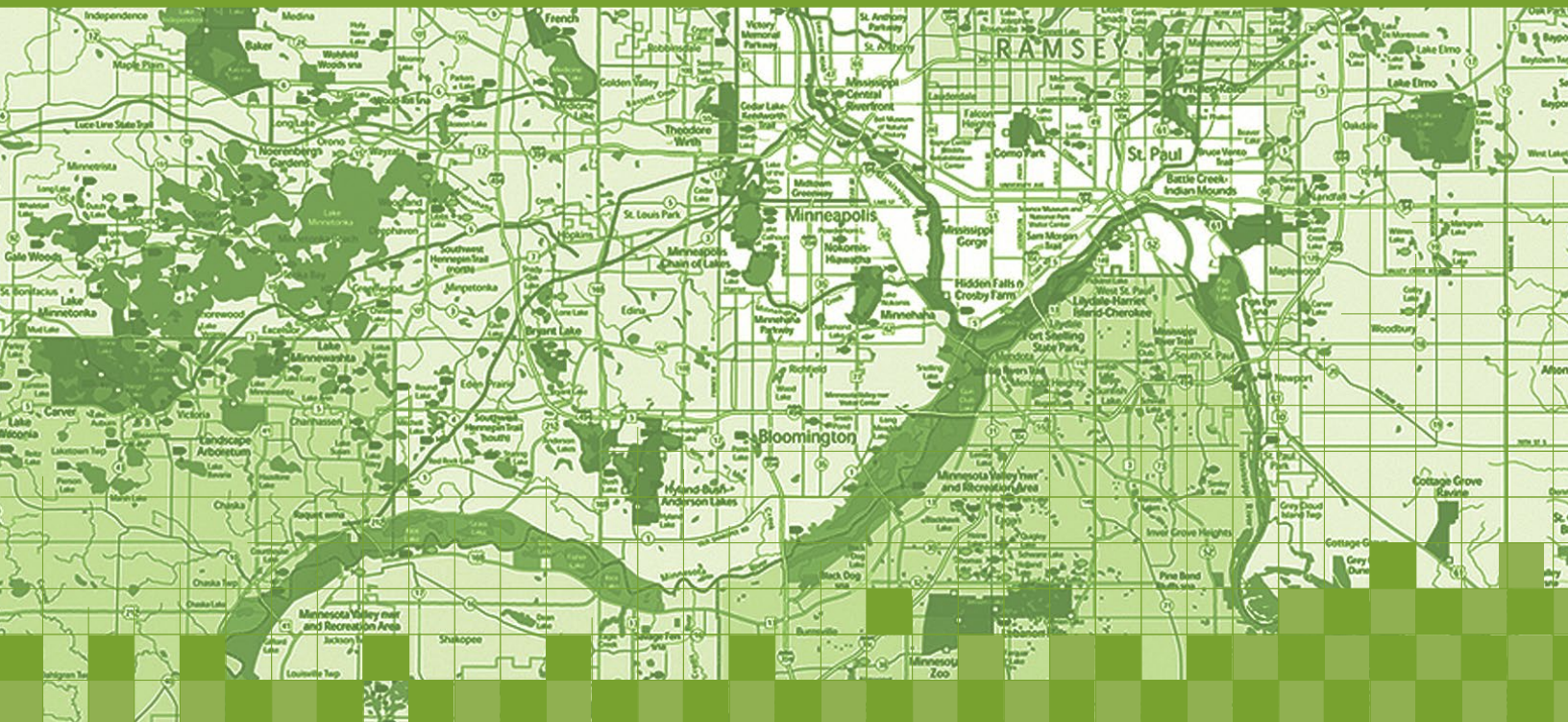


PlanIt

A Comprehensive Plan Training Program



2017 Events Schedule
Webinars, Workshops, Podcasts, Online Resources



PlanIt

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TRAINING PROGRAM

This guide includes information on the full suite of PlanIt resources and events.

“BEYOND THE BASICS” WEBINAR SERIES

For Planners and Comprehensive Plan Writers offering CM Credits



WORKSHOPS

In-person and in-depth learning opportunities offering CM Credits

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-PLANNING PROFESSIONALS

Elected Officials, Commissions, and Advisory Boards



PODCASTS

Publication Schedule

ONLINE RESOURCES

Publication Schedule



Sign up for series updates on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#).





“BEYOND THE BASICS” WEBINAR SERIES FOR PLANNERS AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WRITERS

* AICP CM Credits will be available for webinars; updates will be posted on the website.

Regional Industrial Lands Inventory
Presented by Todd Graham and Corrin Wendell
Thursday, February 23, 2017
12:00 – 1:00 PM

Manufacturing and other export industries may not be the most visible employers in today’s economy. But these remain crucial for regional economic prosperity. Planners need to consider manufacturing’s real estate needs, how industrial use fits with neighboring land uses, and the benefits of industrial land preservation. An Industrial Land Inventory, demonstrated in this webinar, is a first step toward understanding the regional geography of industrial land. While not every community has industrial land, economic activities on industrial sites often have transportation and workforce demand implications that cut across city lines.

School Districts: More Than Just An Affected Jurisdiction
Presented by Tara Beard
Thursday, March 9, 2017
12:00 – 1:00 PM

The Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires that communities submit proposed comprehensive plan updates to affected school districts for review and comment at least six months prior to submitting the plan to the Metropolitan Council. Historically, however, very few school districts have taken advantage of this opportunity to provide feedback. Council staff has spent the last year speaking with school district staff to learn more about how comprehensive planning and school district planning intersect.

Sign up for series updates on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#).





Population Estimates

Presented by Matt Schroeder

Thursday, April 20, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Each year, the Metropolitan Council estimates the population of each city and township in the seven county Twin Cities region. After review and comment by communities, these estimates are used for official state government purposes such as Local Government Aid. Like most organizations that estimate populations for cities and townships, the Council relies on a housing stock model, which uses detailed data on communities' housing units, occupancy rates, and average household sizes to estimate population. This webinar will explain the data inputs and calculations and show how community input can help improve the estimates.

Integrating Economic Development Strategies into Everyday Planning

Presented by Corrin Wendell

Thursday, July 13, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Economic development is a valuable component in setting the course for how your community will grow and thrive. Learn about a variety of economic development policies and tools that can be integrated into your community's comprehensive plan including identification of opportunity sites for development and redevelopment, workforce housing plans, the development of a high performing zoning code, business retention and expansion programs, and many others. This webinar will explore the connections among these tools and the value of creatively integrating these strategies into everyday planning practice that will ultimately benefit your community's economic growth and prosperity.

Implementing A Local Fair Housing Policy

Presented by Jonathan Stanley

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 PM

A local fair housing policy can help local governments raise awareness of local housing issues, as well as identify and address potential violations of fair housing laws and regulations. Many communities in the metro do not currently have fair housing policies at the municipal-wide level, except as at times adopted by local departments such as housing and redevelopment authorities, public housing authorities or community development authorities. We will introduce the new model local Fair Housing Policy and its content, and explore how it can be used in your community.

It's Not Just A Color on the Map: Zoning in Plan Implementation

Presented by LisaBeth Barajas and Michael Larson

Thursday, November 16, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Land use regulations are an important part of comprehensive plan implementation. State statute says that zoning must not conflict with the comprehensive plan. However, it also states that comprehensive plans shall provide guidelines for the timing and sequencing of adoption of official controls to ensure planned, orderly, and staged development and redevelopment consistent with the comprehensive plan. This webinar will discuss how land use regulations fit within a broader implementation framework. Communities will hear about approaches that provide a framework for changes in land use regulations, including the timing of those changes.





WORKSHOPS

January 2017

TOD in Your Comprehensive Plan

Thursday, January 13, 2017 | 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Presenters: Council Staff and Partners

Many communities throughout the region will be updating their comprehensive plans to support transit oriented development (TOD). This workshop will bring together colleagues with a range of experience in TOD planning and implementation. During the first half of the workshop, Metropolitan Council staff will address new TOD policy as well as provide information on technical and financial resources for TOD planning and implementation. The second half of the workshop features a panel of local planners. Topics include lessons learned and how communities are approaching new or ongoing challenges.

February 2017

Interactive Community Engagement with James Rojas

Thursday, February 16, 2017 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Award winning Urban Planner James Rojas will lead an interactive workshop/demonstration on techniques and strategies that planners can use to facilitate inclusive, meaningful, and productive community meetings. James Rojas, founder of Placelt, is an MIT-trained urban planner who has developed an innovative public engagement and community visioning method that uses art-making as its medium. Through this method he has engaged thousands of people by facilitating more than 400 workshops and building more than 50 interactive models around the world.

April 2017

Affordable Housing: Tools and Financing Mechanisms

Thursday, April 13, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Presenters: Tara Beard and Jonathan Stanley

The lack of fiscal resources for development and preservation of affordable housing threatens our regional ability to accommodate existing and future need. As communities embark on their comprehensive plan updates, it is important to be aware of both the potential and the limitations of available housing programs and financial resources. Attendees of this workshop will leave with increased knowledge of programs for the new construction,

rehabilitation, and preservation of both owner-occupied and multifamily affordable housing that can support more focused and effective housing elements and implementation programs within their comprehensive plans.

May 2017

Re-thinking Engagement Strategies - "Pop ups" and Other Fresh Ideas

Thursday, May 25, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Have a hard time driving turnout at your public meetings? Looking for some new ideas that work to engage with new audiences and get input that is vital to shaping comprehensive plans? This workshop focuses on the specifics of implementing an interactive engagement strategy, being intentional about connecting with community members, and gaining information from these activities to translate into the comprehensive plan. Conversation topics include using stories to make a strong connection to goals and tactics, qualitative data gathering, and how this information can potentially affect policy change. Included will be a demonstration of when and how a pop-up model can be an effective tool to connect with community members.

June 2017

Redevelopment Lessons for Comprehensive Planning

Thursday, June 22, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Presenters: Council Staff and Partners

Redevelopment of underused, obsolete or aging properties and areas of disinvestment presents challenges and opportunities for many communities. Goals, policies, and strategies for redevelopment in local comprehensive plan updates will affect their tax base, economic competitiveness, livability, and community character. Many communities have experience implementing and applying approaches to redevelopment and can share lessons learned on redevelopment issues and projects.

Sign up for series updates on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#).





August 2017

Mississippi River Planning in Your Comprehensive Plan

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Presenters: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) contains many significant resources including scenic views, land and water recreational opportunities, and animal habitat. New state rules adopted in January 2017 lay out the planning framework for communities in the MRCCA. At this workshop, participants will learn about MRCCA plan requirements and how they support new MRCCA ordinance requirements. Participants will also learn how to complete the MRCCA plan chapter of their comprehensive plan update with a special focus on identifying and mapping significant existing vegetation, scenic views and restoration opportunities.

Community Engagement

Friday, August 18, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Presenters: Council Staff and Partners

Community engagement practitioners agree that there are no shortcuts to making real connections with stakeholders; It's a long-term endeavor. In this workshop, participants will review actual scenarios that occurred between planners and residents, and have the opportunity to dialogue about engagement challenges. Engagement specialists will also be available to lend clarity to the process.

September 2017

Water Management Tools: Going Beyond the Comprehensive Plan

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Presenters: Karen Jensen and Lanya Ross

There are a variety of approaches communities can take to go above and beyond their minimum comprehensive plan requirements to implement sustainable water resources strategies. This workshop will explore water management activities which can provide multiple benefits in communities. The event will showcase local examples of integrated water management strategies, such as stormwater best management practices that also protect source water. Attendees will leave with tools they can use, such as model ordinances as well as information about current grant opportunities and stronger partnerships for doing the work.

October 2017

Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Your Community

Presenters: Shalini Gupta and Freshwater Society

Facilitators: Kelly Muellman and Eric Wojchik

Communities should identify the sensitivity of people/systems to climate change impacts and provide strategies for mitigation and adaptation. With the current comprehensive planning process in full swing, this workshop provides an opportunity for a policy-driven approach to this work. Attendees will leave with policy and implementation strategies, an understanding of the importance of engagement, and an opportunity to get started, get unstuck, and take their project to the next level. The workshop will include key takeaways around communication/buy-in, creating resource capacity, and addressing data needs.

Planning for Manufacturing: A Mobile Tour Discussion

This mobile tour will provide an opportunity for local planners to have a conversation with manufacturing facility owners to discuss in depth challenges and opportunities that are seen within the ever-evolving manufacturing industry. Planners will have the opportunity to tour three facilities within the metro and learn about ways in which they can enhance their ability to form partnerships, gain further understanding of the needs of manufacturers, the site selection process, changes in technology and facility needs, and what planners can do to attract manufacturing businesses in terms of city processes, development review and standards, and the importance of location of industrial uses to transportation, freight, workers, and future expansion. This mobile tour will occur during Manufacturer's Week and National Community Planning Month.

December 2017

Planning for Solar

Presenters: Brian Ross, Eric Wojchik, and Cameran Bailey

This session provides guidance on how to protect and develop access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems while emphasizing the importance of measuring and mapping solar resources and integrating these mechanisms into the Comprehensive Plan. The session demonstrates that solar energy development captures community benefits and different types of solar energy systems should be addressed in community policy and land use regulations. The session will describe opportunities for using solar energy systems to increase a community's resiliency, augmenting its revenue base, and enhancing energy efficiency. We will illustrate the solar technical assistance provided to communities.





GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE & EQUITY (GARE) SPEAKER SERIES

March 2017

Introduction to Comprehensive Plans and Equity

This workshop will provide an introduction to the vision, role, responsibilities and opportunities for government to advance racial equity via comprehensive plans. The workshop will focus on normalizing racial equity as a key value with clear definitions of key terminology, operationalizing racial equity via new policies and institutional practice, and organizing, both internally and in partnership with other institutions and the community. We will introduce examples of integrating racial equity into comprehensive plans.

June 2017

Planning for Equitable Development, Including Land Use, Housing, Parks, and Transportation

Integrating racial equity into the plan for growth in communities increases the likelihood that benefits and burdens will be equitably distributed. We must plan for people and our environment. Land use policies drive the creation of communities, and housing, parks and transportation are all critical for creating equitable communities. This session continues exploring ways to use a Racial Equity Analysis in comprehensive planning. Local experts provide insights on effective principles and practices for engaging communities for the process.

July 2017

Planning for the Environment - Resiliency as Racial Equity

The comprehensive planning process encourages planning for climate change as part of your plan update. Environmental resiliency is having the capacity to respond, adapt, and thrive under changing conditions. Resiliency includes planning for more severe weather and prolonged heatwaves, for improved health of your residents, and planning for economic strength and diversity. Achieving resiliency requires a plan of action and resources to mitigate the impacts on infrastructure (e.g. – increasing drainage capacity to accommodate increased heavy rain events). It also requires a plan of action to address the societal and economic challenges.

Communities of color have traditionally been marginalized - race plays a key role in determining your quality of health, environmental safety, income and well-being. They frequently bear a disproportionate share of the burden of environmental degradation and are more vulnerable to climate change impact. This session will strengthen your community's ability to prepare and respond to climate impacts for all residents using examples that show how using racial equity tools reduces the impact of climate change and increases opportunity for greater community health.



September 2017

Plan Implementation, Including Communicating about Race and Equity

As we formulate plans, it is important for us to prepare for implementation. We must be able to not only identify and measure current disproportionalities, we must also be able to set goals for making a difference and measure our progress in achieving results. Comprehensive Plans can align community quality of life improvements with policies and programs. In addition, we must also be thoughtful about how we communicate about race so that we are increasing buy-in and commitment.

Sign up for series updates on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#).





OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-PLANNING PROFESSIONALS (ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMISSIONS, AND ADVISORY BOARDS)

Upon request, at any time, Metropolitan Council staff are available to provide technical assistance to communities, particularly as you work on your comprehensive plan updates. This is coordinated through our staff of professional planners – [Sector Representatives](#) – assigned to serve specific communities throughout the region. The Council has a vast library of resources and staff with technical specialties that assist with planning topics at issue in communities.

You may want to make educational opportunities available for city councils, boards, commissions, advisory groups, or other audiences participating in local planning issues. A localized training program can help to connect the community at different levels. Metropolitan Council members are available to attend any of these opportunities (depending on scheduling). Contact your Sector Representative to schedule any of the options below for your City.

Please allow 30-45 days prior to needed presentation to coordinate details and schedule events.

Setting the Stage for Comprehensive Plan Conversations

Upon Request. Scheduled Individually.

We can provide information on the basics of comprehensive planning to city councils, boards, commissions, advisory groups, or other audiences participating in local planning issues. The basics include a description of the ten-year planning cycle, regional trends, the role of regional system plans and policies, what drives required plan elements, and how you can get assistance for your plan update. The discussion and presentation is tailored to the needs of your community, the audience, and requested content. Contact your Sector Representative.

Comprehensive Plan Topics

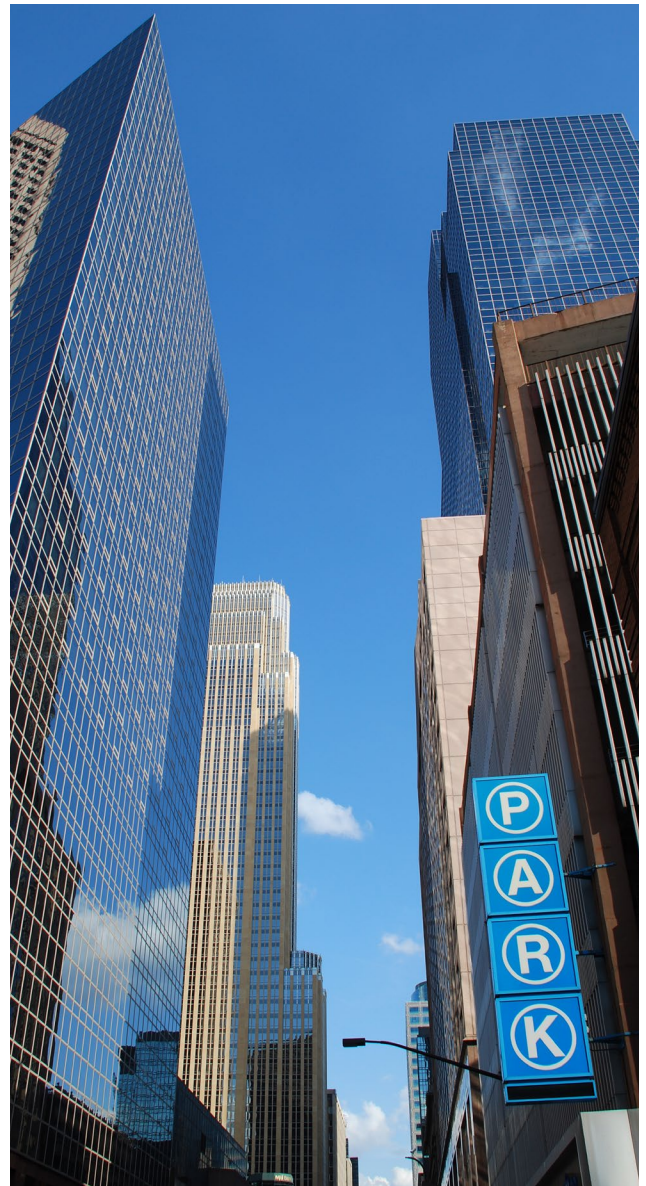
Upon Request. Scheduled Individually.

We are available to offer technical expertise on planning topics relevant to the local comprehensive plan updates. Topics include land use, transportation, water resources, parks, housing, resiliency, economic competitiveness, and the many subtopics of each. Other topics can also be suggested. Based on a topic of interest to the community, a discussion format and presentation is prepared, tailored to the needs of the community, the audience, and the requested content. Contact your Sector Representative.

Comprehensive Plan Customized Sessions

Upon Request. Scheduled Individually.

We can coordinate to assist in a way tailored to individual community needs to assist with local comprehensive planning. Be creative! This can include specialized presentation formats, various topics, diverse audiences, etc. We provide technical assistance and resources in many ways and customized sessions for individualized training are available upon request. Contact your Sector Representative.





PODCASTS PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

PlanIt Podcasts is a series you can sign up for through either iTunes Podcasts or SoundCloud. In each episode of this series, we will be focusing on one planning related topic through a conversation with a local expert. They will respond to various questions in these 20 to 30 minute episodes.

March 2017

Value of Conducting Bike/Ped Counts

April 2017

Neighborhood and Small Area Planning

May 2017

Arts in Planning

June 2017

Engaging Youth in the Planning Process

July 2017

Water Resources Management and Watersheds

August 2017

Redevelopment: Site Cleanup, LCA, and the Community

September 2017

Planning for a Diversifying Population

October 2017

Working with Advocacy Groups

November 2017

Diversifying your Community's Housing Stock

December 2017

Historic Preservation





ONLINE RESOURCES PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

January 2017

- Planning for Solar/ Solar Resource Development Fact Sheet (Resource Library)
- Creative Placemaking By Max Musicant, The Musicant Group (Expert Article)

February 2017

- RBTN Mapping Application (Online Tutorial)
- Making Ethical Policy Decisions By David Schultz (Expert Article)

March 2017

- Developing Wastewater Flow Projections (Online Tutorial)
- Using Statistical Data for Workforce Analysis (Online Tutorial)
- Considering Implementation During Development of the Update (Expert Article)

April 2017

- Examples of Flexible Development for Rural Communities Fact Sheet (Resource Library)
- Fiscal Constraint in the TPP Fact Sheet (Resource Library)
- Regional Bicycle Barriers Study Fact Sheet (Resource Library)
- Pollinators and Comp Planning (Expert Article)

May 2017

- Equity Tools and Resources (Resource Library)
- How to Enhance the Urban Canopy Through Ordinance & Collaboration (Expert Article)

June 2017

- Regional Truck Highway Corridors Study Fact Sheet (Resource Library)
- The Precautionary Principle (Expert Article)



Sign up for series updates on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#).





July 2017

- [How and Why to Use Mixed Use Categories \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Tracking Land Guided for Affordable Housing \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Fact Sheet \(Resource Library\)](#)
- [Historic Preservation; What It Is and Why It's Important \(Expert Article\)](#)

August 2017

- [Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Capital Improvement Plan Fact Sheet \(Resource Library\)](#)
- [Creating Desirable Spaces \(Expert Article\)](#)

September 2017

- [Using GIS to Identify Candidate Sites for Jobs-Focused Redevelopment \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Energy Planning at the Community-Scale \(Expert Article\)](#)

October 2017

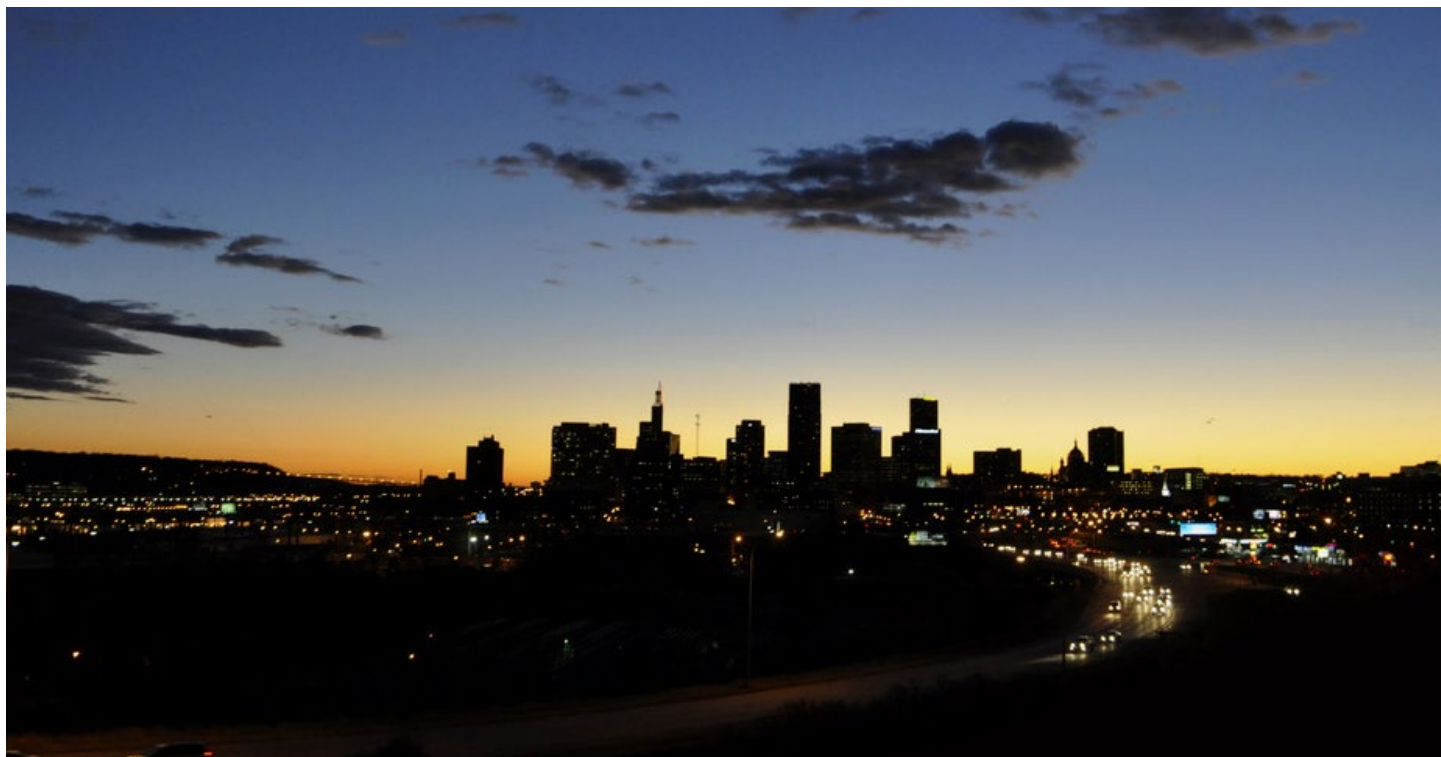
- [Natural Resource Conservation \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Planning for the Aging Population \(Expert Article\)](#)

November 2017

- [How to Review Your Neighbor's Comp Plan \(Online Tutorial\)](#)
- [Engaging Underrepresented Communities \(Expert Article\)](#)

December 2017

- [The Council's Review of Comp Plan Updates \(Online Tutorial\)](#)





STAFF CONTACTS

Cameran Bailey, SolSmart Program Adviser
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Cameran is the SolSmart Program Advisor and the Solar Technical, Planning, and Permitting Advisor to the Council and the communities for the duration of the 2040 Comprehensive Planning cycle. Cameran reviews comprehensive plans for solar resource compliance, and serves as a personal advisor for communities interested in achieving designation in the nationally-recognized SolSmart Program. He brings to the Council education and experience in civil engineering, project management, project development, transportation planning, sustainability planning, systems analysis, and climate change vulnerability assessment from across the upper-midwest region.

Lisa Barajas, Manager of Local Planning Assistance
(lisa.barajas@metc.state.mn.us)

Lisa is the Local Planning Assistance Manager at the Metropolitan Council, where she oversees a planning team in providing technical assistance to local governments; advising the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee; collaborating with other governments on issues of regional importance; and reviewing local plans, amendments, and environmental documents.

Tara Beard, AICP, Housing Policy Analyst
(tara.beard@metc.state.mn.us)

Tara, AICP, is a Housing Policy Analyst at the Metropolitan Council, where she implements the Council's Housing Policy Plan 2040. She provides technical assistance on various housing activities and is responsible for the review of housing elements and implementation plans within comprehensive plan updates.

Patrick Boylan, AICP, Planning Analyst/Sector Representative Districts 13, 14, 15, and 16
(patrick.boyland@metc.state.mn.us)

Patrick is a Planning Analyst and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council, serving as a liaison between the Council and all Dakota County communities, as well as communities in Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties. He provides technical assistance to communities to achieve local and regional goals, and reviews comprehensive plans, amendments, and environmental reviews. Patrick also supports projects within the PlanIt training program.

Debra Detrick, Research Analyst
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Debra Detrick is a Planning Analyst in Local Planning Assistance at the Metropolitan Council. Debra is the lead staff support for the Land Use Advisory Committee and a co-project manager for the online Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guide. Debra analyzes the metro area's tax-base sharing program and reviews and comments on legislative issues and proposed bills. Debra also conducts informal hearings as a Hearing Officer for appeals of Metro HRA decisions.

Raya Esmaeili, Senior Planner
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Raya is a Senior Planner in the Local Planning Assistance unit of the Metropolitan Council, where she manages the Plat Monitoring Program and Redevelopment Monitoring Program, participates in reviewing local comprehensive plan amendments and environmental reviews, and acts as the Reviews Coordinator in managing Council reviews. Prior to joining the Council in 2013, she worked at the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership as a program associate, interned at Westbroadway Business and Area Coalition, and at Sierra Club North Star Chapter.

Claudia Fuentes, Outreach Coordinator
(claudia.fuentes@metc.state.mn.us)

Claudia started working at the Metropolitan Council in July 2013. Previously, she worked for Minneapolis' Mayor R.T. Rybak where she worked as a policy aide on youth, learning, health, and seniors. She was also executive director of a research organization that conducted research with Latino communities throughout Minnesota. At the Council, her primary duties are to engage the region's historically underrepresented communities on topics related to Council programs and policies. Her efforts supplement outreach and engagement activities, ensuring that historically underrepresented communities are engaged in a manner that is inclusive and enhances equity.

Michelle Fure, Manager of Public Involvement
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Michelle manages public involvement for the Metropolitan Council, overseeing a team of outreach, writing and editing staff in the communications department. A former journalist, Michelle has worked for nearly 20 years specifically in public engagement, communications and public relations, with experience at the Minnesota Legislature and Minnesota Department of Public Safety prior to joining the Council's outreach team in 2008. Michelle was born and raised in the Twin Cities, and she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in Journalism and Latin.





Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster
(todd.graham@metc.state.mn.us)

Todd is a principal forecaster for the Council's Regional Policy and Research team where he provides project leadership in land use economics, demography, and economic analysis. His work has included the renovation of the Council's socioeconomic forecasting practice, and preparation of forecasts adopted with the Thrive MSP 2040 regional plan. Graham is a board member of the national Census State Data Centers Network, and co-chair of Twin Cities Research Group. Before joining the Council, he was the Regional Analysis Manager for Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Karen Jensen, Environmental Analyst
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Karen is an Environmental Analyst in the Water Resources Assessment Section of Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services division. Her primary responsibilities at the Council include serving on state and local technical advisory committees focused on water quality protection and improvement, reviewing environmental plan and documents, leading special technical studies, and planning and managing green infrastructure projects to improve regional water quality.

Michael Larson, AICP CTP, Senior Planner/Sector Representative Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8
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Michael is a Senior Planner and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council, where he serves as a liaison between the Council and 13 communities in Hennepin County, providing planning and technical assistance. He also works with communities to achieve local and regional goals and reviewing comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and environmental reviews. Michael is the co-manager of the online Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guide and sits on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

James Rojas, Placelt
(jamestrojas@gmail.com)

James Rojas, founder of Placelt and the Latino Urban Forum, is an MIT-trained urban planner who has developed an innovative public engagement and community visioning method that uses art-making as its medium. Through this method, he has engaged thousands of people by facilitating more than 400 workshops and building more than 50 interactive models around the world.

Brian Ross, AICP, LEED GA, Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development
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Brian has 25 years of experience working with local, regional, and state governments on sustainable development efforts addressing energy, land use, transportation, water, and natural resources. Brian leads the Institute's efforts to accelerate the development of local renewable energy resources to transform local policies and regulatory standards to accommodate the rapidly growing solar energy industry. He helped develop Minnesota's award-winning GreenStep Cities program, co-authored the National APA's Planning for Solar Energy guide, and provided direct assistance to dozens of local governments through the Minnesota Solar Challenge and the Grow Solar Partnership.

Lanya Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist
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Lanya is a Principal Environmental Scientist at the Metropolitan Council, where she has worked for over a decade providing water supply planning and technical assistance to communities. She was the Project Manager of the *Master Water Supply Plan* and the Council's primary technical resource to communities working to update their local water supply plans.

Matt Schroeder, Senior Researcher
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Matt Schroeder oversees the Metropolitan Council's population estimates program and conducts research into various demographic and housing topics.

Jonathan Stanley, Planning Analyst
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Jonathan Stanley is a Housing Analyst at the Metropolitan Council. Previously, Mr. Stanley served as a program and policy specialist at Minnesota Housing, working on numerous programs in its single- and multi-family divisions. Jonathan began his career as a Housing and Community Development Fellow at the New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Mr. Stanley is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Urban Studies program and earned master's degrees in City & Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and Public Administration from the National University of Singapore.



Freya Thamman, Senior Planner/Sector Representative Districts 1, and 3
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Freya is a Planning Analyst and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council, where she serves as a liaison between the Council and communities in northwest Hennepin County. Freya worked as Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council during the last round of comprehensive plan updates. Prior to joining the Council, she worked in the planning department of Kimley-Horn and Associates in Norcross, Georgia.



Angela R. Torres, AICP, Planning Analyst/Sector Representative District 4
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Angela is a Planning Analyst and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council, where she serves as a liaison between the Council and communities in Carver and Scott Counties. She is Project Manager of the Local Planning Handbook, the Council's primary technical resource for comprehensive plans; and Project Manager for PlanIt, the Council's comprehensive plan educational program.



Corrin Wendell, AICP, Senior Planner/Sector Representative Districts 11, and 12
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Corrin is a Senior Planner and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council. She serves as a liaison between the Council and communities in parts of Anoka and Washington Counties providing technical assistance. Corrin leads the development of resources related to regional economic competitiveness and incorporating economic development into local comprehensive plans. Before joining the Council, she served as the City Planner for the City of North St. Paul, and Senior Planner for the cities of Jordan, MN, Riverdale, GA, and Columbus, OH, as well as provided planning services for the coastal counties of Mississippi.



Eric Wojchik, MRTPI, Senior Planner/Sector Representative Districts 2, 9, and 10
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Eric is a Senior Planner and Sector Representative at the Metropolitan Council, where he serves as a liaison between the Council and communities in Anoka, Ramsey, and Hennepin Counties; providing planning and technical assistance; working with communities to achieve local and regional goals; and reviewing comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and environmental reviews. Eric also performs resilience and sustainability project work at the Council to implement the policies of *Thrive MSP 2040*.