

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: January 14, 2026

## Business Item: 2026-4

Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Amendment

**District(s), member(s):** All

**Policy/legal reference:** Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145-147

**Staff prepared/presented:** Krysten Ryba-Tures, Research Manager (651-602-1821); Sarah Nelson, Senior Researcher (651-602-1396)

**Division/department:** Community Development/Research

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council:

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

### Background

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program proposes to amend Metropolitan Council's recently adopted regional development guide, Imagine 2050, to:

- Establish a programmatic monitoring effort about the region's progress toward realizing the intended, interrelated outcomes of Imagine 2050's policy direction and regional goals;
- Describe the program's structure, principles, and commitments; and
- Define an initial slate of outcomes-focused measures.

Measurement is fundamental to building accountability between government agencies, the partners they work with, and populations they serve. Met Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework (2006) was the first to establish monitoring and benchmarks associated with the regional development guide, a commitment continued in Thrive MSP 2040 (2014). The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program builds on these past efforts through its structure, principles, and commitments—and scope of measures. ([Business item 2025-274 summarizes the program's development in greater detail.](#))

The Council and its committees were engaged in a dozen conversations about this work between

January 2024 and October 2025. During these discussions, Council and committee members asked questions about specific proposed measures, suggested data sources or new measurement ideas, and offered additional considerations for the program overall. This feedback was incorporated into the draft amendment prior to its release for public comment.

### ***Public comment report***

The Met Council released the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program draft amendment for public comment on October 23, 2025, and held a public hearing on the draft at the December 10 Committee of the Whole meeting. The public comment period concluded on December 22, 2025.

A total of 15 public comments from 11 individual commenters and Washington County were received during this period. 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). Most comments were shared through an online form available on the program's website, though several were also sent via email. No comments were made during the public hearing.

Responses to each public comment are provided in the public comment report (Attachment 3). The overall themes of the comments are as follows:

- Support for measurement generally and several specific measures by name
- 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)

No changes to the draft amendment were made in response to public comments. However, suggested topics were shared with staff contributors and are slated for further exploration in the program's 2026 workplan.

### ***Next steps***

If approved, the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program will begin an implementation phase focused on sustainable data management system, internal processes, and the development of an online dashboard for public release in 2027.

### ***Rationale***

After extensive engagement with Council committees, external partners, and internal staff, the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program amendment is ready for Council approval. As detailed in the attached Public Comment Report and summarized above, the themes of public comments received were generally supportive of the proposed outcomes measurement program.

### **Imagine 2050 Lens Analysis**

On February 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Imagine 2050 emphasizes the importance of data-driven decision making from a shared foundation of information. Compiling trends relevant to regional policy direction and related outcomes is consistent with the Imagine 2050 value of Accountability, which states, "We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes."

### **Funding**

This action has no funding implications. The Outcomes Measurement Program aligns with existing staff work plans.

### **Small business inclusion**

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.

## Attachments

Attachment 1: Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Amendment – Program narrative

Attachment 2: Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Amendment – Appendix C

Attachment 3: Public Comment Report



## Outcomes Measurement Program

Just as the preceding sections articulate a regional vision through five goals, the following chapters of Imagine 2050 align regional policy and systems plans with the vision, values, and goals of this guide through objectives, policies, and actions. The extent to which our region makes progress towards the “desired end states” described in these pages over the next decade are the essential questions of the Outcomes Measurement Program.

### Overview

Measurement is fundamental to building accountability between government agencies, the partners they work with, and populations they serve. From monitoring and evaluation plans that assess the success of specific programs or interventions, to theory of change models that document complicated pathways to change, approaches to measurement vary, depending on the subject.

Several evaluation methods have been used to meaningfully assess the outcomes of state, regional, and local comprehensive plans: some frameworks focus explicitly on plan content and quality, while other methods closely track the implementation strategies enacted following plan adoption.<sup>1</sup> This program is most closely aligned with an outcomes-based approach—meaning key trends are monitored to determine whether desired outcomes, or progress towards said outcomes, are observed over time without attribution to specific policy mechanisms. Imagine 2050, “drives toward the regional vision with a focus on residents of the region, increased partnerships in the region, and integrated planning approaches.” With nearly 100 policies and 690 actions described across regional policy and systems plans, an outcomes-based approach is the best strategy for understanding progress over the next decade.

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program builds on commitments to monitor key trends related to the implementation of adopted regional development guides, 2030 Regional Development Guides (2004) and Thrive MSP 2040 (2014). The 2050 program improves on past efforts in several important ways, however:

- Rather than relying on a limited number of high-level indicators, the program will leverage an array of data points that describe outcomes for regional populations as well as changes within and across regional systems.
- Though community development research staff lead this program, staff across policy areas were directly engaged in program design and measure development. This collaboration resulted in measures that maintained close connections to 2050 policy direction and raised internal awareness about this work and its possibilities. The program will continue to grow a base of support through a community of practice, technical assistance, and trend interpretation sessions.
- A large collection of measures will require new information infrastructure, including database platform management, data collection tools, and online reporting dashboards. Between recent technology investments and growing staff expertise in data integration, data science, and data visualization, Metropolitan Council is better equipped to create the sustainable systems needed to support a program like this now, and in the future.

### Commitments

To implement the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program, the Met Council makes the following commitments:

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<sup>1</sup> Sciara, Gian-Claudia. “Measuring land use performance: from policy to plan to outcome.” *Transportation, Land Use, and Environmental Planning*, edited by Elizabeth Deakin, Elsevier, 2020, pp. 105-125.

1. We commit to centering a diversity of knowledge and expertise, including those who live the experiences measured.
2. We commit to applying Imagine 2050's adopted equity framework to this program. That means: a) an evaluation of all program measures for disaggregation spatially or by demographic groups and calling attention to varying trends, including disparities and inequities; and 2) listening to marginalized communities' interpretation of trends and lifting up their narratives in regional dialogues.
3. This program values and reflects multiple pathways to progress towards the regional vision, goals, and policy outcomes described in Imagine 2050. When tensions arise between trends or interpretations of them, we will prioritize respectful dialogue over achieving consensus.
4. This program relies on mutual cooperation and collaboration within and across Met Council's divisions, and between Met Council and our local partners. We commit to balancing the benefits and burdens of new data collection and making data sharing.
5. We commit to making the information and practices of this program transparent and accessible to local partners and regional stakeholders through a) timely, detailed documentation of measures and methods; b) sharing implementation learnings and continuous improvement processes; and c) active participation in relevant forums and communities of practice.

### ***Program structure***

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program is an outcomes-focused monitoring effort designed to inform dialogues about the region's progress toward realizing the vision, goals, and policy outcomes of the adopted regional development guide. To further clarify the scope of the program, the following describes what this program is *not*:

- A comprehensive evaluation of a specific policy, program, investment, or action. Program measures' trends may invite additional studies, audits, or program evaluation, however.
- A replacement for current statutory requirements at the federal or state level, legislative or compliance-related reporting, and/or other Met Council projects that incorporate similar data points. The interplay between program measures and information reported elsewhere are one of several considerations weighed in the development or maintenance of these data.

The structure of the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program was developed through internal collaboration and external engagement, as well as an assessment of the strengths and limitations of past efforts and strategies employed by regional planning agency peers. We have distilled these learnings into three guiding principles: iteration, adaptability, and meaning.

### ***Guiding principles***

#### ***Iterative***

Though this amendment includes a robust list of measures, past efforts clearly demonstrate that we simply cannot anticipate how relevant topics, data sources or availability, and methods may change over a decade. We embrace an iterative approach to outcomes measurement that leverages collaborative and transparent processes to generate consistency and support continuous improvement.

#### ***Adaptable***

To become and remain relevant, the program's deliverables and engagement strategies endeavor to connect with a wide array of regional audiences. Just as the iterative principle supports fresh, relevant program measures, adaptability means we commit to a practice of understanding what stakeholders want and need from this work and pivoting accordingly.

#### ***Meaningful***

To foster productive dialogues and truly live Met Council's core value of accountability, program measures must be meaningful to regional audiences and to the intended outcomes of Imagine 2050. Intentional measurement design, common units, and plain language descriptions of trends



and what they mean will be standard practice. We will continue to advocate for measures that monitor outputs to evolve into outcomes-based measures and clarify or reshape measures that are not well-understood or do not enhance our understanding of progress and change.

### **Program measures**

A key component of effective outcomes measurement is a conceptual framework that outlines influence and roles.<sup>2</sup> The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program has developed three types of program measures based on who holds the authorities and responsibility to initiate change.

### **Measure types**

#### **Regional indicators**

Regional indicators describe high-level trends about the Twin Cities metro or region. Regional indicators can provide context on whether—and to what extent—our region's trends are similar to other places and offer a sense of scale and persistence. These measures reflect the impacts of intersecting “macro” systems and require collective and sustained action to counter or advance. For that reason, it may be difficult to understand what drives change in regional indicator trends without additional analysis or data. Where possible, regional indicators are compared with trends in peer regions.

#### **Regional measures**

These measures describe how Met Council’s local partners advance Imagine 2050 goals, objectives, and policies. They may capture work among local governments, regional parks implementing agencies, community organizations, or other organizations or agencies within the region. Regional measures acknowledge that the regional values, visions, and goals described in Imagine 2050 cannot be achieved alone. These measures are often derived from primary data collection efforts led by Met Council through surveys, plan reviews, and other research methods. The development of these data, as well as their findings, further our understanding of systems change within the region.

#### **Met Council measures**

As a large organization with a diverse portfolio of work and roles within the region, Met Council measures highlight how our own grant and investment programs, services and operations, engagement practices, convening and coordinating of partners (among other actions) advance the regional goals and policy direction established in Imagine 2050. Incorporating Met Council measures in the 2050 program not only facilitates internal alignment and a clearer communication of our role, they also demonstrate how the Met Council leads by example.

Groups of program measures form “slates.” For example, each of the five regional goals has a measurement slate that consists of regional indicators, regional measures, and Met Council measures. While some measures speak to multiple regional goals, policy areas, or both, grouping measures into slates ensure a range of information is considered (not just one data point) and supports a more holistic understanding of trends, change, and progress.

### **Measure changes**

Though we cannot provide an exhaustive list of reasons for why a program measure may be added, removed, or modified over the next decade, past experience provides examples:

- Proposed measures must relate to the regional vision, goals, and outcomes describe in Imagine 2050 and its subsequent amendments to be considered for this program
- Measure data are no longer available, reliable, or no longer use a consistent, comparable methodology suitable for trend analysis

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<sup>2</sup> Global Evaluation Initiative. (2025). National M&E policies. <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/national-me-policies>



- A significant economic, environmental, social, or cultural event changes the priorities of regional policy direction
- Measures are modified to more clearly identify the drivers or dynamics of change, or enhance the meaning of the measure
- New information becomes available that supports more accurate, timely, or relevant measures

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program will iteratively edit program measures to advance the goals and commitments of the program. Additions, removals, or substantive changes to measures will be documented in annual reporting and will not require future amendments to Imagine 2050.

An initial slate of program measures is described in Appendix C.



## Appendix C – Initial measurement slate

Note: Two duplicative measures were discovered and removed from the draft amendment's technical appendix, bringing the total number of measures in the initial slate to 164 (from 166).

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
1	Labor force participation rate	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
2	Percentage of the population age 25-44 with a certificate, an Associate Degree or higher, or an industry-recognized credential	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
3	Share or rate of youth (age 16 to 24) who are not attending school or employed ('Youth Disconnection' rate)	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
4	Unemployment rate	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
5	Share of region's population under age 65 without health insurance	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
6	(Estimated) Households with at least \$2,000 in emergency savings	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
7	(Estimated) Median net worth (households)	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
8	Change in median hourly wage compared with change in cost of living	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
9	Share of full-time year-round workers age 25 - 64 earning a family sustaining wage	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Dynamic and resilient	
10	Number of deeply affordable housing units per 10,000 very low-income households	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
11	Rate of households experiencing housing cost burden (per 100,000)	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
12	Bias motivated crime rate per 10,000 residents	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive	
13	Age-adjusted premature deaths	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe	
14	Rate of people experiencing food insecurity	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe	
15	Rate of people experiencing homelessness	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Housing	
16	Share of region's population living in areas with extreme heat	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Climate change	
17	Share of region's population within a 10-minute walk to a park	Regional measure	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient	
18	Visits to regional parks and trails per capita	Regional measure	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Regional parks and trails	
19	Number of trees planted in areas with extreme heat supported by Met Council Community Tree Planting Grants	Met Council measure	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Natural systems	
20	Regional average of tree canopy coverage	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Natural systems; Land use	
21	Regional average of tree canopy coverage in areas with extreme heat	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Climate change	
22	Developed acreage in Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Dynamic and resilient; Natural systems	
23	Share of region's housing units at high risk for localized flooding	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Dynamic and resilient	
24	Share of region's population living in Flood Impact Zones (FIZ), i.e., areas with heightened risk of localized flooding	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Healthy and safe; Climate change	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
25	Growth rate of impervious surface acreage per household	Regional indicator	Equitable and inclusive; Natural systems; Land use	
26	Regional acreage under conservation easement	Regional measure	Equitable and inclusive; Natural systems	
27	Wastewater service cost per unit compared to national rates	Met Council measure	Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient; Water	
28	Percent compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits	Met Council measure	Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient; Water	
29	Number of evictions filed per 100 renter households	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe; Housing	
30	Number of all serious injuries in crashes	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
31	Number of fatalities in crashes	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
32	Total crimes recorded by Metro Transit Police department per 100,000 riders	Met Council measure	Healthy and safe	
33	(Group A) Crime rate per 100,000 residents	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
34	Average number of poor mental health days reported within the past 30 days	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
35	Average number of poor physical health days reported within the past 30 days	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
36	Social isolation prevalence among adults age 18 and older	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
37	Proportion of regionwide open space acreage to population	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe; Dynamic and resilient; Natural systems; Land use	
38	Heat-related hospitalizations (age-adjusted) per 100,000 residents	Regional indicator	Healthy and safe	
39	Net migration	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
40	Net population change	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient; Land use	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
41	Median home purchase price	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	Housing
42	Change in average energy prices compared with change in cost of living	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
43	Indemnity amount paid on crop insurance	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient; Climate change	
44	Average job accessibility by car (30 minutes)	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
45	Average job accessibility by transit (45 minutes)	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
46	Share of transportation and transit assets' value within Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)	Regional measure	Dynamic and resilient; Climate change	
47	Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned-up	Regional measure	Dynamic and resilient; Natural systems; Land use	Water
48	Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned-up supported by Met Council's LCA-TBRA program	Met Council measure	Dynamic and resilient; Natural systems; Land use	Water
49	Number of business establishments born during the past 12 months	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
50	Number of business establishments exited during the past 12 months	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
51	Direct vacancy rate of industrial market real estate	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
52	Direct vacancy rate of office market real estate	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
53	Total Metro Transit System Ridership	Met Council measure	Dynamic and resilient; Climate change	
54	Total regional cumulative solar capacity (Megawatts AC)	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient; Climate change	
55	Regional average of daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita	Regional indicator	Climate change; Land use	
56	Share of areas with high risk of localized flooding where adjacent areas have >25% impervious surface coverage	Regional indicator	Climate change	
57	Share of Met Council-owned facilities with climate-resilient landscape management practices	Met Council measure	Climate change; Natural systems	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
58	Metric tones of CO2 equivalent sequestered by the region's natural systems per capita	Regional indicator	Climate change; Natural systems	
59	Percent change in greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons) from Met Council operations (2005, 2023 baselines)	Met Council measure	Climate change	
60	Regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita	Regional indicator	Climate change; Natural systems; Land use	
61	Share of Met Council total fleet mileage driven in electric and alternative fuel vehicles	Met Council measure	Climate change	
62	Total annual greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons) from regional transportation	Regional measure	Climate change	
63	Total greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons) from Met Council operations	Met Council measure	Climate change	
64	Share of electric, light-duty vehicles on the road	Regional indicator	Climate change	
65	Share of region's population living in communities with SolSmart designation	Regional measure	Climate change	
66	Total publicly available electric vehicle charging stations	Regional indicator	Climate change	
67	Number of ash tree removals supported by Met Council Community Tree Planting Grants	Met Council measure	Natural systems	
68	Metric tones of CO2 equivalent sequestered by the Regional Parks and Trails System (per square km)	Regional measure	Natural systems; Regional parks and trails	
69	Volume of de-icing salt purchased for use at Metropolitan Council facilities	Met Council measure	Natural systems	
70	Number of Met Council Priority Waters delisted from MPCA Impaired Waters list	Regional indicator	Natural systems	
71	Number of Met Council Priority Waters newly listed on MPCA Impaired Waters list	Regional indicator	Natural systems	
72	Net change in land acreage within the MUSA (Metropolitan Urban Service Area)	Regional measure	Land use; Housing	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
73	Share of vacant infill acreage that is developed	Regional measure	Land use	
74	Net change in economic land use intensity (jobs per acre) on land previously developed (2010 or 2020 baseline)	Regional measure	Land use	Water; Transportation
75	Net change in economic land use intensity (jobs per acre) in areas prioritized for redevelopment in 2040 local comprehensive plans	Regional measure	Land use	Water; Transportation
76	Net change (acreage) in land guided from lower to higher densities	Regional measure	Land use	Housing; Water; Transportation
77	Net change (acreage) in land guided from non-residential uses to uses that permit residential development	Regional measure	Land use	Housing; Water; Transportation
78	Land consumption rate of single-family detached housing	Regional measure	Land use; Housing	
79	Net change in residential land use intensity (household per acre) on land previously developed (2010 or 2020 baseline)	Regional measure	Land use	Water; Transportation
80	Net change in residential land use intensity (household per acre) in areas prioritized for redevelopment in 2040 local comprehensive plans	Regional measure	Land use	Water; Transportation
81	Average housing units per acre near LRT and BRT transit stations	Regional indicator	Land use	Housing; Transportation
82	Net change in the region's housing units (by housing type)	Regional indicator	Land use	Housing; Water; Transportation
83	Transportation accessibility (by mode) to neighborhood amenities	Regional indicator	Land use	Housing; Transportation
84	Travelsheds of regional parks and trails by mode	Regional indicator	Land use; Regional parks and trails	Transportation
85	Net change in natural systems acreage protected under conservation easements	Regional measure	Land use	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
86	Regional acreage of Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)	Regional indicator	Land use	
87	Programs and policies adopted by local governments to enhance climate resiliency and natural systems	Regional measure	Land use	
88	Programs and policies adopted by local governments to mitigate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Regional measure	Land use	
89	Net change in productive agricultural acreage	Regional indicator	Land use	Water
90	Rate of households experiencing housing cost burden	Regional indicator	Housing	
91	Change in housing costs compared with change in cost of living	Regional indicator	Housing	
92	Share of Metro HRA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) households experiencing housing cost burden	Met Council measure	Housing	
93	Share of the region's need for new affordable units that was built	Regional measure	Housing	
94	Share of deeply affordable housing units produced region-wide with LCA funding	Met Council measure	Housing	
95	New housing units (by AMI) supported by LCA grant funds	Met Council measure	Housing	
96	Number of housing units (by AMI) preserved by LCA grant funds	Met Council measure	Housing	
97	Programs and policies adopted by local governments to advance affordable housing production	Regional measure	Housing	
98	Programs and policies adopted by local governments to enhance housing stability	Regional measure	Housing	
99	Net change (acreage) in land guided from lower to higher densities for residential development	Regional measure	Housing	Land use

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
100	Average density of new affordable housing construction	Regional measure	Housing	Land use
101	Built environment characteristics of new affordable housing developments	Regional measure	Housing	Land use
102	Average transportation accessibility (by mode) of new affordable housing developments to neighborhood amenities	Regional indicator	Housing	Land use; Transportation
103	Metro HRA's Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) utilization rate	Met Council measure	Housing	
104	Housing Choice Voucher use in areas with historically fewer HCV households (five-year lookback average)	Met Council measure	Housing	
105	Number or share of project-based vouchers awarded with 3+ bedrooms	Met Council measure	Housing	
106	Number or share of project-based vouchers awarded with supportive service components	Met Council measure	Housing	
107	Housing Choice Voucher households in Opportunity Areas	Met Council measure	Housing	
108	Share of LCA funding going to housing units with "priority characteristics"	Met Council measure	Housing	
109	Rate of homeownership (per 100,000 households) by demographic groups	Regional indicator	Housing	
110	Regional homeownership rate	Regional indicator	Housing	
111	Ratio of the share of total home values owned by a racial or ethnic group to the share of households of the same group	Regional indicator	Housing	
112	Residential vacancy rates by building class	Regional indicator	Housing	
113	Average length of time (days) between initial inspection fail and pass for new HCV units	Met Council measure	Housing	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
114	Average repair time for tenant-requested work orders in Met Council-owned housing	Met Council measure	Housing	
115	Share of region's housing stock in Flood Impact Zones	Regional indicator	Housing	Land use
116	Total annual greenhouse gas emissions from the residential sector (metric tons of CO2)	Regional indicator	Housing	
117	Inequities in regional parks and trails visitation, by age, race/ethnicity, gender, and income level	Regional measure	Regional parks and trails	
118	Demographics of paid staff and volunteers at Parks Agencies more closely reflect those of the region	Regional measure	Regional parks and trails	
119	Net change in park acreage and trail mileage in the regional system	Regional measure	Regional parks and trails	
120	Annual funding gap for operations and maintenance	Regional indicator	Regional parks and trails	
121	Number of regional trail miles funded by Active Transportation grants	Met Council measure	Regional parks and trails	Transportation
122	Number of lakes in the Regional Parks and Trails System delisted from the impaired waters list	Regional indicator	Regional parks and trails	Water
123	Number of water bodies in the Regional Parks and Trails System that are regularly monitored for water quality	Regional measure	Regional parks and trails	Water
124	Miles of natural and protected shoreline in the Regional Parks and Trails System	Regional measure	Regional parks and trails	Water
125	Percent of reclaimed water used for our wastewater operations out of total water used	Met Council measure	Water	
126	Percent of energy that is recovered or renewable across the regional wastewater system	Met Council measure	Water	
127	Percent acres of native plantings increases at ES managed properties	Met Council measure	Water	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
128	Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions related to the Met Council's operations	Met Council measure	Water	
129	Energy cost and purchased energy amount by Environmental Services	Met Council measure	Water	
130	Percent of Priority Waters monitored by any organization	Regional measure	Water	
131	Percent of Priority Waters monitored by ES within a cycle for water quality	Regional measure	Water	
132	Number of organizations and cooperators for the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP)	Regional measure	Water	
133	Number of organizations and volunteers for Community Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP)	Regional measure	Water	
134	Number of Priority Waters assessed for status or trends	Met Council measure	Water	
135	Salt applied in the metro (per inch of precipitation)	Regional indicator	Water	
136	Salt applied on Met Council's ES sites (per inch of precipitation)	Met Council measure	Water	
137	Number/location of properties repaired/rehabilitation with private property Inflow and Infiltration grant program funds	Met Council measure	Water	
138	Share of Environmental Justice census tracts that received Inflow and Infiltration grant funding	Met Council measure	Water	
139	Estimated water saved by the Water Efficiency grant program	Met Council measure	Water	
140	Number of households served by the Water Efficiency grant program	Met Council measure	Water	
141	Grant Program Outputs (Water Efficiency) - Number and percent of municipalities served by a municipal community public water supply system receiving funds	Met Council measure	Water	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
142	Share of Environmental Justice census tracts that received Water Efficiency grant program funding	Met Council measure	Water	
143	Percent of interceptor system inspected per year	Met Council measure	Water	
144	Percent of interceptor system at each condition status	Met Council measure	Water	
145	Percent of interceptor system that has been rehabilitated	Met Council measure	Water	
146	Wastewater Conveyance System Health Measure - Percent of dollars spent on operations and maintenance, system expansion, regulatory, and rehabilitation for interceptors	Met Council measure	Water	
147	Resource Recovery Facility Health Measure - Percent of dollars spent on operations and maintenance, system expansion, regulatory, and rehabilitation for plants compared to industry standards	Met Council measure	Water	
148	Total water use per person per day	Regional indicator	Water	
149	Residential water use per person per day	Regional indicator	Water	
150	Volume of outdoor water use declines	Regional indicator	Water	
151	Annual number of Environmental Service outreach engagements region-wide	Met Council measure	Water	
152	Annual number of Environmental Service contact points region-wide	Met Council measure	Water	
153	Coverage of the region engaged through Environmental Service outreach efforts	Met Council measure	Water	
154	Grant Program Outputs (MNTAP partnership) - volume of water saved from intern projects	Met Council measure	Water	
155	Number of lawn leaders trained through University of Minnesota Turfgrass Partnership	Met Council measure	Water	

Ref No.	Measure description	Measure type	Regional goal(s) and policy area(s)	Related to another policy area
156	Grant Program Outputs (University of Minnesota Turfgrass Partnership) - Attendance at annual events	Met Council measure	Water	
157	Total amount of drought tolerant, low mow seed mixture sales through UofM Turfgrass Partnership	Met Council measure	Water	
158	Number of licensed wastewater and water utility operators in the region	Regional indicator	Water	
159	Annual enrollment for operators at each of the technical colleges and/or apprenticeship programs in the state	Regional indicator	Water	
160	Number of engagements with community organizations that work with job seekers in targeted demographics	Met Council measure	Water	
161	Every year ES sees positive movement towards reflecting the diversity of the communities we serve (demographically)	Met Council measure	Water	
162	Share of region's workforce employed by small businesses	Regional indicator	Dynamic and resilient	
163	Share of region's households experiencing energy cost-burden	Regional indicator	Climate change; Dynamic and resilient; Equitable and inclusive	
164	Share of municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled	Regional indicator	Climate change	

## Public Comment Report

### Summary

The Metropolitan Council sought public comments on the Outcomes Measurement Program draft amendment (as shown in attachments 1 and 2 above) between October 23 and December 22, 2025. Additionally, there was a public hearing on the amendment at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 10, 2025.

A total of 15 comments were received through an online form and email from 11 individual commenters and Washington County. Commentors self-identified as residents (6), Metropolitan Council advisory committee members (2), local government staff (1), an elected or appointed official (1), and advocacy organization staff (1).

Some commenters noted the large scope of the program (both by topic and by number of measures included), highlighting the need for effective organization and communication. Two comments emphasized the importance of collaborating and engaging with partners when developing data collection methods for regional measures. Other comments included feedback on specific measures: some provided strong support, one questioned relevancy, and another noted a gap where a topic was left unaddressed. Several comments seemingly did not relate to the substance of the amendment and instead offered comments on the Metropolitan Council or Metro Transit more broadly. Overall, most relevant comments reflected support for the Outcomes Measurement Program, including the program commitments and principles.

No changes to the draft amendment were made in response to public comments. However, suggested topics were shared with staff contributors and are slated for further exploration in the program's 2026 workplan.

### Comments and responses

The following table provides the comments received and responses from Met Council staff, and any recommended changes to the Program.

Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Kristen Lund, <i>Resident</i>	I was emailed this as a resident. It doesn't really explain what technically this council would do. Overall, I would like to know what policies are being proposed and what the outcomes are between the Mayor and the City Council. I would like to also get some narrative as to why government officials voted the way they did, and what specifically will happen as a result of the vote	Thank you for your comment.  The Outcomes Measurement Program is a monitoring effort designed to track the region's progress toward realizing the intended outcomes of the regional development guide, Imagine 2050. The policies, outcomes, and goals relevant to this program can be viewed at <a href="https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org">https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org</a> .
Julian Serrano, <i>Resident</i>	the Red line need to be extend to MPLS G line to Maplewood mall and Eagan TC .Opt OUT need to be dissolved We don't 3 CEOs and 5 systems	We've noted your comment.

Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Ben Jaques-Leslie, <i>Local government staff</i> (submitted as an individual)	<p>You have so many measures here. It's not clear to me what the point of measuring all these is. What is the objective that is trying to be reached? How do these measures contribute to understanding that objective? You need to create a shorter list of key measures. I'm also concerned about what simply displaying these values means. Are there targets that you are hoping to see? Standards that we know indicated challenges? Or are the comparison groups that we should be comparing these indicators? Without a target or a comparison group, it's really challenging to know how we are doing. I'd prefer some clear research method identifying a comparison group (synthetic control, or some other quasi-experimental method).</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>The Outcomes Measurement Program is a monitoring effort designed to track the region's progress toward realizing the goals, objectives, and policies established in the regional development guide, Imagine 2050. The policies, outcomes, and goals relevant to this program can be viewed at <a href="https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org">https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org</a>. Given the interrelatedness between the guide's regional goals and policy direction, as well as the intersection of regional systems, this program does not attempt to evaluate the impacts of specific policies or actions such that the program's design would require the methods mentioned.</p> <p>We appreciate your points about relevant comparisons and setting targets. The former may be partially addressed through the inclusion of regional indicators: where possible, national or peer region information will be included for context. The latter (targets) is planned for later stages of this program, concurrent with regional narrative building around progress.</p>
Benjamin Lester, <i>Resident</i>	<p>I really appreciate looking at measures that increase residential density and lessen the intensity of per capita usage of land, such as the "Impervious surface per household" measurement. That's a good one! That ties into so many good land use policies - like less parking, more vertical density, less sprawl, etc. All good for the environment AND good for communities. I hope this can drive infill development. I also like that Vehicle Miles Traveled and GHG emissions per capita are a measure. We need to reduce our emissions from transportation and this is a good measure to include.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Nichole Klonowski, <i>Elected or appointed official in the region (submitted as an individual)</i>	Some of the most diverse cities in the state- Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center do not have equity in transportation. Bussing is limited and inconvenient, often requiring driving to a bus stop or having the rider go all the way downtown to head to an East/West location in their own city. These two cities have the majority minority communities and limited public transit. Size isn't a factor with Brooklyn Park being the 5th largest city in the entire state- yet still doesn't have east to west bussing.	Thank you for your comment.  Transportation is the one regional system and policy area that was not included in this amendment. Federal and regional performance measures for the regional transportation system were previously adopted with Imagine 2050 (February 2025).  That said, we will be working with transportation planning staff and Metro Transit to bring a subset of those measures, and other relevant data, into this program so they can be considered in context. We appreciate your point about transportation equity and transit accessibility, and we will bring your feedback to those discussions.
William Suerig, <i>Met Council advisory committee member</i>	My comment surrounds the excellent work and amount of effort/time dedicated to this project. 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.	Thank you for your comment.



Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
<p>Gerald Bruner,  <i>Met Council    advisory    committee    member</i></p>	<p>(1/2 comments received)</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed items included in the recent Met Council materials. I appreciate the work that goes into long-term regional planning and understand that a wide range of topics must be considered when looking toward the future.</p> <p>However, after reviewing the list of proposed indicators and discussion areas, I have several questions and concerns regarding their relevance to the Council's defined duties and areas of authority. Several of the proposed items seem unclear or outside the scope of the Metropolitan Council's established responsibilities. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Net worth — What does this measure pertain to, and how is it relevant to the Council's work?</li> <li>d) Serious injuries in crashes — How does this relate to the Met Council's planning role?</li> <li>e) Labor force participation — In what specific context or sector is this being considered?</li> </ul> <p>There are many similar items that appear unrelated to the Council's core functions. 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. I would appreciate additional context explaining why these items were included and how they align with the Council's mission.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Every measure included in the draft amendment's initial slate relates to at least one of Imagine 2050's five policy chapters (Land Use, Housing, Regional Parks and Trails, Water, Transportation) and/or one of the five regional goals. The policies, outcomes, and goals relevant to this program can be viewed at <a href="https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org">https://imagine2050.metrocouncil.org</a>.</p> <p>The Outcomes Measurement Program covers a wide variety of topics, as you noted. Some measures fall outside of the Council's areas of direct service delivery. Some measures may not seem relevant to every stakeholder. This is by design: the program is intended to inform broader regional discussions and future planning efforts.</p> <p>The Outcomes Measurement Program itself is the only new program proposed in this amendment. Roughly 80% of the measures in the initial slate come from existing sources within or outside of the Council. Several new data collection projects have been identified, though. Staff and funding for those projects are included in annual division budgets.</p>



Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Gerald Bruner, <i>Met Council advisory committee member</i>	<p>(2/2)</p> <p>In addition, I noticed there was little information on how the proposed programs would be funded or whether they would become part of the existing staff's workload. Clarity on this would be helpful in understanding the practical implications of these initiatives.</p> <p>Several items also lacked descriptive titles or appeared unnecessary for inclusion at this stage. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop insurance payments — This topic pertains primarily to farmers and does not appear to fall under the Council's jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Water-related issues — Numerous water topics were listed, yet my understanding is that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees water management, not the Met Council. I am curious why these items are included in the 2050 plan.</li> </ul> <p>I respectfully request clarification on how each of these proposed items aligns with the Met Council's statutory responsibilities and future planning objectives. A clearer explanation of the scope, purpose, and funding for these programs would help stakeholders better understand the Council's role and priorities moving forward. Thank you for considering these comments and for your continued efforts on behalf of the region.</p>	<p>Please see the response above.</p>
Kelsey Beaumaster, <i>Resident</i>	<p>We need healthy land and water to have healthy people!!! Clean water is a limited resource. It costs money to clean water. Sick people = sick communities = weak military.</p>	<p>We've noted your comment.</p>
Stacy Jenkins, <i>Resident</i>	<p>(1/2 comments received)</p> <p>Concerned about past Met council projects and it's involvement with the failure of metro train transportation to include the gold line- we want to know</p>	<p>We've noted your comments.</p>
Stacy Jenkins, <i>Resident</i>	<p>(2/2)</p> <p>We don't need a net ckuncil that has made one mistake after another in the twin cities. And no one understands one word of this project</p>	<p>We've noted your comments.</p>

Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Washington County	<p>Washington County staff from the Office of Administration, Public Health and Environment, and Public Works have reviewed the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program and provide the following comments:</p> <p>It would be helpful to indicate which outcome measures are new and which were included or tracked in previous planning cycles.</p> <p>Several municipalities and townships in Washington County, along with many other communities across the metropolitan area, face challenges related to groundwater and drinking water contamination, but none of the outcome measures reflect this. It would be helpful to have an outcome measure that tracks the effect groundwater contamination is having regionally on the availability of safe drinking water.</p> <p>Washington County does not currently track all regional measures, which may require data from local partners. Should data be needed from counties, we encourage Met Council to engage county staff on how any such measures can be tracked accurately and efficiently.</p> <p>We commend the Met Council on deploying a multitactical evaluation plan and incorporating lived experience as part of their commitment to knowledge and expertise. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>For more information about which topics and indicators were included in the previous planning cycle, see the <a href="#">Thrive MSP 2040 Indicators: Final Report</a>.</p> <p>Regarding the inclusion of groundwater contamination, we agree that this would be a beneficial measure. While safe drinking water is under the purview of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), it is a vital element to regional success. Our staff will investigate the available data from MDH to evaluate if we can create a meaningful measure to incorporate into this program.</p> <p>We appreciate your point about the importance of engaging county staff in the design of new data collection activities. We recognize the limited time and resources of our local partners, and we will balance additional burdens against the usefulness of that data (see program commitments). For that reason, new data development projects will be co-developed with local government partners.</p>



Ianni Houmas, <i>Resident</i>	<p>[The comment below was lightly edited for clarity and length.]</p> <p>This falls under Climate adaptation and Mitigation - Draft Statement for Metropolitan Council's Imagine 2050 Plan: Ramsey County Nuclear Exclusion</p> <p>This adapted statement translates Ramsey County's policy intent into a local comprehensive plan provision consistent with the Metropolitan Council's Imagine 2050 Land Use Objective 7: Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.</p> <p>Land Use Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policy Inclusion: Nuclear Development Moratorium</p> <p>County Commitment: Ramsey County reaffirms its commitment to land use policies that prioritize environmental stewardship, public health, safety, and community resilience in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Local Policy: Ramsey County shall establish and maintain a permanent moratorium on the siting, construction, and operation of all new nuclear fission power generation facilities within its jurisdiction. This local prohibition applies comprehensively to all reactor types, including traditional large-scale reactors and emerging Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technologies, and is independent of state or federal policy on nuclear development.</p> <p>Rationale and Alignment with Imagine 2050</p> <p>This policy is a local expression of the Precautionary Principle and directly supports Imagine 2050's goals for climate adaptation and mitigation by: Promoting Truly Sustainable Alternatives, Enhancing Community Resilience and Safety (Adaptation), Ensuring Long-Term Environmental Stewardship, and Reflecting Local Values and Control.</p> <p>Rationale and Alignment with Imagine 2050: This policy is a local expression of the Precautionary Principle and directly supports Imagine 2050's goals for climate adaptation and mitigation by: Promoting Truly Sustainable Alternatives, Enhancing Community Resilience and Safety (Adaptation), Ensuring Long-Term Environmental Stewardship, and Reflecting Local Values and Control.</p>	We've noted your comment.
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Commenter	Public comment	Staff response
Sarah Martin, Advocacy organization staff	<p>[The comment below was lightly edited for clarity and length.]</p> <p>Land Use Plan Amendment under Imagine 2050 Objective 7: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policy Statement</p> <p>The Metropolitan Council shall incorporate a permanent moratorium on the siting, construction, and operation of all new nuclear fission power generation facilities within the region. This prohibition applies comprehensively to all reactor types, including traditional large-scale reactors and emerging Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technologies, and is independent of state or federal policy on nuclear development.</p> <p>This policy reflects a regional commitment to land use practices that prioritize environmental stewardship, public health, safety, and community resilience in the face of accelerating climate change.</p> <p><b>Rationale and Alignment with Imagine 2050</b></p> <p>This amendment operationalizes the Precautionary Principle and directly supports Imagine 2050's climate adaptation and mitigation goals through the following: Recognizing Water as the Unifying Element of Land Use.</p> <p>A nuclear-free regional landscape supports the long-term protection of land and water resources from irreversible contamination. It enables the restoration of natural systems and the expansion of green infrastructure that supports biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and climate adaptation. This policy affirms the region's authority to guide land use decisions with long-lasting environmental and safety implications.</p>	We've noted your comment.

