

REGIONALISM – How Things Work in this Region

The Role of the Metropolitan Council

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Dorsey & Whitney LLP
LAI Land Economics Weekend
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Two Cities. One River. One REGION.

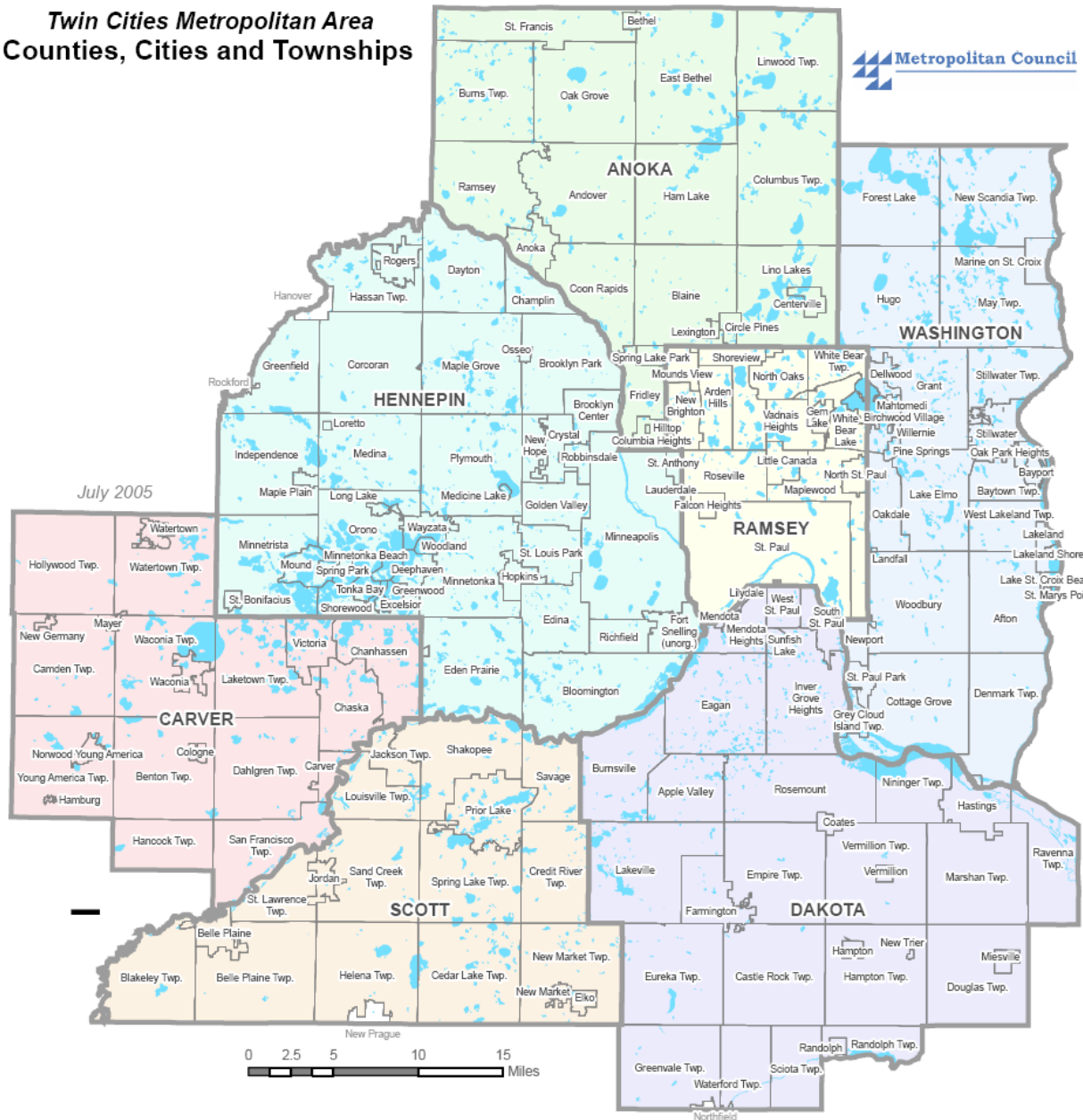


Minnesota's Unique Focal Point: The Metropolitan Council



The Region (... or at least part of it)

**Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Counties, Cities and Townships**



Growth Management History: Key Dates

1939 Sanitary Sewer District

1957 Metropolitan Planning Commission

1967 Metropolitan Council

1971 Fiscal Disparities Program

1976 Metropolitan Land Planning Act

1994 Metropolitan Reorganization Act

1995 Livable Communities Act

Council's Mission

“To develop, in cooperation with local communities, a comprehensive regional planning framework, focusing on transportation, wastewater, parks and aviation systems that guides the efficient growth of the metropolitan area. The Council operates transit and wastewater services and administers housing and other grant programs.”

Council's Role

Operating

- Transit
- Wastewater Treatment
- Housing

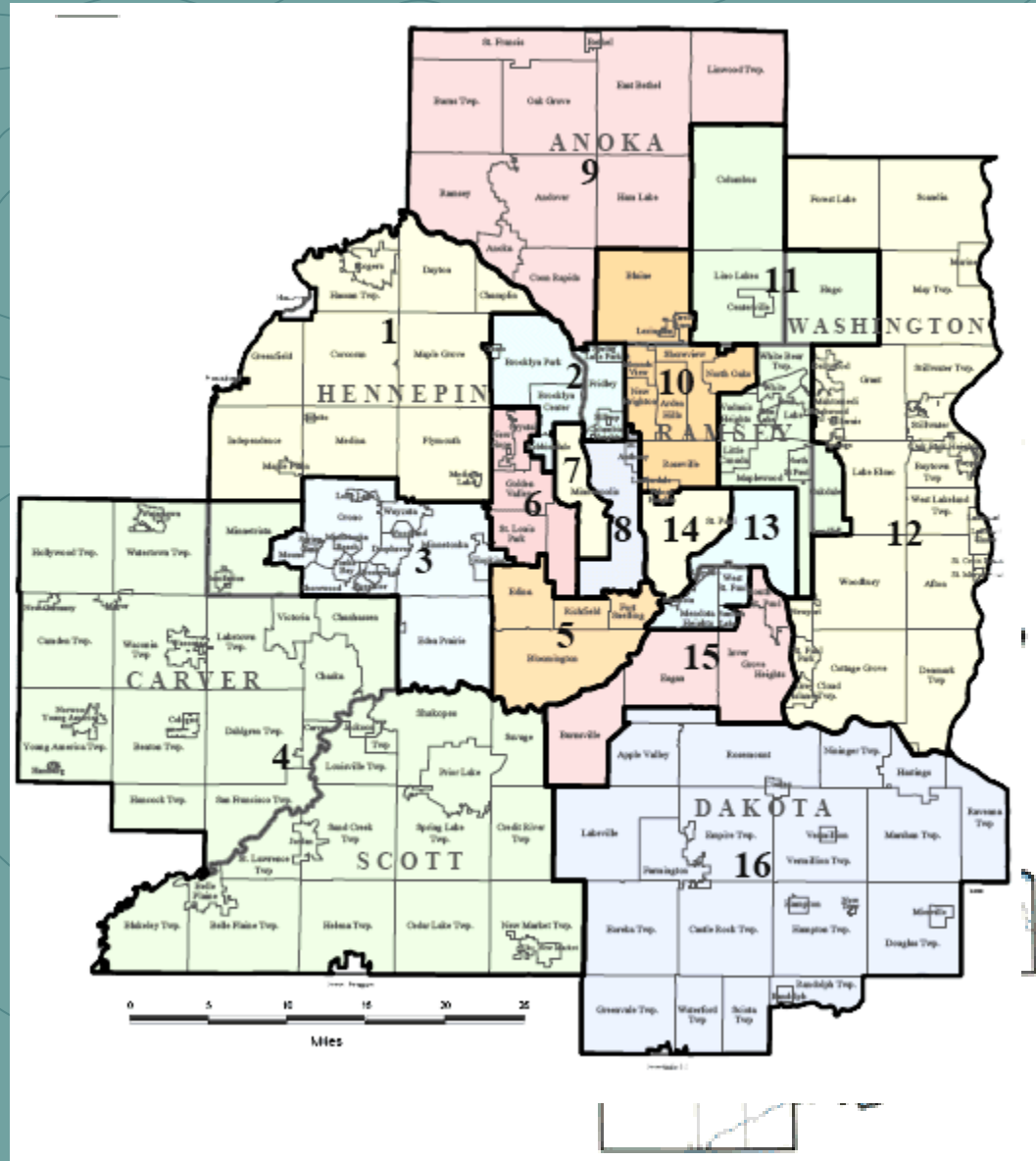
Planning/Funding

- “Metropolitan Planning Organization”
- Regional Parks
- Metropolitan Development Guide
- System Plans

Governance

- **17 Members**
 - 16 Districts, plus Chair
- **Appointed by/serve at pleasure of Governor**

Metropolitan Council Districts



Ongoing Debate:

- **Appoint?**
 - stagger terms
- **Elect?**
- **Other?**

Metropolitan Land Planning Act

**“System based” Review of Local
Comprehensive Plans**

Council:

1. Adopts “Regional Development Framework”
2. System Plans
 - Transportation
 - Aviation
 - Water Resources Management
 - Parks & Open Space
3. “MUSA Line”

Cities:

- **Adopt Consistent Local Comp Plans**

Regional Development Framework



Framework's Four Key Policies:

- **Work with local communities to accommodate growth in a flexible, connected and efficient manner.**
- **Plan and invest in multi-modal transportation choices, based on a full range of costs and benefits, to slow the growth of congestion and serve the region's economic needs.**
- **Encourage expanded choices in housing locations and types, and improved access to jobs and opportunities.**
- **Work with local and regional partners to conserve, protect and enhance the region's vital natural resources.**

Additional Development Functions

- **Funding Priorities**
- **MUSA Line**
- **Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity**

Funding Priorities

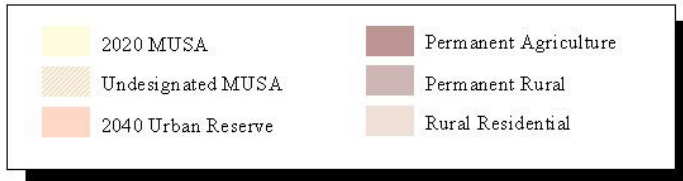
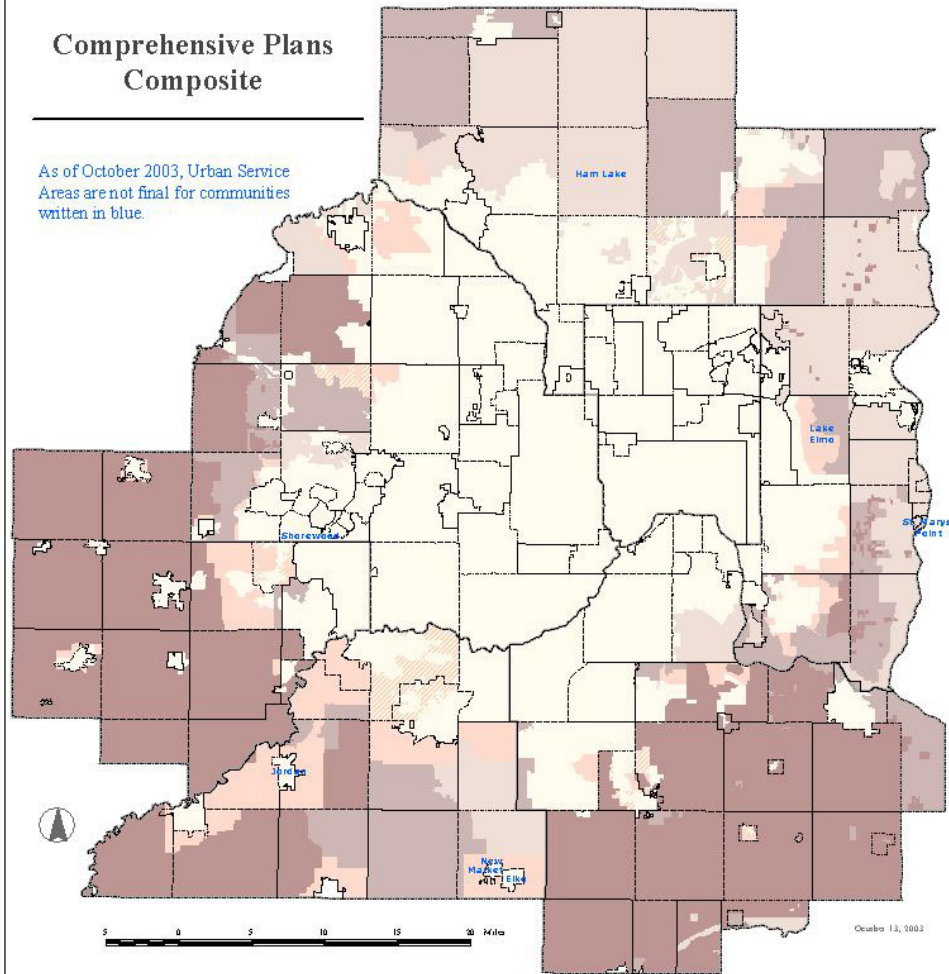
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MUSA LINE

Comprehensive Plans Composite

As of October 2003, Urban Service Areas are not final for communities written in blue.



Wastewater Treatment Capacity



Seven-County Interceptor Facilities with Future Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Areas

