

STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL WORK SESSION

2040 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GRANTS – ADMINISTRATIVE RULE UPDATES

Date: January 16, 2024
Department: Planning, Development & Research
Meeting Date: February 13, 2024

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Presenters:
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Length: 25 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The 2040 Planning & Development Grants program has been funding important planning work in the region for nearly 20 years. Since its establishment in 2006, the program has undergone multiple updates to enhance effectiveness and respond to shifting regional priorities, including a growing housing crisis and a need for more equity focused planning. The last significant program update was completed in 2019. With each program update, there has been recognition that the program should continue to evolve to remain flexible and responsive to local needs.

Since January of last year, staff have engaged in conversations with local government partners, community partners, technical consultants, and other stakeholders involved with past 2040 grants to assess how the program is working and identify potential changes to better serve program users. Based on feedback received, staff proposed refinements to the program to reflect on past changes, reconnect to the fundamental purpose of the grants, and consider ways to streamline the process to be more efficient and user-friendly. Those refinements were reviewed with Council at the October 24, 2023 work session. Council indicated general support for the proposed refinements.

Staff has since prepared updates to the Administrative Rules that govern the 2040 Planning and Development Grant program to implement the refinements discussed on October 24, 2023. Amendments to the rules can be approved by the Metro Chief Operating Officer (COO) upon consultation with Council. This work session is intended to serve as that consultation.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is requesting Council support to amend the Administrative Rules that govern the 2040 grants program to improve program efficiency, simplify, and improve processes for local government partners. Proposed changes to the rules are summarized in Attachment A.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The purpose of the 2040 Planning & Development Grant program is to fund planning work in the region that supports the region's 2040 vision. The grants are intended to remove barriers to housing development, support economic prosperity, promote planning that makes land ready for development, and implement Metro's long-term plan for livable and equitable communities, as outlined in the 2040 Growth Concept. The Administrative Rule updates for consideration are all in support of strengthening the program to better support its goals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends Council support for the proposed amendments to the Administrative Rules.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Proposed amendments to the Administrative Rules that govern the 2040 grants program are centered around addressing the following questions:

- Flexibility and responsiveness. Where are the current barriers to participation in the grant program and how can they be removed? How can the program provide better alignment with the needs of applicants in terms of timing, funding parameters, and program requirements?
- Streamlining. Where are the opportunities for better efficiency, both in program administration and grant project management? How can the program help facilitate more fully developed projects that are ready to "hit the ground running"?
- Effectiveness. Does the program need to shift back to a more simplified approach that is directly in support of its stated purpose? How can the program be regularly tracked and evaluated to ensure it continues to be effective and meet its goals?

Attachment A describes the proposed Administrative Rule updates for Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2040 Program Updates – Implementing Administrative Rule Amendments