

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Melander, Duinink, Rummel, Brimeyer, Kramer, Chávez, Wulff, Rodriguez, McCarthy, Van Eyll, Schreiber, Commers, Elkins, Munt

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Vice Chair Melander called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:03PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2014 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

THRIVE MSP 2040

Overview of Public Comments Received

Libby provided a summary of the public comments that were received. As of May 7, 2014 the Council received a total of 141 comments from residents, local governments, counties, elected officials, organizations, and state agencies. Comment themes included support for the process, outcomes, and principles, requests for simple clarification, and the desire to continue the discussions around highways, climate change, and job concentrations.

Revisit/Confirm Policy Direction: Highway Investments and Expansion

Dan began the discussion with a handout that included a sampling of the comments related to this portion of *Thrive*. The handout also included discussion questions for the Council to guide revisions to more fully explain the Council's direction on transportation and highways. Many communities stated that if the Council wanted more growth, they needed to provide funding for highway expansion. The group discussed the relationship between growing capacity and highway/road/transportation investments. There will be revisions to language regarding funding for transit and highway expansion. Dan explained that seeking funding is a work item in the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP).

Revisit/Confirm Policy Direction: Climate Change

The City of Minneapolis commented that the Council, as a regional entity, should evaluate the climate change impacts of the development patterns in the region and how they should affect decision-making into the future. Many comments have stated that the time for action is now, and perhaps the Council should use funding tools to incent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We also received feedback asking the Council to use more collaborative approaches, lead by example, and that climate change may go beyond the core mission of the Council. The group discussed what the threshold for stronger action should be, and where we currently reside on that spectrum. Councilmember Commers circulated a letter to Chair Haigh from Paul Douglas, a Senior Meteorologist at Media Logic Group, in which he urged her and the Council to take steps to increase the resilience of our infrastructure and help our communities be as weather-resistant as possible. The

group discussed whether the current approach to climate change in *Thrive* should be stronger.

Revisit/Confirm Policy Direction: Job Concentrations and Manufacturing/Distribution Centers

Libby and Dan provided a handout detailing the proposed new language and maps that will be added to the Special Features section. Maps showing the locations of educational institutions and manufacturing/distribution centers, as well as job concentrations, will be included. The maps within the hard copy document are intentionally a bit vague in order to encourage people to visit our website where they can see the most current information. Councilmembers requested that the rivers be added to the maps, as well as the ability to layer different maps (online).

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary