LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

Natural areas, trails, roadways, and infrastructure often cross municipal boundaries. Reviewing and collaborating with adjacent jurisdictions provides potential opportunities to work together on shared areas of importance as well as communicate on potential concerns. Each local government is required to share its proposed Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) with its adjacent and affected jurisdictions at least six months before official submittal to the Metropolitan Council (MN §473.858 Subd. 2).

## **6-MONTH REVIEW PERIOD**

Review from adjacent and affected jurisdictions is important to an overall coordinated planning process within the region. Fulfilling the adjacent community review is required for the Council's completeness review.

The Council will consider a Plan "complete" for adjacent community review requirement, if either: 1) all adjacent jurisdictions have been allowed 6 months for review and comment or 2) all adjacent jurisdictions have provided comments or indication of no comments. The comments from adjacent jurisdictions and your response to comments must be included with the formal CPU submittal. The Council's official review on the community's CPU will indicate if it is compatible with the plans of adjacent and affected jurisdictions.

Coordinating early with adjacent jurisdictions, confirming best contact, and providing heads up on when the CPU may be provided for review can help streamline the process. It is anticipated that most communities will be providing a draft of their comprehensive plan updates to adjacent jurisdictions 6-months prior to the December 31, 2018 CPU submittal deadline (or by end of June 2018).

## ADJACENT AND AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS

Adjacent and affected jurisdictions vary by community and include school districts, watershed management organizations, state and federal agencies, park implementing agencies, transit providers, and adjacent cities, townships, and counties. Each community is responsible for identifying, notifying, and responding to comments from affected jurisdictions. The Council has created a suggested list of adjacent and affected jurisdictions for each community, which is available in the Local Planning Handbook on each Community Page (under the Maps and Tables tab).

### REVIEWING CPUS FROM OTHER ADJACENT COMMUNITIES

As you review CPUs from adjacent communities, you may want to consider potential partnerships, collaboration opportunities, compatibility of adjacent land uses, ways to improve connectivity, access, and protection of natural resource areas. Below are some potential questions that you may consider:

### Connectivity

- Are there areas where connectivity can be improved through coordinated planning with the adjacent community/ County?
- Are there partnership or collaboration opportunities for local trails?
- Are there collaboration opportunities for transportation corridors?

#### Natural Resource Protection

- Are there opportunities to identify, plan for, and protect or restore natural resources areas that cross jurisdictional boundaries?
- Are there potential partnership opportunities to restore scenic views or protect primary key natural and cultural resources and features/primary conservation area, particularly in the Critical Area and along river corridors?
- Are there partnership or collaboration opportunities to minimize potential impacts (i.e. utility or transportation) in natural areas?
- Are there opportunities to collaborate and identify areas to create open space and recreational facilities that cross boundaries?
- Are there opportunities to collaborate with adjacent jurisdictions to improve water quality?

#### Compatible Land Uses

- Are there are any concerns about compatibility of adjacent land uses with your community's existing planned land
  uses?
- Are there opportunities to plan for intersections and areas that are within multiple jurisdictions?

# **HELPFUL HINTS AND FAQS**

- It's important to factor in the adjacent community review into your schedule so that you can still meet the submittal deadline.
- The Council has created a suggested list of affected jurisdictions for each community on your Community Page of the Local Planning Handbook. If you aren't certain of who to contact, reach out early. In some cases, you may find it especially beneficial to meet with the adjacent jurisdiction.
- If you have received comments (or indication of no comments) from all adjacent and affected jurisdictions you do not have to wait for the full six-month adjacent community review period to lapse. You just need to indicate in the official submittal that all adjacent jurisdictions have reviewed the CPU and provide the comments received along with your community's responses.
- If you are providing adjacent and affected jurisdictions with a weblink to the uploaded 2040 CPU, please clearly indicate on the webpage and/or document the date the CPU was sent out for review by adjacent jurisdictions.
- If you share a border with a community outside the 7-county metro, you are encouraged to provide copies to the out-of-the region community but are not required.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Consistent with State Law, when you send your Plan to the Metropolitan Council for official review, you also need to notify adjacent communities of that submittal. Your notification needs to include an updated copy of the CPU to the adjacent jurisdictions. This can be done, for example via email with a weblink.



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