



# Imagine 2050 - Public Comment Opportunity

Public comment overview meeting

Merritt Clapp-Smith, Local Planning Assistance  
Karah Barr, Communications, and representatives of  
Land Use, Housing, Parks, Transportation and Water

September 16, 2024, noon to 1:00 PM



# Presentation Overview



Public comment process

Provide public comments online

Key updates by policy area

Engagement and opportunities to participate

Contacts and questions

# Imagine 2050 Released for Public Comment



## Public Comment Period open August 15 – October 7

- Council will publish a Public Comment Report which includes a summary of comments, detailed comments, and general responses by theme
- Response to comments
  - Subject matter experts will be drafting responses
  - Direct reply to comments will be sent to any respondent who provides their email in the engagement portal
- Comments will inform revisions to Imagine 2050
  - Help identify areas that need further clarity
  - Shape final policies adopted in Imagine 2050

**Provide public  
comments online**



# Online Comment Portal

<https://engage.metrocouncil.org/>



## Transportation Policy Plan

Transportation gives people and businesses access to the places they need to reach – and a choice in how to get there.

[Learn more →](#)



## Land Use

Robust connections between land, water, and living beings are foundational for regional growth.

[Learn more →](#)



## Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan

Parks can connect people to the natural world and improve health and well-being.

[Learn more →](#)



## Water Policy Plan

High-quality water is essential for a healthy environment, thriving economy, and public health.

[Learn more →](#)



## Housing Policy Plan

Every person and family needs safe, stable, affordable housing to thrive.

[Learn more →](#)

# Online Comment Portal

<https://engage.metrocouncil.org/land-use>

Home / Land Use

## Imagine the Future of Land Use

Land use policy is at the heart of the regional development guide and the local comprehensive planning process. How we relate to and use land is key to how this region grows and flourishes. We envision a region that balances the needs of a growing human population with respect for and stewardship of the needs of all living beings. It is a vision that includes care of the water that is foundational to all life as well as other natural systems upon which our lives depend.

Respecting the human interconnection with land, water, and all living beings must be the foundation for regional growth.

## Our regional goals

The Met Council has endorsed these goals for our region to achieve through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships. Collectively, these goals describe and support an overall vision for the region and set the policy agenda for land use.

### Land use quick links

[Initiative Home](#)

[Land Use Objectives Overview](#)

[Land Use Objective 1 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 2 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 3 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 4 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 5 Policies and Actions](#)

# Online Comment Portal

**Objective 3: Establish vibrant, inclusive, connected, and safe communities for people to live, work, and recreate in.**

[+ Read more about objective 3](#)

## Policy 1

Prioritize planning policies and practices that support mixed-use development, walkable neighborhoods, easy access to transit, and enhanced connectivity through biking and other sustainable transportation options.

### - Read action 1

Develop transportation, land use, and open space plans that prioritize human-scale planning in both urban and rural environments. (Local Government)

[+ Read action 2](#)

[+ Read action 3](#)

## Land use quick links

[Initiative Home](#)

[Land Use Objectives Overview](#)

[Land Use Objective 1 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 2 Policies and Actions](#)

**[Land Use Objective 3 Policies and Actions](#)**

[Land Use Objective 4 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 5 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 6 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 7 Policies and Actions](#)

[Land Use Objective 8 Policies and Actions](#)

[Full Draft of the Land Use Chapter](#)

# Online Comment Portal

+ Read action 7

+ Read action 8

## Give feedback

 **Join the conversation today**  
Create an account or log in to share your thoughts and ideas.

How well do you feel this policy and these actions support the future you'd like to see?

**Policy 1**

Not well at all

Somewhat unwell

Neutral

Somewhat well

Very well

**Action 1**

Not well at all

Somewhat unwell

Responses are not allowed until you "Join" or "Log In"

Join our online community to participate in shaping the future of the Twin Cities region.

Creating an account helps you connect directly to our planning efforts. It also helps us understand your needs and questions and the broader needs of our community. Please register.

Sign up with email

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**Email Address**

**Password**  
Your password must have a minimum length of 5 characters.

**Username**

**ZIP Code**

I agree to the privacy statement Required

I'm not a robot 

reCAPTCHA  
Privacy · Terms

## Demographic information

- Optional but welcome

## How is account info used?

- Reply to comment will be sent.
- Minnesota law requires that people providing official comment on public hearing items identify first & last name and area of residence

## Is the information kept private?

- Personal information will be kept private and is used only for general trends data

# Online Comment Portal

How well do you feel this policy and these actions support the future you'd like to see?

Action 8

- Not well at all
- Somewhat unwell
- Neutral
- Somewhat well
- Very well

What could we do to strengthen or add to this policy and/or these actions?

Did you find anything about this policy or these actions confusing? Please share your thoughts.

Additional thoughts?

Submit

The portal provides the opportunity to comment on each policy and action in every chapter of Imagine 2050.

- “How well do you feel this policy and these actions support the future you’d like to see?”
  - Not well at all
  - Somewhat well
  - Neutral
  - Somewhat well
  - Very well
- “What could we do to strengthen or add to this policy and/or these actions?”
- “Did you find anything about this policy or these actions confusing? Please share your thoughts.”
- “Additional thoughts?”

# Key updates by policy area

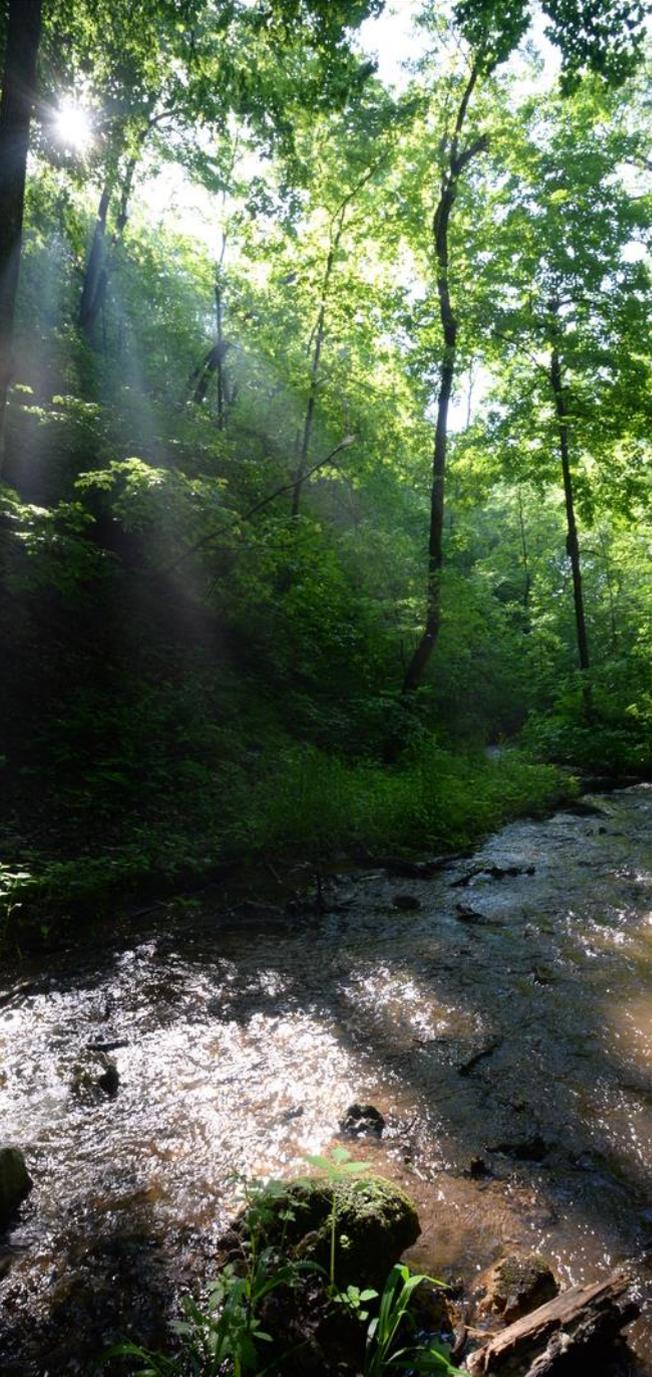


# Regional Vision

*A prosperous, equitable, and resilient region with abundant opportunities for all to live, work, play, and thrive.*



# Regional Goals



## **Our region is equitable and inclusive.**

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and all people feel welcome, included, and empowered.

## **Our communities are healthy and safe.**

All our region's residents live healthy and rewarding lives with a sense of dignity, and wellbeing.

## **Our region is dynamic and resilient.**

Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, access, and affordability.

## **We lead on addressing climate change.**

We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.

## **We protect and restore natural systems.**

We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for the people of our region.

# Regional Forecasts

- Met Council develops forecasts of when, where, and how much population, household, and job growth the seven-county region and local jurisdictions can expect over a 30-year horizon.
- In 2023, Council published regional total population and jobs forecasts, then used UrbanSim, a real estate market simulation model, to allocate forecasts to the local level.
- [Long-Range Forecasts - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

Geographic unit	Population		Population Growth	Households		Household Growth	Employment		Employment Growth
	2020	2050	(2020-50)	2020	2050	(2020-50)	2020	2050	(2020-50)
Minnetonka	53,776	69,997	16,221	23,694	31,635	7,941	43,624	57,207	13,583
Minnetonka Beach	546	586	40	198	218	20	120	263	143
Minnetrista	8,262	12,412	4,150	2,765	4,161	1,396	652	1,383	731
Mound	9,398	9,687	289	4,160	4,408	248	1,074	1,573	499
New Hope	21,986	23,205	1,219	8,984	9,528	544	10,460	12,247	1,787
Orono	8,315	10,918	2,603	3,152	4,138	986	1,320	2,029	709
Osseo	2,688	3,220	532	1,285	1,524	239	1,694	3,651	1,957

# Land Use Policy



## Land Use

Robust connections between land, water, and living beings are foundational for regional growth.

[Learn more →](#)

## Key Updates and Changes

- Shift in minimum density requirements [Obj. 1, Policy 2, Actions 3, 4 and 5]
- Natural systems – protect, restore and enhance [Obj. 1, Policy 5; Obj. 4 ]
- Equitable development [Obj. 2, Policy 3; Obj. 6]
- Vibrant, inclusive, connected and safe communities [Obj. 3]
- Climate resilience and climate action requirements A [Obj. 7]

## What's Getting Attention

- Forecasts and Community Designations
- Criteria for MUSA expansion [Obj. 1, Policy 2, Action 2]
- Minimum density requirements [Obj. 1, Policy 2, Actions 3, 4 and 5]

# Housing Policy



## Housing Policy Plan

Every person and family needs safe, stable, affordable housing to thrive.

[Learn more →](#)

## Key Updates and Changes

- Housing requirements for comprehensive plans [Section 4]
  - Local Comp Plans to identify top 3 needs and how to address them
- Focus on services and quality of housing [Objective 2 and 4]
- Preservation of housing [Objective 4]
- Senior and accessible housing needs [Objective 4]
- Housing resilient to climate change [Objective 7]

## What's Getting Attention

- Focus on housing stability and homelessness [Objective 3]
- Tenant protections [Objective 4 and 6]
- Planning to Implementation - support via technical assistance and grants (Section 4)
- Homes not just housing [Objective 5]
  - Displacement Risk Assessment

# Regional Parks and Trails Policy



## Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan

Parks can connect people to the natural world and improve health and well-being.

[Learn more →](#)

## Key Updates and Changes

- New Cultural Landscape subclassification [Section 2 – System Plan policy].  
*Example: We anticipate that the City of Saint Paul will redesignate Indian Mounds Regional Park with this new classification.*
- New Natural Systems policy and actions [Section 3 – Natural Systems policy]
- New Climate Resilience policy and actions [Section 4 – Climate Resilience policy]
- Elevating Equity in Recreation, Facilities, and Programming policy [Section 7 – Recreation, Facilities, and Programming policy, Action 1]. *Creating more flexibility in eligible activities to meet the changing demographics of our region.*
- Strengthening coordination and collaboration between Regional Parks and Trails, Metropolitan Transportation Services, and Regional Park Implementing Agencies for the benefit of the Regional Trails System [Section 7 – Recreation, Facilities, and Programming policy, Action 5]

# Regional Parks and Trails Policy



## Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan

Parks can connect people to the natural world and improve health and well-being.

[Learn more →](#)

## What's Getting Attention

- Regional Parks and Trails System is 50 years old this year?!
- From 1974-2024, the State of Minnesota and Metropolitan Council have invested more than \$1.25 billion in this amazing system.
- Regional Trails are the fastest growing part of our system, with 56 regional trails and over 450 miles of interconnected opportunities.
- Our estimate to complete the Regional Parks and Trails System is \$3 billion.
- In order to keep up with rising land prices, we're proposing to increase our acquisition grant amounts to \$2 million each year with Parks and Trails Legacy Funds and \$3 million in Environment and Natural Resources Trust Funds. The Council matches by of these funding sources with Council funds.

# Transportation Policy



## Transportation Policy Plan

Transportation gives people and businesses access to the places they need to reach – and a choice in how to get there.

[Learn more →](#)

## Key Updates and Changes

- New policy direction on climate change, public health, and natural systems [overall]
- New travel demand management investment plan, like other modal investment plans [Dynamic & Resilient Policy 7 and TDM Investment Plan]
- New federal, state, and local investment in transit and roadways [Regional Transportation Finance, Highway Investment Plan, and Transit Investment Plan]
- Included study findings on topics like interchanges, pedestrian safety, and equity [Highway Investment Plan and Pedestrian Investment Plan]

## What's Getting Attention

- The challenge of meeting ambitious VMT reduction and vehicle electrification objectives [Policies 29 and 31]
- Implementing the plan through investment programs like the Regional Solicitation
- Heavy safety emphasis on reducing deaths and serious injuries [particularly Policies 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 26]
- Travel needs changing with hybrid work options

# Water Policy



## Water Policy Plan

High-quality water is essential for a healthy environment, thriving economy, and public health.

[Learn more →](#)

## Key Updates and Changes

- **Watershed approach:** The state of Minnesota has adopted a watershed-based management strategy, fostering heightened collaboration and a shared perspective for planning and executing water improvement activities.
- **“One Water”, integrated water management:** Integrated water management, also known as "One Water" addresses water as it moves from water supply, through wastewater systems and into surface waters.

## What's Getting Attention

- Responding to climate change across water sectors. [Policies 1-6, 8-11]
- Seeking opportunities for water reuse. [Policies 6 & 10]
- Identifying actions for sustainable waters. These are influenced by growth and development, contamination, equity and access, as well as water supply volumes.

## Engagement and opportunities to participate



# Engage on Imagine 2050 through Art



## **Chromazone Mural & Art Festival**

2171 University Ave W Suite 100, St Paul, MN 55114

- Thomasina Top Bear and Angela Casselton, artists
- Friday, September 20, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

## **Parks After Dark Sound Garden**

2595 Crosby Farm Road Saint Paul, MN, 55116

- James Everest, artist
- Friday, September 20, 8:00 – 10:30 p.m.

## **Art, Policy, Pizza & Ping Pong**

Lebannon Hills, 860 Cliff Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

- James Everest, Melodee Strong, Peter Haakon Thompson, artists
- Sunday, September 22, noon – 4:00 p.m.

# Public Comments and Next Steps

**Public comment period:** August 15 to October 7, 2024

You can submit comments one of six ways

1. Online: [engage.metrocouncil.org](https://engage.metrocouncil.org)
2. Mail: Metropolitan Council, 390 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55101
3. E-mail: [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)
4. Phone: Public Comment Line: 651-602-1500
5. In-person: Art + Policy events
6. In-person: Public Hearing on Sept. 25 at 5:00 p.m. in Met Council Chambers

# Public Hearing Option



## Imagine 2050 - Register to speak at the public hearing - Sept. 25

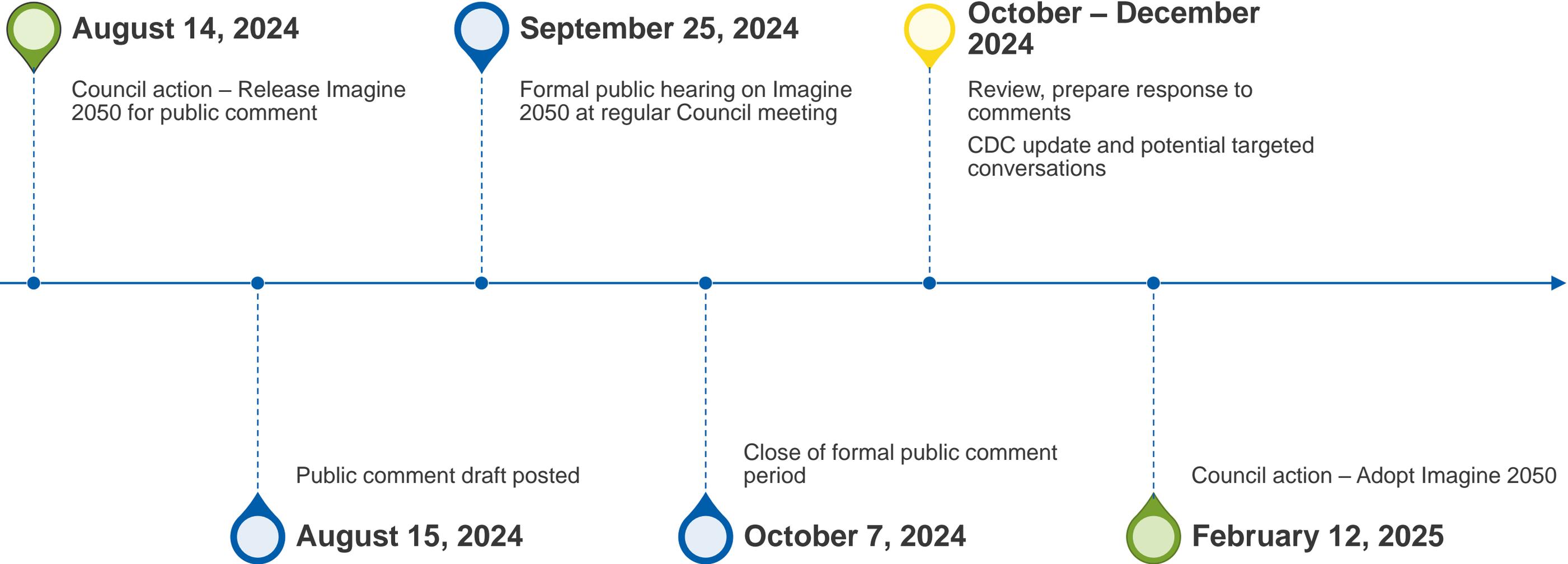
The Metropolitan Council is receiving public comment on the Draft Imagine 2050 plan from Aug. 15 to Oct. 7. The Met Council will host a public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Met Council Chambers at 390 Robert St. N. in Saint Paul.

Please complete the form below to register to speak at the public hearing.

Sign up requires first and last name and zip code.

[Imagine 2050 - Register to speak at the public hearing - Sept. 25 \(office.com\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/Imagine2050/2025/09/25/register-to-speak-at-the-public-hearing)

# Imagine 2050 Schedule and Timeline



# Contacts and questions



# If you have questions on a topic...

## Contacts for specific questions on policies:

### Land Use

Local Planning Assistance staff

#### Sector Representatives

**Angela R. Torres, AICP for general**  
[Angela.Torres@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Angela.Torres@metc.state.mn.us)

**Todd Graham for Forecasts**  
[Todd.Graham@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Todd.Graham@metc.state.mn.us)

### Housing

**Olivia Boerschinger**  
[Olivia.Boerschinger@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Olivia.Boerschinger@metc.state.mn.us)

**Maia Guerrero-Combs**  
[Maia.Guerrero-Combs@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Maia.Guerrero-Combs@metc.state.mn.us)

### Regional Parks and Trails

**Colin Kelly**  
[Colin.Kelly@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Colin.Kelly@metc.state.mn.us)

**Tracey Kinney**  
[Tracey.Kinney@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Tracey.Kinney@metc.state.mn.us)

### Transportation

**Jed Hanson**  
[Jed.Hanson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jed.Hanson@metc.state.mn.us)

### Water

**Steve Christopher**  
[Steve.Christopher@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Steve.Christopher@metc.state.mn.us)

**Jen Kostrzewski**  
[Jennifer.Kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.Kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us)



# Questions

## **Merritt Clapp-Smith**

Senior Planner, Local Planning Assistance

[merritt.clapp-smith@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:merritt.clapp-smith@metc.state.mn.us)

(651) 602-1567

## **Karah Barr**

Communication Consultant, Regional Administration

[karah.barr@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:karah.barr@metc.state.mn.us)

(651) 602-1609

Learn more and provide comments

[Imagine 2050 - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org)

<https://metro council.org/Planning/Imagine-2050.aspx>

