

# 2040





## Implementing Thrive

### Next steps

*Thrive* establishes the policy foundation used to complete regional systems and policy plans, development policies, and implementation strategies that together form the comprehensive development guide. Detailed policies implementing the *Thrive* policy direction and advancing the five *Thrive* outcomes will emerge and be formally adopted in the *Thrive* systems and policy plans:

- *Housing Policy Plan* (fall 2014)
- *Transportation Policy Plan* (late 2014)
- *Water Resources Policy Plan* (late 2014)
- *Regional Parks Policy Plan* (early 2015)

In addition to the *Thrive* systems and policy plans, the Council will consider how to advance the *Thrive* outcomes through:

- Making investments through Livable Communities Act grants (Livable Communities Demonstration Account, Local Housing Incentives Account, and Tax Base Revitalization Account)
- Working with the Transportation Advisory Board on the regional solicitation for transportation funds
- Investigating the use of the Council's current funding mechanisms as tools to aid in promoting the *Thrive* outcomes

## Local Planning Process

The policy direction in *Thrive*, and the systems and policy plans that follow, assist local governments to create consistent, compatible, and coordinated local comprehensive plans that together strive to reach a common purpose. System statements explain how *Thrive* and the systems and policy plans affect each individual community. The Council will distribute system statements to local jurisdictions in the fall of 2015, beginning this decade's round of local comprehensive plan updates; updates are due back to the Council in 2018. Local governments use system statement information to develop their comprehensive plans to achieve local visions within the regional policy framework (Minn. Stat. 473.856-857; 473.864-865). Local governments that disagree with any item in their system statement may request a hearing to resolve any issues (Minn. Stat. 473.857).

Local governments share their updated local comprehensive plans with adjacent and affected jurisdictions so they may consider the plan's impact, consistency, and coordination with their own plans. Then, the local governments send its plan to the Council for review based on the requirements of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, state and federal guidelines referenced in this document, and the comprehensive development guide. The Council considers each local comprehensive plan's compatibility with the plans of other local governments, consistency with adopted Council policies, and conformance with metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stat. 473.175). If the Council finds that a local government's local comprehensive plan is more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans, the Council can require the local government to modify its local plan to assure conformance with the metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stat. 473.175).

Once the Council completes its review and authorizes a local government to place its plan into effect, the local government adopts its plan and then proceeds to update its zoning ordinances, fiscal devices, and other official controls to be consistent with the newly adopted comprehensive plan (Minn. Stat. 473.858; 473.865). Any local ordinance or other local control that conflicts with the local comprehensive plan or metropolitan system plans must be brought into conformance with the plan within nine months of comprehensive plan adoption (Minn. Stat. 473.865).

## Technical Assistance

The Council offers assistance to local governments as they update, amend, and implement their local comprehensive plans.

### Sector Representative Program

Sector representatives are experienced and knowledgeable planners familiar with the Council, its programs, and with local planning processes. Sector representatives provide planning and technical assistance to cities, townships, and counties across the region and are the main point of contact for local staff for their planning needs. They keep abreast of local governmental and agency activities and participate in meetings, technical advisory committees, and other working groups to provide regional perspective. Sector representatives also foster cooperative relationships with governmental units and other organizations in the region to achieve local and regional goals. Sector representatives are also available to assist local governments in completing some of the statutorily required elements of local comprehensive plans.

### Tools and Resources

The Council's *Local Planning Handbook* guides cities and counties through the Council's comprehensive plan review process. The Council will update this handbook to incorporate new *Thrive* and systems and policy plan directions. In addition, the updated handbook will incorporate a variety of tools and resources developed both internally and by other organizations, such as best practices, model ordinances, development guides, and local examples.



## Workshops

As was offered for the 2008 comprehensive planning process, the Council will again offer a workshop series for local planners on incorporating regional policy and system plans into local comprehensive plans. This workshop series will include a range of topics including planning for water resources, transit, transportation, and affordable housing.

## Planning Grants and Loans

The Council has established a planning assistance fund to make grants and loans available to local governments to assist them in their preparation of local comprehensive plans (Minn. Stat. 473.867). The Council will work through its Land Use Advisory Committee to develop eligibility criteria, funding availability, and an application process to assist in the 2018 round of local comprehensive planning. The Council will communicate with local governments about the availability of those funds and the application procedures and deadlines.



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recognized for its high  
quality of life.**

