REGIONALISM – How Things Work in this Region

The Role of the Metropolitan Council

Jay R. Lindgren
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
LAI Land Economics Weekend
May 14, 2010
Two Cities. One River.
One REGION.
Minnesota’s Unique Focal Point: The Metropolitan Council
The Region
(... or at least part of it)
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
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

- “Metropolitan Planning Organization”
- Livable Communities Act
MUSA LINE
Comprehensive Plans Composite

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

Legend:
- 2020 MUSA
- Undesignated MUSA
- 2040 Urban Reserve
- Permanent Agriculture
- Permanent Rural
- Rural Residential

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