

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: September 8, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: September 24, 2025

Business Item: 2025-228

Release of Draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update for Public Comment

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| District(s), member(s): | All |
| Policy/legal reference: | 473.146 |
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| Division/department: | Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) |

Proposed action

That Metropolitan Council approve releasing the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update, replacing the existing aviation elements of the TPP, for public review and comment.

Background

The Met Council develops a long-range transportation plan, called the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), and updates it at least every five years as required under federal law. The Met Council adopted the most recent update to the TPP, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, on February 12, 2025. In the past, the Aviation System Plan was a standalone legislatively required state plan that was updated on a different schedule than the TPP, but with the adoption of the 2030 TPP in 2010 the 2 plans were merged together.

Aviation is not a federally required element of the region's long-range plan but is required under state statute. A minor update to the Aviation System Plan was included in the adopted 2050 TPP. However, in 2024, Council staff also began working on a parallel process to more fully update the Aviation Plan and allow for a more thorough technical process with the appropriate regional aviation partners. This technical process resulted in the attached draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2, Aviation System Plan Update, as a replacement for the minor update that was adopted with the 2050 TPP.

The plan update development process included research and drafting of aviation industry and agency trends, reviewing and drafting updated regional aviation policies and actions to align with Imagine 2050, developing 2050 aviation forecasts for regional airports, updating regional airport classifications, and updates to maps, graphics and text. Council staff worked with aviation and community partners throughout the region to review and develop regional policies, and review and solicit feedback on the updated document through the TAB committee review process prior to finalizing the draft for public comment release.

The Aviation System Plan Update meets all state statute requirements for aviation planning in the

region, aligns regional aviation policies and actions with Imagine 2050, responds to feedback from regional partners and considers issues and opportunities of industry trends for the region.

Plan amendments involving changes to sections of the TPP must go through a 45-day public review and comment period. The proposed action would recommend that the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2 Aviation System Plan Update (attached) be released for the required public comment period, to occur **September 25** through **November 10**, with a public hearing at the **October 27** meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee. Attachment 1 contains the amended text for the 2050 TPP Aviation System Plan and Attachment 2 contains the amended text for the 2050 TPP Aviation Supporting Information. Both documents are part of the public review and comment and will be posted on the Met Council's website.

Rationale

Proposed amendments to the TPP must hold a 45-day public comment period including a public hearing prior to adoption.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, the update to the Aviation System Plan advances multiple regional goals including the prosperity and stewardship outcomes. It will advance the prosperity outcome by setting regional aviation policies to continue to support a robust regional airport system and begin to consider innovation in the aviation industry to support continue economic prosperity in the region. The plan will also advance the stewardship outcome by establishing aviation forecasts to 2050, updating the classification system of the regional airports, supporting the ongoing operations of regional aviation facilities and aiding communities with updated information on land use compatibility.

Funding

This action has no funding implications.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with this action.

