

My name is Matt Lehman Shakopee Mayor, I have been a Shakopee council member since Jan 2002 so I have unique perspectives and experiences gathered over the years. Our current and past city councils support met council restructuring and changes. I am a supporter of the Minnesota land planning act and the comprehensive planning process as originally intended. The original intent was to plan for and accommodate growth, not direct it and operate it. To ensure adjoining local jurisdictions visions for growth where compatible to neighboring land uses and be properly planned for regional infrastructure capacity needs. This was the original intent.

I would encourage the Metropolitan governance task force to research and compare our MPO to comparable MPO's across the country, you will find we have the only MPO made up of an unelected body with the broadest authority.

Largest budget in the country, larger than 15 plus comparable MPO'S combined.

Only MPO in country with taxing authority as an unelected body.

Even with the largest budget, broadest authority & scope, and least accountability, we lag most of our comparable MPO'S in performance measures, why?

The current structure has a perception of political in nature which loses 50% credibility.

The focus should be on planning for and capitalizing on existing local efforts throughout the MPO area, planning on how best to capitalize on existing and differing alternatives like bus rapid transit, hov lanes etc. likewise with local housing initiatives. I believe the best way to capture and capitalize on these opportunities and leverage the shared desired outcomes is to recognize cities and counties are different, one size does not fit all, and having a makeup of non partisan local elected officials from within the MPO serving on the met council brings that collaboration, experience, and diversity of resources into the proper planning process as originally intended in the Minnesota land planning act and MPO . The research of other MPO'S shows narrowed scope and authority, combined with more accountability and collaboration netted much greater and less expensive results. In summary, local elected bodies are held responsible and expected to make local decisions by their constituents, their visions reflect the people they serve. Thank you for your time and efforts on this worthy cause.