

**DATE:** Friday, December 14, 2012

**TO:** Metropolitan Council Members

**FROM:** Beth Reetz, Director, Housing and Livable Communities

**SUBJECT:** Committee of the Whole, December 19, 2012, Fair Housing and Equity Assessment

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the Committee received information on the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment from Council Staff and Salin Geevarghese, HUD Senior Advisor. The Metropolitan Council, as lead applicant for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant, is responsible for the completion of a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA).

The FHEA is a tool to help identify and assess the connections to opportunity for all people in the region, especially those underserved and marginalized populations, living in areas of both high poverty and high racial concentration within the region.

The assessment involves identifying measures of opportunity, looking at the connections people have to opportunities, and how policies used in regional planning can be structured to enhance those connections. The findings of the FHEA will inform strategy development, priority setting and investments as part of the Thrive MSP 2040 plan.

The assessment is structured to include three parts: data analysis, deliberations, and decision making. The conversation on December 19<sup>th</sup> is related to the first step – data analysis.

Council Staff will describe to the Committee the indicators that are proposed to be used to measure and quantify the multi-dimensional notion of opportunity. Staff will present some maps to help spatially demonstrate geographies of opportunity. Staff will ask the Committee for their endorsement of the proposed indicators and the analysis approach to be used to most effectively assess opportunity.

On January 16, 2013 staff will again meet with the Committee to review the results of the analysis and opportunity mapping and to begin the second step by initiating deliberations on how the FHEA informs the development of the Thrive policy scenarios.