

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

Contact: Rose Lindsay, 612-673-5015

City of Minneapolis Kicks Off Minneapolis 2040 Planning Process

Friday, April 1, 2016 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Today, Minneapolis City Council Members passed the [resolution](#) to officially launch the update to the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan for the year 2040 (Minneapolis 2040). Minneapolis 2040 is the twenty-year vision for the city’s natural, built, and economic environment.

“The Comprehensive Plan is such an important tool to help direct the future development of Minneapolis,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges. “The better we anticipate our economic and development challenges, the better our solutions will be. To build a stronger, more sustainable, more equitable Minneapolis, we need to hear from all of Minneapolis. Together, we can create a plan to ensure all of our people have fair opportunities and just outcomes. We can make our neighborhoods safer, healthier, more affordable, and connected, and make our city even more resilient. Your engagement is a truly crucial part of this process.”

The Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan provides guidance for: designing policies and programs, developing and adopting other plans, reviewing site plans and land use applications, reviewing and approving public land sales and purchases, planning capital improvement projects, determining priorities for public financing, and other City actions. While the plan covers a wide range of topics, it is primarily focused on the physical, natural, and economic development of the city, and the related infrastructure, systems, and programs that support it.

The City is required by State law and regional planning requirements, guided by the Metropolitan Council, to update its Comprehensive Plan every 10 years. Updating the Comprehensive Plan is an opportunity for city staff to engage with the general public and key audiences throughout the city to plan for growth in a manner that reflects the City’s values. The Minneapolis 2040 process has six guiding values: Growth and vitality, equity and racial justice, health and resilience, livability and connectedness, economic competitiveness, and good government.

“The Comprehensive Plan is a way for Minneapolis to come together as a city and chart a course for the next 20 years that enhances our high quality of life while we grow in a way that supports community health, environmental sustainability and racial equity,” said Council Member Lisa Bender, Chair of Zoning and Planning Committee and co-author of Comprehensive Resolution.

“I am pleased that the process of updating our comprehensive plan offers us the opportunity to enhance and guide the connections between transit infrastructure and our City goals of increased growth and density, economic success and improved community livability,” said Council Member Kevin Reich, Chair of Transportation and Public Works Committee and co-author of the Comprehensive Plan Resolution.

The planning process for Minneapolis 2040 will take place over three years starting in 2016 and ending in 2018 when the final plan will be approved by the Minneapolis City Council. During this time, City staff will conduct an extensive, inclusive, and meaningful civic engagement process by combining traditional engagement methods with informal in-person interactions and technological tools. Whether you are a resident, business owner, developer or anyone else with an interest in the future of Minneapolis, the City will work to provide you with an opportunity to provide your input.

The first official Minneapolis 2040 engagement event is the City’s [Community Connections Conference: Big Ideas, Your Minneapolis](#) taking place at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Nearly 600 attendees from a diverse array of backgrounds have registered for the free conference to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan and other topics through a variety of interactive Learning Labs (workshops) and a luncheon program featuring keynote speaker Shawntera Hardy. Hardy is the co-founder and director of strategic growth for Civic Eagle and currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Mark Dayton.

The new interactive website [Minneapolis 2040](#) will also be launched on Saturday, April 2, 2016. This website provides additional background information on the Comprehensive Plan and the three year engagement process, notice of upcoming events and activities, ways to participate, interactive engagement tools, and ways to contact City staff with questions, suggestions, and feedback. You can also follow @Mpls2040 on Twitter or share your ideas for the natural, built, and economic environment of Minneapolis in the year 2040 at #MplsBigIdeas.

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