

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

Committee Members Present: Van Eyll, Rummel, Elkins, Melander, Duininck, Brimeyer, Chávez, Wulff, Rodriguez, Schreiber, Kramer, Cunningham, Haigh

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 3:12PM on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel seconded by Kramer to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Rummel to approve the minutes from the July 31 Committee of the Whole meeting. **Motion carried.**

THRIVE MSP 2040

Overview of Council Policy Options on Transportation Policy—Transit Investment (continued from July 17)—Libby Starling and Dan Marckel

There are a number of things that have changed in terms of transit investment since the last Regional Framework was developed. The funding environment has changed considerably with the New Starts criteria and the MAP 21 program. The Itasca Project did a return on investment study last year which showed that transit is a fantastic investment and returns multiple billions of dollars. Transit investment is critical to economic competitiveness, not just a bonus. Dan shared a map of the region's transit market areas by most to least transit supportive (where the demand is). The most obvious transit corridors are in operation, being built, or are well along in planning.

Discussion: Direction for Transportation Policy—Transit Investment for Thrive MSP 2040 (continued from July 17)

The group discussed transit and land use alignment tools: incentives, assistance, and regulations. They agreed that transit investment priorities should be incorporated into regional grant program criteria. They also discussed and agreed to provide more education and technical assistance to local communities, including assistance with transit-oriented development (TOD) and interpreting the market for local communities' development. The value of the land is a good indicator of the market.

Overview Key Themes on Affordable Housing from Thrive MSP 2040 Phase II Outreach and Engagement—James Lehnhoff

James distributed a handout that included all the comments collected on comment cards at the Thrive MSP 2040 Phase II Roundtables. The comments were organized into ten themes: affordable housing allocation and definitions, communication, roles and collaboration, funding and costs, priority household types, priority locations, priority housing unit types, other considerations, sustainability, and tools. Many of the comments urged the Council to discontinue use of the term "affordable housing." The Council discussed replacing the term with one that does not carry negative connotations, such as "workforce housing."

Overview of Priorities for Affordable Housing—Libby Starling and Dan Marckel

The Housing Policy Plan is expected to be completed by June 2014. Thrive MSP 2040 and the upcoming Thrive Housing Policy Plan will set the Council's housing policy direction, identify regional needs and priorities, connect housing to the other systems plans, incorporate recommendations from the FHEA, and help inform and guide local housing planning. Local governments must separately negotiate affordable housing goals with the Council and adopt housing implementation plans in order to qualify for Livable Communities funding. The Regional Development Framework identifies three strategies for affordable housing: work to ensure an adequate supply of serviced, developable land to meet regional needs and respond to demographic trends;

work with regional partners to increase housing options that meet changing market preferences; and support the production and preservation of lifecycle and affordable housing with links to jobs, services and amenities accessible by auto, transit, biking and walking.

Discussion: Direction for Priorities for Affordable Housing in Thrive MSP 2040

The group discussed priorities for the location of affordable housing. Goals for affordable housing will be different for different communities. One idea was to give incentives to communities that create more affordable housing. The group also discussed the lack of alignment with housing and transit; many federal grants require access to transit as criteria for grants for affordable housing. A corridor-wide approach to affordable housing was discussed. Communities may be able to meet their affordable housing needs if they worked together. Communities vary greatly and there are funding gaps; investments should be made with that in mind. The Council agreed that they would like to see affordable housing preserved where it exists in developed areas and encouraged in developing suburban areas. The affordable housing should be aligned with transit in racially-integrated areas and racially-concentrated areas of poverty at risk of gentrification.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:44PM.

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary