

2024 METRO COUNCIL URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT DECISION: DRAFT WORK PROGRAM

Date: 2/15/23
Department: Planning, Development, and
Research
Meeting Date: 3/22/23

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Length: 45 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

For Council's consideration, staff has prepared a draft work program to facilitate the Metro Council's 2024 urban growth management decision.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is seeking the Metro Council's direction on how it would like to work towards a December 2024 urban growth management decision.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Metro completes regional urban growth management decisions in the context of a variety of state laws that guide analyses and urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion options. Additionally, the region has a regional vision – the 2040 Growth Concept – that describes an intention to focus most growth inside the existing UGB in mixed-use centers. This focus on compact growth has proven important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and diversifying available housing options.

Cities and counties in the region have planned for this type of compact growth. At least every six years, the Metro Council must determine whether those existing plans and growth trends indicate that there is adequate space inside the UGB for growth or if there is a need to expand the UGB.

If the Council finds a regional need for additional UGB growth capacity, it may take measures to use land inside the UGB more efficiently or expand the UGB. If the Council decides to expand the UGB, it may –per state law—only do so in acknowledged urban reserves.

Lastly, the Metro Council has a policy to only add urban reserve areas to the UGB if a local jurisdiction has completed a concept plan for the area. Metro provides grant funding to support local concept planning efforts. This concept plan requirement exists to ensure that any urban reserves that the Council adds to the UGB will be ready for housing or job growth.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council have questions for staff about the proposed work program?

- Does the Council have suggestions for changes or additions to the proposed work program?
- How would councilors like to be involved in the process that will lead to the Council making a decision in December 2024?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

- Council may direct staff to proceed with the proposed work program.
- Council may ask staff to revise to the proposed work program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Council direct staff to proceed with the proposed work program. Upon doing so, staff will develop more detailed scopes of work and timelines for undertaking the necessary analysis and engagement. Staff will return to Council with periodic updates, when policy questions arise, or as directed by the Council.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Regional urban growth management decisions have long been one of the Metro Council's core responsibilities. The Metro UGB – first adopted in 1979 – is one of Metro's tools for achieving the 2040 Growth Concept's vision for compact growth, thereby protecting farms and forests outside the UGB and focusing public and private investment in existing communities. These are all key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding housing options.

The UGB is just one policy tool, however, and must be accompanied by other policies, partnerships, and investments to make good on the 2040 Growth Concept and to address challenges like housing affordability, displacement, houselessness, and economic development. Often, growth management processes provide a venue for identifying the need for new initiatives.

As the Council is aware, a number of stakeholder groups follow urban growth management decisions closely and staff expects this decision to be no different. While these stakeholders at times have differing opinions or interpretations, staff has found that a focus on city readiness and concentrating growth management discussions around actual expansion proposals makes practical sense to all. Consequently, that focus on city readiness is a consistent theme in the draft work program.

BACKGROUND

This is the Council's first work session on the proposed work program for its 2024 urban growth management decision.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft work program overview for the 2024 urban growth management decision.

[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