

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: January 15, 2025

Date: January 6, 2025

Action Transmittal: 2025-02

Recommendation of the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan

To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) staff
Prepared By: Charles Carlson, Executive Director, MTS
Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, MTS Planning and Finance
Cole Hiniker, Senior Manager, Multimodal Planning
Jed Hanson, Senior Planner, Multimodal Planning

Requested Action

Recommend Metropolitan Council adoption of the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.

Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (see attachments linked in the agenda).

Background and Purpose

The Met Council is required to produce a regional long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law.

- Minn. Stat. § 473.146 requires a transportation chapter of the regional development guide for all transportation modes, including aviation. This plan must be updated every ten years following release of the decennial U.S. Census.
- 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303 require the development of long-range transportation plans for all metropolitan regions in the country that addresses all surface transportation modes. These plans must be updated every five years.

Every ten years after the decennial census, the Met Council prepares a major update to the Regional Development Guide and the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to align with state and federal law. The Met Council must collaborate with the Transportation Advisory Board in the development of the Transportation Policy Plan.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Development Process

The Met Council began development of the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in early 2022. Two primary advisory groups were created and used to inform the development of the Plan:

- The 2050 TPP Advisory Work Group (AWG) was a group of Met Council and TAB members along with representatives from state agencies and transit providers. They met 15 times to advise on the plan content.
- The 2050 TPP Technical Working Group (TWG) included staff from agencies that were represented on TAC Planning Committee and other perspectives like the University of

Minnesota, Department of Health, and the Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative. They met 23 times to advise on the plan content.

There were several phases of the plan development that contributed to the draft being considered:

Early Engagement and Plan Input

- [Transportation System Performance Evaluation](#) – a comprehensive look back at system performance over the past decade using performance metrics from the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for insights and trends.
- Contributing studies and plans – conducted over many years on a wide range of topics that helped inform policy direction, investment needs, and evaluation of the plan. See an early overview and [presentation of this work from the June 2022 TPP Technical Working Group](#).
- Early 2023 listening sessions – over 50 listening sessions and interviews with a variety of stakeholders on the transportation system vision and needs going forward, focused primarily on the regional goals and objectives. See a [summary presentation from April 2023 Met Council Committee of the Whole](#).
- Policy development teams – eight policy development teams were formed to advise on topically specific policies and actions. This work resulted in over 25 meetings on content development and culminated in 3 workshops to provide additional review across all the policy topics. Additional review was conducted with discussions with community partners.

Document Drafting and Circulation for Informal Partner Review

- The content for the draft Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy was circulated in stages to the AWG and TWG for informal review in late 2023 through early 2024. Drafts were also shared with Met Council members, TAB members, and TAB’s Technical Advisory Committee members for further review. Over 3,000 comments were received during this informal review process and the plan was further revised in response to feedback received.

Document Release for Public Comment

- Following the informal review process and revisions, the draft plan was reviewed and recommended for release for public comment by TAC Planning, TAC, and the TAB. The Met Council released the plan for public comment on August 15, 2024, and comments were accepted through October 7th, 2024, alongside the Imagine 2050 and other system and policy plans. The Met Council held a public hearing to accept comments on the plan on September 25th, 2024.
- Approximately 400 public comments were received on the Transportation Policy Plan, including comments substantively related to long-range transportation planning that were submitted on other Imagine 2050 plan sections. Met Council staff have reviewed each comment, considered responsive changes, and have drafted proposed responses. A revised copy of the Transportation Policy Plan with marked changes responsive to comments was provided to the Transportation Advisory Board and Met Council Transportation Committee in December. These changes were widely distributed to technical stakeholders who participated in Transportation Policy Plan development. The changes were [summarized in a previous information item](#). The public comment report is attached to this business item.
- Since the drafts provided in December, several minor changes were made to update performance measures, model and forecast results, other data, formatting, and one non-policy text change to the Regional Transportation Finance section. The finance change was made in response to county feedback to remove a reference to local cost participation policies.

Met Council staff also worked with other advisory committees to review specific parts of the draft Transportation Policy Plan. These groups include the Transit Planning Technical Working Group, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group, and the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Met Council also used an equity engagement contract to reach populations that might not be otherwise engaged through typical Met Council channels. This



contract was used primarily to engage on the regional goals, objectives, policies, and actions at various stages of the plan development. Additional engagement opportunities were conducted on an as requested basis. The final drafts are the culmination of this work and direction from Met Council members.

Relationship to Regional Policy

The Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan provides direction for the regional transportation planning process facilitated by the Met Council and supported by the work of all regional transportation partners. This process includes other federally required activities like the Unified Planning Work Program and the Transportation Improvement Program, which includes the Regional Solicitation.

Upon adoption, the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan will supersede the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan as the basis for evaluating consistency with regional policy and plans. This will generally apply to other regular planning products in their next update (e.g., 2026 Regional Solicitation, 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program), though some incorporation of the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan may occur earlier.

Staff Analysis

The Met Council has reviewed the plan for all necessary state and federal requirements. Feedback regarding federal requirements was received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during the Met Council’s quadrennial transportation management area certification review, and outstanding recommendations will be addressed through future plan modifications, amendments, or complementary planning work.

Committee Comments and Actions

The Transportation Policy Plan was previously reviewed and recommended for release for public comment by the Technical Advisory Committee and its TAC Planning subcommittee. Following public comment, summaries of public comment and responses were presented to these committees and marked plan changes were distributed to all members. The Transportation Advisory Board may include in its motion language recommendations to the Met Council for any outstanding changes.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend Adoption	January 15, 2025
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend Adoption	<i>January 27, 2025</i>
Metropolitan Council	Adopt	<i>February 12, 2025</i>

