Information Item

Land Use Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 19, 2026

Topic

2026 Land Use Advisory Committee Work Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Bylaws of the Metropolitan Council Land Use Advisory Committee, art. II.B.1
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1566)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

The Met Council's work in 2026 shifted from contributing to regional policy development towards implementation of Imagine 2050 and the Met Council's efforts to provide technical assistance for local comprehensive planning. Substantial work plan items provided recommendations on process, guidelines, and standards that direct implementation work of Council staff as they assist local government partners.

Recap of 2026 Work Plan

Statutory responsibilities of the Committee to prepare for and provide hearings for System Statement disputes was a substantial effort by the Committee. The Committee worked with its legal counsel to conduct training for System Statement Dispute Hearings if needed and as part of dispute resolutions, heard from the City of Forest Lake.

Projects where the Committee provided analysis and recommendations included:

- MUSA Implementation Guidelines Updates
- Flexible Rural Development Standards Update
- TOD Policy Updates

Projects that the Committee learned about as foundational information to understand regional land use policies, practices, tools, resources, and programs included:

- Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program
- 2025 Generalized Land Use Inventory
- Demonstrations of Interactive Tools like the Existing Housing Data Interactive Tool, Climate Action Toolkit, and Climate Change Vulnerability Interactive Tool
- Small Communities Planning Program

Thinking about 2027

Goals for the work plan include:

- Advise the Met Council on land use, comprehensive planning, and other planning efforts
- Emphasize changes affecting land use and implications for local comprehensive plans
- Support Imagine 2050 policy implementation including system and policy plans

- Prioritize opportunities for substantive input
- Influence communication of policies, initiatives, and resources for local governments
- Center equity in the Committee's work

2027 Work Plan Needs and Ideas

Statutory Review

- Review of Metropolitan Significance Rules

Analysis and Recommendations

- TOD Policy Update: Recommendations
- Potential new process to provide preliminary assessment of comp plan amendment need

Foundational Information, Programs, and Projects

- PlanIt Program Recap from 2026 and upcoming 2027 plans
- Planning Grants Program Update
- Envisioning Growth Tool Demonstration
- Land Guided for Affordable Housing
- Housing Production Survey

Integrated Planning Committees

- Collaboration with Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

Discussion Question Prompts

- What land use and comprehensive planning issues are likely to have the greatest regional impact in 2027?
- Which emerging trends or challenges should be added to the Committee's focus in 2027?
- What information, resources, or technical assistance do local governments need most as they update and implement comprehensive plans?
- What recurring challenges are communities experiencing with regional planning requirements that warrant Committee attention?