



LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

A guide and resources for Twin Cities regional municipalities preparing their comprehensive plans

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Metropolitan Council

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About the Local Planning Handbook

This Handbook is intended to help municipalities in the Twin Cities region update their local comprehensive plans, which – under state law – must be consistent with regional plans. The Metropolitan Council revised and redesigned the Handbook to reflect the needs and preferences identified by local planners and officials. The redesigned handbook features:

- a concise and user-friendly format
- web and print versions
- links to numerous online resources, including the latest forecasts and data
- many new forms, worksheets, and templates
- an extensive glossary of planning terms
- step-by-step descriptions of the comprehensive plan preparation and review processes

The Metropolitan Council will regularly update the Handbook with new planning information and enhanced features. New information and updates will be highlighted on the Handbook homepage at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/lph/handbook.htm>. The homepage also serves as an interactive Table of Contents with direct links to key content and tools. **Only the on-line version of this Handbook can be relied upon as being current. This printed copy of the Handbook may not contain the most current information.**

The Metropolitan Council encourages local planners and officials to bookmark the Handbook homepage in their web-browser and to regularly check the online version of the Handbook to ensure access to the most current information, forecasts, forms, templates and worksheets.

Handbook documents are in Adobe PDF format and can be downloaded and printed. **In order to best utilize all the interactive features of these PDF documents, we recommend using the free Adobe Reader software Version 7.0.** See <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to download it from the Adobe website.

Table of Contents

Section 1: Metropolitan Planning Overview

Foundation of regional planning	1-1
The Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires local comprehensive plans	1-2
Who submits a comprehensive plan?	1-5
Statute requires specific content sections	1-6
When does the Metropolitan Council review plan updates or amendments?	1-8
Steps for submitting a plan for review	1-10
Steps to take before submitting a plan for review	1-10
Submitting a comprehensive plan update or amendment for review	1-12
Metropolitan Council's review criteria	1-13
The Metropolitan Council can require a plan modification	1-15
Metropolitan Council's comprehensive plan update review process	1-16
Metropolitan Council's comprehensive plan amendment review process	1-18
Steps to take after the Metropolitan Council reviews the comprehensive plan	1-20
Optional elements	1-21

Section 2: Foundation of the Comprehensive Plan

Background and purpose	2-1
Policies and objectives requirements	2-2
Regional planning designation requirements	2-2
Growth forecast requirements	2-4

Section 3: Land Use Plan

Background and purpose	3-1
Existing land use requirements	3-3
Future land use requirements	3-4
Stage development requirements	3-7
Housing requirements	3-8
Resource protection requirements	3-10

Section 4: Transportation Plan

Background and purpose	4-1
Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) requirements	4-3
Highway and roads requirements	4-3
Bicycle and pedestrian requirements	4-6
Special traffic situations requirements	4-7
Transit requirements	4-8
Aviation requirements	4-10

Section 5: Water Resources Management

Background and purpose	5-1
Overview of requirements	5-1
Wastewater and comprehensive sewer plan overview	5-2
Sewer plan requirements for municipalities served by a public system	5-4
Sewer plan requirements for alternative wastewater treatment	5-8
Rural centers requesting Metropolitan Council acquisition and operation	5-11
Surface water management plan overview	5-12
Surface water plan requirements	5-14
Surface water plan additional requirements	5-15
Water supply plan overview	5-18
Water supply plan requirements	5-19

Section 6: Parks and Open Space

Background and purpose	6-1
Plan requirements	6-2

Section 7: Implementation Program

Background and purpose	7-1
Official controls	7-2
The capital improvement program (CIP)	7-3
Review, update and submit official controls	7-4