

APPENDIX

O

Joint Submission from
Rep. Wiens, Commissioner Greene,
and Sam Rockwell

Proposed Principles

January 24, 2024

Submitted by Rep. Wiens, Sam Rockwell, and Cmsr. Greene

MG1. **Proportionality:** The Course of Action (COA) ensures proportional representation so that each member represents the same number of residents.

MG2. **Regional.** The COA provides a regional orientation whereby Metropolitan Council members are locally selected.

MG3. **Compensation.** The COA includes the establishment of compensation and the resources necessary for Metropolitan Council members commensurate with the level of responsibility entrusted to them.

SR1. **Clarity of Accountability:** The COA delivers actual, rather than just perceived, accountability to the public by ensuring that the public knows and understands to whom Metropolitan Council board members are accountable to on an ongoing basis.

MW1. **Credibility:** The COA delivers immediate credibility inherent in elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of being held accountable for their actions.

MW2. **Accessibility:** The COA delivers immediate accessibility inherent in elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of responsiveness to the public.

MW3. **Transparency:** The COA delivers immediate transparency inherent with elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of openness to the public.

MW4. **Collaboration:** The COA delivers immediate collaboration inherent with elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of a non-partisan collaborative planning environment.

Senator Pratt Submissions

SENATOR PRATT PROPOSAL: COG MODEL

The Task Force recommends a modified Council of Governments model made up of 40 members

7 Seats representing each County

- 4 year staggered terms
- Must be a currently seated county commissioner
- Chosen by the respective board

33 Seats proportionally allocated for cities & Townships

- 4 year staggered terms
- Must be a currently elected official from a city or township
- Chosen by a committee of representatives within a district

For MPO purposes, 4 MPO members are:

- Commissioner of Transportation
- 1 Non-Motorized transportation rep appointed by Commissioner of Transportation
- 1 public transit rep appointed by Commissioner of Transportation
- 1 freight transport rep appointed by Commissioner of Transportation
- Vote only on MPO decisions
- Advisory in all other decisions

The Board selects a Chair and hires an Executive Director to manage staff.

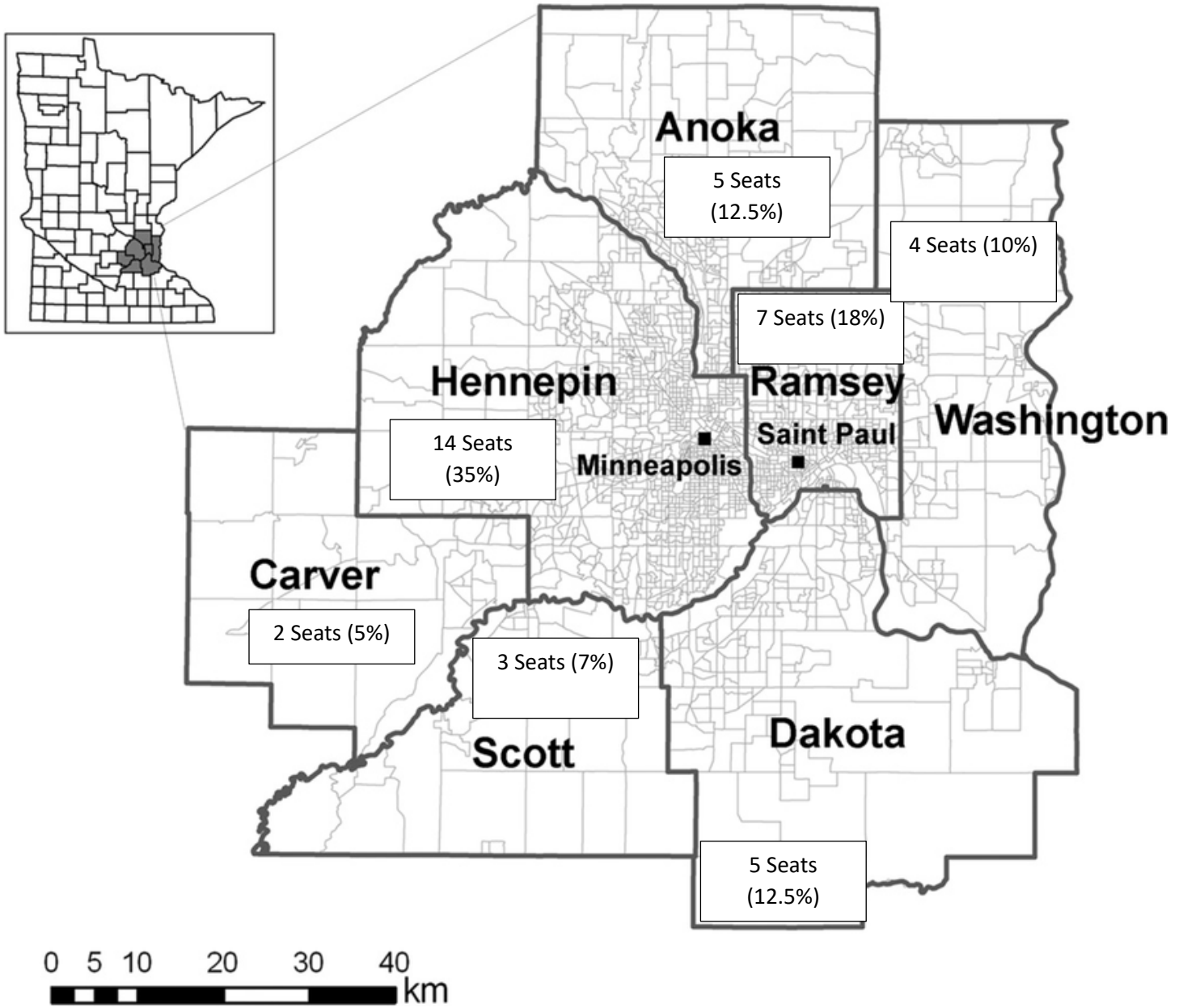
The governing body of each home rule charter or statutory city and town in each Metropolitan Council district shall appoint a member to serve on a municipal committee for the council district.

- If a city or town is in more than one council district, the governing body must appoint a member to serve on each council district's municipal committee.
 - District boundaries will be based on population, but also respect jurisdictional boundaries – minimize the occurrences of a municipality being split into multiple districts
 - A member appointed to a council district's municipal committee must reside in the council district. If a district is wholly contained within a municipality, the city council will choose a representative.

The municipal committee must meet at least quarterly to discuss issues relating to the Metropolitan Council. Municipal committee meetings are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, chapter 13D.

Effective January 1, 2027

The Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota, USA



SENATOR PRATT'S PROPOSAL: GOVERNOR-APPOINTED MODIFIED COG

The Task Force recommends a modified Council of Governments model made up of 40 members

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33 Seats proportionally allocated for cities & Townships

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- Chosen by a committee of representatives within a district

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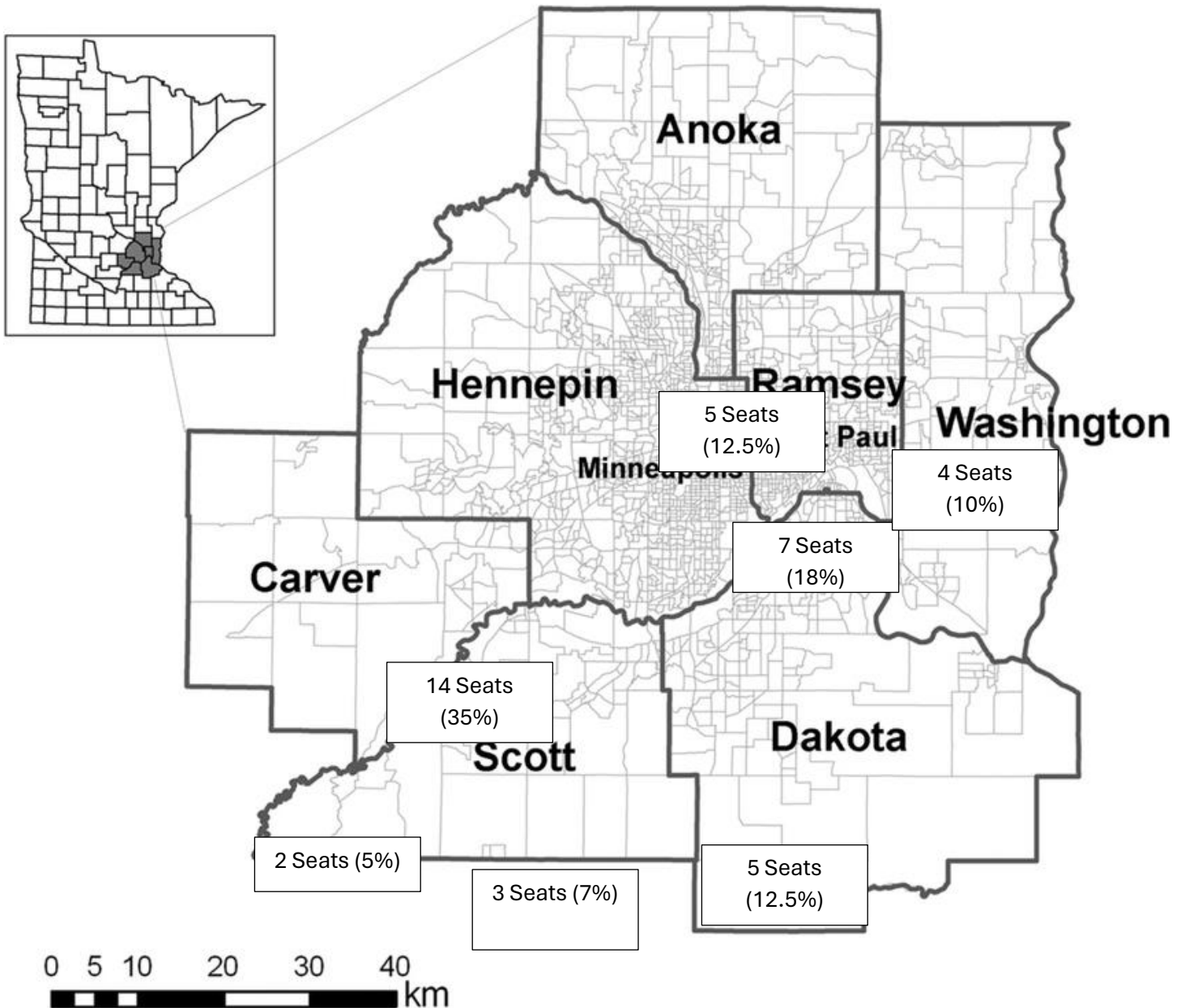
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 - A member appointed to a council district's municipal committee must reside in the council district. If a district is wholly contained within a municipality, the city council will choose a representative.

Each Municipal Committee will nominate up to 3 nominees, The Governor must appoint a representative from the slate provided by the Municipal Committee. Senate confirmation is required. At least 50% of the appointees must be locally elected officials.

The municipal committee must meet at least quarterly to discuss issues relating to the Metropolitan Council. Municipal committee meetings are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, chapter 13D.

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The Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota, USA



Met Council Reform Task Force Governance Model Comparison

Benefit	COG	Appointed w/ Local Nominate	Elected	Bicameral Hybrid	Staggered Terms
Accountability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
To Residents	✓	--	✓	✓	✗
To Local Government	✓	✓	✗	?	?
Transparency	✓	✓	?	?	?
Credibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Continuity	✓	✓	?	✓	✓
Collaboration	✓	✓	✗	?	✗
Accessibility	✓	--	?	?	?
Non-Partisan	✓	?	✗	✗	✗
Reduce Special Interest Influence	✓	✓	✗	✗	?
Proportional Representation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Perspective	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Legislative Oversight	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislature	Defined by Legislation
Funding	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislation	Defined by Legislature	Defined by Legislation
Compensation	Commensurate with Scope	Commensurate with Scope	Commensurate with Scope	Commensurate with Scope	Commensurate with Scope

Kristin Beckmann
Submissions

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.

Commissioner Bigham
Submissions

COMMISSIONER BIGHAM MOTION

Move to include both Sen. Dibble and Sen. Pratt's proposals for recommendations in the legislative report to the legislature.

COMMISSIONER BIGHAM MOTION

Each of the 16 Districts will nominate up to 3 nominees, The Governor must appoint a representative from the slate provided by the Municipal Committee. Senate confirmation is required. Senate has consented to an appointment if the senate does not reject the appointment within 60 legislative days of the day of receipt of the letter of appointment. No requirement that the nominee be an elected official.

BIGHAM MOVES

That a reformed Council would need to immediately address the funding structure and relationship between the Metro HRA and other regional HRAs related to administration of housing vouchers.

BIGHAM MOVES

That performance measures, especially related to funding for transportation and transit projects, should be part of any legislative proposal to ensure member accountability and financial transparency

Develop, adopt, and articulate agreed-upon regional transit service efficiencies and allow for strong local input into decisions about investment and operations.

Senator Dibble
Submissions

Senator Dibble - Updated Proposal

Twin Cities Metropolitan Council

Bodies

- Metropolitan Regional Civic Council
- Council of Governments

Metropolitan Regional Civic Council

Membership and selection:

- 19 members: 16 elected to represent districts, 3 at large, appointed by the Governor
- All districts to be equal in size. Districting consistent with laws allowing for creation of minority opportunity districts. Redistricting to occur once every 10 years, following the census
- Staggered terms
- Gubernatorial appointees serve a set term
- Chair elected by the body from their own
- Non-partisan elections, funded by with a public election finance system similar to Minnesota Legislature's public finance system
- Full time. Salary is the average of metro area county commissioners

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Taxing authority, bonding, discretionary policy decisions, budgeting and appropriations, delivery of public services (transit, sewers, etc.)
- Planning responsibility and authority to be shared equally with the Council of Governments (Long Range, Transportation, Water Resources, Regional Parks, Housing Policy Plans, etc.)
- Designated as the MPO

Other:

- Includes a dedicated and fiscal research and analysis staff, accountable only to the Civic Council (including staff dedicated to supporting work and office of individual members)
- Members are encouraged and incented to avail themselves of national and international educational opportunities on issues of regional governance, planning and services

Metropolitan Council of Governments

Membership and selection:

- Locally elected officials
- Two types of districts: County Districts and Municipal (cities and townships) Districts, apportioned proportionally according to population
- County appointees selected by a caucus of counties
- Municipal appointees selected by a like caucus of cities and townships (which can then further be categorized by community type [central, developed and developing communities, for example])
- Number of members to be at least as large as Regional Civic Council, with sufficient number to ensure proportionality, and allowing for greater County representation
- Each County must have at least one seat
- County districts would not cross county boundaries
- Redistricting to occur once every 10 years, following the census
- Staggered terms
- Appointees serve a set term

- Chair elected by the body from their own

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Shall be consulted by Regional Civic Council on all major policy decisions
- Planning responsibility and authority to be shared equally with the Civic Council (Long Range, Transportation, Water Resources, Regional Parks, Housing Policy Plans, etc.)
- Responsible for evaluation of services provided (effectiveness, efficiency, consistency with laws and policies, etc.)
- Shall have the power by majority vote to require the Regional Civic Council to reconsider any major policy decisions
- Shall have the power, via two-thirds vote to veto major actions of the Regional Civic Council (paired with the ability for the Regional Civic Council to override via two-thirds vote)
- Must ratify any new major policy power or expansion of scope, authority, and duties of the Regional Civic Council (except those mandated and directed by the Legislature)
- Holds an equal number of voting seats on Committees of the Regional Civic Council

Other:

- Includes a dedicated and fiscal research and analysis staff, accountable only to the Local Government Council
- Members paid for additional time and responsibilities (within bounds of state law and state constitution)
- Members are encouraged and incented to avail themselves of national and international educational opportunities on issues of regional governance, planning and services

Senator Dibble Proposal

Twin Cities Metropolitan Council

Bodies

- Metropolitan Regional Civic Council
- Metropolitan Regional Local Government Council

Regional Civic Council

Membership and selection:

- 19 members: 16 elected to represent districts, 3 at large, appointed by the Governor
- All districts to be equal in size. Districting consistent with laws allowing for creation of minority opportunity districts
- Staggered terms
- Gubernatorial appointees serve a set term
- Chair elected by the body from their own
- Non-partisan elections, funded by with a public election finance system similar to Minnesota Legislature's public finance system
- Full time. Salary is the average of metro area county commissioners

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Taxing authority, bonding, all discretionary policy decisions, budgeting and appropriations, delivery of public services (transit, sewers, etc.)
- Planning responsibility and authority to be *shared equally* with the Civic Council (10 Year Long Range, Transportation, Water Resources, Regional Parks, Housing Policy Plans, etc.). Designated as the MPO

Other:

- Includes a dedicated and fiscal research and analysis staff, accountable only to the Civic Council (including staff dedicated to supporting work and office of individual members)
- Members are encouraged and incented to avail themselves of national and international educational opportunities on issues of regional governance, planning and services

Local Government Council

Membership and selection:

- Locally elected officials
- Two types of districts: County Districts and Municipal (cities and townships) Districts, apportioned proportionally according to population
- County appointees selected by a caucus of counties
- Municipal appointees selected by a like caucus of cities and townships (which can then further be categorized by community type [central, developed and developing communities, for example])
- Number of members to be at least as large as Regional Civic Council, with sufficient number to ensure proportionality, and allowing for greater County representation
- Each County must have at least one seat
- County districts would not cross county boundaries
- Staggered terms
- Appointees serve a set term
- Chair elected by the body from their own

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Shall be consulted by Regional Civic Council on all major policy decisions
- Planning authority to be shared equally with the Civic Council
- Responsible for evaluation of services provided (effectiveness, efficiency, consistency with laws and policies, etc.)

- Shall have the power by majority vote to require the Regional Civic Council to reconsider any major policy decisions
- Shall have the power, via two-thirds vote to veto major actions of the Regional Civic Council (paired with the ability for the Regional Civic Council to override via two-thirds vote)
- Must ratify any new major policy power or expansion of scope, authority and duties of the Regional Civic Council (except those mandated and directed by the Legislature)
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Mayor Hovland
Submissions

MAYOR HOVLAND'S PROPOSAL

Motion to support:

Maintain the present geography of each district and the number of districts and district membership on the Metropolitan Council in its present configuration at 16; and

Four-year staggered terms of Metropolitan Council members which would reduce ideological shifts in the make-up of the Council and allow for knowledge and experience continuity of Council members; and

An increase in the number of members on the statutory nominating committee to 15 and an increase in the number of local elected officials on the committee to 8, composed of 4 local elected officials, 3 county elected officials and 1 township elected official. The balance of the nominating committee would be composed of citizens at large and with knowledge of transportation and modal representatives, with all members appointed to the nominating committee by the Governor. This composition of the nominating committee would provide for a higher level of engagement by community members and local officials; and

The nominating committee would submit the names of three finalists from each district to the Governor and the Governor would be required to select amongst the three finalists selected by the nominating committee for each district; and

A public comment period requirement once potential members are nominated and before they are appointed by the Governor to increase transparency in how members of the Metropolitan Council are selected.

Mary Pattock
Submissions

MARY PATTOCK RECOMMENDATION ON VISION

Recommendation: The Met Council should adopt a vision that prioritizes quality of life

The Met Council's vision: A metro area in which residents enjoy a high quality of life, businesses thrive, and the environment is protected for the good of present and future generations.

Mission: To achieve this vision, the Met Council will collaborate and cooperate to foster a strong, resilient and sustainable economy, excellent public services, fairness and equity, and responsible environmental stewardship.

Sam Rockwell
Submissions

Sam Rockwell Recommendation

Regardless of the COA, the legislature should establish a comprehensive set of statutory goals for the Metropolitan Council. These goals can and should then serve as guideposts for Metropolitan Council vision and action and as benchmarks for Metropolitan Council success and public accountability.