

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: August 14, 2024

Business Item: 2024-192 JT

Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Release for Public Comment

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| District(s), Member(s): | All |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | M.S. 473.146 & 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303 |
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| Division/Department: | Metropolitan Transportation Services |

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release the draft Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment.

Background

This item is part of the Imagine 2050 plan and will be brought forward as part of the consolidated action with the same business item for the governing body of the Metropolitan Council. Each of the committees will review and take action on specific components of Imagine 2050.

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.
- 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.

Every ten years, the Met Council updates the Regional Development Guide and the Transportation Policy Plan 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. The AWG 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. The

TWG met 23 times to advise on the plan content.

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

- [Transportation System Performance Evaluation](#) – a comprehensive look back at system performance over the past decade using performance metrics from the 2040 TPP 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. 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 review – The content for the draft Imagine 2050 TPP was circulated to the AWG and TWG for informal review in late 2023-early 2024 and revisions were made to improve the drafts based on the feedback received. 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 generated during this informal review process.

Met Council staff also worked with other advisory committees to review specific parts of the draft Imagine 2050 TPP. These groups include the Transit Planning Technical Working Group, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group, and the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. The documents put forth for public consideration are the culmination of this work and the direction from Met Council members.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Public Comment Release Purpose

The Met Council is required to provide an opportunity for public comment on the TPP. This action is to release the draft Imagine 2050 TPP for public comment. After the public comment period closes, the Met Council and TAB will review and respond to the comments and prepare a revised final plan for consideration of adoption.

Most of the changes to the draft after the public comment period will be in response to comments, with a few exceptions noted below:

- Content coordination or language alignment with Imagine 2050 and other system plans,
- Corrections to errors or additions of content that was not ready but is reflected with placeholders in the draft.
- Updated performance outcomes as a result of modeling or demographic forecast updates.

In addition to the maps within the document, staff is producing an interactive map with the same data. A link to the draft interactive map will be included with the public comment materials once finalized.

Rationale

The Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) is required under state and federal law and must include a public comment period. The Imagine 2050 TPP allows the region to continue to receive federal and state transportation funds and begins the state-required process for local comprehensive plan updates.

The Council conducted an extensive process for developing the draft Imagine 2050 TPP in consultation with many partners, as described in Background. The release for public comment was recommended by the Transportation Advisory Board and its technical committees.



Thrive Lens Analysis

The Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan establishes a transportation framework for implementing Imagine 2050 and its vision, values, and goals. The plan's development process reflected the Imagine 2050 values of equity, leadership, accountability, and stewardship.

- Equity – MTS utilized specialized engagement consultants to reach communities beyond traditionally represented government partners at multiple stages in the plan development process, with a focus on marginalized communities.
- Leadership – MTS and Councilmembers engaged in cross-sector conversations about the draft content early in the process and continued engaging throughout with key questions at important decision points.
- Accountability – The plan development process included ongoing follow-up on previous discussions with engaged stakeholders. The plan also includes performance outcomes to measure progress against transportation objectives.
- Stewardship – The plan is fiscally constrained while also placing an emphasis on sustainable practices in investing in the transportation system, both financially and environmentally.

Funding

The public comment process will be conducted by Council staff through already authorized resources.

Small Business Inclusion

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

