

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: December 3, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 26, 2012
Subject:	Land Use Advisory Committee Report
District(s), Member(s):	District 14, Jon Commers
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.127 and 473.853
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Deb Detrick, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1327)
Division/Department:	Community Development Division

Proposed Action

None. Item is to provide information.

Background

The purpose of the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) is to assist the Council in performing regional land use planning functions and undertake other responsibilities as delegated by the Council or required by law. Advisory duties include rendering advice and assistance regarding metropolitan land use, comprehensive planning, and matters of metropolitan significance as requested by the Council.

The Land Use Advisory Committee consists of 17 members and a chair, Council Member Jon Commers. At least half of members must be elected officials of local governmental units.

Rationale

Periodic reports from the Land Use Advisory Committee are included in the 2012 work plan for the Community Development Division. This is the third report to the Community Development Committee.

Overview

In September and November, the Land Use Advisory Committee continued to provide valuable input into Thrive MSP 2040.

The committee addressed the following topics in September ([Agenda](#)):

- Healthy Planning: A Review of Developed Community Comprehensive Plans by the Minnesota Department of Health ([pdf](#))
- Land Use and Planning Resources Report: Revisit Report and Key Lessons for Thrive MSP ([pdf](#))

This information and the committee's discussion directly informed the Thrive Working Group and led to a number of follow-up conversations. As a result of their presentation to the committee, staff members from the Minnesota Department of Health gained greater insight into framing planning issues while

communicating with locally elected officials. The Minnesota Department of Health later shared four recommendations for Thrive MSP 2040 that were added to results of Engagement and Outreach efforts, the subject of a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 31.

The health impact study by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) summarizes findings from reviewing the comprehensive plans of 53 communities in the developed area. The purpose of the study was to assess if comprehensive plans address public health and climate change adaptation and mitigation, using 11 indicators related to requirements in comprehensive plans.

Committee members asked questions and commented on: different terms that may not match indicators used by MDH; concerns over water supply and roles of multiple agencies; connections to other assessments, such as GreenStep Cities; why the study found that all 53 plans addressed affordable housing; trails, connectivity, and parks; and challenges for developed communities if specific aspects of the assessment were required in comprehensive plans.

The committee also discussed a summary of a Land Use and Planning Resources Report. This final report to the Minnesota Legislature was completed in 2011 after extensive review and input by the Land Use Advisory Committee. Questions and comments focused on: whether density remains controversial; the difference between tools and goals; context for density; and how to prioritize messages for the Council.

The committee addressed the following topics in November ([Agenda](#)):

- The Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Council in 2010 ([pdf](#))
- Embrace Green Urban Space, an initiative of The Trust for Public Land ([pdf](#))
- Brief update on Reality Check 2.0, a collaborative effort by ULI Minnesota and many partners, including the Council ([pdf](#))

On the Transportation Policy Plan, questions and comments by committee members included: how transportation and land use will be impacted by an aging population; rethinking circulator transportation to feed the main system; the role of health centers and senior centers as transportation hubs and transportation provided by senior housing vans and quasi-public rides; a challenge of Complete Streets is the need for connections; and parking is a constraint for economic development.

The presentation on Embrace Green Urban Space prompted questions and comments on: park set-aside costs; foreclosed properties turned into green space; types of parks; and preserving corridors by wetlands, tying parks together, and achieving multiple benefits.

Funding – N/A

Known Support / Opposition – N/A