

2025 REGIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK DRAFT PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

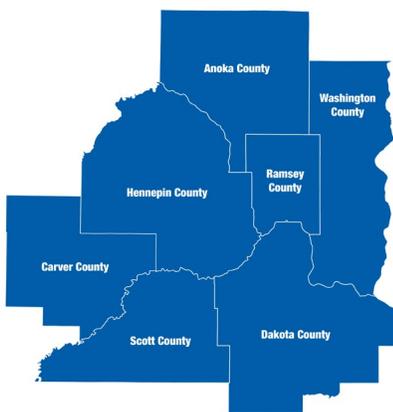
January 28, 2026



The Met Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region.

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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Met Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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Public Comment Summary

The Metropolitan Council received wide-ranging feedback on the draft 2025 Regional Economic Framework from interested parties across the region. The public comment period for the 2025 Regional Economic Framework occurred from November 13, 2025, to December 22, 2025. A public hearing was held on December 3, 2025, and no comments were offered during the hearing. During the public comment period, the Council received 7 comments: 4 from residents, 2 from local governments, and one from an economic development organization. Comments were received through an online portal and over email.

Responses to all public comments received are included in this Public Comment Report for the 2025 Regional Economic Framework. Overall, commenters noted minor issues and expressed no significant disagreements with the findings of the report. The comments and responses are summarized below.

Some commenters requested that the Council incorporate into the report additional information they provided. Others requested minor clarifications and changes to two maps. One commenter questioned the designation of a census tract in their jurisdiction as an economically distressed area. One commenter stated the importance of PFAs.

Overall, relevant comments reflect an interest in advancing a healthy regional economy and recognize the importance of partnerships in that work.

Public Commenter	Public Comment	Response
<p>David Andersen</p>	<p>When the pavilion at Bde Mka Ska opened, it was advertised as being available year round. Now it sits closed and unused. Even the toilets are shut. The original floor plan apparently included an enclosed dining room on the upper terrace level, but it was not built. Constructing one now would only require adding 4 nonsupporting straight walls attached to supports already in place. The walls should include 3 doors plus large windows overlooking the lake. I estimate that this addition would cost less than \$50,000. Heating, lighting and airconditioning are already installed. A year round indoor dining room on the lake with a more varied menu would be very popular. It would pay for itself in a short time and increase property values in the neighborhood.</p> <p>Please consider installing an enclosed dining room in the pavilion at Bde Maka Ska.</p>	<p>This comment does not refer to the content of this report.</p>
<p>Lois Brink</p>	<p>We have known about PFAs since before 2000 and yet it seems there is so much to do, even though we know how hazardous these chemicals are to our health. I live in Oakdale and even getting information about our situation is almost impossible. I would suggest informing Minnesotans of how dangerous these chemicals are. It also seems there is a lack of money and cooperation from the Federal Government and other organizations that oversee actions that could clean up our water systems. I think we need to focus on getting them to act. Most people are not going to read a long report like this one, I would suggest short and to the point. Thank you for all you do. This was a very thorough report.</p>	<p>Water contamination is a threat to the economic, environmental, and public health of our region and state. Many of our known contaminants have been an ongoing challenge to address and this issue requires cooperation and collaboration at all levels of water governance. PFAS contamination is a known concern for the region since the early 2000's. The Minnesota Department of Health is the lead state agency in the protection of our public water supply systems, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is the lead state agency for the state's environmental protection. Both agencies have tools and available resources targeted towards residents, including the MDH dashboard and the PFAS Blueprint Plan. Pollution</p>

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		<p>prevention is the best way to keep our region safe, and the state recently passed a PFAS Pollution Prevention Act, also known as Amara’s Law, that took effect last year. The goal is to prohibit 11 types of PFAS in consumer products, which will reduce the amount of the contaminant from entering our environment.</p> <p>The Met Council works and partners with our state agencies to continue this effort to reduce PFAS and other contamination in our waters. We are committed to this work and have embedded it in the Imagine 2050 Water Policy Plan specifically as Policy 7: Pollution Prevention and Contaminant Management. We have outlined actions such as supporting research and wastewater treatment activities that address PFAS, chlorides, and other contaminants specific to wastewater treatment, both internally and with external partners; supporting source reduction of pollutants to urban and rural waters; and the development of risk-based priorities for accelerated action for PFAS source reduction.</p>
<p>Schurkey</p>	<p>END SNAP. END WIC. END "Welfare" END "Corporate Welfare". ZERO SUBSIDIES FOR CORPORATIONS. Corporations are TOOLS of Society, not MEMBERS of Society.</p> <p>PUT THOSE DEADBEATS BACK TO WORK. Stop importing destitute third-worlders, we have MORE than enough of our own home-grown layabouts and</p>	<p>This comment does not refer to the content of this report.</p>

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	<p>dirtbags. Deport every "refugee" with criminal convictions, AND their minor children with them. Zero tolerance for criminal activity by the known high-crime "refugees"--or anyone else.</p> <p>The BEST thing we can do to improve the economic outlook of Minnesota is to stop coddling the anti-socials who expect to parasite their way through life. DEPORT BORDER-JUMPING INVADERS. Arrest the so-called "homeless" for vagrancy. Arrest unfit "Parent(s)" who refuse to provide housing, adequate meals, clothing, school supplies, and the occasional toy for their children--they're UNFIT and guilty of child neglect.</p> <p>The SECOND-BEST thing we can do is to improve schooling by ELIMINATING DEI, and making students perform at grade level. HAVE HIGHER EXPECTATIONS. Fire all the coaches, and all the drool-wipers and hand-holders. Teach Reading, Mathematics, Science, and "real" History instead of "Heather Has Two Mommies". Students that can not, or will not keep up with their peers should be expelled so they can't interfere with the education of students with potential. NO MORE GRADE INFLATION, no more "social passes" to the next grade. Fire EVERYONE who is in charge of letting Minnesota schools become such hell-holes of less-than-mediocrity.</p> <p>Raise ALL the speed limits. Transportation is vital to economic growth. Eliminate ALL the "Eurotrash Roundabouts".</p>	
David Jossi	Dissolve yourselves. Practically every decision you make is a waste of time and tax dollars. Example: that way over	This comment does not refer to the content of this report.

Public Commenter	Public Comment	Response
	budget and timeline SW light rail debacle.	
Kathryn Sarnecki, Saint Paul Port Authority	Please add information on our inland waterways transportation to Appendix C. We are a small but mighty industry with capacity to grow as roads and rails get congested.	Thank you for noting the importance of river transport infrastructure within the regional economy. Appendix C has been updated to include a new section on Ports and Waterways.
Christine Costello, City of Golden Valley	On page 5 of the PDF in Figure 2: Twin Cities regional economically distressed census tracts. It appears Census Tract 218 in Golden Valley is included as economically distressed. That is the Tyrol neighborhood here in GV and one of the wealthy areas. If anything has a high percentage of work from home. I would not say meets the intent of this figure.	<p>Thank you for sharing local knowledge about Census Tract 218 in Golden Valley. Council staff created this map using the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) definition of economically distressed census tracts.</p> <p>Under the EDA definition, a census tract is considered economically distressed if it meets one or more criteria, including having per capita income at or below 80% of the national per capita income, or an unemployment rate of at least 1% higher than the national average.</p> <p>According to ACS 2019–2023 data, Census Tract 218 had an unemployment rate of 8%, which exceeded the national rate of 4.27%. Based on this measure, Tract 218 qualifies as economically distressed under the EDA definition.</p>
Jan Youngquist, City of Richfield	<p>We appreciate the Metropolitan Council’s leadership in preparing the draft 2025 Regional Economic Framework as well as the opportunity to provide feedback. Overall, the Framework was very well written, researched, and documented.</p> <p>The following comments are offered for your consideration:</p>	<p>Thank you for reviewing the report in detail and providing specific suggestions. We have addressed them as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of the 11 peer cities is provided in footnote 14. • The report has been updated to include a full-page version of Figure 2.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework includes several references to “11 peer regions” but does not indicate which regions these are. A listing of the peer regions could be included in an appendix. • The Framework includes some regional maps at a scale that is difficult to read. It would be helpful to include full page copies of the following maps, either in an appendix or a hyperlink within the body of the document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 2: Twin Cities regional economically distressed census tracts • Figure 14: Accessibility to jobs within 30 minutes by mode in the Twin Cities Region • The reference to “downtowns” in the “Cultivating a more inclusive economy” section on page 31 implies that the downtowns are in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The region includes several small downtowns, such as Anoka, Hastings, Hopkins, and Stillwater. These downtowns are not necessarily experiencing the challenges of remote work and reduced commuting workers as described in this section. Consider reframing this section to be explicit to the major downtowns. • Several sections of the Framework list the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities as potential education and training organization partners. The region includes a number of community and technical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report has been updated to include a full-page version of Figure 14. • The report has been updated to clarify that negative post-COVID impacts have been concentrated in downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul. See specific updates on pages 33, 34, 38, 72 and 77. • Page 95 now includes a sentence noting that the region’s community and technical colleges are part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. • Pages 58 and 63 were updated to add regional and local destination marketing organizations to the list of potential partners, as it relates to talent migration and retention and regional brand and image. • Page 65 was updated to clarify the distinction between regional business leadership in innovation and the state government’s tendency to follow rather than lead in supporting innovation.

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	<p>colleges that could be potential partners for the strategic priority of “Workforce and Skills.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 363 997 758">• The region includes a number of Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) beyond Explore Minnesota, Meet Minneapolis, and Visit Saint Paul, that could be potential partners for the strategic priorities of “Talent Migration and Retention” and “Regional Brand and Image.” They could be acknowledged as “other regional and local DMOs.” <li data-bbox="526 783 997 1377">• The section on “Startups and Innovation” on page 63 indicates that the data shows that the region is a national leader in innovation, but the insights from the CEDS Committee and expert interviews indicates that “the State of Minnesota appears to be more of a follower than a leader in innovation and startups.” This is confusing. Is the difference a) between the data and the perceptions of the experts, or b) between the region being a leader and the rest of the state being a follower? Consider clarifying this section. <p data-bbox="475 1451 984 1577">Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft 2025 Regional Economic Framework and for considering our feedback.</p>	



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