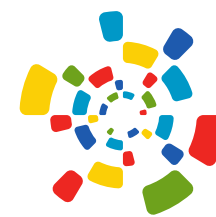




Public Comment Summary

Transportation Policy Plan



IMAGINE²⁰₅₀

November 2024

metro council.org



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Imagine 2050 Vision



A prosperous, equitable, and resilient region with **abundant opportunities for all to live, work, play, and thrive.**

Core Values



Equity: Addressing disparities and fostering an equitable future.



Accountability: Measuring impact and being open to change.



Leadership: Inspiring positive change across sectors.



Stewardship: Sustaining resources for future generations.

Regional Goals



Equitable and inclusive communities



Healthy and safe communities



Dynamic and resilient region



Leadership in addressing climate change



Protection and restoration of natural systems

Regional Planning Cycle



Regional Plan Elements

Values 1

Values are core beliefs or principles that guide the work of the Met Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development.

Vision 2

Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

Goals 3

Our goals will broadly describe the desired end states that we want to achieve for the region.

4 Objectives

For each area of Met Council responsibility, achievable results that advance each regional goal.

5 Policies

Statement of the Met Council's intent and approach to regional issues or topics, independently and in its roles with partners.

6 Actions

Specific strategies or activities to implement policies and achieve goals.

Comments Received



- Just shy of **400 transportation comments** were left on the Transportation Policy Plan or Imagine 2050
 - 17 cities, 7 counties, 1 state agency, 1 federal agency, 7 additional partner agencies or organizations
- Just over **100 commenters provided Likert ratings** on importance of plan objectives and rank ordering of supporting policies
 - Non-random survey and not regionally or demographically representative
 - Broadly support for Healthy & Safe, Natural Systems, and most Equitable & Inclusive and Dynamic & Resilience goal area objectives
 - Majority supportive but relatively higher “somewhat unimportant” or “not important” ratings of **Climate Change** objectives and specific objectives on **highway reliability** and **racial equity**
- A more detailed report of comment volume, data, and findings will be prepared ahead of adoption

Overall Themes



- **Climate and environment:**
 - Support for vehicle miles traveled reduction, greenhouse gas reduction, and electrification objectives, policies, or actions
 - Concern about application of climate actions across a region with diverse land uses and transportation needs
- **Asset management:** Concern about lack of a specific objective on maintenance and modernization activities
- **Future investments:** Noting the exclusion of an increased revenue scenario, some desire more description of unmet investment needs
- **Multimodal investment tone:**
 - Support for multimodal considerations integrated throughout the plan
 - Concern the plan overemphasizes non-highway transportation modes
- **Distribution of investment benefits:** A variety of perspectives on issues like disinvestment, environmental justice, reparative investments, and geographic distribution of funding

Transit Themes



- **Transitway planning and prioritization:** Perspectives on transitway project development and governance
 - Support from transit advocates for Met Council taking a stronger role in creating an updated regional transit vision
- **Expansion:** Support or opposition for transit expansion and specific corridor, modal, and/or station preferences
 - Requests for additional study of regional-level or corridor-level transit investments
 - Many non-agency public comments requesting investment in regional and intercity transit options
- **Finance:** Desire for regional discussion on unallocated sales tax revenue
- **Coverage:** Varying perspectives on transit needs and service level by land use, and need to coordinate services and experience regionally
- **Safety and security:** Importance of this issue on transit services remains clear and shared across the region

Highway Themes



- **Safety:** Priority shared by many commenters
- **Highway mobility:**
 - Support for highway mobility investments to serve economic needs like freight and population growth
 - Opposition to highway mobility investments and/or support reparative investments to address ongoing environmental justice harms and climate impacts
 - Differing viewpoints that the plan either over-emphasizes or under-emphasizes the impacts of highway investments
 - Differing viewpoints on the efficacy of highway mobility investments on improving travel reliability and reducing congestion
- **Highway delay:** Specific support or opposition to the objective on highway reliability and excessive delay
- **Multimodal coordination:** Support for coordinating multimodal investments with highway investments

Pedestrian & Bicycle Themes

- **Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN):**
 - Support for updating the network and various perspectives on changes to its criteria, coverage, and tiering
 - Requested update to RBTN-identified regional destinations
 - Requested engagement with parks agencies relating to the role of regional trails in the network
 - Sensitivity to bicycling network needs by regional geography
- **Connectivity:** Support for barrier removal and related study work
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Support for investments to reduce pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries throughout the region, and specific technical questions or clarifications related to this work
- **Accessibility:** Questions about new policies that seek to increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance or promote universal design



Other Themes ⁽¹⁾



- **Finance:** limited discussion of the differences in revenue availability between city and county governments
- **Balancing freight needs:** differing perspectives on how freight user needs can conflict with safety and environmental justice needs
- **Freight transfer and delivery:** a variety of suggestions related to intermodal facilities, first-last mile connections, and e-commerce
- **Tribal engagement and American Indian cultural resources:** request from that the Met Council provide guidance on engagement best practices and identify implementing actions so the transportation system can better support and serve cultural resources

Other Themes (2)



- **Aviation and land use compatibility:** suggestions related to comprehensive plan requirements and impacts like air quality and noise
- **Performance:** clarifications and suggested changes or additions to performance measures
- **Work program task engagement:** requests for agency engagement while scoping specific work program items, and more detail on community engagement when performing those tasks
- **Plan length, readability, and format:** various suggestions to improve usability of the document

Anticipated Key Changes (1)



- **Removal of the Riverview Corridor modern streetcar** locally-preferred alternative and its anticipated funding
 - Potential narrative or map changes to demonstrate continued commitment to transitway investment on the corridor
- Add discussion of **Gold Line Extension** to list of potential future transitways
- Potential change to broaden **regional-level study of future transitways**
- Objective focused on **excessive delay** to be revised to clarify intent
- Addition of specific **highway spot mobility** projects

Anticipated Key Changes (2)



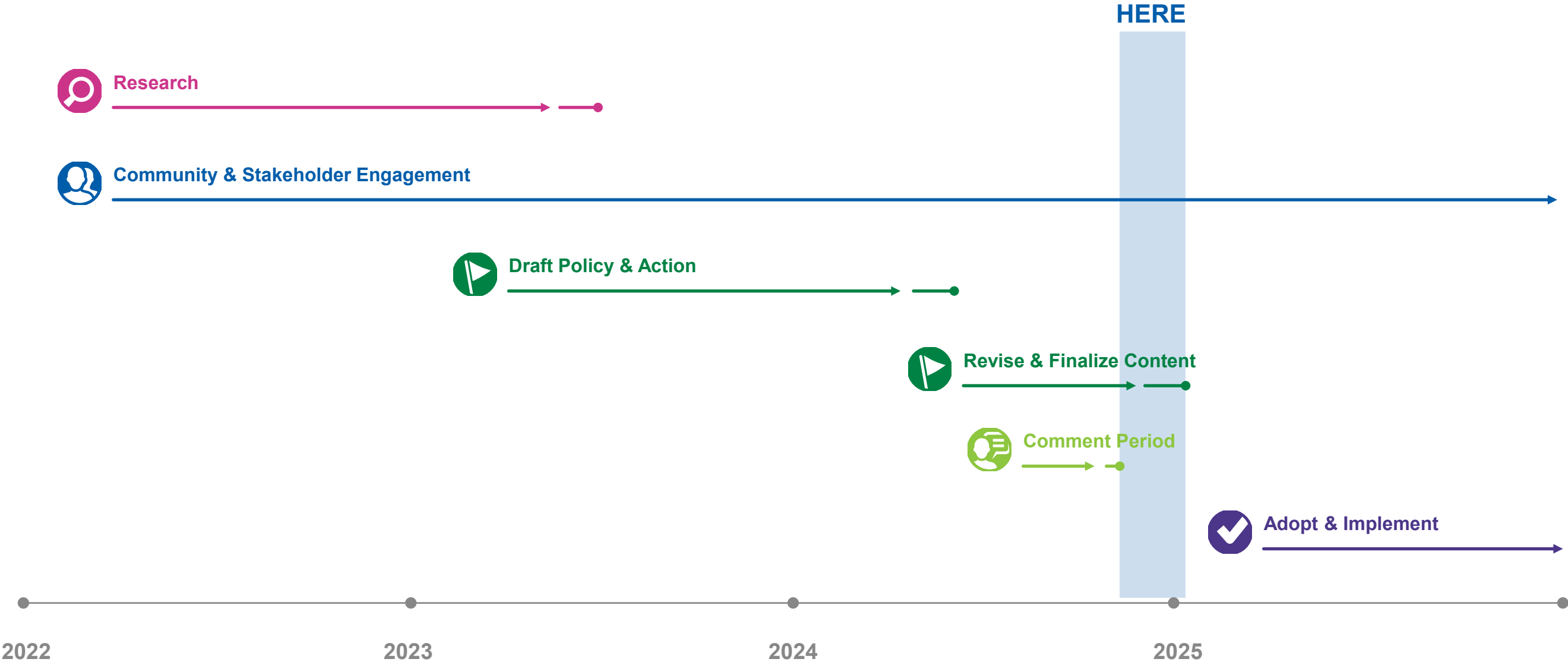
- Corrections to **Critical Urban Freight Corridors** map
- Consideration of **RBTN destinations and tiering** updates
- Consideration of changes to **health actions** to address research needs
- Clarification of **work program** task purposes
- Additional narrative and data on **access to destinations**
- Other minor changes responding to many specific comments, clarifications, or corrections

Discussion



- Do the themes described cover the main topics your agency raised?
- Do you have additional feedback about the anticipated changes?
- Do any of these topics need further policymaker discussion?

Plan Timeline



Thank you

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