Planning Context

As part of the Met Council's role in Minnesota Statute, chapter 473, the Met Council prepares lists of system elements for local governments that must be included within comprehensive plans.

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Regional Planning Cycle

01 CENSUS RESULTS

02 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

03 REGIONAL SYSTEM PLANS

04 SYSTEM STATEMENTS

05 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GUIDES AND TRAININGS

06 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

07 LOCAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN AMENDMENTS

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Regional Plan Elements

Regional Development Guide

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.

Transportation Policy Plan

Objectives **4**

For each area of Met Council responsibility, achievable results that advance each regional goal.
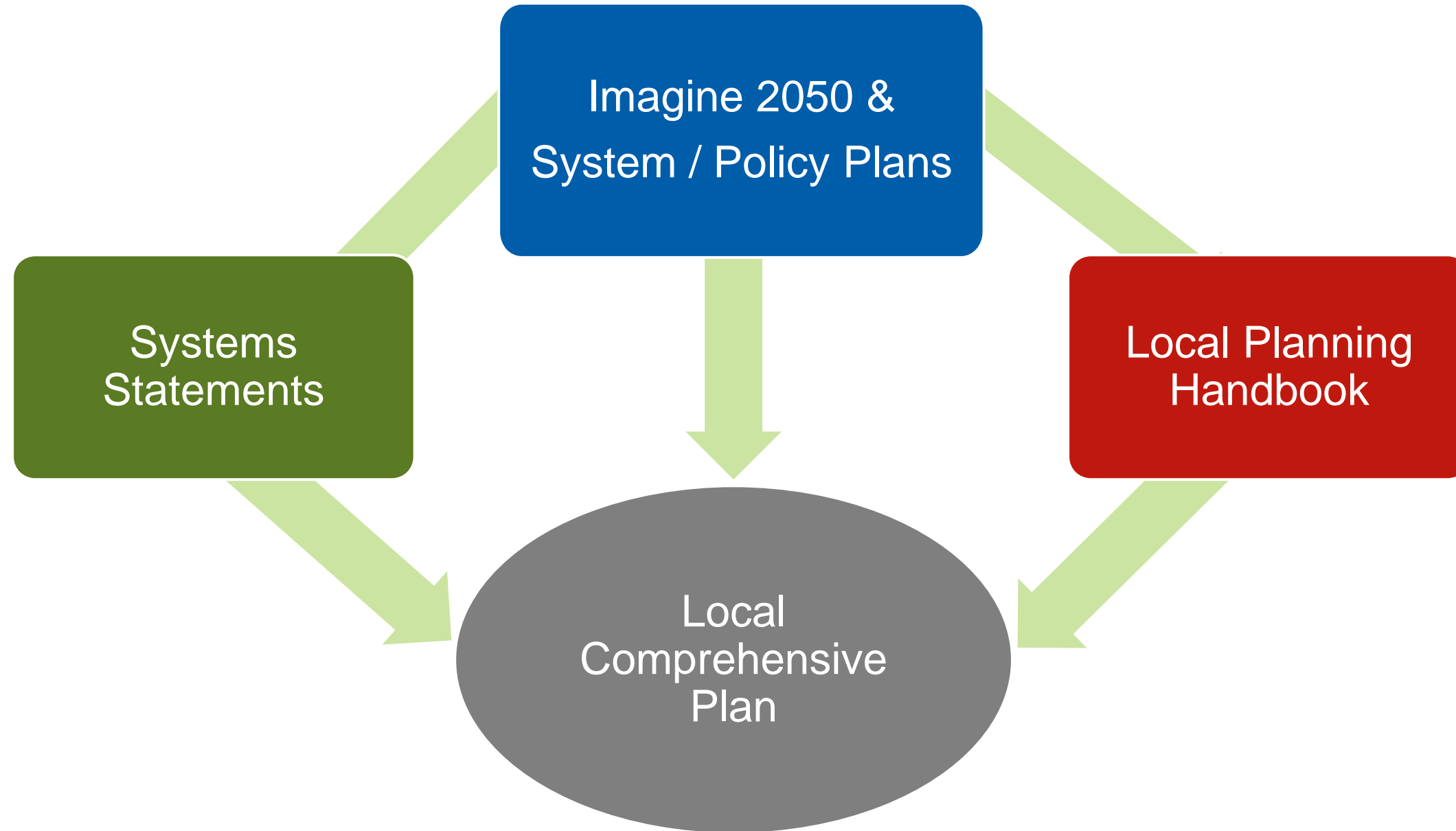
Policies **5**

Statement of the Met Council's intent and approach to regional issues or topics, independently and in its roles with partners.
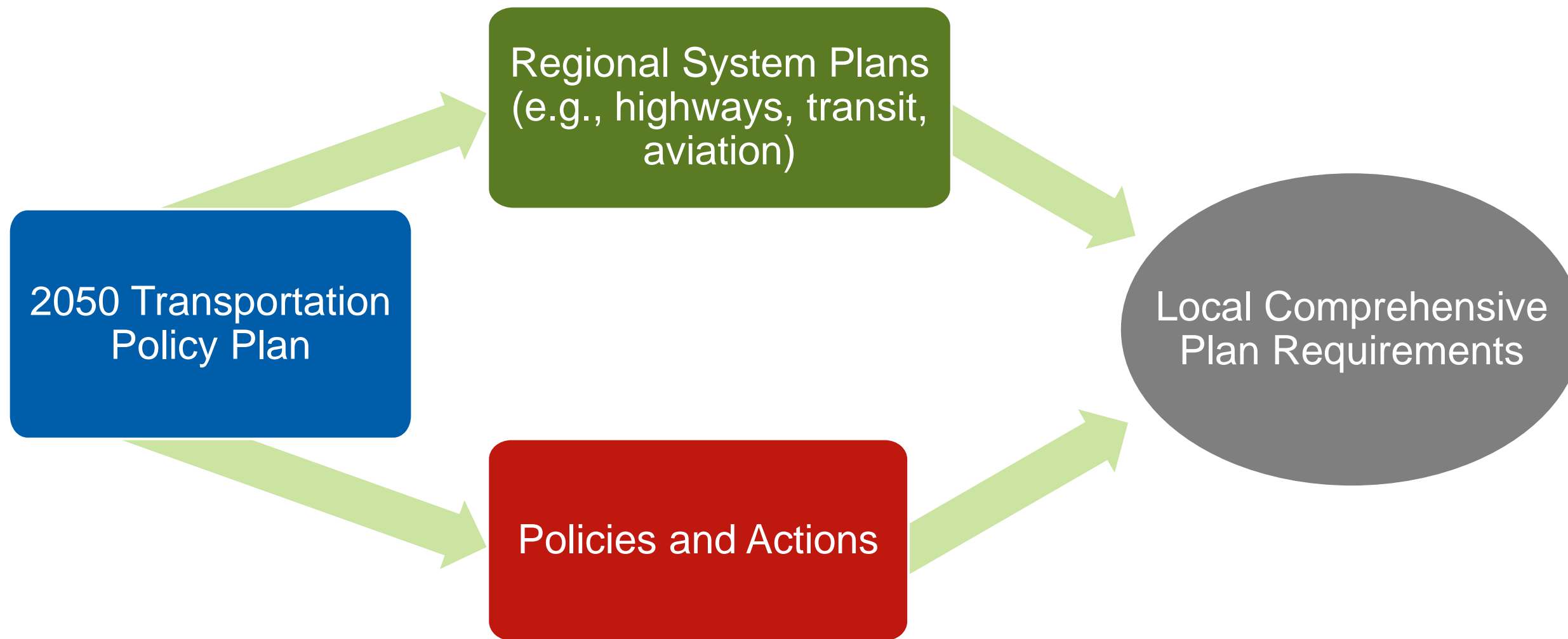
Actions **6**

Specific strategies or activities to implement policies and achieve goals.

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Planning Document Relationship

Regional System Plans (e.g., highways, transit, aviation)

2050 Transportation Policy Plan

Policies and Actions

Local Comprehensive Plan Requirements

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Definition

- Requirements of local comprehensive plan updates to be deemed complete and ready to be reviewed for conformance and consistency.
  - Each Regional System prepares list of minimum requirements
    - Transportation
    - Parks and Trails
    - Land Use
    - Water
    - Housing
- Other items not deemed a minimum requirement – advisory guidance / best practice for local comprehensive plans, but not a conformance or completeness requirement.
  - Advisory guidance items will be released later in 2025
- Requirements follow either minimum needs for the regional transportation systems (highway, transit, freight, aviation, bicycle), or to meet regional policies established in the 2050 TPP.

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Transportation Minimum Requirements

Local Context

- Requirements will be different for each community depending on local context and regional systems present.

Requirement List Overview

- Total requirements: 25 overall
  - Highways: 3 requirements
  - Transit: 6 requirements
  - Biking: 3 requirements
  - Pedestrian: 1 requirement
  - Freight: 3 requirements
  - Aviation: 4 requirements
  - Non-modal: 5 requirements

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Roadways Minimum Requirements

Minimum Requirements Highlights

Similar requirements for 2050

- Describe and map the Roadway Functional Classification in your community

- Describe and map the existing and proposed number of traffic lanes

- Describe and map the existing and projected traffic volumes

- Describe and map identified funded and planned highway investments from the TPP

- Incorporate recommendations from any corridor studies or any opportunities to update studies

New requirements for 2050

- Include a safety analysis that includes an analysis of crash trends, data and needs by mode and crash severity from the most recent 5 years of available data to prioritize future investments to reduce deaths and serious injuries using a Safe System Approach.

Minimum Requirements Highlights

Similar requirements for 2050

- Describe and map transit market areas

- Describe and map transit system including local transit services, demand respond services, transit centers and park and rides, and transit advantages

- Describe and map transitways and planned transitways (both with and without mode/alignment identified)
    - Incorporate station area plans
    - Guide land use density to at least minimum densities
    - Address pedestrian and bicycle access to stations

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Minimum Requirements Highlights

New requirements for 2050

- Identify areas of known planned transit service expansion, working with transit provider(s) AND identify desired transit expansion corridors or areas based on community land use plan.

- Describe and address multimodal access needs to all transit services within your community.

- Describe and map high-frequency bus routes
  - Guide land use density to at least minimum densities identified in the Regional Development Guide

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Bicycle and Pedestrian Minimum Requirements

Biking Minimum Requirements Highlights

Similar requirements for 2050:

- Map and describe RBTN and related elements.
- Map and describe regional bicycle barriers and include any identified local barriers.

New requirement for 2050:

- Map and describe the full local existing and planned bicycle network.

Pedestrian Minimum Requirements Highlights

New requirement for 2050:

- Include a full pedestrian element of transportation plan that:
  - Addresses pedestrian system needs.
  - Maps existing and planned network.
  - Identifies pedestrian travel barriers.
  - Incorporates findings from regional safety plans (Safety Action Plan and Pedestrian Safety Plan)

Freight and Aviation Minimum Requirements

Minimum Requirements Highlights

Freight:

- No changes in requirements from 2040 planning cycle

Aviation:

- No changes in requirements from 2040 planning cycle

Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs)

Reduced requirements from 2040:

- Communities must only confirm that their Local Comprehensive plan's use of the forecasted population, household and employment data by TAZ published by the Met Council

- If using the forecasts published by the Met Council, local comprehensive plans can endorse and reference the published forecasts. The TAZ table does not need to be replicated in the Comprehensive Plan Update.

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Travel Demand Management (TDM)

Expanded requirements from 2040:

- All communities - Describe and document existing local travel demand management policies, ordinances or practices, if applicable. Include any activities or plans to collaborate with regional TDM partners on outreach and promotional activities that support sustainable travel choices.

Equity and Inclusion

New requirement for 2050:

- Describe status and progress on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition or self-evaluation plans for public rights of way. Identify when the plans were last updated and schedule of next review and update of plan.

Climate and Natural Systems

New requirements for 2050:

- Identify plans, policies or strategies to reduce total VMT and transportation-related GHG emissions in your community to meet state statute on reduction targets.

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Discussion

Key Questions

- Are there any requirements that are not clear?

- Are there any missing requirements that should be considered?

- What guidance would help communities to meet these requirements?

Learn more

Find out more at
metrocouncil.org/imagine2050