

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
**390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Susan Haigh, Steven Chávez, John Đoàn, Steve Elkins, Richard Kramer, Jennifer Munt, Sandra Rummel, Roxanne Smith, Gary Van Eyll, Lona Schreiber, Wendy Wulff, James Brimeyer, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso

Members Absent: Adam Duininck, Gary Cunningham, Jon Commers

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 3:30PM on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting of May 16, 2012.

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2012.

**Motion Carried**

**Thrive MSP 2040**

Deputy Regional Administrator, Wes Kooistra, led the group in a discussion on the Council's vision for Thrive MSP 2040 and their reactions from the variety of stakeholder presentations the group has heard over that past few months.

Kooistra began the meeting with a Thrive MSP 2040 Overview PowerPoint presentation. The following priorities were listed:

- Create a financially sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system.
- Promote dynamic housing opportunities for all.
- Leverage investments that drive regional economic development.

Kooistra stated that these priorities were developed in the context of the Council's current term, and will be important and useful in developing a long range vision and strategic policy plan.

Kooistra's presentation also highlighted the Council's progress toward Thrive MSP 2040. At this time, the Council has developed a working vision, learned about the regional forecasts, and heard framing presentations from area stakeholders. Next steps include a series of outreach and engagement events, and developing, refining, and finalizing policies. The end result will be the adoption of the Thrive MSP 2040 Strategic Vision and Policy Guide and the Thrive SP 2040 Systems and Policy Plans.

Libby Starling, Research Manager, provided the group with the Vision Document, which states that the 2040 Framework will be used to “strengthen the region’s competitiveness and expanding opportunities and equity through policies that create or improve upon:

- efficiency and innovation in the delivery of regional services;
- effective stewardship of public dollars, natural resources, and the existing built environment;
- availability and quality of housing choices to accommodate the unique needs and diversity of our population;
- a multimodal transportation system that connects people to jobs, school and services and that offers opportunities for long-term economic development;
- use of resources in a way that meets the needs of the present without jeopardizing the region’s future needs.”

The Vision document was created early this year.

Starling provided Council members with a summary of the framing presentations that took place on March 7, 21, April 4, and May 2, 2012, as well as a document listing their immediate verbatim responses to the framing presentations. Council members were asked to record their reactions and responses to the framing presentations after each meeting.

Kooistra stated that the purpose of this meeting was to reflect on the framing sessions to inform the next steps of outreach and policy development. He asked the Council members to identify the major themes they gathered from the stakeholders’ presentations. They did not easily identify any major themes, but would prefer to have them identified by staff.

When asked whether the framing presentations were helpful, CM Van Eyll responded that they were very informative, but the question of what/how much authority do we (as a Council) have has yet to be answered clearly. CM Đoàn stated that as a region we include part of Wisconsin, but the Council does not have any jurisdiction there. The region is much bigger than 7 counties.

CM Elkins stated that there are a lot of ambiguities in regard to the Council’s boundaries. He recommended reading the planning handbook and statutes. Kooistra agreed that Council members should read the statutes.

Chair Haigh encouraged the group to stay focused on the policies/themes that they want to see in the 2040 plan, and leave the smaller details to staff. She stated that while the Council does a lot of things well, the race-based disparities are huge; how does the Council address this? CM Smith agreed that disparities and equity were a major theme and stated the Council should view the changing demographics as an opportunity.

CM Wulff suggested looking at the race issues through a slightly different lens. She stated that things have been changing very rapidly and thinks the race issue will decrease as communities continue to blend and as the region diversifies.

Kooistra asked the Council members whether they felt they had the right communities presenting at the stakeholder presentations. CM Melander said yes and no, the group could have included a broader range. CM Chávez said he would have liked to have

heard from some of the larger employers/companies in the area, as well as more from the front line. CM Munt stated that public involvement should be stressed; we should involve people from the beginning rather than waiting until it is already in progress. CM Brimeyer agreed that the end product is always better when there is more buy-in. CM Smith stated that city perspective could be accomplished by outreach.

Chair Haigh suggested looking at how other regional forecasts are done. CM Melander and CM Munt thought it would be worthwhile to look at past plans/frameworks and use them to develop a stronger plan for 2040. Kooistra agreed that it would be valuable to examine what benefits we have seen from past Councils and what opportunities this Council has to do good.

Council members expressed a desire to do more outreach and expand relationships with both public and private entities. CM Elkins suggested reaching out to Chambers of Commerce to ask for their support in workforce housing and economic development. CM Munt stated that the Met Council's relationships with cities should be improved. She also said she would like to keep the stakeholders involved so they are aware of what the Council is doing with their input. CM Chávez suggested using a social network site to update outreach.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Randleman  
Recording Secretary