

2040 Planning and Development Grants Program Refinements

Date: October 17, 2019
Department: Planning and Development
Meeting Date: October 29, 2019

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Presenter(s) (if applicable):
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Length: 45 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

At the request of the Metro Council and the 2040 Grants Screening Committee, Planning and Development staff have been developing options for refinements to the 2040 Planning and Development Grants program. The central intent of this refinement is to strengthen the equitable development outcomes of the program. However, the refinement also provides opportunity for other administrative process improvements which will streamline the application process for all grantees and facilitate effective program administration.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff has outlined a proposed new approach to the award of 2040 Planning and Development Grants which is outlined on the attached table. The purpose of this work session is to obtain Council input on the proposed approach.

If Council approves of the new approach proposed, Planning & Development staff will work with the Office of Metro Attorney (OMA) to draft necessary amendments to the program's administrative rules, and the Metro Council will consider the amendments at the December 12, 2019 council meeting. At the recommendation of the Grants Screening Committee, staff will also be soliciting input from Metro's Committee on Racial Equity (CORE) on October 17. Staff will be able to share key outcomes of that discussion at the Council work session on October 29. In order to complete all aspects of the program realignment in advance of the Cycle 8 application process in early 2020 the following tentative schedule has been established:

Oct. 17	Solicit feedback from Metro Committee on Racial Equity
Oct. 29	Metro Council work session
Nov. 13	MPAC update
Dec. 12	Council consideration of resolution
Feb. 2020	Tentative kick-off date for Cycle 8 application process

POLICY QUESTION(S)

How can the 2040 Planning and Development Grants Program be revised or refined in order to better accomplish Metro's racial equity goals? How can the 2040 Planning and Development Grant application process be redesigned so that the process and criteria for awarding grants are tailored to the different types of grants awarded through this program?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Staff has developed recommendations for revising the grant program and application process. Council may approve the staff recommendation, propose modifications to the staff recommendation, or may opt to delay the start of the Cycle 8 process so that staff may develop alternative approaches for Council consideration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The attached table outlines staff proposals for reframing elements of the 2040 Planning and Development Grants program. The essential proposed changes can be highlighted as follows:

New Urban Area Planning

- 25% of CET revenues will be reserved for New Area Planning Grants
- Concept planning grants (up to \$250,000 typical) awarded on an annual Cycle, simplified application process with staff and COO recommendation, Council approval.
- Comprehensive planning grants (up to \$350,000 typical) awarded as part of the UGB decision process every six years (or every three years if the Metro Council conducts a mid-cycle review process)
- Jurisdictions are limited to one concept planning application per grant cycle, and one comprehensive planning proposal per urban growth management decision cycle.
- Funds may support technical consultants, and/or involvement of community organizations or community liaisons to assist with implementation of equity measures
- Continue to require that cities use best practices for equity both in planning policies and engagement approaches

Equitable Development Grants

- Approximately \$1.25 million annually will be reserved for projects within the UGB that implement the 2040 growth concept while also advancing equity
- Reduce the number of new grants approved each cycle to 2-3 projects of \$250,000-750,000 so that we can devote staff time needed to develop partnerships and actively manage to achieve program goals.
- Applications must be partnerships between local governments and one or more community partners
- Most jurisdictions shall be limited to one application per cycle for each type of grant; however, the City of Portland shall be allowed to submit up to 3 applications per cycle, and the cities of Hillsboro, Gresham, and Beaverton, and Washington and Clackamas Counties will each be allowed to submit up to 2 applications.
- Simplified application process to reduce wasted effort by applicants, and help Metro more effectively drive desired outcomes by collaborating with applicants to develop project scopes.

Community Engagement Grants

- Approximately \$250,000 will be available annually to fund 3-4 community engagement grants to support equitable engagement work for a variety of local planning projects that help implement the 2040 vision
- Grant funds may support involvement of a community based organization or to provide a stipend for a short term community liaison(s) to assist with community engagement efforts
- Most jurisdictions shall be limited to one application per cycle for each type of grant; however, the City of Portland shall be allowed to submit up to 3 applications per cycle, and the cities of Hillsboro, Gresham, and Beaverton, and Washington and Clackamas Counties will each be allowed to submit up to 2 applications.
- Simplified application process to reduce wasted effort by applicants, and enable Metro to collaborate on development of project scopes and engagement plans to help achieve equity outcomes.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Metro Council last considered the 2040 Planning and Development Grants Program as part of the 2019 Grant awards decision in late July 2019. At the time, the Chair of the 2040 Grants Screening Committee, Damien Hall, shared some additional recommendations with the Metro Council regarding the grant program on behalf of the committee. While the Committee is enthusiastic about funding more project work in the Equitable Development Category, many of the applications received in this category in the last several cycles have not been as strong as the committee would like to see in order to merit funding. To strengthen this aspect of the program, committee members and staff identified several recommended program adjustments to be made prior to the next grant cycle including:

- Customizing the grant evaluation criteria so that each of the three funding categories can have more specific criteria that directly relates to the category of project;
- Host a pre-application meeting at the kick-off of the next grant cycle to emphasize what is expected in an equitable development project approach;
- While the current grant cycle is the first time Metro has “piloted” having private entities eligible to receive grant funding, consider how Metro could best cultivate strong applications from community entities that are leading equitable development work throughout the region.
- Tap the expertise of CORE to further consider program adjustments that could result in better applications for equitable development projects.

BACKGROUND

Metro's 2040 Planning and Development Grants program supports a range of local planning projects and activities. The grants help remove barriers to private investment in development, promote planning activity that makes land ready for development, and help to implement the Portland region's long term plan for livability, outlined in the 2040 Growth Concept. The program, formerly known as the Community Planning and Development Grants (CPDG) Program, has been in place since 2006. Prior grant cycles have awarded over \$26 million to fund more than 100 projects across the region.

ATTACHMENTS

2040 Planning and Development Grants: Proposed Program Refinements

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? Yes No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? Yes No
- What other materials are you presenting today?