

Information Item

Land Use Advisory Committee



Meeting date: January 15, 2026

Topic

Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

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

No action is requested; this is for informational purposes only.

Background

Measurement is fundamental to building accountability between government agencies, the partners they work with, and populations they serve. With the adoption of a new regional development guide comes the opportunity to implement a monitoring effort designed to inform the region about progress toward realizing the intended outcomes of Imagine 2050.

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program builds on past efforts and lessons learned: Community development research staff led an evaluation of 2040 indicator projects and presented alternative approaches to the Metropolitan Council and its committees over a series of presentations in 2025. (In fact, an early introduction to this work was presented to the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) on [Thursday, November 21, 2024](#).) The draft amendment outlining the program's commitments, principles, and structure—as well as an initial slate of proposed measures for regional goals and policy chapters—underwent a public comment period between Thursday, October 23 and Monday, December 22, 2025. The Metropolitan Council will consider adoption of the amendment on January 14, 2026. The draft amendment, and other information about the program, is available at <https://metrocouncil.org/Imagine2050Outcomes>.

We are interested in committee members' feedback on these measures, ideas for additional measures, and ways they would like to be engaged in this work as it moves forward.

Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

At the January 15 meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee, research staff will present an overview of Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program and spotlight land use-related measures adopted with the amendment for discussion.

The Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program is designed to be dynamic in both what is measured and in how regional stakeholders are engaged, as reflected in the program's guiding principles and commitments. [The amendment's program narrative describes this greater detail](#).

Land use-related measures

The Land Use Policy chapter of Imagine 2050 describes a myriad of actions and policies organized thematically into eight objectives ([see the Imagine 2050 website for detailed information](#)). This policy direction, paired with a regional vision expressed through the five goals of Imagine 2050, provided the foundation of topics for the program measures. The program relies on a combination of three types of measures to describe outcomes at various levels.

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 like 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.

- Net population change
- Net change in the region's housing units (by housing type)
- Proportion of regionwide open space acreage to population
- Growth rate of impervious surface acreage per household
- Regional average of tree canopy coverage
- Regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita
- Regional acreage of Flood Impact Zones (FIZ)
- Net change (acreage) in productive agricultural land
- Regional average of daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita
- Transportation accessibility (by mode) to amenities
- Travelsheds of regional parks and trails by mode
- Average housing units per acre near LRT (light rail transit) and BRT (bus rapid transit) transit stations

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.

- Net change in land acreage within the MUSA (Metropolitan Urban Service Area)
- Net change in economic land use intensity (jobs per acre) on previously developed land and in prioritized redevelopment areas
- Net change in residential land use intensity (household per acre) on previously developed land and in prioritized redevelopment areas
- Net change (acreage) in land guided from lower to higher densities
- Net change (acreage) in land guided from non-residential uses to uses that permit residential development
- Land consumption rate of single-family detached housing
- Share of vacant infill acreage that is developed
- Net change (acreage) in areas protected under conservation easements
- Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned up

- Programs and policies adopted by local governments to advance climate resiliency (climate mitigation, adaptation, and natural systems enhancement)

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.

- Total acreage of contaminated land cleaned-up supported by Met Council's LCA-TBRA program

Given the interconnected nature of Imagine 2050's five regional goals and policy direction, many of the land use measures listed above are also cross-listed as measures relevant to other policy areas.

