

2020 GOLDEN VALLEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Adopted by the City Council Jan 21, 2020

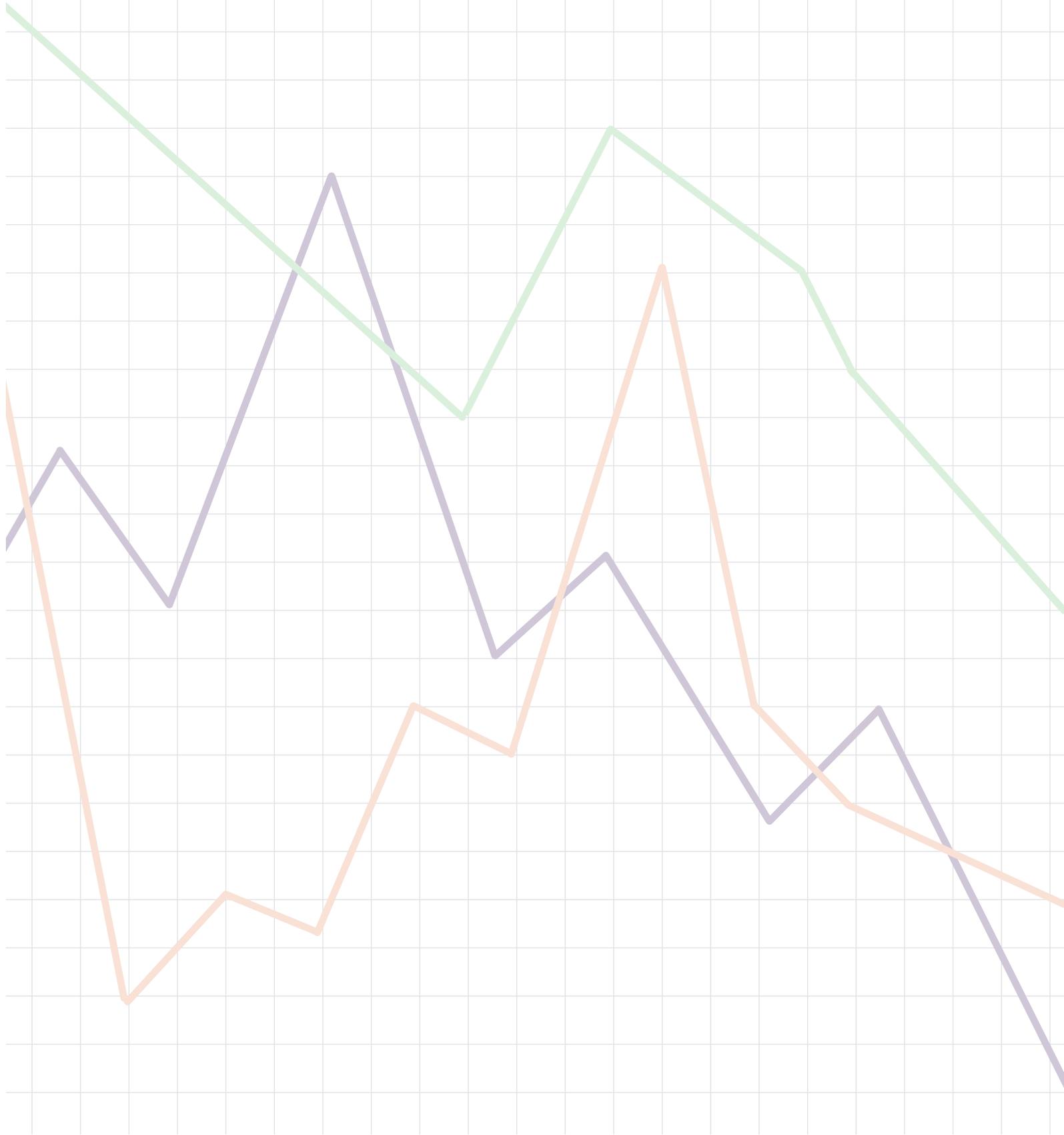


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These priorities are supported by the Golden Valley City Council, along with Metro Cities, League of Minnesota Cities, and Regional Council of Mayors policies, and may be used by local officials and staff to advocate for during the Legislative session.

TRANSPORTATION



T1. Support Funding For Bike And Pedestrian Safety Improvements To State Highway 55

City Position

The City of Golden Valley seeks funding to improve operations, safety, and mobility at the intersections of Highway 55 and Douglas Drive and Highway 55 and Winnetka Avenue. Future improvements would better accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, transit, etc.

Issue

Highway 55 passes through Golden Valley from its east to west city limits, creating a barrier between the northern and southern portions of the community. This results in significant delays for motorists crossing the highway at any of the signalized intersections due to long signal timing cycles that focus on moving traffic through the community. This barrier also creates difficult and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists who wish to cross the highway.

Actions

- Advocate for funding of a pedestrian underpass and roadway improvements at Highway 55 and Douglas Drive (County State Aid Highway 102). These improvements will facilitate safe passage by pedestrians between transit stops on the highway and the Perpich Center for Arts Education, and improve bike and pedestrian access to the Luce Line Regional Trail located on the north side of Highway 55 (\$75,000 to complete design, currently at 60 percent, and \$7 million for construction).
- Advocate for funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to study access ways to provide community connectivity across Highway 55 at Winnetka Avenue to mitigate the highway's impact on the community (\$1 million for planning and design, \$13 million for construction).

Additional Documents (See Appendix T1)

- Highway 55 & Douglas Drive - Proposed (1 page)
- Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concept (1 page)

TRANSPORTATION



T2. Support Comprehensive Transportation Funding

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports dedicating more resources to all components of the state's transportation system and ensuring local units of government have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs.

Issue

A comprehensive regional transportation system that meets the physical, social, and economic needs of Golden Valley and the state requires adequate funding. This transportation system includes streets, bridges, highways, transit, and multi-modal solutions. Collaborative efforts and initiatives are already in progress.

Actions

- Support language regarding rail liability for the Blue Line Extension light rail transit project. (State Statute 473.4052 Right-of-Way Use; Contracts; Liability. 107.19 Subd. 4. Application. The liability limits under subdivision 2 and the insurance requirements under subdivision 3 apply only for that segment of a light rail transit line or line extension in which the project formally entered the engineering phase of the Federal Transit Administration's "New Starts" capital investment grant program between August 1, 2016 and February 1, 2017.)
- Provide full funding for the Blue Line Extension light rail transit project in the Twin Cities northwest corridor.
- Advocate for full funding for Bus Rapid Transit on Highway 55, which impacts all communities along the corridor (Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Medina, and beyond).
- Establish a sustainable formula to increase transit and transportation funding.
- Advocate for including improvements to US Highway 169 between I-394 and Medicine Lake Road in the MnDOT Capital Improvement Plan.

Additional Documents (See Appendix T2)

- Memo: Status Of Blue Line Light Rail Extension Project (1 page)
- Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)

ENVIRONMENTAL



E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects

City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting legislative approval of funds through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Flood Damage Reduction Program to continue to implement public improvements within the DeCola Ponds and Medicine Lake Road watershed. These projects include improvements within the Cities of Crystal, New Hope and Golden Valley (eg, flood storage, subwatershed diversion, and runoff rate control projects).

Issue

The City of Golden Valley experiences localized flooding in the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue area and flooding from Bassett Creek in numerous locations throughout the community. This flooding causes damages to homes and businesses, and impacts infrastructure and emergency services. The City is in Phase II of a multi-phase project.

Action

Advocate for continued full funding of the Minnesota DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program, including funding of the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Project.

Additional Documents (See Appendix E1)

- Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (1 page)

ENVIRONMENTAL



E2. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/ Infiltration Grants –Public And Private Improvements

City Position

Because I/I reduction efforts benefit the entire metropolitan area, the City of Golden Valley supports the state providing continued capital assistance for grants to cities as well as financial assistance for private property through future Clean Water Legacy Act appropriations.

Issue

Many metro communities are contributing excess inflow and infiltration of clear water into the regional wastewater system. Excess I/I results in wastewater flows that exceed the capacity of conveyance and treatment systems, resulting in significant environmental and public health issues and excessive costs to upgrade these systems.

Action

Advocate for financial assistance through future Clean Water Legacy appropriations to metro area cities with excess I/I. These resources should include assistance for cities to address I/I contributions from private property.

Additional Documents (See Appendix E2)

- Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)

ENVIRONMENTAL



E3. Advance Building Performance

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports statewide energy efficiency improvements in buildings, lighting, and infrastructure and includes these as local goals in the Resilience and Sustainability Chapter of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Issue

The State of Minnesota has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 but is not on track to do so. Buildings are a top greenhouse gas emitter, and a different approach is needed to building design and construction. Building codes, which are established by the State, are not advancing fast enough to reach carbon reduction goals.

Action

The City of Golden Valley supports policy changes and other solutions that lead to increased building efficiency, including:

- clear standards for developers and designers
- financial support and incentives for energy efficient improvements
- educational support and training
- advancing code requirements at a rate faster than the typical building code update cycle
- local adoption of building codes that advance energy performance in new and remodeled buildings.

FINANCIAL



F1. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports funding of the Local Government Aid (LGA) component to help ensure needs for public services can be met by equalizing the tax base for all cities.

Issue

Golden Valley relies on LGA funding to help support public services but has not received LGA funding for the last couple of years.

Actions

Advocate for the state to keep pace with inflationary pressures and support increased funding for LGA. Golden Valley supports an increase in the LGA appropriation and a review in its entirety of the formula that would at least provide a minimum distribution to help fund public services. Golden Valley supports HF 2031 authored by Representative Herta in 2019.

Additional Documents (See Appendix F1)

- Table: 10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley (1 page)

FINANCIAL



F2. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports reviewing and amending the 50-year-old Fiscal Disparities formula to ensure all metro area local governments have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs. By amending the Fiscal Disparities formula, all metro area cities can use the additional amount of property taxes received to help fund needed improvements.

For nearly 50 years, the Fiscal Disparities program has reapportioned 40 percent of tax capacity from metro area cities with higher commercial/industrial tax bases to those with less market value per capita. This is to help equalize funding for the betterment of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

While all cities have needs, those that historically have been net Fiscal Disparities contributors have aged and are experiencing greater infrastructure needs than 50 years ago. Much of this infrastructure was built before the early 1960s and is due for replacement. It is time to recalculate the Fiscal Disparities formula to reflect today's realities. Since just 2001, Golden Valley has contributed almost \$40 million to help other communities meet their needs. With the proposed change, over the next 20 years Golden Valley would keep an estimated \$18 million help meet its needs.

Issue

Golden Valley, like most cities in Minnesota and the nation at large, is facing a looming infrastructure crisis. All across the US, aging systems for water supply, sanitary sewer management, storm water and flood control, transportation, etc, are in need of repair and/or replacement. Not only is much of Golden Valley's infrastructure a half century or more old, but as populations grow, it's taking on service demands it was not built to handle. The Fiscal Disparities program has been in existence for almost 50 years and in need of an overhaul.

Actions

Advocate for modifying the obsolete Fiscal Disparities formula so all metro area cities can fund needed infrastructure improvements while keeping taxes and utility expenses lower than they inevitably would be if this infrastructure problem is allowed to grow into a full-blown crisis.

Additional Documents (See Appendix F2)

- Table: 20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program And 20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program (1 page)

FINANCIAL



F3. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports additional tools for local communities to develop and preserve affordable and workforce housing.

Issue

Cities must ensure they provide a full range of housing choices in the community. As cities, businesses, and the overall economy in the Minneapolis–St Paul region continues to grow, the need for housing available to those with low and moderate incomes also grows. Failure to expand housing options will impact the region’s ability to attract talent, grow its economy, and reinvest in itself.

Actions

Advocate for policy and financial tools that support both the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing and construction of new affordable housing, including:

- increasing funding for the state’s rental rehab loan fund for naturally occurring affordable housing and including use of the fund in the metro region
- enhancing state programs, policies, and funding allocations to promote and finance the preservation and construction of affordable housing, particularly for assisted, senior, and transitional housing
- modifying Tax Increment Financing (TIF) statutes to clearly enable pooling of TIF revenue for affordable housing
- establishing a statewide notification requirement for rental properties prior to ownership transfer
- creating incentives for property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to increase housing options for low and moderate income earners
- preserving and expanding the state’s 4d low-income property tax program that provides a property tax benefit to qualifying low-income rental properties

Additional Documents (See Appendix F3)

- Memo: Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan (2 pages)

FINANCIAL



F4. Support Tax Incentives For Community Reinvestment

City Position

Golden Valley supports state programs and incentives for reinvestment in older residential and commercial/industrial buildings, such as, but not limited to, tax credits and/or property tax deferrals.

Issue

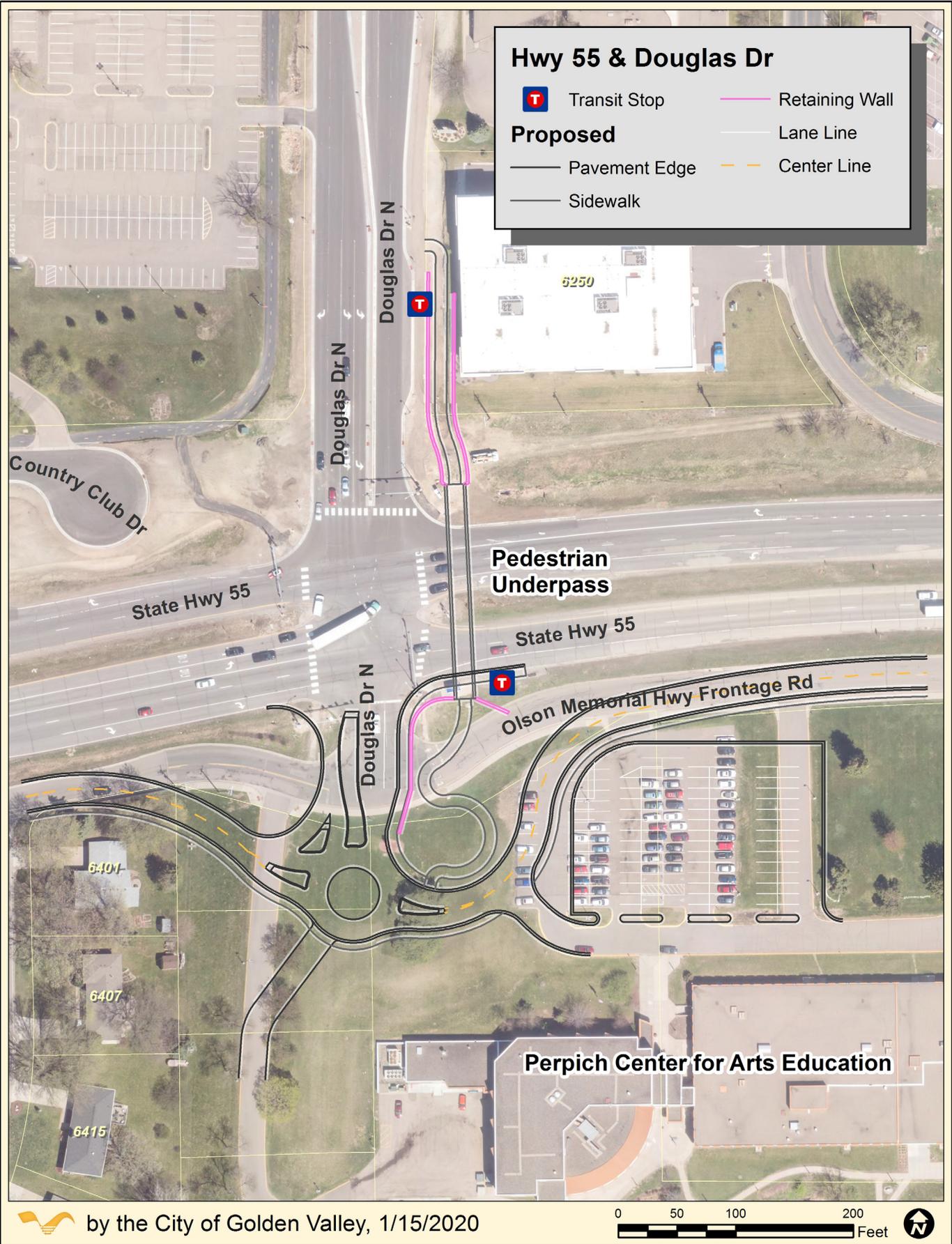
Golden Valley has aging residential and commercial structures that are in need of repair and reinvestment. Reinvestment prevents neighborhoods from falling into disrepair, revitalizes community, and protects the tax base.

Action

Advocate for state-funded programs that promote reinvestment in communities for residential and commercial/Industrial property owners who make improvements that increase the property's market value.

Appendix T1. Support Funding For Bike And Pedestrian Safety Improvements To State Highway 55

- Map: Highway 55 & Douglas Drive - Proposed (1 page)
- Map: Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concepts (1 page)





 by the City of Golden Valley, 12/11/2018



Appendix T2. Support Comprehensive Transportation Funding

- **Memo: Status Of Blue Line Light Rail Extension Project (1 page)**
- **Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)**



Memorandum
Physical Development Department
763-593-8090 / 763-593-3997 (fax)

To: Tim Cruikshank, City Manager
From: Jason Zimmerman, Planning Manager
Subject: Status of Blue Line Light Rail Extension Project
Date: January 15, 2020

One of the City of Golden Valley's legislative priorities for 2020 is to see full funding provided for the Blue Line Extension light rail transit project. The project has completed plans to the 90 percent design level and received a Medium-High rating in the 2020 New Starts Annual Report. Pending an agreement with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad to use the rail corridor, the project will be prepared to move plans to 100 percent design and to submit an application for a Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration.

The construction of the Blue Line Extension is an important project for Golden Valley, providing access to jobs, services, amenities, and the wider transit network of the Twin Cities metro area. There are currently more than 16,000 jobs and a population of almost 31,000 within a half mile of the 11 proposed stations. Since 2014, there has been more than \$522 million in development near the proposed light rail stations, with more potential projects in the wings.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-76

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUTURE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) SERVICE ON HIGHWAY 55 AND PARTICIPATION IN ADDITIONAL STUDY OF THE CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council commissioned a study of Highway Transit Corridors in 2014 and included the Highway 55 corridor in an addendum to that study in 2015 identifying the segment of Medina to Minneapolis through Golden Valley as a possible BRT route; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, and Scott County funded, and the City of Golden Valley participated in, the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, which also considered BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Valley City Council adopted Resolution 17-72 supporting the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, including the location of BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the studies of BRT service on Highway 55 have identified a strong reverse commute market to Plymouth and Golden Valley, found a strong market for express bus service that connects corridor communities to jobs in Minneapolis, and provides a connection to the future METRO Blue Line light rail extension; and

WHEREAS, BRT Service on Highway 55 is projected to service 8300 riders per day by 2030, serves corridor employment centers with more than 7000 jobs and job density of ten or more jobs per acre, and scores "high" in meeting the five goals for transit investment identified in the 2014 Highway Transitway Corridor Study; and

WHEREAS, BRT service on Highway 55 is identified in the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan as an unfunded potential BRT route, Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and Golden Valley's Legislative Priorities; and

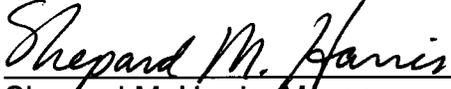
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Plymouth adopted a resolution in May 2019 supporting efforts to complete a Highway 55 Mobility Study in conjunction with Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, and the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, leadership from the corridor cities, Hennepin County, and Metropolitan Council met in October and November of 2019 to discuss how to advance the development of BRT Service on Highway 55 and concluded that support and investment by the corridor communities was necessary to advance BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, legislative, regional and local leaders met on December 12, 2019 to discuss BRT service on Highway 55, including challenges, engagement, goals, and ways to advance the development of BRT on the corridor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Golden Valley continues to support the development of BRT service on Highway 55 and, in collaboration with other cities and agencies, is willing to further study BRT on the Highway 55 corridor to identify corridor improvements, demonstrate ridership demand, conduct additional land use analysis and consider other factors that support BRT development along the corridor.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 17th day of December, 2019.



Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

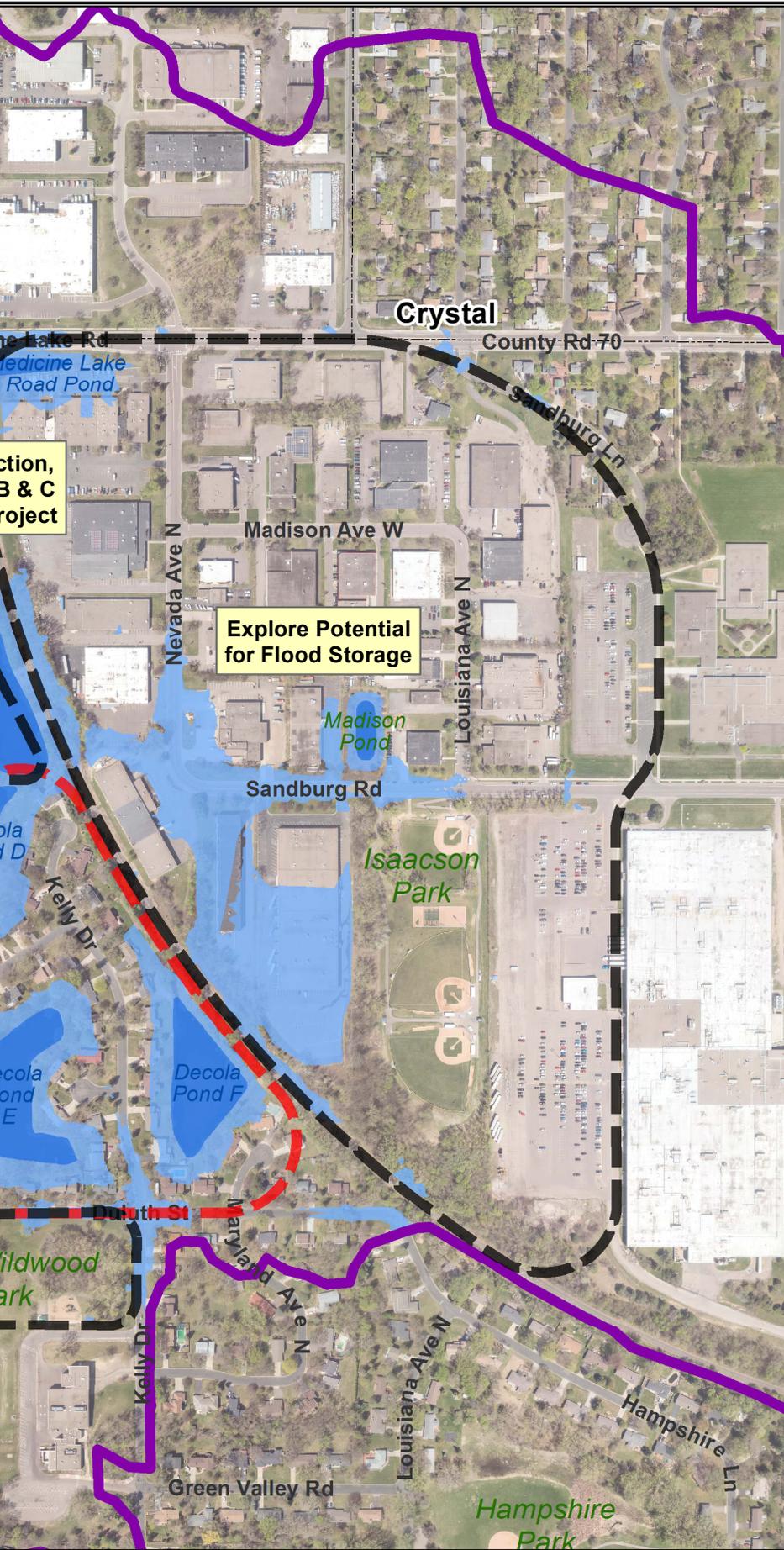


Kristine A. Luedke, City Clerk

Appendix E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects

- **Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (2 pages)**

**DeCola Ponds,
Medicine Lake Road
and Winnetka Avenue
Long-Term Flood
Mitigation Plan**

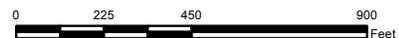


-  Floodplain
-  Flood Prone Properties
-  Flood Storage Area
-  Sub-Watershed Boundary

Print Date: 1/8/2020

Sources:

- Hennepin County Surveyors Office for aerial photography (2018).
- MnDNR for city boundary lines & road data (2014).
- Barr for 100-year inundation area & watershed boundary of project area (2017).
- City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



Appendix E2. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/Infiltration Grants – Public And Private Improvements

- **Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)**



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: January 28, 2016
To: Tim Cruikshank, City Manager
From: Jeff Oliver, PE, City Engineer
R.J. Kakach, EIT, Engineer
Subject: MCES I&I Grant Benefits – City of Golden Valley

The City of Golden Valley has utilized funding from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Grant Programs to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in both the public and private sewer systems over the past several years. The public grants have provided additional funding to allow expanded scopes on projects and decreased timelines on I&I reduction programs. For example, as part of the annual street reconstruction projects, we have been able to increase sewer lining and manhole sealing quantities with the extra grant money that was available. Also, we were able to expedite a five to seven year sanitary sewer manhole cover replacement program into four years with additional funding from MCES.

The 2013-2014 MCES private sewer grant allowed residents to repair their sanitary sewer lateral and be reimbursed by MCES at 33% of the repair cost up to \$2,000. The available funding through this grant was so popular that City staff had to turn away applicants. Nearly 300 properties applied for the grant over the two year period. This reimbursement opportunity from MCES led to an increase in I&I compliance with the City Ordinance. The Ordinance requires all properties to become compliant prior to the sale of a property. This allows the City to gradually reduce I&I in the private system. The grant money attracted interest from properties all over the City, including people who were not selling their home. This extra interest in becoming I&I compliant from the available MCES grant funding helped propel the City forward in their I&I mitigation efforts.

The public and private grants provided by MCES have helped to lower Golden Valley's annual sanitary sewer flows over the past five years. The public grant has allowed for more thorough I&I reduction to be done with street reconstruction projects and I&I mitigation programs whereas the private grant increased interest in becoming compliant with the City's I&I Ordinance. The additional funding from MCES has pushed Golden Valley ahead in their goal to reduce I&I in the sanitary sewer system.

Appendix F1. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley		
	Total LGA Statewide Distribution	Golden Valley Portion
2011	\$425,345,348	0
2012	\$425,238,384	0
2013	\$427,494,640	0
2014	\$507,598,012	\$219,081
2015	\$516,898,012	\$240,503
2016	\$519,398,012	\$252,446
2017	\$519,398,012	\$252,895
2018	\$534,398,012	\$37,185
2019	\$534,398,012	0
2020	\$560,398,012	0

Appendix F2. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program	
2001	\$629,460
2002	\$1,289,977
2003	\$873,927
2004	\$1,343,255
2005	\$1,384,112
2006	\$1,462,884
2007	\$1,437,447
2008	\$1,756,887
2009	\$2,141,648
2010	\$2,325,874
2011	\$2,311,610
2012	\$2,262,916
2013	\$2,119,872
2014	\$2,662,702
2015	\$2,401,573
2016	\$2,321,355
2017	\$2,676,662
2018	\$2,674,558
2019	\$2,727,495
2020	\$2,961,983
Total	\$39,766,196

20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program*	
2021	\$698,408
2022	\$718,685
2023	\$739,182
2024	\$759,902
2025	\$780,845
2026	\$802,012
2027	\$823,406
2028	\$845,026
2029	\$866,876
2030	\$888,956
2031	\$911,266
2032	\$933,810
2033	\$956,587
2034	\$979,600
2035	\$1,002,848
2036	\$1,026,335
2037	\$1,050,060
2038	\$1,074,026
2039	\$1,098,233
2040	\$1,122,682
Total	\$18,078,744

* New commercial/industrial tax capacity value prospectively

Appendix F3. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing

- Memo: Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan (2 pages)

Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan - 2020

Last updated: January 2020

Prepared By

Emily Goellner, Senior Planner/Grant Writer

Summary

Based on direction from the Council and Manager, staff has developed a work plan on affordable housing strategies and policies.

Key Points

- The role that the City plays in local housing policy and programming has expanded rapidly since 2017.
- Staff will continue focusing on building relationships with NOAH property owners, landlords, and property managers in 2019.
- Since health and safety are central to the City's housing interests, any new policies or programs should not unintentionally discourage property improvements, rehabilitation, and code compliance.
- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies many goals and action steps for the City to take. They are categorized into five goals: quality, variety, affordability, sustainability, and equity. Staff will work with existing human and financial resources to implement the plan.
- Staffing and budgeting impacts associated with policy and program options must continue to be examined to ensure that administration, enforcement, and education can be completed properly.
- Some policies and program ideas will be most impactful if enacted on a regional or state level.
- The Housing Preservation Tools Workgroup meetings are attended by staff at Golden Valley and ten other city governments (Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Edina, Eden Prairie, Bloomington, Richfield, Hopkins, Brooklyn Center, and Brooklyn Park), Hennepin County, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Metro HRA, Urban Land Institute, and Family Housing Fund. The meetings are held to inform policy recommendations, share knowledge, and bring important stakeholders to the conversations. This group will continue to meet regularly.

Staff **has accomplished** the following actions:

1. Adopted a Tenant Protection Ordinance (applicable to owners upon sale of NOAH property) and notified property owners
2. Adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which includes an extensive list of actions to be taken to meet affordable housing goals
3. Hosted a training on Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers by the Metro HRA at the February STAR Program meeting for property managers
4. Received CDBG funding for a land trust home for West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust (WHAHLT) (dba Homes Within Reach)
5. Applied for CDBG, AHIF, and HOME funding for an additional land trust home with West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust (WHAHLT) (dba Homes Within Reach)

6. Researched opportunities for an HRA levy
 - a. Bonds or loans to rehabilitation or acquisition/resale of affordable properties
 - b. Establish a loan program for maintenance of NOAH and/or single-family homes
 - c. Other programs that further the Housing Policy Plan in the 2040 Comp Plan
7. Expanded the City's legislative priority on affordable housing
8. Adopted changes to the Mixed Income Housing Policy to increase the number of housing projects required to comply
9. Provided input at the regional housing forum hosted by Governor Dayton's Task Force on Affordable Housing
10. Planning, Fire, and Police department staff met to monitor condition of housing stock
11. Implemented a 4d property tax program to help preserve existing NOAH units within the City.

Staff is taking **continuing action** on the following strategies:

12. Host additional discussions with NOAH property owners/manager and staff from the Minnesota Multi-Family Housing Association (MHA)
13. Create plan and timeline for selling and developing publicly owned vacant land for affordable housing
14. Update the Housing page on the City website to include more home remodeling information
15. Continue monitoring condition of housing stock and rental rates
 - a. Request rental rate information with rental licensing program applications
 - b. Perform update to housing inventory every 5 years
 - c. Continue monitoring housing stock conditions with inspections
16. Actively follow the work of Prosperity's Front Door, which is the next step after the Governor Dayton's Task Force on Affordable Housing
17. Perform an evaluation of the STAR program for rental properties and recommend enhancements that help the City meet a variety of housing goals
18. Contact property owners to promote NOAH loan program with Greater MN Housing Fund (GMHC), which provides equity for property improvements in exchange for maintained rents
19. Exploring the possibility of using vacant public lands as the basis for new affordable housing via public land disposition.

Staff is **continuing research in partnership with other suburban cities** on the following strategies:

20. Research ordinance prohibiting landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process (pending MPLS lawsuit)
21. Continue monitoring lawsuit involving the City of Minneapolis policy that prohibits landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process (at least 4 cities are interested in adopting a policy if lawsuit decides in favor of City of Minneapolis)
22. Research the benefits and process for the adoption of a local Fair Housing Policy, which the Metropolitan Council requires for participation in their grant programs for housing projects



