



City Council Work Session

3750 Bridge St NW, St. Francis, MN 55070

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Agenda Items**
 - A. 2050 Comprehensive Plan Kickoff
- 4. Adjournment**



City Council Agenda Report

TO: Jodie Steffes, Community Development Director
FROM: Beth Richmond, City Planner
SUBJECT: 2050 Comprehensive Plan Kickoff
DATE: September 14, 2026

OVERVIEW:

Comprehensive Planning Overview

Comprehensive Plans are long-term plans which evaluate a community's current conditions and establish a vision for the future. Comprehensive Plans are used to guide the City Council and Staff in decision-making for land use, ordinance development, and the directing of investment to support the City into the future. St Francis's most recent Comprehensive Plan, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, was adopted in 2021 and can be found [here](#).

The Metropolitan Land Planning Act of 1976 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to guide regional growth in the seven-county area. The Metropolitan Council is an appointed board of 17 members which serves as the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services in the seven-county metro region. These services include regional parks, Metro Transit and Metro Mobility, affordable housing, and wastewater treatment services.

The Metropolitan Council is required by state statute to update its regional plans every 10 years following the completion of the decennial census. All communities within the metro region are then required to update their Comprehensive Plans every 10 years to incorporate these regional policies and to ensure their plans stay current.

St. Francis's plan will address the following required elements:

- Land Use
- Economic Development (optional, but included in 2040 Plan)
- Housing
- Parks
- Transportation
- Wastewater
- Surface Water Management
- Water Supply
- Climate (new)

- Natural Systems (new)
- Implementation

Project Process

The City has hired HKGi to complete its 2050 Comprehensive Plan update. The 2050 Comprehensive Plan update project began in June of 2026 and will be completed in two phases:

- **Phase 1: Draft the 2050 Comprehensive Plan (June 2026 – August 2027):** This phase will include three rounds of community engagement, meetings with members of the City Council, Planning Commission, EDA, and Parks Commission, and collaboration with City Staff to draft the 2050 Plan.
- **Phase 2: Review and Adopt the Plan (September 2027 - September 2028):** This phase will include the distribution of the 2050 Plan for a six-month review period to neighboring communities and affected jurisdictions, plan review by the Metropolitan Council, and ultimately final plan adoption by the St. Francis City Council.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is vital to ensuring that the 2050 Plan reflects and addresses community needs and interests into the future. Public input will be collected to inform the plan in three rounds during Phase 1 of the update process:

- **Round 1 (July – September 2026):** Includes distribution of informational and promotional materials to inform the public of the project and its purpose, collection of community input through an online survey and interactive map, and attendance at up to two community events.
- **Round 2 (February 2027):** Seeks input from targeted stakeholders based on the key plan topics identified during Round 1. This input will be used to create a full draft of the plan.
- **Round 3 (June 2027):** Provides opportunities for members of the public to review the full draft of the plan and provide feedback online and at a public hearing.

Discussion

As part of this kickoff meeting, HKGi is seeking input from elected and appointed officials on various topics, including potential focus areas or topics of interest for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, growth in the City, and development opportunities in the

City's urban service area.

Specifically for the topic of growth, HKGi has noted a division within the community on whether or not growth (in its many forms) is something that should be supported or encouraged by the City. HKGi would like to take this opportunity to discuss growth at a high level and ensure that all elected and appointed officials have the same base foundation for understanding what growth is/can be and its potential implications for a City. Based on this information, there will be opportunities at the meeting for elected and appointed officials to discuss how growth fits in with the vision for St. Francis. HKGi is looking for direction on where there may be points of consensus about growth, as well as to identify any additional information that may be needed in order to make these decisions.

Please come prepared to discuss the following questions at the meeting. Small group discussions are planned which will benefit from individual consideration ahead of time. Additional space is provided in this memo for your notes prior to the meeting.

- What does “growth” mean to you?
- Where would you place yourself on the spectrum below? Name 3 key factors that affect your decision.



- What kinds of growth fit with the vision for St. Francis? Are there certain types of growth that you don't want to see or encourage in St. Francis?

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATION:

N/A

Attachments:

None