Why comprehensive planning?

- Support the orderly and economical growth and development
- Align major infrastructure investments with population and economic growth – not too soon, not too late; not too much, not too little
- Promote resilient communities for a competitive region
- Address challenges greater than any individual community can address alone
- The Metropolitan Council is responsible for the seven-county Twin Cities region – Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties

Forecasting the future

- A common reference as region and local governments plan their future
- Local plans, infrastructure, services respond to the same forecasts
- The seven-county region will add 888,000 residents from 2010 to 2040 – twice the city of Minneapolis. Over that time period, key demographic changes:
  - Doubling the share of residents age 65+ from 11% in 2010 to 22% in 2040
  - Increase from 24% people of color in 2010 to 39% people of color in 2040

What do we know about the region’s need for more affordable housing?

- People are paying too much for housing:
  - Three in ten households in the Twin Cities (29%) pay more than 30% of their income on rent— they are “housing cost burdened”.
  - Housing is particularly burdensome severe for our region’s low and moderate income households. More than 100,000 spend more than half their income on housing alone.
- Between now and 2040, the region will add 336,000 households; roughly 40% will earn less than 80% of area median income ($71,900):
  - Between 2020 and 2030, our region will add 37,400 low- and moderate-income households who will need additional affordable housing.
- Housing unit growth is lagging population growth, leading to falling vacancy rates, rising rents, and the loss of naturally occurring affordable housing

For more information about the Metropolitan Council, visit metrocouncil.org
For more information about the 2040 Housing Policy Plan, visit thriveMSP.org
For more data about the Twin Cities region, visit metrocouncil.org/data
People are paying too much for housing across the region

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2012-2016). Housing cost burden is defined as households paying 30% or more of their household income for housing costs (including utilities).
Why a Housing Policy Plan?

- Articulate how the changing demographics of our region will shape future housing need
- Provide leadership and guidance on regional housing needs and challenges
- Align housing policy with other regional systems (i.e., transportation, regional parks, and water resources)
- Provide an integrated policy framework to unify the Council’s existing roles in housing
- Set review guidelines for local comprehensive plans

What does the Met Council do to support affordable housing?

- Provides data and analysis to understand regional trends both current and forecasted
- Funds affordable housing development through Livable Communities Act grants
- Reviews local comprehensive plans to ensure that communities are planning an adequate supply of land
- Provides incentives for housing performance
- Administers Housing Choice Vouchers throughout Anoka, Carver, and most of suburban Hennepin and Ramsey Counties – assisting nearly 7000 households with monthly rent assistance
- Provides technical assistance – e.g., connecting cities with developers -- and moral support to local governments

What are the priorities of the Housing Policy Plan?

The goal of our Housing Policy Plan is to create housing options that give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes.

Specific priorities include:

- Preserving existing housing stock, which is generally the most affordable housing.
- Leveraging housing investments with existing and planned infrastructure, especially transit investments
- Encourage redevelopment and infill development to meet the region’s housing need and create a denser, more compact region.
- Providing housing choices for the region’s changing demographics.
- Creating vibrant, diverse communities that offer choices to a range of households.
- Expand housing options for people in all life stages and of all economic means through a balanced approach of expanding housing choices for low- and moderate-income households in higher-income areas and enhancing the livability of low-income neighborhoods.
- Reduce institutional and financing barriers to the development of mixed-income housing to create vibrant, diverse communities that offer choices to a range of households.

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The availability of affordable housing varies across the region

Share of housing affordable to households at or below 60% of Area Median Income

- 70.6% - 98.33%
- 48.12% - 70.59%
- 28.03% - 48.11%
- 13.55% - 28.02%
- 0.15% - 13.54%

Source: Metropolitan Council, Housing Affordability Estimates (2016).

What can cities do to support more affordable housing?

- Allow affordable housing in land use planning and zoning
- Partner with state agencies to build and preserve affordable housing
- Partner with developers of affordable housing
- Assemble land for affordable housing
- Directly fund affordable housing (e.g., Tax Increment Financing, housing bonds or trust funds)

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