

# Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

Accept public comment report and adopt the  
amendment to Imagine 2050

**Sarah Nelson and Krysten Ryba-Tures**

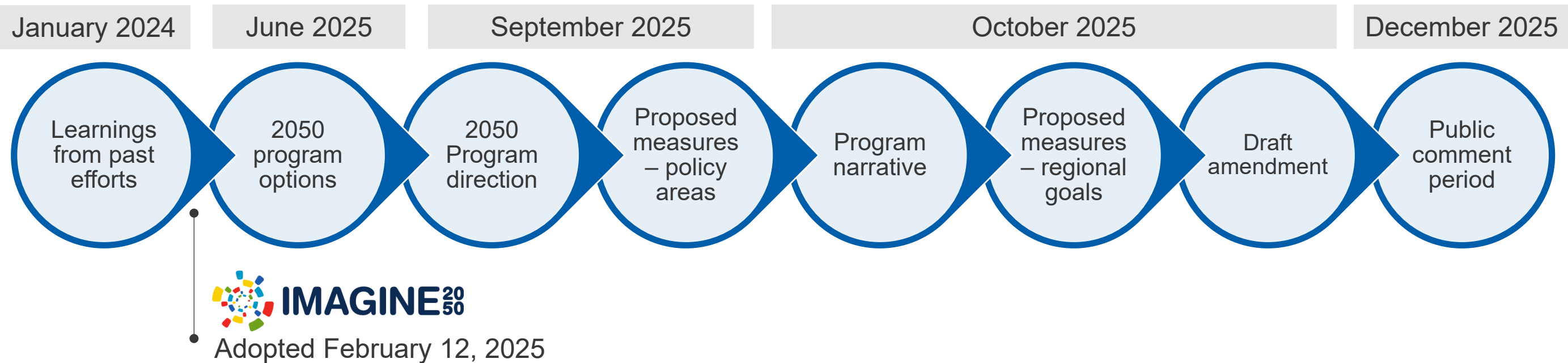
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

---

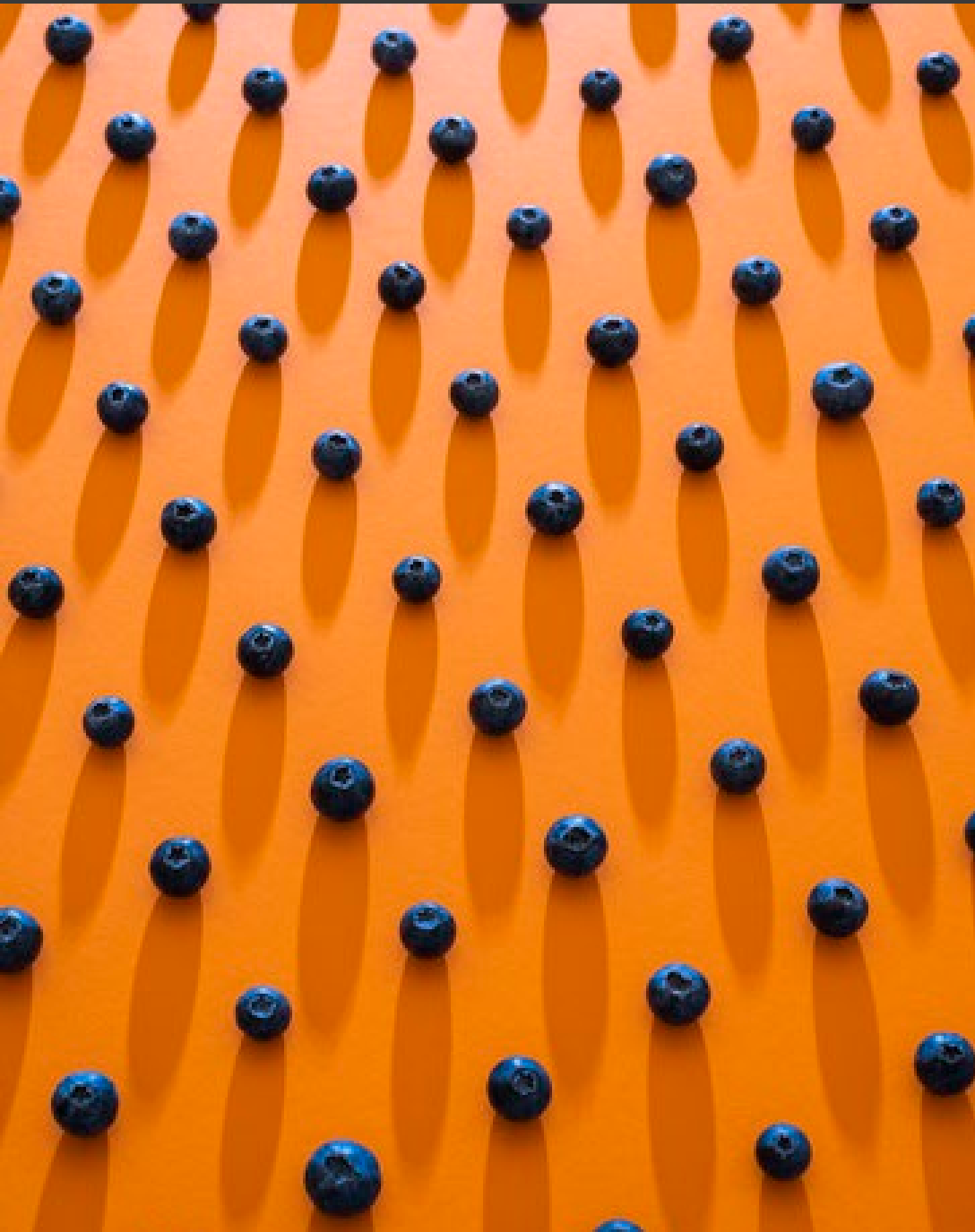
January 2026



# Program development timeline



# A new approach for Imagine 2050



## Strategic alignment of research and monitoring for shared understanding

- Imagine 2050's value of accountability
- Creates opportunities for regional dialogues about trends, change, and progress
- Leverages new information and methods
- Fosters systems thinking about regional goals and policy
- Supports holistic, data-informed decisions and policy

# 2050 Amendment: two parts

## Program narrative

- Describes conceptual model (outcomes-focused) and approach (programmatic)
- Commitments
- Guiding principles: Iterative, Adaptable, Meaningful
- Structure (regional indicators, regional measures, Met Council measures)

## Measurement appendix

- Measurement “slates” of regional indicators, regional measures, and Met Council measures for
  - Each Imagine 2050 goal (5)
  - 2050 policy areas (land use, housing, parks and trails, water)
- Reflect current data availability to best of our abilities

# Public comment report

- 15 comments received from 11 individuals and Washington County between October 23 and December 22, 2025
  - Commenters self-identified as residents (6), Met Council advisory committee members (2), local government staff (1), elected/appointed official (1), and advocacy/organization staff (1)

## Key themes from public comments

- Support for measurement (generally) and several specific measures
- Size and scope of the program highlight the need for effective organization and communication
- Support for co-creating new data development projects with partners
- Some focus on specific measures (endorsing or questioning relevancy); unaddressed topics added to workplan for exploration

“...It seems to address all areas concerned. It's a stellar draft and the communities will be better served due to the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program.

“We commend the Met Council on deploying a multitactical evaluation plan and incorporating lived experience as part of their commitment to knowledge and expertise.

“While I recognize that some of these issues may be important for broader regional discussions and could be considered in future planning efforts, others do not seem to fall within the Met Council's jurisdiction.

# Next phase: Implementation

2026 Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

2027 Q1

Continue measure development and refinement

Stay informed, connected with Imagine 2050 implementation; relevant programs, grants

Scope, resource new data development efforts

Data management system and internal processes

Update schedule

ETL, methods documentation, testing

Communications plan

Website and dashboard development

# Proposed action



## Today, we ask that Metropolitan Council:

- Accept the public comment report for the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program amendment (Business Item 2026-4, Attachment 3)
- Adopt the final Outcomes Measurement Program amendment to Imagine 2050:
  - The program narrative (BI 2026-4, Attachment 1) is appended to the Vision, Values, and Goals chapter as Section 8
  - The initial slate of measures (BI 2026-4, Attachment 2) is appended to the Vision, Values, and Goals chapter as Technical Appendix C (renaming current Appendix C as Appendix D).





## Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

[metro council.org/Imagine2050Outcomes](http://metro council.org/Imagine2050Outcomes)

### Sarah Nelson

Senior Researcher  
Community Development Research  
[sarah.nelson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.nelson@metc.state.mn.us)

### Krysten Ryba-Tures

Research Manager  
Community Development Research  
[krysten.ryba-tures@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:krysten.ryba-tures@metc.state.mn.us)

