

FUTURE VISION SCOPING DISCUSSION #2

Date: March 27, 2025
Department: Planning Development & Research
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025
Prepared by: Jessica Zdeb

Presenters: Malu Wilkinson; Jess Zdeb; Connie Chung (HR&A Advisors); Janine Clark (HR&A Advisors); Jill Bengochea (HR&A Advisors)
Length: 90 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Starting in 2025, Metro will be updating its 50-year regional vision, the Future Vision, as required by Metro Charter. Metro's Charter does not describe a specific process to update the Future Vision, so staff is seeking Council guidance on a scope to define a set of planning and engagement steps for the update. The scope is being developed with input from Metro Council members and experts, in addition to learning from peers across the country about current best practices.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff request active participation in the discussion to help define the outcomes, scope and content of the Future Vision process.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Eventual adoption of an updated Future Vision and an implementation plan are likely to lead to actions that result in amended and potential new Metro policies. These are anticipated to include an update of the 2040 Growth Concept and Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, but other outcomes will be identified as part of this process.

POLICY QUESTIONS

1. What are your reactions to the vision process elements and examples of outcomes you just heard?
2. What are your key priorities and direction for the Future Vision Commission in their work to draft and recommend a Vision to Council?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

While some aspects of the work program are defined by Metro's Charter, there is significant flexibility to define the scope of this effort, and staff will build the work program in response to Council's input and feedback. Staff and consultants will present several example process elements that could be part of the Future Vision work plan. Council is requested to consider the suitability of these elements to achieve the outcomes collectively identified in the February 25 work session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no staff recommendation associated with this item.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Metro Council held the first of two work sessions on this scoping topic on February 25. Staff and the consultant team will share some key takeaways from that discussion in the work session and request Councilors to confirm or adjust those takeaways. The initial list includes the following considerations for the project team to apply as scoping proceeds:

- The Future Vision is an **opportunity to incite excitement and dreaming** about our region's potential.
- The Future Vision should be **aspirational and supported by a plan that is actionable.**
- The Future Vision should **combine rigorous analysis and inclusive community engagement.**
- The Future Vision should provide a basis to **open difficult conversations and grapple with tough questions.**
- The Future Vision should **reflect the unique attributes of the Portland region.**
- The Future Vision should **embody regional coordination.**

Council also expressed priorities for the process itself that will be used to develop the Future Vision. These priorities were:

- Build beyond initiatives and organizations already engaged, including youth voices
- Include those clearly left out of the 1995 planning process
- Work with the region's business community
- Reference expert opinions on future trends

Councilors have also been clear that the process to develop the 50-year vision must effectively set the stage for the shorter-term implementation steps that will flow from it. Implementation happens when parties are motivated to bring resources, remove barriers and work together because they bought into the end goal and can see themselves in it.

BACKGROUND

Last year, the Metro Council discussed this topic during two work sessions and two rounds of staff conversations, plus additional one-off discussions. Those conversations reinforced Council's interest in this work but have not yet coalesced around a concrete statement of desired outcomes, guidance for the Future Vision Commission or engagement and scope elements. This work session is the second of two led by a consultant team with the goal of:

- Defining project outcomes/outputs
- Initial identification of key Vision topics
- Charge for Future Vision Commission
- Scope inputs for Vision development

The prior scoping work session was held on February 25, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

None

[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?
 - PowerPoint presentation to be given at Work Session