



# Metropolitan Council Policy Positions

As adopted by the Minneapolis City Council on October 20, 2017

## Minneapolis Vision

Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and a pristine environment, where all people are safe, healthy and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness.

## Minneapolis Values

### We will be a city of...

**Equity**

Fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all people.

**Safety**

People feel safe and are safe.

**Health**

We are focused on the well-being of people and our environment.

**Vitality**

Minneapolis is a world class city, proud of its diversity and full of life with amenities and activities.

**Connectedness**

People are connected with their community, are connected to all parts of the city and can influence government.

**Growth**

While preserving the city's character, more people and businesses lead to a growing and thriving economy.

### We work by...

**Innovating and being creative**

New ideas drive continuous improvement.

**Driving toward results**

Our efficient, effective work meets measurable goals for today and tomorrow.

**Engaging the community**

All have a voice and are heard.

**Valuing employees**

Employees are supported and take pride in public service.

**Building public trust**

All have access to services and information. We work in an open, ethical and transparent manner.

**Collaborating**

We work better together as one team. We are a valued partner in the community.

## Minneapolis Goals & Strategic Directions

- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper
- A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses – big and small – start, move, stay and grow here
- Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected
- A City that works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves

For More Details, Visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/citygoals/>

# Metropolitan Council Policy Positions

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	p. 4
<b>Land Use</b>	p. 5
<b>Transportation</b>	p. 6
<b>Water Resources</b>	p. 8
<b>Parks &amp; Trails</b>	p. 9
<b>Housing</b>	p. 10
<b>Resilience</b>	p. 11
<b>Economic Competitiveness</b>	p. 11

## Introduction

For longer than most regions in the United States, the Twin Cities region has shown foresight by planning and acting as a body greater than the sum of its parts. Since its creation, the Metropolitan Council has embodied regional cooperation and planning, and the efficient operation of regional services. Working together, the region successfully competes for federal resources and can support and attract the people and jobs needed to be economically competitive. Regional collaboration is needed to tackle some of the biggest emerging challenges to success including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, and addressing the region's racial disparities.

Populations are increasingly centered in metropolitan areas, concentrating labor, knowledge and capital over a small percent of overall landmass. The only way that our state, or nation, will be able to prosper and compete is by investing in the sustainability, continued growth, and success of metro regions. The Twin Cities region has become known for decentralized jobs and housing and our success will require more efficiently linking housing, transportation and jobs. To be good stewards of regional resources, investments must be made prudently to maximize the financial and environmental benefits.

The role of a regional body working with many jurisdictions is challenging but necessary. A strong Metropolitan Council is needed to engage the region's leadership, manage regional tools, and leverage assets to compete in a global economy. Minneapolis adopted a Resolution, *Supporting a strong, effective Metropolitan Council for the Twin Cities Region (2011R-019)*, regarding support for a regional decision-making body and the policies and principals relevant to regional government. The City stands ready to work with partners to ensure that the Metropolitan Council remains viable, and is effective.

One of the most significant challenges and opportunities facing the region is to eliminate the racial disparities that persist in housing, homeownership, income, employment, and poverty rates. Advancing racial equity is paramount to the wellbeing and vitality of the City and region. The City approaches all policies and programs through the lens of racial equity, and champions intentional strategies that promote racial equity, and prevent and eliminate disparities in public policy and public investments. Metropolitan Council policies are viewed through this lens. In addition to the comments found in this document, Minneapolis has expressed priorities in *Transit Equity: Reducing Disparities Through and Around Improved Transit Service, Transit Oriented Development, Housing and Job Growth in Minneapolis* (October 6, 2014).

## Land Use

A coordinated, regional approach to planning and land-use is essential to prepare for growth in the region and to ensure the wise use of limited resources. Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council's efforts to guide land use and development patterns that leverage the region's infrastructure and investments and private development. Compact development patterns are increasingly desirable to metro residents, are more environmentally friendly, and maximize the impact of investments in wastewater and transit.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

### TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)

- Encourage transit-friendly development patterns, including appropriate density, to lay the groundwork for future transit-readiness.
- Facilitate intergovernmental coordination in applying for federal TOD funds.
- Pursue private sector and local government partnerships to accelerate development and land acquisition for TOD;
  - Reimburse cities for prior land acquisitions that bring value to shared goals or which may have otherwise been pursued in partnership.
  - Lead collaboration around transit-line area planning, and the packaging of properties along future transit corridors.

### (RE)DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage development where opportunity exists but for challenges such as brownfields or private utility infrastructure like high voltage power lines. Allow Livable Communities Act grants to be used to overcome these hurdles and prepare land for redevelopment.
- Maintain Council authority to exercise discretion regarding guidelines for Livable Communities Demonstration Account awards to Minneapolis and/or St. Paul.
- Maintain or increase Tax Base Revitalization Account resources and allow Council discretion to award more than 50% of funding to a single municipality.
- Maintain or expand the Seeding Equitable Environmental Development program and expand it to other uses and expand the list of eligible costs.
- Guide investments and grants based on greatest regional benefit and most prudent use resources rather than geographic equity.
- Promote compact residential development that leverages Council investments through support for infill development and strengthening density minimums.

### PLANNING

- Continue to consult with cities in the development of forecasts and population estimates.
- Facilitate discussion around regionally significant land use matters.
- Map and inventory land-use, in coordination with cities, and allow for flexibility for localities that differ from one another in meaningful ways.
- Examine how industrial uses could be integrated with traditional commercial or residential uses.

- Continue planning assistance grants to help cities prepare Comprehensive Plans.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- Enhance equitable access to healthy food through policies that allow and encourage urban farming in appropriate locations, and food production in urban and suburban areas.
- Support the preservation of existing farm land and prime agricultural soils in exurban areas.
- Guide local conservation and preservation efforts by creating an ecological resources overlay.
- Help preserve the urban tree canopy that contributes to livability and produces environmental, health, socio-economic, and aesthetic benefits.

## Transportation

The efficient movement of people and goods is essential to a thriving economy. The role of the Metropolitan Council to view transportation systems through a regional lens, evaluate the adequacy of these systems, and plan for future needs, is invaluable. This must be done in collaboration with cities which are responsible for local planning and zoning and are the elected voice of affected residents. Effective collaboration across jurisdictions and agencies is also important to ensure that the region as a whole is competitive, and can plan and construct projects in a cost and time efficient manner.

Federal funding formulas and other criteria can encourage a focus on new transit ridership or fixed-guideway projects, which can lead to an inequitable level of investment for some transit users. It is important that the region provide equal levels of service and amenities to existing riders and established routes as compared to these other projects. These routes are often the most used and least subsidized within the transit system.

Walking and bicycling are transportation and deserve appropriate investment and consideration. While these modes can stand alone they also provide the links to create a robust transportation network. Shifting trips to non-motorized transportation also opens up capacity on the roads thus reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Metropolitan Council can play a critical role in understanding trends including changing demographics or emerging technology. The Council can provide value to the region by providing data and guidance to prepare for changes such as; meeting the needs of the growing population over 65 and the demand for compact, transit-rich communities. In emerging technology, it is imperative to assess trends in shared-mobility, and the implications of autonomous vehicle technology.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

## TRANSIT & MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

- Prioritize transit projects that provide all-day service, especially those that serve existing riders, promote economic development and job growth along city streets like modern streetcar, and projects which increase transit speed and reliability along city streets, such as enhanced bus or arterial bus rapid transit. Particularly;
  - Projects with the most impact to reduce racial and economic disparities, and

- Improvements to the Frequent Service Network, the region’s most efficient and least subsidized transit corridors on a per passenger basis.
- Ensure that all areas of the transit network are well-served and served equitably, in terms of bus facility design, placement and amenities including heat and real-time information.
  - Review the provision of transit facilities from a racial and economic equity perspective.
  - Determine eligibility for bus shelters in Minneapolis / St. Paul based on the same boarding criteria used for suburban locations.
- Invest in ‘last-mile’ projects with transit service, bicycling and walking and discourage single occupancy vehicle trips.
- Prioritize transit service that creates connections between areas of low-employment to areas of high job opportunity and in areas of high transit-dependency.
- Invest in cycling and walking as forms of transportation including the full build out of the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network.
- Prepare to meet the growing demand for Metro Mobility services and ensure that people with disabilities have access to reliable and affordable transportation.
- Continue to engage a diverse set of stakeholders, including people with disabilities, to advise the Council regarding transit services and amenities.
- Implement technologies and changes to improve timing of traffic both on and crossing Hiawatha Avenue, including reducing the disruption of traffic flows by Blue Line operations.

## PROJECTS

- Recognize the Locally Preferred Alternative adopted by the City of Minneapolis (*See Resolution 2013-422*) for Nicollet/Central Streetcar and continue to advance the project.
- Maintain C Line (Penn) and D Line (Chicago / Emerson / Fremont) as the next two priority arterial Bus Rapid Transit lines and maintain them in the Current Revenue Scenario of the Transportation Policy Plan.
- Complete Orange Line BRT as the priority highway BRT investment which must be done in conjunction with critical investments in the Lake Street Station as part of the I-35W and Lake Street Transit/Access project.
- Enhance the regional transportation network by completing planned extensions of the Green Line and Blue Line Light Rail Transit projects.
- Implement technologies and changes to improve timing of traffic both on and crossing Hiawatha Avenue, including reducing the disruption of traffic flows by Blue Line operations.
- Advance transit enhancements for the West Broadway and the Midtown Corridor.

## TRENDS & MEASURES

- Assess trends and the policy implications of shared-mobility and autonomous vehicles;
  - Understand the effects of autonomous and connected vehicles on roadway capacity and facilities.
  - Encourage collaboration across the state and region to prepare for emerging technology.

- Update Regional Performance Measures to emphasize the number of people moved, instead of the number of cars moved and to focus on the accessibility of transportation rather than time delay. Include racial equity criteria to evaluate system performance.
- Seek to eliminate fatal and serious crashes for all system users.
- Update the use of the Regional Travel Demand Model to include non-work trips and special generators in forecasting for transportation, and specifically transit needs.
- Consider equity criteria and Housing Performance Score in the allocation of transportation resources.

## HIGHWAYS

- Maintain a posture to pivot away from expansion of highway infrastructure towards maintenance and maximizing the efficiency of existing infrastructure;
  - Review and modernize High Occupancy Vehicle lanes to maximize capacity and give transit additional priority.
  - Research and understand the effects of autonomous and connected vehicles on roadway capacity.

## AVIATION

- Develop metrics to assess airport impacts on livability, human health, and the natural environment. Include these metrics when reviewing airport long-range plans, capital improvement programs and when evaluating the “capacity” of the aviation system.
- Advocate at the state and federal level for policies which ensure the long-term health of the aviation system including the management of noise and pollution.
- Encourage collaboration among airports in the Twin Cities Regional Aviation System and across the state to maximize the efficiency of the system and to share burdens and economic benefits.

## Water Resources

The Council provides a valuable service as wastewater treatment provider. Wastewater treatment is a significant expense for cities with impacts for resident rate-payers. Prudent investments help manage these costs and adequately maintain aging infrastructure. The cost of connecting to the sewer system, or increasing capacity, is often an unexpected and significant cost for small businesses and can be a barrier to (re)development. Improvements to the Sewer Availability Charge would reduce these barriers. With the metro area population projected to grow by 800,000 residents by 2040, the Council can play an important role to evaluate the region’s water supply and prepare for future needs. As a surface water community and drinking water provider, the City of Minneapolis has a unique role and perspective, and should be included in those conversations.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

### WATER SUPPLY

- Provide modeling and technical assistance to ensure adequate water supply for the region while recognizing that the provision of drinking water is a local responsibility.

- Convene stakeholders around water supply issues to share practices across communities and collaborate across agencies and ensure an opportunity for City of Minneapolis participation.
- Encourage wise water-use among communities using tools unique to their attributes and water sources.

## WASTEWATER

- Ensure that any expansion of regional wastewater infrastructure is fiscally prudent, requiring adequate minimum land-use and leveraging other investments.
- Provide regional wastewater treatment and engage customer-communities on decisions related to budgeting and rates.
- Identify additional financial resources to address public and private sources of inflow and infiltration (I/I).
- Seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with wastewater treatment.

## SEWER AVAILABILITY CHARGE (SAC)

- Support reforms to SAC that will achieve equity, simplification, and lower rates.
- Work with affected-communities and organizations such as Metro Cities to seek continual improvement in the SAC program including reducing barriers for small businesses.
- Enhance transparency around SAC, including where, and what projects are funded by SAC. Demonstrate that SAC is fair for payers in already developed areas.
- Limit the imposition of SAC for outdoor seating at an eating or drinking establishment to only those additions or expansion that increase the number of restrooms or connections to the sanitary sewer system, or increase the capacity of the establishment's sanitary sewer pipes.
- Explore alternatives to fund reserve capacity which do not rely on (often large) one-time fees.

## Parks & Trails

Nearly half of those responding to a 2012 survey identified parks trails and the natural environment as the most attractive feature of the region. These natural resources are critical to the health and well-being of Metro Area residents. However, a 2008 Regional Parks and Trails Survey showed that 88.6% of park users were white. It is important that these regional amenities, which contribute to quality of life, are accessible and used by all of the region's residents regardless of race, age, ability and socio-economic status.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

- Examine park amenities, funding, and investment through an equity lens.
- Improve transit and multi-modal access to regional parks.
- Partner with communities to preserve the value and enjoyment of regional parks by addressing concerns about noise, traffic and safety.
- Support an increase to grants and operations and maintenance support for Regional Park Implementing Agencies including the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

## Housing

Minneapolis supports quality, affordable, and stable housing throughout the region that meets the needs of all residents, at all stages of life. According to the Council's forecasts, the region will need to house an *additional* 37,400 low and moderate income households between 2020 and 2030. One-third of the region's households are cost-burdened and households of color are more than twice as likely to be severely cost-burdened. There is urgency to addressing these needs, and it is essential that each community is doing its part.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

### HOUSING NEED & PERFORMANCE

- Continue to support and expand funding for affordable housing, including Livable Communities Demonstration Account, Livable Communities Demonstration Account – Transit Oriented Development, Local Housing Incentive Account, and other programs.
- Maintain an inventory of the region's affordable housing stock and continue to assess the region's 'Need' for affordable housing. Use Council tools to ensure that all communities are meeting their share of the Need.
- Assess each jurisdiction's efforts to provide their share of the region's affordable housing with the calculation of a Housing Performance Score. Continue to include racial equity as part of the scoring criteria and to consider the "Score" in the allocation of resources.
- Engage cities in periodic review of Council policies and practices, including 'Need' and 'Score' criteria, and Livable Communities Act grant criteria.
- Include equity criteria in the allocation (re)development resources.

### HOUSING CHOICE

- Enhance housing choices at all income levels throughout the region, consistent with *Choice, Place and Opportunity*. Partner with cities to expand tools including Livable Communities Act resources to both catalyze private investment in Areas of Concentrated Poverty and attract affordable housing to higher-income areas.
- Encourage mixed-income housing and the reduction of financial and institutional barriers to developing mixed-income housing.
- Promote affordable and workforce housing in transit station areas and other transit rich areas with access to living-wage job and activity centers, or in direct proximity to employment opportunities.
- Identify strategies to preserve Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing throughout the region.
- Develop regional strategies to prevent the displacement of residents from their homes or communities.
- Implement strategies to affirmatively further fair housing and address housing discrimination.
- Enhance the choice and mobility of Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher holders by:
  - Encouraging property owners and management companies to accept vouchers with tools such as owner education and incentives.

- Facilitating coordination across housing agencies and increasing the capacity of the Community Choice program to provide mobility counseling to voucher holders.
- Encouraging Project Based Section 8 in areas which are currently difficult for housing choice voucher holders to access.

## Resilience

Demonstrating stewardship over regional assets requires addressing the urgent matter of reducing greenhouse gases and adapting for the impacts of climate change. Greenhouse gases know no boundaries and communities have a shared responsibility to meet state and federal air-quality standards. The Metropolitan Council provides a valuable regional perspective and can use its financial resources and land use guidance to promote environmentally friendly development patterns and prudent investments.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

### REDUCING EMISSIONS & CLIMATE ADAPTION

- Examine all Council policies through a lens of climate impacts and serve as convener and technical resource around reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change.
  - Provide guidance regarding the infrastructure impacts of climate change.
- Develop a climate change action plan with regional goals and measures and produce a regional greenhouse gas inventory.
- Encourage carbon-free building design and the transition to electric vehicles with electricity powered by renewable resources.
- Support non-motorized transportation options including walking and biking.
- Develop guidance for land use patterns, commuting patterns and systems designs that best promote emissions reductions.

## Economic Competitiveness

As the population of the region grows, it will be more racially diverse. If current racial disparities in housing, education, employment and wealth persist into the future it will hamper the success of the region. The region is also facing a labor shortage. According to Greater MSP, the region will need more than 100,000 new workers by 2020 to keep up with GDP growth. In order to be nationally and globally competitive, the region must retain and attract a talented workforce. To do so, the region must be prepared to meet the needs of the workforce in terms of housing and transit-accessibility. While the region faces challenges, it also has tremendous assets, which the Council is in a position to enhance and highlight.

Minneapolis supports the Metropolitan Council to;

- Increase the transit connectivity of job and activity centers to areas of low-employment.
- Promote affordable and workforce housing in transit rich areas or in direct proximity to employment opportunities.

- Plan for a range of housing options to meet the needs of the workforce that allow residents to age-in-place, and to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing.
- Invest in infrastructure and amenities that attract and retain successful businesses, and a talented workforce including a robust multi-modal transportation network.
- Prioritize development strategies that seek to reduce racial and economic disparities and enhance opportunity in areas of concentrated poverty.
- Strengthen economic and business development opportunities that promote racial equity in employment.
- Support a robust role for the Equity Advisory Committee to inform and influence Council policy.
- Reduce barriers to small business (re)development such as the cost and administrative burdens related to accessing sewer capacity.
- Map regional freight rail assets, and in conjunction, assess demand for industrial or other land-use needed to support businesses dependent upon freight rail.
- Strengthen collaboration with rail and shipping companies to maximize the efficiency of freight mobility while also addressing concerns about safety and environmental impacts.
- Support a healthy and strong aviation network including Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport and encourage long-term sustainability by managing noise and livability impacts.

## Mayor & Council Members

### Mayor Jacob Frey

612) 673-2100

### Ward 1 - Kevin Reich\*

(612) 673-2201

### Ward 2 - Cam Gordon

612) 673-2202

### Ward 3 – Steve Fletcher

612-673-2203

### Ward 4 – Phillipe Cunningham

(612) 673-2204

### Ward 5 – Jeremiah Ellison

(612) 673-2205

### Ward 6 - Abdi Warsame\*

(612) 673-2206

### Ward 7 - Lisa Goodman

(612) 673-2207

### Ward 8 – Andrea Jenkins\*

(612) 673-2208

### Ward 9 - Alondra Cano

(612) 673-2209

### Ward 10 - Lisa Bender\*

612.673.2210

### Ward 11 – Jeremy Schroeder\*

(612) 673-2211

### Ward 12 - Andrew Johnson\*

612-673-2212

### Ward 13 - Linea Palmisano

(612) 673-2213

\* Members of the Minneapolis City Council's  
Intergovernmental Relations Committee

## Intergovernmental Relations Department

### Gene Ranieri

Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Office: 612-673-2051

Cell: 612-716-9687

[gene.ranieri@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:gene.ranieri@minneapolismn.gov)

### Melissa Lesch

Senior Government Relations Representative

Office: 612.673.2328

Cell: 612.715.5435

[melissa.lesch@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:melissa.lesch@minneapolismn.gov)

### Sasha Bergman

Government Relations Representative

Office: 612-673-2761

Cell: 612-239-5072

[sasha.bergman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:sasha.bergman@minneapolismn.gov)

### Loren Olson

Government Relations Representative

Cell: 612-759-9037

Office: 612-673-2447

[loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov)

### Sharon Garcia

Administrative Assistant to the Director

Office: 612-673-2043

Fax: 612-673-3250

[sharon.garcia@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:sharon.garcia@minneapolismn.gov)

## Intergovernmental Relations Department

City of Minneapolis  
350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Room 301M  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

