



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: September 9, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation and Public Works Committee

Subject: **Metropolitan Council Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)
Comments**

Recommendation:

Approve attached comments pertaining to the Metropolitan Council Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and direct staff to submit the attached comments to the Metropolitan Council by the end of the 45-day comment period (October 1, 2014).

Previous Directives:

- None

Department Information

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, P.E., P.T.O.E., PW Transportation Planner 673-2129
Haila Maze, AICP, Long Range Planning Principal Planner 673-2098

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Haila Maze, CPED Planning; Donald Pflaum, Public Works

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals – This initiative supports the following city goals:
- A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses – big and small – start, move, stay and grow here.
- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life. High-quality and convenient transportation options connect every corner of the city.
- Comprehensive Plan - Supports Comprehensive Plan Goals

Supporting Information

Thrive MSP 2040 and Policy Plans

Thrive MSP 2040, the region's vision for the next 30 years, was adopted by the Metropolitan Council on May 28, 2014. After review of the document by various departments within the City, the City of Minneapolis submitted comments on *Thrive* on April 28, 2014.

The April 28, 2014 City comments are enclosed as Attachment 3.

The adopted Thrive MSP 2040 is linked here:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040/Thrive-MSP-2040-Plan.aspx>

Every ten years the Metropolitan Council is required by state law to prepare a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county metropolitan area. Local municipalities within the Seven-County Metropolitan Area must consequently develop comprehensive plans that are consistent with this regional development guide. *Thrive MSP 2040* provides a shared vision for the future of our region over the next 30 years, setting directions and guidelines for the region's growth and development. Local communities such as Minneapolis are served by regional systems planned by the Council, including housing, transportation, wastewater collection and treatment, and recreational opportunities offered by regional parks.

Thrive MSP 2040 sets a vision that is applied by four policy plans: The Housing Policy Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Water Resources Policy Plan. Each policy plan provides a greater level of detail than is present in the overall *Thrive MSP 2040* document. Each of these plans is in various stages of development. Each draft plan is or will be coming forward for public review and comment prior to final action on each by the Metropolitan Council (in late 2014 and early 2015). The current schedule of the review timelines is outlined below.

Housing Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 11, 2014 – September 26, 2014
Item at City Council Community Development Committee on September 9, 2014. Action by full City Council on September 19, 2014.
City comments due to Metropolitan Council due September 26, 2014
Expected Adoption by the Met Council: November 12, 2014

Transportation Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 14, 2014 – October 1, 2014
Item at City Council Transportation and Public Works Committee on September 9, 2014 (herein). Action by full City Council on September 19, 2014.
City comments due to Metropolitan Council due October 1, 2014
Expected Adoption by the Met Council: December 2014

Regional Parks Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 27, 2014 – October 30, 2014
Item at City Council Zoning and Planning Committee on October 9, 2014.
Action by full City Council on October 17, 2014.
City comments due to Metropolitan Council due October 30, 2014
Expected Adoption by the Met Council: End of 2014

Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Public Review and Comment period on the draft Water Resources Management Policy Plan document scheduled for October-November 2014
Expected Adoption by the Met Council: Early 2015

The adoption of *Thrive MSP 2040* and the four policy plans listed above set the stage for local municipalities to begin their comprehensive planning process. Minneapolis' comprehensive plan will need to operate within the framework created by these plans. While CPED is already preparing for this pending update, the local comprehensive planning process begins in earnest in the fall of 2015 when the Metropolitan Council provides communities with system statements – specific benchmarks for planning that are based on the above referenced policy plans.

Overview of the Transportation Policy Plan

The Metropolitan Council is required by federal law to develop a long-range transportation plan that is updated at least every 5 years. The current 2030 regional Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in November 2010 and was approved in February 2011. To meet the federal requirement, the Metropolitan Council must complete the update by the end of 2014. Metropolitan Council staff has been working for more than a year to develop this document and has consulted with a Policymaker Task Force in addition to a Partner Agency Work Group during that period. City staff has served on the Partner Agency Working Group. Metropolitan Council staff also met with Minneapolis CPED and Public Works staff prior to the release of this document to better understand existing City policies, including the City of Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan, and how those policies relate to the draft 2040 TPP.

The Metropolitan Council has stated that the draft 2040 TPP plan includes a number of changes from the current plan, including the following:

- Updating the demographic data (population, employment, and household data) and travel forecasts from 2030 to 2040.
- Incorporating outcomes and principles from Thrive MSP 2040.
- Responding to MAP-21 requirements for a performance-based regional plan and identifying regional transportation system goals, objectives, and strategies.
- Updating the expected revenues and expenditures to meet the requirements of a fiscally constrained long-range plan.
- Incorporating the results of planning studies that have been completed since 2010 including the Regional Bicycle Master Study.
- Incorporating new language connecting transportation and land use and identifying required densities near transitway stations.
- Completing the first comprehensive update of the aviation chapter in several decades.

The draft 2040 TPP includes the following 3 sections in addition to an appendix:

Part 1: Transportation for a Thriving Region: This section provides an overview of transportation planning within the region. This section creates a vision and sets goals, objectives, and strategies that support the region's vision.

Part 2: Implementing the Transportation Vision for the MSP Region: This section examines the different modal systems (including aviation, freight, highways, transit, and bicycling/walking) and what project investments are needed throughout the region.

Part 3: Federal Requirements: This section examines the various federal funding program requirements as prescribed by MAP-21, which is the existing governing federal transportation funding act.

Minneapolis CPED and Public Works staff have reviewed this document and have prepared comments which can be found in Attachment 2. The public comment period for the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan is from August 14, 2014 to October 1, 2014.

The Metropolitan Council will hold a public hearing on the draft Transportation Policy Plan on September 17, 2014 at 5PM at the Metropolitan Council in St. Paul.

Attachments

1. Transportation Policy Plan:
<http://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Planning/Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-TPP-Public-Comment-Draft.aspx> (linked only, no hard copy)
2. Draft detailed comments to the Metropolitan Council
3. City of Minneapolis Comments on *Thrive MSP 2040*-dated April, 2014
<http://minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-123431.pdf>