

CITY OF MINNETRISTA

BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEM



Subject: 2050 Comprehensive Plan

Prepared By: David Abel, Community Development Director

Meeting Date: May 4, 2026

Issue:

The Metropolitan Council created Imagine 2050 as the region’s long-range development guide. It sets the overall vision and policies for how the Twin Cities metropolitan area will grow, including land use, housing, transportation, water resources, and parks.

As part of this process, all cities and townships in the seven-county metro area must update their comprehensive local plans. These updated plans are due by December 31, 2028.

Background:

Communities are required by state law to complete these updates because of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, which mandates that local governments update their comprehensive plans every 10 years. The purpose is to make sure local plans align with regional goals and forecasts for population, jobs, and housing.

Discussion:

Updating a long-range plan like this isn’t just a policy exercise, it’s a technical one. It requires an engineering firm to address the technical validation of the goals within the plan. Using WSB for the Imagine 2050 comprehensive plan update is a cost-effective approach that builds on what has already worked well for the city. When the city last updated its comprehensive plan, it followed this same model. WSB already understands our infrastructure systems, development patterns, and long-term priorities. City staff had a preliminary discussion with WSB regarding a proposal for services related to the comprehensive 2050 plan update. We would anticipate bringing a proposal to the city council at an upcoming meeting relatively soon.

In addition to discussing a proposal for services, we would like to establish the framework for a steering committee to guide in this process. A seven-person steering committee hits a practical sweet spot of input and decision-making effectiveness. Seven people is large enough to capture a range of perspectives without becoming unwieldy. With seven members, you can intentionally include representatives with different expertise or viewpoints. If possible, the steering committee would consist of two park commissioners, two planning commissioners, two city council members, and one resident at large. An alternative option would be to utilize the Planning Commission or as many

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willing to volunteer on the Commission for the committee. The council could continue their liaison rotation approach to the committee. City staff would work on asking these groups for volunteers to bring back to council at a future meeting. The committee would likely meet each month for an hour prior the Planning Commission meeting.

Conclusion:

In summary, updating the City's comprehensive plan is both a legal requirement and a process to align local priorities with the region's long-term vision under Imagine 2050. Moving forward with WSB provides a practical, cost-effective approach built on existing knowledge and past success, while establishing a seven-member steering committee will ensure balanced input and effective guidance throughout the process. Together, these steps position the city to complete a thoughtful, well-supported plan update ahead of the 2028 deadline.

Fiscal Impact:

This would be incorporated into the 2027 & 2028 budget process. The city could also look to utilize its enterprise funds to help fund portions of the update were deemed appropriate.

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