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Memo

To: Carver County Planning Commission
From: Brett Angell, Planning & Water Management
Date: April 17, 2018
Re: Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan
CC: Paul Moline, Steve Just

Enclosures: none

Carver County staff has completed the draft of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and it is now available for your review. After the Planning Commission and County Board review and approval of the draft plan, it will be distributed for the 6-month review period. This review period will allow for affected jurisdictions (cities, townships, adjacent counties, school districts, water management organizations, etc.) and the general public to comment on the draft plan. The County will also submit the draft plan to the Metropolitan Council for a recommended preliminary review.

Planning Commission Role

The Planning Commission is asked to review the draft Comprehensive Plan and suggest any changes for the County Board to consider. In November, a final version of the draft will be brought to the Planning Commission for a public hearing prior to being brought to the County Board and ultimately final submission to the Metropolitan Council.

Plan Content

The following sections review each individual section of the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan. An electronic version of the draft plan will be sent separately from the Planning commission packet. Hard copy versions of the draft plan will be available at the meeting.

Introduction and County Overview

The Introduction and County Overview section of the plan establishes the history of the county, the county's vision, the comprehensive plan update process. The County Overview chapter includes information regarding the physical setting of the County, population characteristics, Metropolitan Council projections for population, households, and employment, and information regarding the County's economy.

Land Use

A preliminary draft of the 2040 Land Use chapter was approved by the County Board on February 20th, 2018. Since this time, there has only been one major change to the Land Use chapter: the re-addition of the Economic Development Opportunity Area. This re-addition is due to Watertown Township choosing to keep the information regarding the Highway 7/CSAH 10 Economic Development Opportunity Area within their Township Policy Chapter.

The draft Land Use chapter follows many of the same land use policies that have been included in previous Comprehensive Plans with the policy of directing commercial/industrial and residential growth to the Cities and maintaining the rest of the land to stay as agricultural policy area. Each Township was given the chance to review their respective Township Policy Chapter, subsections of the Land Use Chapter, and submit any changes to their density option selected.

The following list is some of the major changes to the draft 2040 Land Use chapter compared to the current plan in place (2030). These changes are mostly based off of Metropolitan Council requirements.

- Addition of the Metropolitan Council's Thrive MSP 2040 Community Designations descriptions and map.
- Updated Existing and Planned Land Use Maps and summary table.
- Under the County Policy regarding Essential Services and Public Services, 'energy production; was included as one the land use types.
- Reduction of the Economic Development Opportunity Policies to focus only on the Hwy 7/CSAH 10 area. Economic Development Opportunity Areas are no longer included on the County Policy Map.
- Addition of 5 tables portraying the existing housing market in the County within the Housing section.
- Addition of an Estimated Market Value for Residential Properties map within the Housing section.
- Addition of information regarding the historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead in the Historic Preservation section, as requested by the Carver County Historical Society.
- Addition of a Historical and Archeological Sites in Carver County map within the Historic Preservation section. This map is proposed to be no longer included within each Township Policy Chapter.
- Addition of a Natural Resources section, which includes a map of the regionally significant ecological areas and calcareous fens map.
- Revision of how solar is addressed within the plan. New policies and goals were drafted.
- Revisions to Township Policy Chapter based upon Township Board preferences or County Staff recommendations.

Transportation

The Transportation Chapter of the draft Comprehensive Plan was developed with the assistance of SRF Consulting Group. The chapter is separated into four sections: Roadway System Plan; Transit; Freight; and Aviation. The following paragraphs will give a description of each section.

Roadway System Plan

The Roadway System Plan was developed using four different traffic modeling scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Thrive MSP 2040 Projections + no roadway improvements.
- Scenario 2: Thrive MSP 2040 Projections + Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Scenario 3: Thrive MSP 2040 Projections + CIP and Transportation/Wheelage Tax
- Scenario 4: Enhanced Projections + CIP and Transportation/Wheelage Tax

The base model used for the Comprehensive Plan is Scenario 2, since this scenario is what matches the Metropolitan Council's requirement. These models were used to develop the information on 2040 future capacity and connectivity improvements.

The Roadway System Plan places a larger focus on safety as compared to the 2030 plan. There is also additional information regarding jurisdictional transfer procedures. The Roadway System Plan is proposed to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, compared to being an Appendix to the Plan, which was the case for the 2030 plan.

Transit

The County conducted a Transit Study with SRF Consulting Group and SW Transit to determine how the existing transit is performing within the County and what the potential of transit is in the future. The transit section focuses on express bus/ fixed-route transit service, demand-response transit

service (SW Prime, Metro Mobility, SmartLink), and passenger transit facilities (park-n-rides). Transit market indicators (such as population, poverty, percent with disabilities, percent over 65 years of age, etc.), were evaluated to show where potential expansions could take place in the future.

The transit section also has information on mobility trends. The mobility trends described in the plan include: Transportation Network Companies, Alternative Fuel Vehicles, and Autonomous Vehicles. With the inclusion of these mobility trends in the plan, the County is acknowledging that they may have an impact on the future of transportation within the County and the County will continue to monitor and evaluate the impact they could have.

Freight

The Freight section of the Transportation chapter focuses on the movement of goods via railway or semi-trucks. The Freight section provides information and tools to understand and invest in the freight system and strengthen the County's ability to advocate for essential freight issues with key planning and funding organizations like the Met Council, MnDOT, and other agencies.

Aviation

There are no changes to the Aviation section of the plan compared to the 2030 plan. Since there are no public airports within Carver County the section focuses on seaplane operation and private landing strips. The section refers back to the Federal Aviation Administration and Minnesota Department of Transportation for regulations.

Parks, Open Space, and Trails

The Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) chapter of the draft Comprehensive Plan was also developed with the assistance of SRF Consulting Group. The County Parks Commission reviewed the proposed POST chapter in February. The POST chapter is separated into three main sections: Parks Plan, Trail and Bikeway Plan, and Implementation Plan. The following paragraphs will give a brief description on each of the section.

Parks Plan

The Parks Plan focuses on the regional parks, state wildlife management areas, state recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges. For Regional Parks, the plan evaluates the existing and future improvements to Lake Waconia Regional Park, Baylor Regional Park, Minnewashta Regional Park, Lake Bavaria Boat Launch, Carver Park Reserve, and Western Carver County Park. The Parks Plan also includes details on two regional park search areas established by the Metropolitan Council: Miller Lake Regional Park Search Area and the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Park Search Area.

Trail and Bikeway Plan

The over-arching goal of the Trail and Bikeway plan is to develop an interlinking system of high value trails throughout the County which provide reasonable access to amenities within the County. The plan reviews local trail corridors, linking trail corridors, and destination trail corridors. The plan provides a brief description of each existing and future destination and linking trail within the County. The plan also considers other trail considerations, such as: Hiking Trails, Mountain Biking Trails, Equestrian Trails, and Water Trails.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Section of the POST Chapter establishes the procedures for future park development and potential planning and development/stewardship initiatives.

Water Resources

The Water Resources Chapter of the draft Comprehensive Plan is separated into three main sections: Wastewater, Surface Water and Water Supply.

Wastewater

The Wastewater section of the Water Resources chapter focuses on subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). The section provides goals, policies, and strategies to ensure the proper function of SSTS. Details regarding the expansion of municipal services will be included within city comprehensive plans.

Surface Water

The Surface Water section references the current Carver County Watershed Management Plan, which covers the requirements of the Metropolitan Council. The section provides an executive summary of the CCWMO Plan, identifies 11 major surface water issues to focus on, information on the impaired waters in the County, current studies taking place, and implementation and administration standards. The CCWMO Watershed Management Plan is currently being updated. The County will make necessary changes to this section based on approved changes to this plan.

Water Supply

The Water Supply section references the current Carver County Groundwater Plan which covers from 2016 to 2025. The Groundwater Plan covers the existing environment and conditions, planning process and relationship to other plans, an overview of the groundwater system, priorities of groundwater protection, and implementation measures. Information regarding municipal water supply will be found within city comprehensive plans.

Implementation

The Implementation chapter references the current regulations and financial strategies in place to support the Comprehensive Plan. This chapter includes information on the Long Term Financial Plan, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and Transportation/ Wheelage Tax. This chapter also includes the County Zoning Map, which is required to be included.

Future Community Engagement

The County will provide notice to all affected jurisdictions via standard mail and email once the 6-month review period begins. The draft of the plan will be posted on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan webpage and there will also be hardcopies available upon request. During the 6-month review period there will be two public open houses. The first open house will take place on June 27th at the Carver County Public Works building in Cologne. The second open house is preliminarily scheduled for October 17th at the Government Center in Chaska. There will be additional outreach which will take place during this time to promote public review of the draft plan.

Planning Commission Consideration

If the Planning Commission recommends approval for the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan to begin the mandatory 6-month affected jurisdiction review, the County Board will consider this action on May 1st.