

Preliminary Response

Metropolitan Council Preliminary 2040 Forecasts

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a preliminary response to the Metropolitan Council Preliminary 2040 Forecasts.

Background

Every ten (10) years, following the completion of a U.S. Census, the Metropolitan Council updates regional plans and growth forecasts. The Regional Development Framework, also known as Thrive MSP 2040, is the comprehensive land use guide for the 7-county metropolitan area. This is the framework in which the City must develop its Comprehensive Plan from. The Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year planning document that guides future land use and development.

Assumptions

The Preliminary Forecasts for Ramsey are as follows:

Forecast Type	Year (2040)
Households	12,500
Population	28,400
Employment	7,000

General Assumptions:

- The Metropolitan Council will honor existing total capacity forecasts (Households = 15,900; Population = 42,500; Employment = 12,500)
- These are forecasted growth for planning purposes; not benchmarks in which communities must meet
- If actual growth rate appears to be exceeding forecasted amounts, the City has the ability to request a Comprehensive Plan Amendment
- If the City desires to amend the Future Land Use Map in a way that increases the total capacity of the forecasts, the City has the ability to request a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Two major topics will need to be addressed as it relates to future growth forecasts:

1. Transportation Capacity and Congestion
2. Water Supply Capacity

Each of these topics will be discussed in more detail below.

Preliminary Response

Based on previous policy statements and review, the City of Ramsey generally appreciates the more conservative approach to growth forecasts. This is a considerable reduction in the timing in which Ramsey is forecasted to grow.

Project Webpage

www.cityoframsey.com/comprehensiveplan

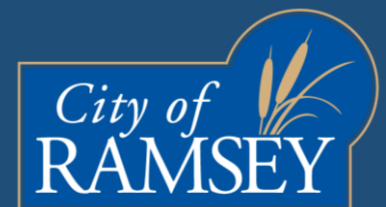
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In 2012, the City used an average growth rate of 260 households per year. This was a general assumption for planning purposes, but was an update of the assumptions used in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The City acknowledges that growth is not linear, and that future growth is a result of a number of assumptions.

Based on a number of market factors, the City believes that the actual average growth rate is likely somewhere between the City's 2012 forecast assumptions (not adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan) and the Metropolitan Council's Preliminary Forecasts. For illustrative purposes, we are using an assumption of 200 households per year to arrive at a recommended forecast amount (still lower than current 2030 forecasts):

Forecast Type	Year (2040)
Households	13,500
Population	30,500
Employment	7,000

Major Growth Factors

In addition to a number of factors, Ramsey has identified two (2) major growth factors as it relates to this stage of review; 1) Transportation Capacity and; 2) Water Supply Capacity.

Regardless of future growth forecasts, Ramsey finds that it is important to address the regional transportation issues in Ramsey, most notably Highway 10. This system is already operating at Level of Service F. Any comment in support of reduced forecasts is not a reflection that any focus on Highway 10 and Highway 47 improvements should be lost.

For some time, Ramsey has been studying an alternative water supply (surface water from the Mississippi River) to address depleting ground water supply. This is not only a benefit to the City, but to the region. Ramsey does not believe this issue should be solved at the local level. Ramsey appreciates the Metropolitan Council's support in addressing this issue on a regional level.

Next Steps

Ramsey will be considering a public process to reach out to its residents in advance of the Official Comment Period. We appreciate this opportunity to comment early in the process and be part of the development of the forecasts.

These comments are simply preliminary. The City of Ramsey needs more time to review the assumptions and methodology to better understand the impacts to Ramsey.

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