional policy
- Keep language simple and strong

Questions? Comments?

Michael Larson

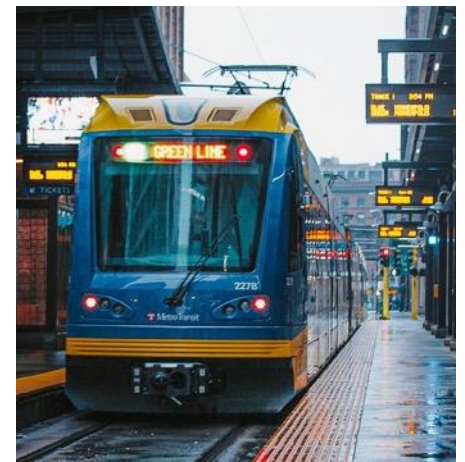
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Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147

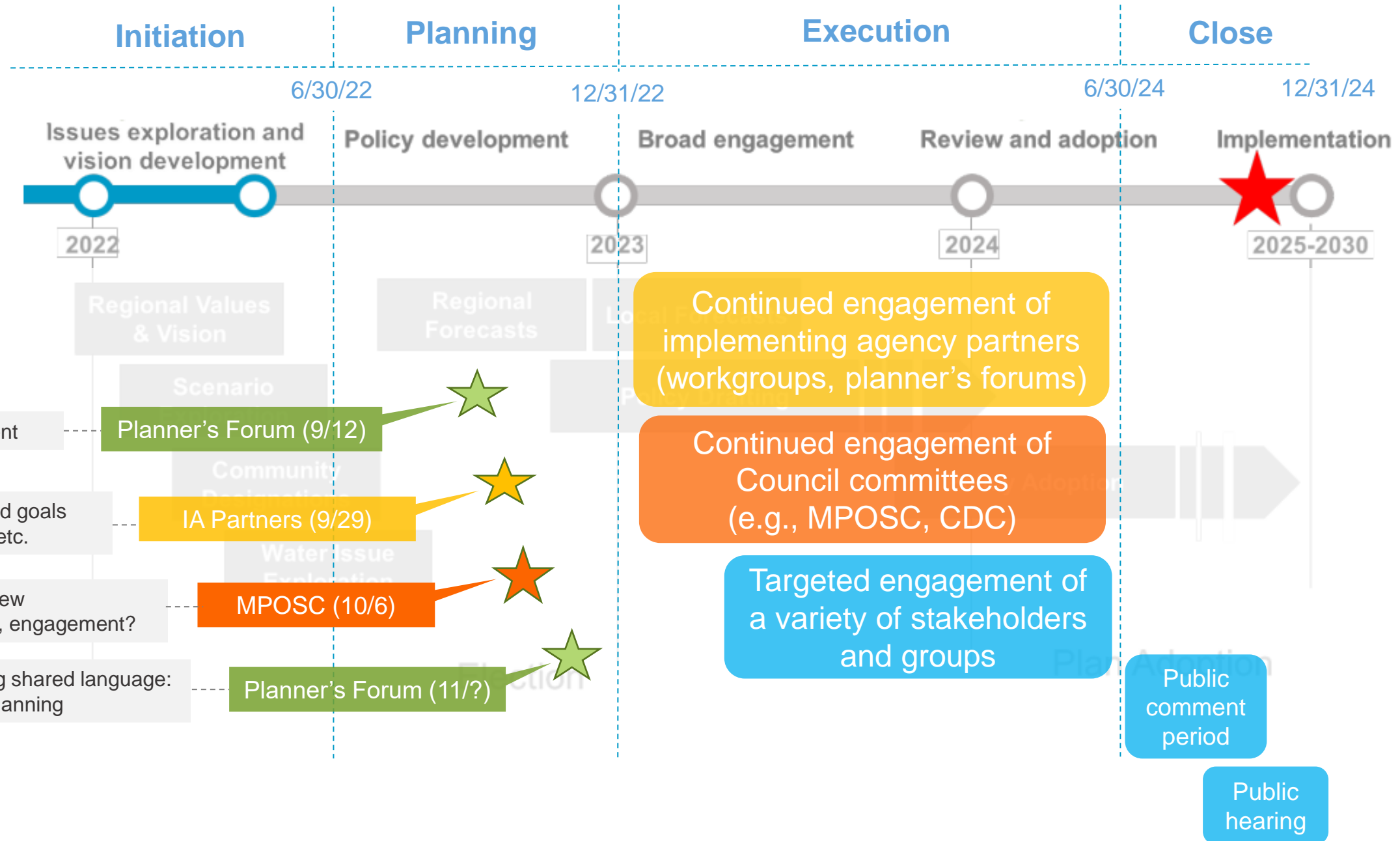
- Minnesota law requires the Metropolitan Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP) at least every four years. The RPPP was last updated in December 2020.
- This project will involve a comprehensive review and update to all components of the policy plan and will include significant internal and external engagement.
- Completion of the RPPP update is expected in December 2024.



Initial Project Timeline

RPPP phases
(PM framework)

RDG phases



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q1

What are the Regional Parks Policy Plan and Regional Park System issues, topics and challenges we should focus on as we kick off the policy plan update?

Balance amount of built / paved and natural / unpaved areas

Climate Change

Expand ADA access to include Autism Spectrum Disorder

Cultural awareness and understanding

Collaboration with public / private / NGOs re: programming and engagement

Climate refugees

Long-term maintenance and monitoring costs

Process for de-listing units if they fail to perform at regional standard

Opportunity to build relationships and create more connections among implementing agencies

Equity

Access

Linking trails

Trail separation lanes

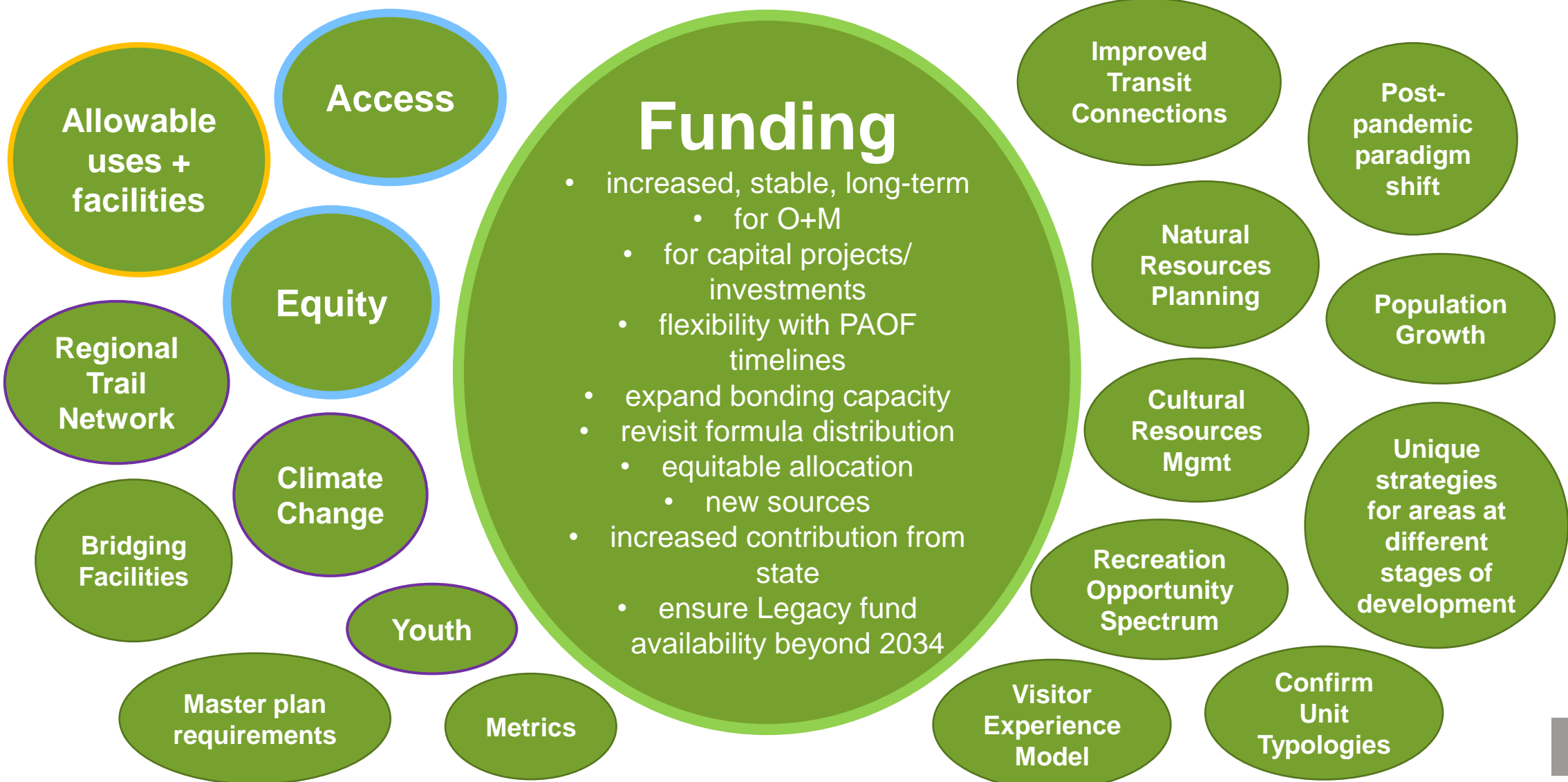
Immigrant focused facilities

Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q1



What are the Regional Parks Policy Plan and Regional Park System issues, topics and challenges we should focus on as we kick off the policy plan update?



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q2

What values do you feel are important to the future of our regional parks and trails system?

Respect old ideas while incorporating and valuing new ones

Protect nature, care for our trees and appreciate the treasure that is these parks

Opportunities to experience the outdoors individually or shared with others

Safety

Welcoming

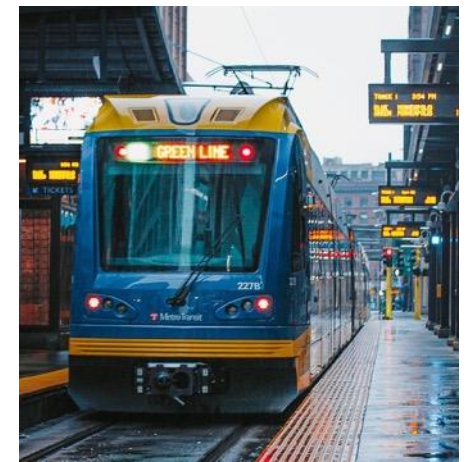
Well-maintained

Inclusion

Sustainable management and capacity considerations

Burden to future commissioners and agencies re: unmanageable and unwieldy maintenance load

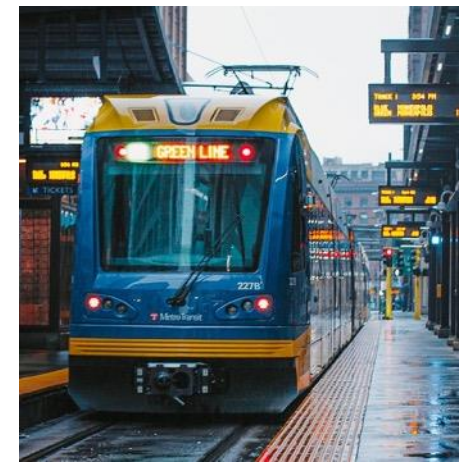
Inclusion: Open for all regardless of age, ability, race, ethnicity, religion, income, etc.



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q2

What values do you feel are important to the future of our regional parks and trails system?



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q3



If you had to write a two-sentence vision for regional parks and trails, what would it be? Please share your early ideas or key concepts with us.

- *Serving all residents and visitors with a wide array of active and passive experiences to build lifelong memories.*
- *A safe place to escape daily stress and enjoy the present while learning about our ecosystem. Always protecting the part of the world we live in.*
- *Continue the growth and investment in expanding size and scope through acquisition of property. Develop new areas of acquisition in a timely manner. Increase the level of accessibility for everyone beyond minimum standards.*
- *My happy-place.*
- *Sustainable system of integrated facilities that link open spaces of all scales and unite the regional environment and people with accessible and inclusive spaces. A critical refuge for people that enhances our regional sense of place and our connection to those before and after us.*
- *A system that offers progressive skills development and opportunities for families to explore and venture out to build youth, family, and community wellbeing.*
- *Our parks and trails are designed for family and individual enjoyment. They encompass a wide variety of geography, natural resources, and outdoor experiences.*

Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q3

If you had to write a two-sentence vision for regional parks and trails, what would it be? Please share your early ideas or key concepts with us.

- *Regional parks and trails impact the quality of life for every metro area resident. Parks and Trails are equitable spaces for community.*
- *Creating and maintaining outdoor, engaging, nature-based experiences for today and tomorrow.*
- *A welcoming, well-used and loved system that is used by all communities to meet critical recreation needs.*
- *To positively impact the quality of life for all citizens in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area by providing equal access to the unique natural-resource based parks and trails system, high quality outdoor recreation opportunities, and associated life-fulfilling programs.*
- *The regional park system provides that near-to-home outdoor recreation experience that works to provide ways to connect with nature, escape the built environment, provide solitude for contemplative thinking, energizes/refreshes the soul/being in ways that relieve stress/anxiety, provides physical exercise/challenges, and facilitates social well being.*
- *Regional parks and Trails are places for people to play, explore, refresh, and connect, surrounded by natural beauty.*
- *Your home away from home. A place to escape and reconnect close to home and full of fresh air, clean water and beautiful landscapes!*



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q4

Please provide any additional comments or advice to the Council staff as we kick-off the Regional Parks Policy Plan update.

Climate change poses a risk to urban trees...I hope we can incorporate a way to teach people not just about the danger but how to improve our natural resources by setting the regional parks as an example and source of information for people.

Timely development of new acquisitions is important for providing new areas of use and experience.

Thank you for this important work and for seeking our input!

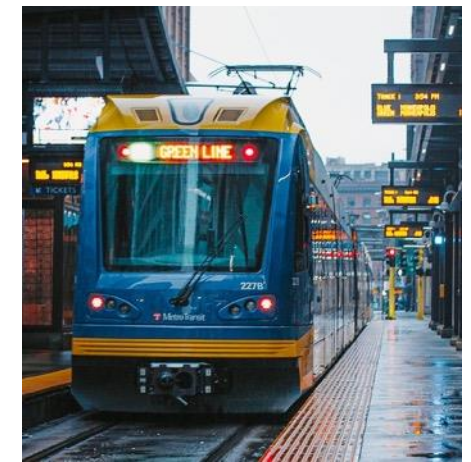
Climate change

Invasive species

A process for right-sizing the system as regional needs, interest and use changes.

A recognition of capacity building through programming as a people-centered facility worthy of funding.

Help us understand the demographic trends over the upcoming decades and enlighten us on the desires and demands of the outdoor activities from the populations that will come to our area



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q4

Please provide any additional comments or advice to the Council staff as we kick-off the Regional Parks Policy Plan update.

How is the Met Council bringing the public into the process? How transparent will the process be?

Please allow ample time and opportunity for a variety of implementing agency staff to contribute.

Please ensure small, medium, and large agencies all get a voice and that loud voices don't dominate.

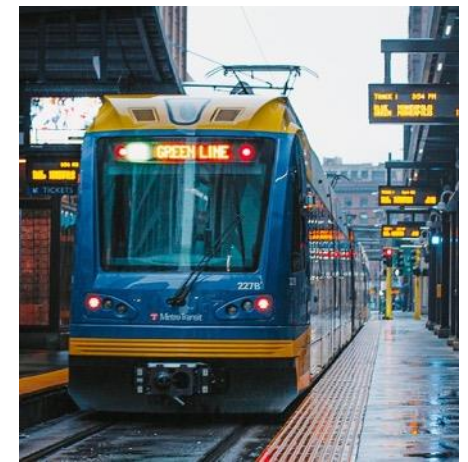
Thank you to Council staff for facilitating this important effort!!

Consider revisiting funding formula to focus on areas that still need to be built out (base more on need and less on current use).

Regional Park Implementing Agencies are the owners of the regional park system. They are partners, not stakeholders. The Council should revise the composition of MPOSC in a manner similar to the Transportation Advisory Board, with representation from each of the ten agencies.

The Council should include the Boards and Commissions of the agencies in the process the develops and sets the vision, mission and goals of the 2050 framework.

Develop an engagement process that empowers the 10 regional park agencies to be part of the process. Allow adequate time for discussion and shared development of outcomes and agendas.



Discussion



- What resonates?
- Where are there gaps?
- Do you have new ideas to share?





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