



## Outcomes and Principles

### Outcomes

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With *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Metropolitan Council is adopting an outcomes-orientation to its regional plan, guiding the development of policies that demonstrably improve our region. The Council is challenging itself, local governments and its regional partners and stakeholders to describe how their work advances the five *Thrive* outcomes:

#### **Stewardship** ∞ **Prosperity** ∞ **Equity** ∞ **Livability** ∞ **Sustainability**

These five outcomes define our shared regional vision. Plans, policies and projects that balance and optimize all five of these outcomes lead to positive change, while efforts that advance only one or two outcomes at the expense of the others may fall short over the long term. Policymakers make tough decisions at the intersections of these five outcomes, weighing the benefits and costs of their options against these five outcomes. Focusing on outcomes allows for flexibility in implementation – for both the Council’s systems and policy plans and local comprehensive plans – while prioritizing a shared strategic vision.

**Stewardship** advances the Council’s longstanding mission of orderly and economical development by responsibly managing the region’s natural and financial resources, and making strategic investments in our region’s future.

**Prosperity** is fostered by investments in infrastructure and amenities that create regional economic competitiveness, thereby attracting and retaining successful businesses, a talented workforce, and, consequently, wealth.

**Equity** connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change.

**Livability** focuses on the quality of our residents’ lives and experiences in our region, and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes our region a great place to live.

**Sustainability** means protecting our regional vitality for generations to come by preserving our capacity to maintain and support our region’s well-being and productivity over the long-term.

### Principles

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Three principles guide how the Council implements its policies both internally and externally, to advance the outcomes:

#### **Integration** ∞ **Collaboration** ∞ **Accountability**

These three principles reflect the Council’s understanding of its roles in integrating policy areas, supporting local governments and regional partners, and promoting and implementing the *Thrive* regional vision. These principles govern how the Council will implement the *Thrive* systems and policy plans and how the Council advances these outcomes, both individually and collectively.

**Integration** is the intentional combining of related activities to achieve more effective results, leveraging multiple policy tools to address complex regional challenges and opportunities.

**Collaboration** recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes.

**Accountability** includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance.

For more information about *Thrive MSP 2040*, visit [thriveMSP.org](http://thriveMSP.org)

To advance the five outcomes, working within the three principles, the Council has identified policy directions in Thrive:

### Stewardship

- Responsibly managing our region's finite resources, including natural resources—such as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, high quality natural habitats, and agricultural soils—financial resources, and our existing investments in infrastructure.
- Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region's wastewater and highway infrastructure.
- Leveraging transit investments with higher expectations of land use.

### Prosperity

- Fostering the conditions for shared economic vitality by balancing major investments across the region.
- Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity.
- Planning for and investing in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life needed for economic competitiveness.
- Encouraging redevelopment and infill development.

### Equity

- Using our influence and investments to build a more equitable region.
- Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability.
- Investing in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transit corridors.
- Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making.

### Livability

- Increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation through regional parks and trails.
- Providing housing and transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means.
- Supporting bicycle facilities to promote bicycling for transportation, recreation, and healthy lifestyles.
- Aligning resources to support transit-oriented development and walkable places.
- Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments.

### Sustainability

- Promoting the wise use of water through expanding water conservation and reuse, increasing groundwater recharge, and optimizing surface water and groundwater use.
- Providing leadership, information, and technical assistance to support local governments' consideration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- Operating the region's wastewater treatment and transit systems sustainably.

### Integration

- Moving beyond organizational silos to leverage all of the Council's divisions, roles and authorities in addressing regional issues.
- Coordinating effectively with partners and stakeholders across and throughout the region.

### Collaboration

- Being open to shared strategies, supportive partnerships, and reciprocal relationships.
- Convening the region's best thinkers, experts, and stakeholders to address complex regional issues beyond the capacity or authority of any single jurisdiction or institution.
- Providing additional technical assistance and enhanced information to support local planning and decision-making.

### Accountability

- Adopting a data-driven approach to measure progress.
- Creating and learning from Thrive indicators.
- Providing clear, easily accessible information.
- Deploying the Council's authority.

Detailed policies implementing the *Thrive* policy direction will emerge and be formally adopted in the *Thrive* systems and policy plans: the Housing Policy Plan (late 2014), the Water Resources Policy Plan (late 2014), the Transportation Policy Plan (late 2014), and the Regional Parks Policy Plan (early 2015).

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