

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING	)	RESOLUTION NO. 19-5053
REFINEMENTS TO THE 2040 PLANNING	)	
AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM	)	Introduced by Interim Chief Operating Officer
	)	Andrew Scott in concurrence with Council
	)	President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, in 2006, Metro adopted Ordinance No. 06-1115, establishing a construction excise tax (CET) to generate revenue for providing grants to local governments for regional and local planning; and

WHEREAS, the CET has raised more than \$26 million in revenue that has been distributed by Metro to local governments through the Community Planning and Development Grant (“CPDG”) program, the Equitable Housing Planning and Development Grants program, and the 2040 Planning and Development Grants program for planning work across the region that otherwise could not have been funded; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Metro Council adopted the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which defines and guides Metro’s strategy for removing barriers for people of color in order to ensure that everyone, including historically marginalized populations, can have the opportunity to enjoy a thriving region with quality jobs, stable and affordable housing, safe and reliable transportation, and a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the Metro COO established a 2040 Planning and Development Grant Screening Committee (“Grant Screening Committee”) consisting of nine members with broad expertise in planning and development to provide the COO an assessment of the strength of each grant application in accordance with the criteria set forth in Metro Code Chapter 7.04 and the CET Administrative Rules; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2019 the Grant Screening Committee Chair submitted the Committee’s recommendations to Metro’s Interim COO for the 2019-2020 grant cycle, which included recommendations that the program criteria and grant process be reviewed and improved to better achieve Metro’s policy goals, particularly in regard to applications for Equitable Development Grants; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2019 the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 19-5002A, which awarded approximately \$2.4 million in grants for the fiscal year 2019-2020 grant cycle, and directed the Metro COO to make improvements to the grant program, including enhancing opportunities for pre-application consultation with grant applicants, with particular attention to the Equitable Development Grant category; and

WHEREAS, in order to most effectively remove barriers to development, implement the 2040 Growth Concept, and help address the equitable housing crisis in our region, the Metro Council has established a policy emphasis in previous grant cycles to enable the grant program to respond to current trends and issues affecting development in our region; and

WHEREAS, equity, equitable development and equitable housing are currently issues of considerable local and regional concern given the potential for displacement of long-term residents, businesses and communities of color due to rapidly escalating real estate costs; and

WHEREAS, our region continues to have a crisis in housing supply as growth continues, especially for low income residents, and multiple tools, strategies, and approaches are needed across the region to provide more equitable housing and access to opportunity; and

WHEREAS, a clear policy framework outlining the objectives of future grants and the types of projects to be prioritized for funding in future grant cycles will assist local governments and community partners in identifying and proposing projects that will best advance the region's planning, development and equity goals; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Metro Council hereby directs the Metro COO and staff to continue to implement improvements to grant program administration and monitoring of the investments over time to ensure that the program is successfully supporting regional goals and policies set forth in the 2040 Growth Concept, the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, the six desired outcomes described in the Regional Framework Plan, and Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
2. The Metro Council hereby authorizes and directs the Metro COO and staff to initiate future grant cycles for 2040 Planning and Development grants to award CET revenue to fund planning and development projects under the following categories, and according to the following schedule and funding targets:
  - a. New Urban Area Planning. An annual allocation of \$500,000 of CET funds will be targeted for investments in New Urban Area Planning Grants, including Concept Planning Grants and Comprehensive Planning Grants. Funding for Concept Planning Grants will be available on an annual basis, and funding for Comprehensive Planning Grants will be available to cities in conjunction with a Metro Council decision to expand the urban growth boundary. Any excess grant funds for New Urban Area Planning that are not awarded each year will accrue to the following year and thereby increase the available funds for New Urban Area Planning Grants in subsequent grant cycles.
  - b. Planning and Development Within the Urban Growth Boundary. An annual allocation of \$1,500,000 of CET funds will be targeted for investments in grants for projects within the Urban Growth Boundary, including Equitable Development Grants and Community Engagement Grants. Approximately \$1.25 million in funding will be targeted annually for Equitable Development Grants and \$250,000 for Community Engagement Grants. In the event that there are insufficient qualified applications within one funding category, grant funds may be awarded for qualified applications in the other category. Any excess grant funds in either category that are not awarded each year will accrue to the reserve fund for additional technical assistance as provided in the grant program administrative rules.
3. The Metro Council hereby authorizes and directs the Metro COO and staff to implement appropriate revisions to the grant program's administrative rules in order to effectuate the refinements to 2040 Planning and Development Grant program offerings and investment allocations as described above, and to provide clear guidelines for fair and effective grant solicitation processes and grant program administration.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2019.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney