

2030 Development Framework

Challenges and opportunities

The Twin Cities region has enjoyed vibrant growth for several decades. While growth slowed in the first decade of the new century, largely due to national economic forces, the region still gained 207,500 people from 2000 to 2010.

Growth brings opportunities and challenges, and raises questions like:

- How can the region maintain and improve the quality of life for its new and current residents in these challenging economic times?
- How can the region preserve and revitalize its prized communities and neighborhoods—the buildings, parks, shared spaces and streets that tell us we’re “home”—while creating new communities with their own character and sense of place?
- How can the region create jobs and provide adequate housing for its residents while preserving vital natural assets and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation?
- How can we make shrinking government resources go farther?

Flexibility, efficiency, cooperation

Under state law, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for creating a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county area. The keystone of the Metropolitan Development Guide is the Council’s 2030 Regional Development Framework. Also included in the guide are regional system plans for transportation—the transit and highway systems (including aviation); regional parks and trails; and water resources management. The Framework was adopted in 2004, and integrated into local comprehensive plans throughout the region in 2008.

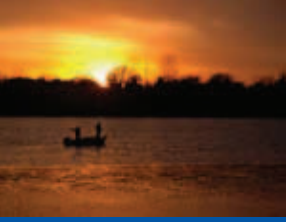

The Framework provides a plan for how the Metropolitan Council—in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders—will guide our region’s growth and shape our future.

In the Framework, the Council emphasizes its commitment to:

- Work collaboratively with local communities.
- Integrate natural resources into local and regional land-use decisions.
- Make the most cost-effective use of new and existing roads, sewers and other costly infrastructure.
- Be accountable to the public—by establishing benchmarks for annually measuring the region’s progress toward our goals.

The Framework recognizes that “one size does not fit all”—that different communities have different opportunities, needs and aspirations. But it also reflects the belief that all communities have a shared responsibility to help accommodate the region’s growth in a sensible, cost-effective manner.

Many of the ideas contained in the Framework grew out of efforts already under way in communities throughout the region—from Brooklyn Park to Burnsville and from Maplewood to Maple Grove.



Under state law, the Council is responsible for creating a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county area. The centerpiece of the guide is the Regional Development Framework.

In the Framework, the Council emphasizes its commitment to work collaboratively with local communities.

The Framework's strategies for success

The Council's strategies are organized around four policies:

1. Accommodate growth in a flexible, connected and efficient manner. Support land-use patterns that efficiently connect housing, jobs, retail centers and civic uses. Encourage growth and reinvestment in centers with convenient access to transportation corridors. Ensure an adequate supply of developable land for future growth.

2. Slow the growth in traffic congestion and improve mobility. Improve the highway system, removing bottlenecks and managing the system. Encourage flexible work hours, telecommuting, ridesharing and other traffic management efforts. Expand the bus system and develop a network of new bus and/or rail transitways, based on a thorough cost-benefit analysis.

3. Encourage expanded choices in housing locations and types. Allow market forces to respond to changing market needs, including greater demand for townhomes and condos as baby-boomers grow older. Preserve existing housing stock to help maintain a full range of housing choices. Support the production of lifecycle and affordable housing with better links to jobs, services and amenities.

4. Work to conserve, protect and enhance the region's vital natural resources. Encourage the integration of natural-resource conservation into all land-planning decisions. Seek to protect important natural resources by adding areas to the regional park system. Work to protect our region's water resources.

The Framework includes a set of benchmarks that will be used to track and measure progress on an annual basis. Visit www.metrocouncil.org to see the benchmarks and the region's performance at meeting them.

In 2012, the Council will release new regional growth forecasts based on the 2010 Census and develop a new Framework for the new decade and beyond.

For more information

Visit www.metrocouncil.org to read an overview of the 2030 Regional Development Framework, and find links to the full plan, the regional system plans and the regional benchmarks.

You may also call the Regional Data Center at 651-602-1140.

The Framework includes a set of benchmarks that are used to track and measure regional progress on an annual basis.