

Motion by Kristin Beckmann
Metropolitan Governance Task Force
January 23, 2024

Motion: Include all the options for reforming the governance of the Metropolitan Council submitted to the Metropolitan Council Governance Task Force by January 24 in the final report to the MN State Legislature.

Reasoning: The Metropolitan Council Governance Taskforce met regularly over the course six months hearing testimony from experts across the country and residents from around the region. Representatives from the State Legislature, metro areas cities and counties, and climate and transit advocacy groups have shared information and their perspectives on reform. Taskforce members have worked together to identify problem and value statements and to surface proposals for reconstituting the governance structure of the Met Council.

The work of the last six months is resulting in multiple proposals for governance reform, some that were not even included as possible considerations in the enabling legislation for the task force. A few proposals have evolved due to the robust conversation of the task force members and others have emerged as testifiers brought new ideas to the group. As a result, many of the proposals are more developed, but given the time constraints of the task force, none of them have the analysis of the costs and benefits that is identified as a requirement in the legislation that outlines the task force's charge.

This motion would allow all proposals to advance to the State Legislature for consideration. Further analysis, vetting, and refinement of the ideas could come through the legislative process. Supporting this motion creates an opportunity for the Legislature to evaluate all proposals equally and build on the good work of the Metropolitan Governance Task Force.