

APPENDIX
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Denver Regional Council of Governments

Presented by:

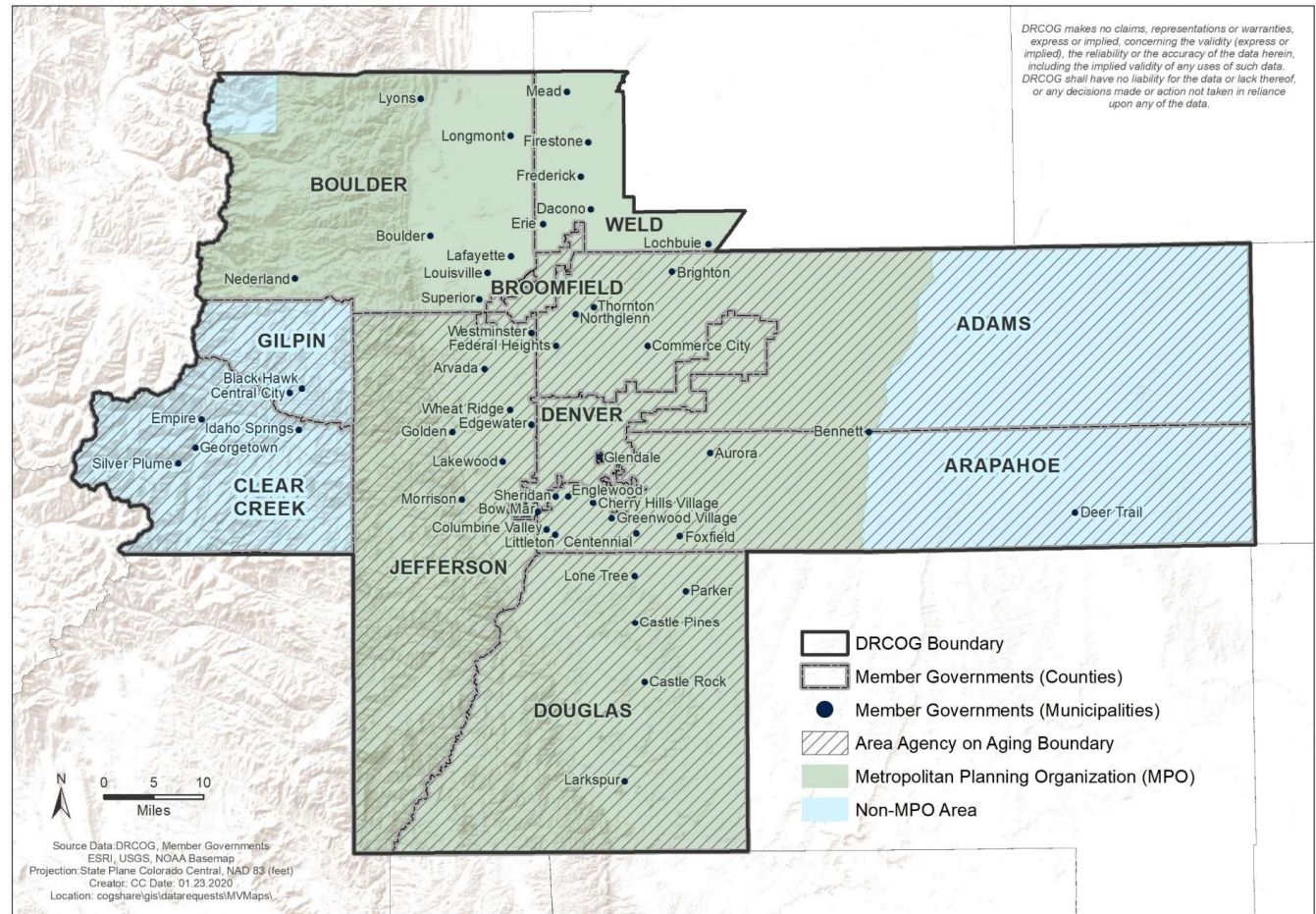
Doug Rex
Executive Director

November 29, 2023

Metropolitan Governance Task Force
Minnesota Legislature

The region

Area	~10 counties (58 member governments)
	5,288 square miles (comparable to Connecticut)
	3.4 million people (comparable to Utah)
	Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples (traditional territory)
Elevation	From Grays Peak (14,278 feet)
	To Badger Creek (4,505 feet)
Roles	Regional planning commission (state statute)
	Area Agency on Aging (federal)
	Metropolitan planning organization (federal)



The Denver Regional Council of Governments ...

functions as a regional planning commission

- per Colorado state statute
- prepares the plan for the physical development of the region

is the federally designated
Area Agency on Aging

serves as the region's
metropolitan planning organization

Brief history of DRCOG

1955 – Denver Mayor convenes regional leaders to discuss **shared issues and concerns** related to post-war growth

1958 - First **transportation plan** for the Denver region

1968 – Inter-County Regional Planning Commission becomes the Denver Regional Council of Governments (**DRCOG**)

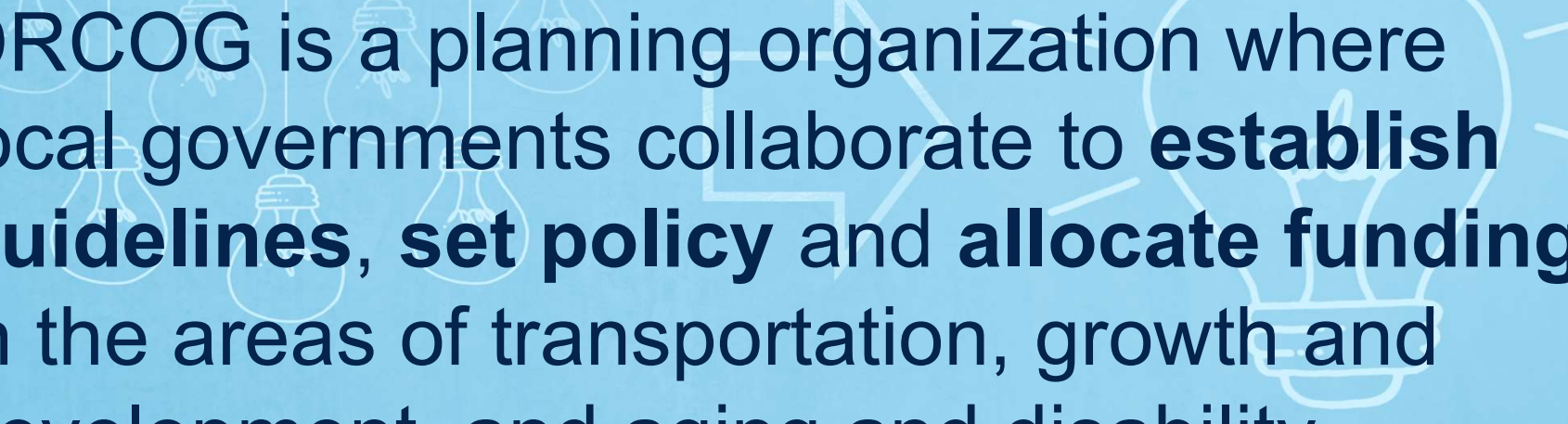
1969 – Regional Transportation District (**RTD**) created

1971 – DRCOG, RTD, Colorado Department of Highways **agree to jointly plan the region's transportation**

1973 – designated the **Area Agency on Aging**

1977 – designated as the **MPO** for the Denver region

Regional collaboration among 58 cities, counties, towns and partner agencies



DRCOG is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to **establish guidelines, set policy** and **allocate funding** in the areas of transportation, growth and development, and aging and disability resources.

Regional success depends on partnerships



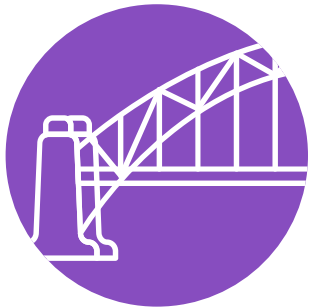
DRCOG **is not** a
regulator.



We are a
convener.



We provide **policy**
guidance.

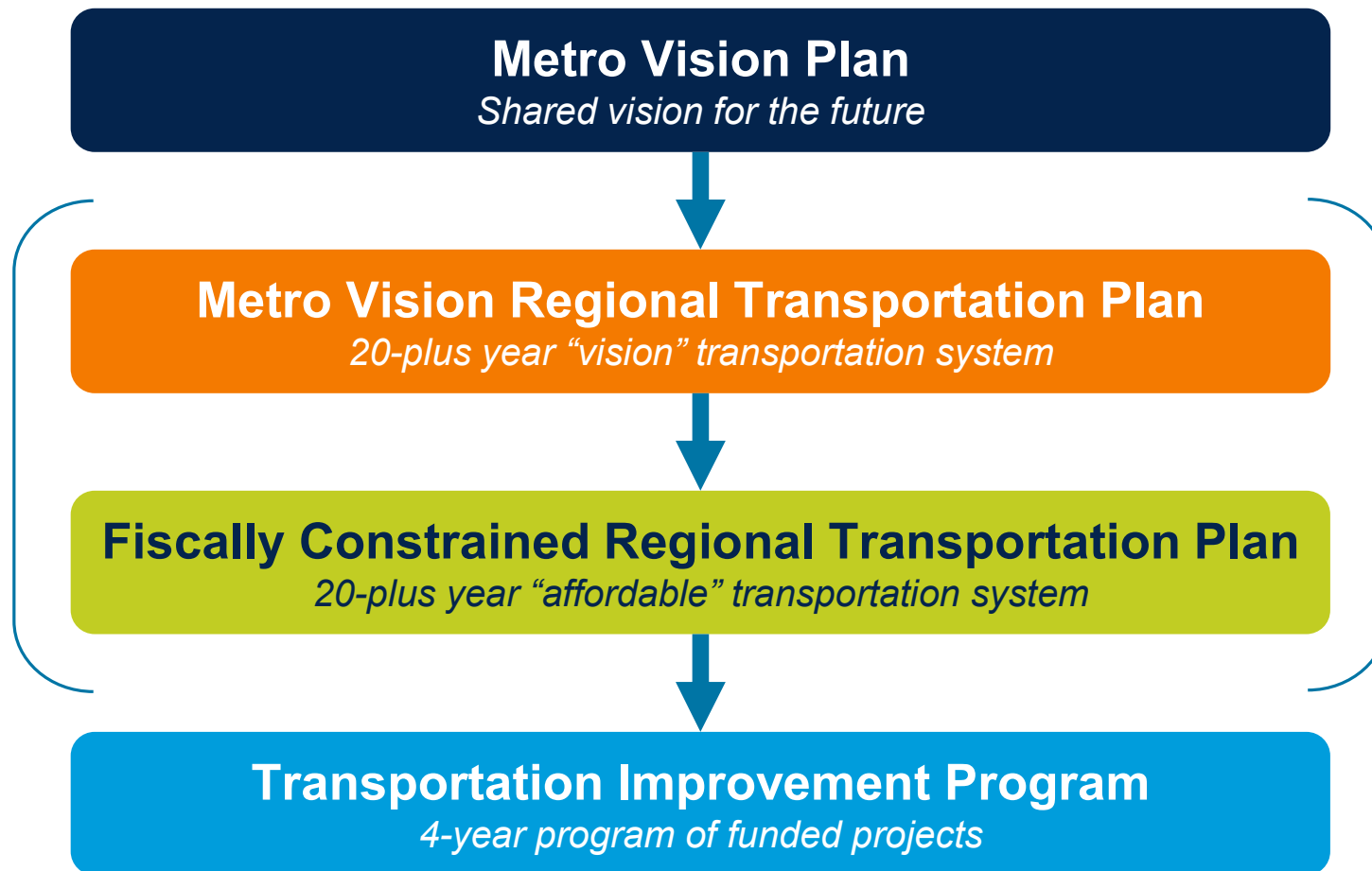


We are a **bridge between**
partner jurisdictions and
agencies.



We identify
best practices.

Regional planning process

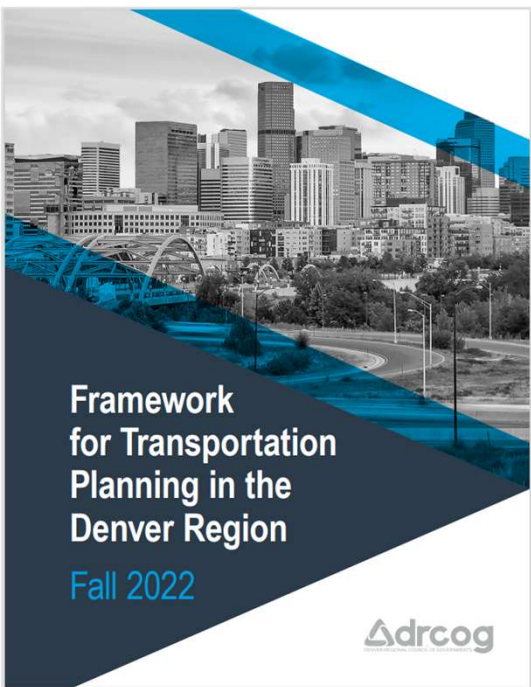


2040

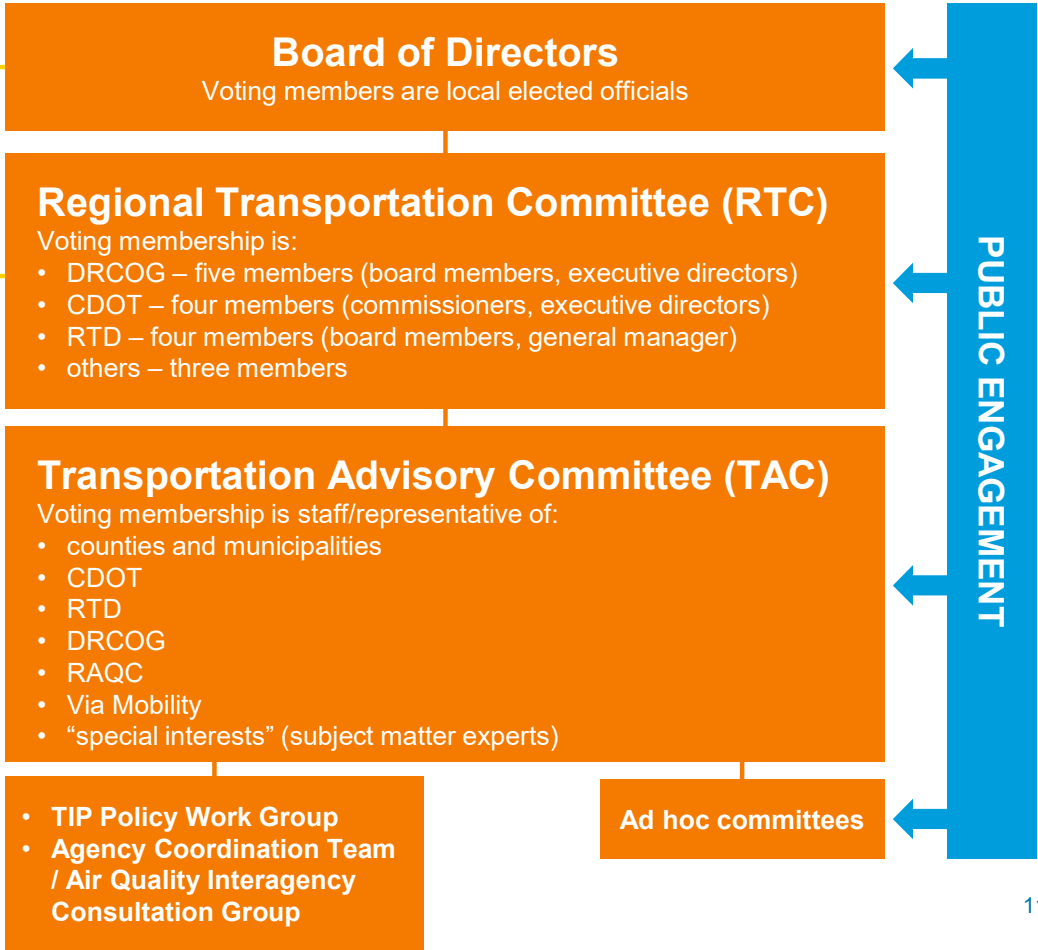
The **region's plan** to ensure a **high quality of life** for all ages, **incomes** and **abilities**.

Five overarching **themes** in the areas of development, transportation, natural and built environment, livable communities, and economy.

- 58 participating member governments and each has an elected official as its representative
- The governor appoints three non-voting representatives to the Board
- The Regional Transportation District has a non-voting representative
- Meets monthly
- Appoints Executive Director
- Adopts the agency budget
- Approves or adopts plans, policies, funding allocations

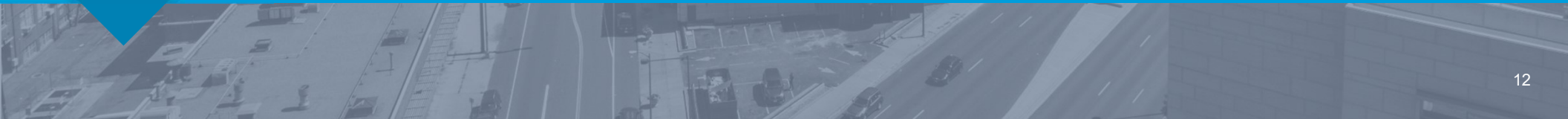


Metropolitan planning agreement requires that the Board and Regional Transportation Committee concur





Thank you!
Questions?



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL TOUCH POINTS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

November 29, 2023

Key Message

- Thinking of many is that cities are more impacted by Met Council actions and policy-making than counties
- This misperception needs to be addressed if Met Council governance changes in the future, and county representation is left out of the new model
- Counties, depending on responsibilities, have as much - if not more - interaction with Met Council than many cities

Role of Metropolitan Council

Strongest interactions with Counties:

- ▣ transportation
- ▣ parks and trails
- ▣ surface water mgmt.
- ▣ GIS
- ▣ future WWTP planning
- ▣ housing shelter/homeless
- ▣ Agricultural/ greenspace preservation
- ▣ rural density policies

Strongest interactions with Cities:

- ▣ wastewater treatment
- ▣ MUSA expansions
- ▣ WAC/SAC fees
- ▣ drinking water mgmt.
- ▣ housing types /needs
- ▣ livable communities
- ▣ urban density policies
- ▣ plat monitoring

County Touch Points



County Touch Points - Transportation

- Council's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) focuses on:
 - ▣ Principal and Minor Arterial System (primarily County or State Highways)
 - Traffic Volumes and Forecasts
 - System Connections
 - ▣ Transit System (primarily operated at a regional or county level; rarely at local level)
 - ▣ Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (primarily built and maintained at a regional or county level)
 - ▣ Freight System
 - ▣ Greenhouse Gas Discussions

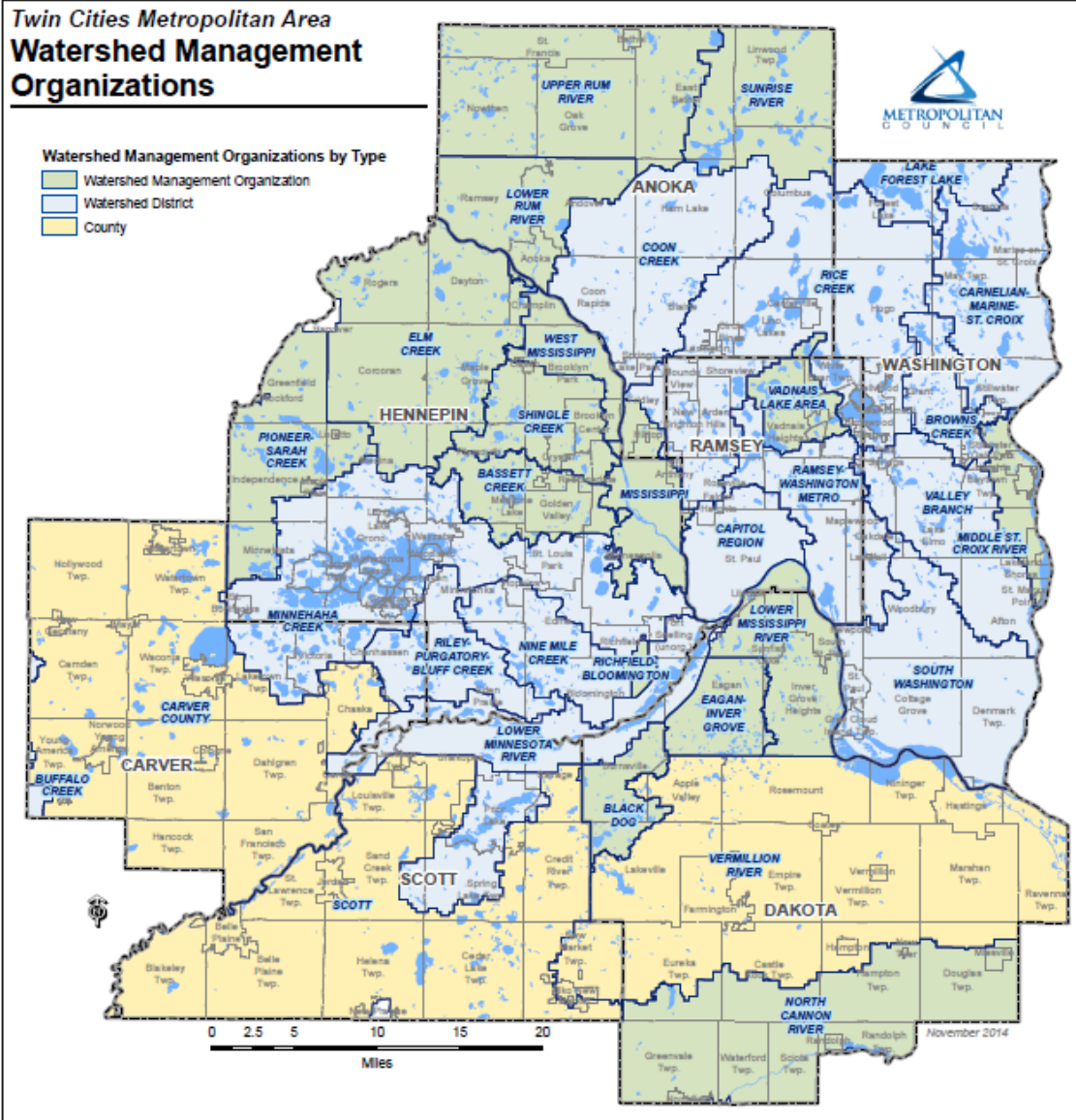
County Touch Points – TAB/Met Council

- County Representative
 - ▣ Technical Committees – all 7 counties serve on all 3 committees (TAC, F&P, Planning)
- Solicitations
 - ▣ Principal and A minors – almost all County and State highways
 - ▣ Bridges – almost all County and State highways
 - ▣ Traffic – almost all County and State highways
- Approval of functional class changes

County Touch Points - Parks and Trails

- Regional Parks Policy Plan
 - ▣ Policy framework for 10 regional park operating agencies
 - 6 Counties (Carver, Scott, Dakota, Washington, Anoka, Ramsey)
 - Bloomington, Minneapolis, St Paul
 - Three Rivers Park District – Hen County (+)
- Park and Trail Master Plans – approved by the Met Council
- Funding Allocation/Project Approval – State and Regional Bonds, Legacy, Environmental Trust Fund, State general fund
 - ▣ Capital Projects
 - ▣ Land Acquisition
 - ▣ Operational

County Touch Points - Water Resources



County Touch Points - Water Resources

- SW and South Metro areas are primarily County-based WMOs (Carver, Scott, Vermillion Joint Powers Org)
- Met Council interaction with WMOs
 - ▣ Technical studies
 - ▣ Technical assistance
 - ▣ Surface water monitoring
 - ▣ Watershed and local water plan reviews
- Increased Ground Water Discussions

County Touch Points - Metro GIS

- Seven metro counties provide:
 - ▣ Parcels
 - ▣ Addresses
 - ▣ Street center lines
 - ▣ Property information
- Policy Board comprised of County Commissioners from 7 counties plus reps from 2 metro cities and 2 regional agencies

County Touch Points - Land Use

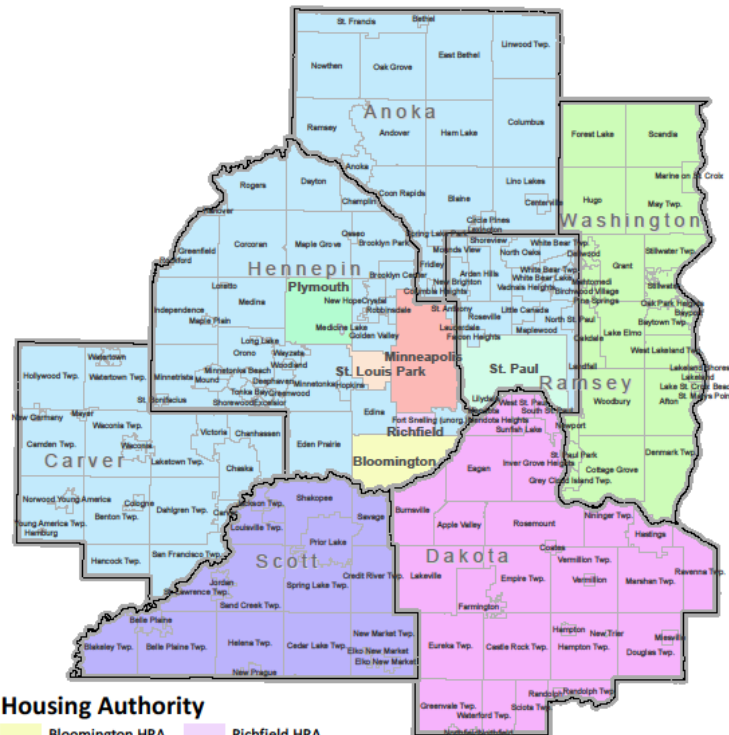
- County Land Use Plan
 - ▣ Rural densities consistent with Community Designation
 - ▣ Land Use Map changes require Council review
 - ▣ Cluster development regulations must be consistent with Council's Flexible Development Guidelines
- Regional Wastewater Planning
 - ▣ Future Wastewater Treatment Plants locations
 - ▣ Identifying Long Term Sewer Service Areas
- Ag Preserves Program – (primarily Counties)

County Touch Points - Housing

- Homeless / Shelter Work
 - Cities look to Counties and/or County Community Development Agencies for Affordable Housing Supports
 - Regional share of low- to moderate-income housing
 - Emphasis in providing services which is all County

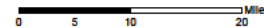
County Touch Points - Housing

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Section 8 Programs



Housing Authority

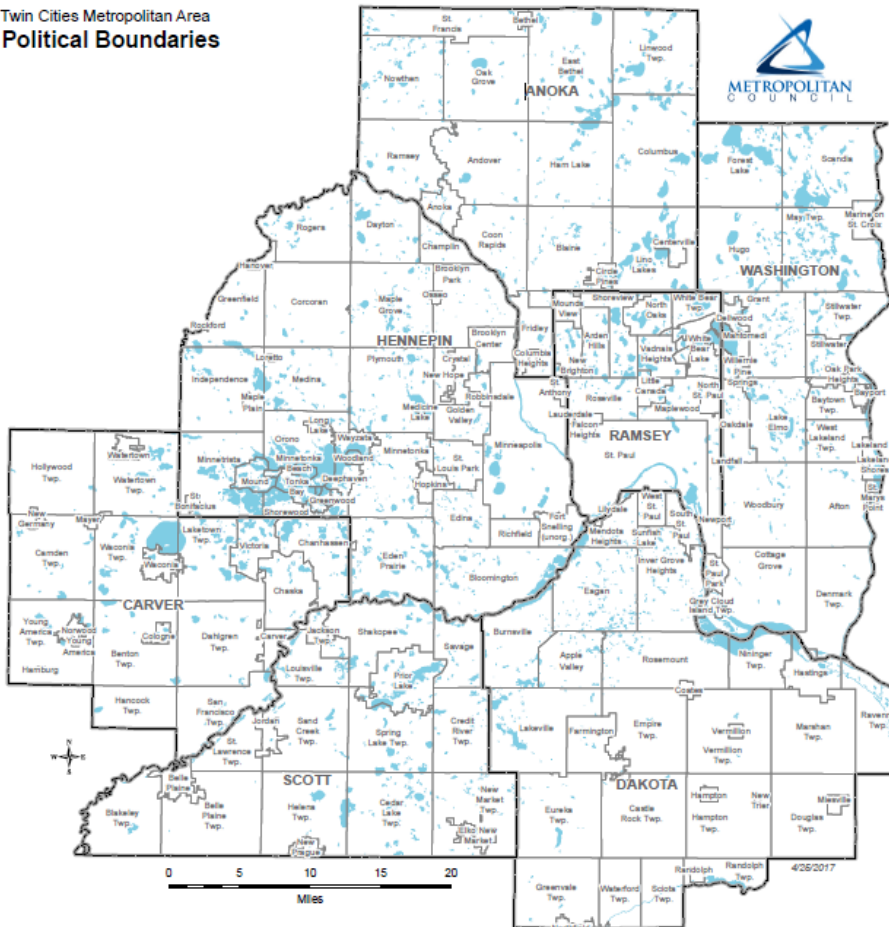
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|--|--|
| Bloomington HRA | Richfield HRA |
| Dakota County CDA | Scott County HRA |
| Metro HRA | St. Louis Park HRA |
| Minneapolis PHA | St. Paul PHA |
| Plymouth HRA | Washington County HRA |



HousingLink
created 5/30/2018

City Touch Points

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Political Boundaries



- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- Lakes and Rivers

Transportation

Sanitary Systems

Land Use

Housing

City Touch Points - Transportation

- City Transportation Plans:
 - ▣ Utilize County Plan to identify principal and minor arterials and traffic modeling
 - Transportation Analysis Zone development coordination
 - ▣ Show future extensions of collectors
 - ▣ Show pedestrian and local bicycle network
 - ▣ Relationship with transit investment plan
 - ▣ Freight system planning
 - ▣ Airport zone planning

City Touch Points – TAB/Met Council

- Elected City Representation – 10
 - ▣ Technical Committees – some cities serve on all 3 committees (TAC, F&P, Planning)
 - ▣ Only members of Association of Metro Municipalities (AMM) are represented on committees, plus Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Solicitations – may submit for county or state highway

City Touch Points - Sanitary Systems

- Sanitary System Planning
 - ▣ interceptor extensions and capacity
 - ▣ wastewater flows tied to MC forecasts
- Inflow/Infiltration
- SAC (Sewer Availability Charge) Determination

City Touch Points - Land Use

- Land Use
 - MUSA/growth management
 - Urban density targets/community designations
 - Transit Oriented Development standards
 - Mix of land use types
 - Staging of land development
 - Comp Plan Amendments tied to land use change

City Touch Points - Housing

- Affordable Housing Scores/Allocations
 - Regional share of low- to moderate-income housing
 - Livable Communities Grants

Township Touch Points

- Townships are unique to the county they reside in
 - ▣ Townships that do their own planning/zoning have direct interaction with Met Council
 - ▣ Townships where the county does the planning/zoning, there is little direct interaction with Met Council
- Townships with planned or developed Regional Parks

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Summary

- Thinking is that cities are more impacted by Met Council actions and policy-making than counties
- Reality is both cities and counties need to be represented in any future Met Council governance model
- Local elected officials work with all elements of Met Council Comprehensive Plans