

# C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 7, 2007

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	April 19, 2007
<b>Subject:</b>	Regional Planning Best Practices - Humphrey Institute PA 5211 Student Presentation
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Metropolitan Land Planning Act
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Robin Caufman, Manager of Public Involvement/Adjunct Professor John Kari, Planning Analyst
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Public Affairs/Community Development

### Proposed Action

None.

### Overview

The University of Minnesota - Humphrey Institute's Master of Urban and Regional Planning program offers an Urban Land Use Planning class (PA 5211). The class curriculum includes a group project conducting land use or comprehensive planning uses for a local client. The Metropolitan Council gave the Spring 2007 class the opportunity to conduct research on regional growth issues (see attachment for complete description of the assignment).

The Community Development Committee's work plan includes exploring regional planning and growth management techniques used in other metropolitan areas. John Kari, Planning Analyst, served as the class's client. Under Mr. Kari's direction, the class reviewed the regional planning models of other metropolitan areas, including:

- Evaluation of overall effectiveness at addressing that region's planning and growth issue(s),
- Comparison and contrast with the Minnesota regional planning model, and
- Identification of one key lesson learned.

In small groups, students researched regional plans of similar sized metropolitan areas including:

- Denver, CO
- Seattle, WA
- Portland, OR
- Phoenix, AZ
- Austin, TX
- Cleveland, OH
- San Diego, CA
- Tampa, FL

### Summary

This is an informational item. At the meeting, one student from each group will:

- Provide the executive summary to the CDC,
- Submit a complete report to Community Development Division staff, and
- Present an overview of the metropolitan area compared to the Twin Cities, identify regional issues, and make suggestions for future research.

### Attachments

Attachment 1: Best Land Use Practices for Regional Planning

**Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs  
Urban and Regional Planning Program  
PA 5211 – Land Use Planning (Spring 2007)**

**Best Land Use Practices for Regional Planning**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Best Land Use Practices assignment is to give students an opportunity to interact with fellow students in the context of a real world planning problem. Students will be challenged to think about a range of planning issues related to regional planning and growth management. Students will also consider how land use planning issues interact with infrastructure planning, environmental considerations, and population and employment forecasts. Students will research the regional planning and growth management strategies of another US metropolitan area.

**Description**

The objective of the project is to review and summarize regional planning models of other metropolitan areas. Students will work in teams of 4 or 5 and will be assigned to research a metro area region. Teams will be responsible for identifying and distributing tasks that includes researching and reviewing regional plans of similar sized metropolitan areas such as Denver, CO.; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR, Phoenix, AZ; Austin, TX; Atlanta, GA, Cleveland OH, San Diego, CA; and Tampa, FL.

Desired outcomes of the Regional Planning Best Practices assignment include:

- Evaluation of different regional planning models and overall effectiveness at addressing that region's planning and growth issue(s),
- Comparison and contrast with the Minnesota regional planning model, and
- Identification of one key lesson learned.

**Assignment**

The assignment includes the following milestones:

- Develop a work plan (due in class on 3/1/07)
- Outline the report (due in class on 3/22/07)
- Prepare the final report and present findings to the class (due in class on 5/3/07)
- Present report to the Community Development Committee of the Metropolitan Council (5/7/07 at 4 PM)

In preparing the report, each team will conduct the following research and analysis:

Background. The following topics, intended to give you a general understanding of regional planning in the Twin Cities and your assigned metro area, should be addressed in your final report.

- Demographics of assigned metro area compared with Twin Cities 7-county metro area (e.g. population and employment, household size, etc.)
- Planning authority for the assigned metro area.
- Issue that led to the creation of regional planning or growth management (e.g. air or water quality)
- Planning documents of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), including content and planning process.
- Identify type of regional government (e.g. county/city consolidations, Regional Councils of Government, state/county concurrency requirements, transportation-based MPOs, or unique statutorily authorized bodies such as the Metropolitan Council).

Analysis. The following list identifies topics of interest to your client, the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Division. Each team should research and analyze these questions in your final report.

- Are cities required to update their comprehensive planning documents? If so, how frequently? What is the process?
- How does the MPO include stakeholders in regional planning and decision-making process?
- Does the regional planning structure use or provide any unique and/or effective regional planning, comprehensive planning or implementation strategies?
- How effective is the regional planning agency or process at addressing the regional issues (e.g. environmental concerns such as air and water quality, governmental efficiency, data sharing and availability, housing affordability, growth management and land conservation, and parks? What indicators are used to measure success?
- Are there any identifiable unintended outcomes that are attributed to the regional planning process or structure?
- What is the public's perception of growth and regional planning, as written about in the local daily newspaper(s)?

Conclusion. Evaluate the overall effectiveness at addressing that region's planning and growth issue(s) and identify the team's number one lesson learned.

## Format

Work Plan (due in class on 3/1/07)

Each team will prepare a one-page work plan that identifies tasks, assigns responsibilities and provides a schedule.

Report outline (due in class on 3/22/07)

Each team will prepare a one-page outline of the proposed report.

Report (due in class on 5/3/07)

Each team will prepare a report that includes the following components:

- Executive summary that will be included in the meeting packets for the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Committee.
- Background and history of regional planning in Minnesota and the assigned metro area,
- Analysis that addresses the questions outlined above,
- Conclusion that responds to the desired outcomes of the project, including the key lesson learned, and
- Appendices with a list of references, supporting information, tables or analysis.

Class Presentation (5/3/07)

For the class presentation, each team will be given 10 minutes (7-10 PowerPoint slides) to:

- Provide background information about the assigned region (e.g. size, regional governance structure),
- Compare and contrast it with the Metropolitan Council
- Identify one key lesson learned (e.g. something that works well or didn't have the anticipated results)

Metropolitan Council Presentation (5/7/07)

Each team will identify one person to present to the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Committee the one lesson they learned from the project. Each speaker will have 2 minutes (3 PowerPoint slides) to present their lesson and a brief explanation. Before the students present the lessons learned, I will provide an overview of the class project.

## Grading

This project represents 25 percent of your grade for the course. Group collaboration and assistance is essential. Grades will be based on the following:

- Attention to the details of the project assignment.
- Demonstration that students understanding the relationship between land use planning, regional planning, infrastructure planning, environment and growth.
- Incorporation of research findings (both academic and case study) in formulating the key lessons,
- Knowledge of the assigned community and its relevant plans and policies,
- Format, cohesiveness and attractiveness of report,
- Clarity and conciseness of the presentations, and
- Evaluations from your team members.

## Resources

The resources listed below may serve as a starting point for your research. The identification of additional sources specifically tailored to your assigned metro area and state is required.

Client Contact. John Kari, Planning Analyst.

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