

Appendix A: Glossary

Arts and Culture

Creative industries – industries that focus on creating and exploiting intellectual property products; such as the arts, films, games or fashion designs, or providing business-to-business creative services such as advertising.

Public art – works of art in any media that have been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the public domain, usually outside and accessible to all

Economic Development

Bioscience Zone – a state-designated growth and expansion zone for biotechnology and health sciences industries, providing technical and financial support to qualifying businesses located within the zone

Communications infrastructure – Organizations, personnel, procedures, facilities and networks employed to transmit and receive information by electrical or electronic means

Empowerment Zone – a federally-designated area in the city which offers incentives for business location and expansion within the zone, in order to create sustainable communities through economic growth, affordable housing, safety, education, job training and community services.

Good jobs – As defined by the Governor’s Workforce Development Council, a “good job” pays a family sustaining wage, provides a benefits package, and opportunities for advancement.

Green technology – application of the environmental sciences to conserve the natural environment and resources, and by curbing the negative impacts of human involvement

Industrial Employment District – employment districts in the city designated as appropriate areas for the retention and expansion of existing industry, as well as the development of new industry.

Labor force – all the people in an area available to work, regardless of level of employment

Living wage/livable wage – a wage sufficient to meet the basic needs of a worker and any dependents; the City of Minneapolis defines the living wage standard by ordinance and applies it to city contractors and businesses receiving qualifying

subsidies

Megastructure – Large campuses or institutions with buildings of a style that detract from the pedestrian environment, usually spanning multiple city blocks. In the early 1970's, megastructures were considered an inventive architectural solution to the challenge of building large institutional or commercial complexes within the heart of U.S. cities.

Opportunity industrial employers – industries characterized by lower educational requirements and starting pay than 21st Century employers. These jobs often provide workers with entry level positions where they can continue to develop skills and move up economically. Examples: Building Equipment Contractors, General Freight Trucking, and Building Finishing Contractors.

21st Century industrial employers – industries characterized by higher educational requirements, linkages to scientific and university-based research, higher pay scale, and higher employment densities. Examples: Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing, • Scientific Research and Development Services, and Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services.

Environment

Airport influence area – all property located within a specified distance of a public airport, subject to noise, safety and other related concerns; may also be known as airport coordination area

Bio-fuel – gas or liquid fuel made from plant material (biomass) rather than fossil fuels; examples include ethanol and biodiesel

Day-Night Equivalent Sound Level (DNL) line – a line around an airport at which the ambient sound level generated by aviation traffic is equal to a specified decibel range

District energy system – systems that produce steam, hot water or chilled water at a central plant and then pipe that energy out to buildings in the district for space heating, hot water heating and air conditioning. The arrangement provides more flexibility and economies of scale than if all buildings had their own individual systems.

Ecological/environmental footprint – a resource management tool that measures how much land and water area a human population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its wastes under prevailing technology.

Environmental justice – a goal which is achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work

Green building – the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance, and demolition

Greenhouse gases – gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect. They include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Impervious surface – Any material which significantly reduces or prevents natural absorption of stormwater into the soil and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, buildings and surfaces paved with traditional concrete, asphalt, or pavers.

Life-cycle assessment – an objective process to evaluate the environmental burdens associated with a product, process, or activity by identifying energy and materials used and wastes released to the environment, and to evaluate and implement opportunities to affect environmental improvements

MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance – as designated by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS), areas with varying levels of native biodiversity that may contain high quality native plant communities, rare plants, rare animals, and/or animal aggregations

Metro Conservation Corridors – as designated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a strategy for accelerating and enhancing habitat protection by targeting limited funds toward high-priority focus areas and better coordinating the efforts of conservation organizations

Non-point source pollution – pollution that occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water

Regionally Significant Ecological Areas – A landscape-scale assessment of the seven-county metro area by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to identify ecologically significant terrestrial and wetland areas. Areas include places where intact native plant communities and/or native animal habitat are still found in the region and continue to provide important ecological functions.

Renewable energy/fuel – energy derived from resources that are regenerative or for all practical purposes cannot be depleted, including wind, water, bio-fuels, and solar energy

Sustainability – meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) – chemicals which are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids, and are major contributors to air pollution. Sources include:

paints, paint strippers, aerosol sprays, cleansers, stored fuels, and automotive products.

Watershed – the specific land area that drains water into a river system or other body of water.

Wetland - land where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface

Wind energy conversion systems – any device, such as a wind charger, windmill, or wind turbine, and associated facilities, that converts wind energy to electrical energy

Heritage Preservation

Conservation district - preservation areas intended to conserve distinctive places and structures by providing for review by a neighborhood-specific group of any changes to the district's buildings that would permanently alter their character

Contributing structure – any property, structure or object that adds to the historical integrity or architectural qualities that make the historic district, listed locally or federally, significant

Design guidelines – criteria and standards which a heritage preservation commission must consider in determining the appropriateness of proposed work within a historic district

Heritage Preservation Commission – a citizen advisory body to the Minneapolis City Council; dedicated to the preservation and celebration of our local and national heritage

Historic/cultural resource – a building, structure, site, district or object, which is significant in an area's history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture

Historic designation – a form of protection for significant properties and districts; once designated, a property cannot be modified or removed without review by heritage preservation officials

Historic landmark/district – a building, district, site, structure, or object, officially recognized by local, state, or federal government for its historical significance

Historic site survey – survey of properties within a designated area, with the purpose of identifying historic resources

Non-contributing structure – a structure located within the boundaries of a designated historic district but which itself is not historic and does not contribute to

the historical attributes of the district as a whole

Period of significance – the span of time during which a property attained the significance that makes it eligible for historic designation

Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation – standards established by the US Department of the Interior for all programs under departmental authority and for advising federal agencies on the preservation of historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Housing

Affordable housing – Housing for which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities. Defined in Zoning Code as housing affordable to households whose income does not exceed fifty (50) percent of the metropolitan median household income, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Housing must remain affordable continuously for a period of not less than fifteen (15) years to qualify as affordable housing

Homeless – based on the definition established by the U.S. Congress in the McKinney-Vento legislation, someone is homeless if they (1) lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; or (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised, publicly or privately operated temporary living accommodation, including shelters, transitional housing, and battered women’s shelters or (3) has a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars. For children and youth, this definition is extended to also include children and youth under 18 who are (1) sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”); or (2) living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or (3) camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement.

Impacted communities – areas within the city with a high percentage of low income residents and other factors which may necessitate intervention for community well-being

Low income – a person or household with income between 50-80% of the area median income

Single room occupancy housing – multi-unit housing for very-low-income persons that typically consists of a single room and shared bath and also may include a shared common kitchen and common activity area

Supportive housing – affordable housing linked with services that help people live more stable, productive lives; defined in Zoning Code as a facility that provides housing for twenty-four (24) hours per day and programs or services designed to

assist residents with improving daily living skills, securing employment or obtaining permanent housing

Transitional housing – time-limited supportive housing designed to help those experiencing homelessness to obtain and maintain long term housing

Very low income – a person or household with income that is less than 50% of the area median income

Implementation

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – A five-year plan for proposed capital improvements. The first year of the CIP is formally adopted as the Capital Budget.

Clearwater – any surface flow, runoff, and drainage that does not contain any hazardous substance or sewage. This includes but is not limited to NPDES permitted discharges, stormwater and water from foundation and footing drains and basement sump pumps

CLIC – Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee – a committee of 33 private citizens appointed by the 13 Council members (2 per ward) and Mayor (7). The committee reviews Capital proposals and recommends priorities for capital spending within specified resource parameters

Combined sewer – a sewer that must handle flow of both sanitary wastewater and stormwater in a single pipeline

Combined sewer overflow (CSO) – occurs when excessive amounts of rainfall enter a sanitary sewer system. The result is a volume of rainwater and sanitary wastewater, which exceeds the system's capacity. Combined rainwater and sewage is forced to overflow into area streams and rivers through outfalls

EZ – Empowerment Zone, a federal designation which the City received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1999

Hazardous substances – material which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed

NRP – Neighborhood Revitalization Program, established in 1990, a joint powers agreement of the City to undertake neighborhood programs

Rainleader – any conduit that conveys stormwater from a rooftop to a point of discharge

Sanitary sewer system – pipelines, pumping stations, force mains, and all other constructions, devices, and appliances appurtenant thereto, used for conveying sewage or industrial waste or other wastes to a point of ultimate disposal

Stormwater – any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation

Land Use

Activity center – designated Minneapolis land use features which tend to have a concentration of higher density and destination uses which promote activity all day long and into the evening; for more detail see Chapter 1 Land Use

Adaptive reuse – renovation of a building or site to include elements that allow a particular use or uses to occupy a space that originally was intended for a different use

Auto-oriented use – commercial uses which serve primarily automobiles, including gas stations, car washes, auto repair shops, auto sales, drive-through facilities and similar uses

Commercial corridor – designated Minneapolis streets which tend to have high traffic volumes, predominantly commercial uses, and which serve as destinations; for more detail see Chapter 1 Land Use

Community corridor – designated Minneapolis streets which tend to have moderate traffic volume, and land uses that are primarily residential with commercial uses concentrated at nodes; for more detail see Chapter 1 Land Use

Destination use – a land use that draws visitors, customers, or patrons from a larger area than the immediately surrounding neighborhoods

Industrial employment districts – designated Minneapolis land use feature which serve to protect prime industrial space, as well as providing an opportunity for the city to support targeted industries and redevelop underutilized sites

Massing – the overall bulk, size, physical volume, or magnitude of a structure or project

Mixed use – multiple land uses in the same structure or same general area of a community.

Neighborhood commercial node – designated Minneapolis land use features which tend to have a concentration of commercial and mixed uses around an intersection, and which generally serve the surrounding neighborhood; for more detail see Chapter 1 Land Use

Overlay districts – designated areas within the City, in addition to base zoning, established to preserve and protect the natural environment, to encourage pedestrian-oriented design, to promote redevelopment and rehabilitation, to promote mixed-use development, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare by preserving the unique character of existing areas for future use and development

Planned unit development – two or more principal buildings or uses developed or to be developed under unified ownership or control, the development of which is unique and of a different character than the surrounding area.

Site plan review – standards established to promote development that is compatible with nearby properties, neighborhood character, natural features and plans adopted by the city council, to minimize pedestrian and vehicular conflict, to reinforce public spaces, to promote public safety, and to visually enhance development

Siting – positioning of a building on land, in relation to elevation, orientation, and view

Transit station area – designated Minneapolis land use features which set standards for development surrounding light rail transit (LRT) stations within the city; for more detail see Chapter 1 Land Use

Transit supportive density – development density levels which concentrate a substantial amount of development within walking distance of a transit line, to enable the transit line to have a viable level of ridership

Use – the purpose or activity for which the land or buildings thereon are designed, arranged, intended, occupied or maintained

Zoning district – an area or areas within the limits of the city within which uniform regulations and requirements govern the use, placement, spacing and size of land and structures

Open Space and Parks

Street trees – publicly maintained trees planted along streets within the public right-of-way

Community gardens – community spaces that are communally cultivated and cared for; these spaces may consist of individually-worked plots, multiple person caretaker areas, sitting areas, and small-scale children play areas

Open/green space – undeveloped land or common areas reserved for parks, walking paths or other natural uses

Parkways – green public spaces which connect natural, civic, and recreational amenities; most are integrated with the local road network and have low traffic

volumes traveling at slow speeds

Regional Park System – a system of parks and trails throughout the seven-county metropolitan area; improvements are coordinated through the Metropolitan Council, although parks are owned and operated by sub-regional agencies

Public Services

Community based policing – an approach to policing that promotes a strong partnership between the community and its police service

Development Review – the processes undertaken by city staff, boards, commissions, and the City Council to approve or deny an application for development

EMS – Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Operations Plan - a broad plan that establishes response protocol and a chain of command for serious emergencies that threaten the health and safety of a community

Infrastructure – Long-lived capital assets that normally are stationary in nature and normally can be preserved for a significantly greater number of years than most capital assets. Examples of infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, tunnels, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, dams, and lighting systems.

Protected class – a group of persons that is specifically protected by law against discrimination; factors considered in determining protected classes include race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, affectional preference, disability, age, marital status, and status with regard to public assistance

Safe routes to school – initiative aimed at making walking and bicycling to school safer for children and increasing the number of children who choose to walk and bicycle

Special Service District - a defined area where special services are rendered, the costs of which are paid from revenues collected from service charges imposed within that area

Transportation

Access management – strategies designed to balance access to developed land while ensuring a safe, efficient transportation system.

Bus rapid transit (BRT) – a flexible, rubber-tired rapid-transit mode that combines stations, vehicles, services, running ways, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) elements into an integrated system

Car sharing – a system under which either through cooperative ownership or through some other mechanism multiple households share a pool of automobiles and sometimes other vehicles

Commuter rail – passenger trains operated on main line railroad track to carry riders to and from work in city centers

Light rail transit (LRT) – a metropolitan electric railway system characterized by its ability to operate single cars or short trains along exclusive rights of way at ground level, on aerial structures, in subways, or in streets, and to board and discharge passengers at track or car-floor level

Multimodal transportation – incorporating multiple modes of transportation into a connected and integrated system

Park and ride – facilities that allow commuters to leave their personal vehicles in a parking lot and transfer to a bus, rail system, or carpool for the rest of their trip

Primary transit network (PTN) – is a permanent network of all transit lines, regardless of mode or agency, that operates every 15 minutes or better all day for at least 18 hours every day

Streetcar, modern – modern streetcars are a hybrid combining features of traditional downtown streetcar lines and light rail; their lines tend to follow traditional streetcar routes in urban areas; however, the cars are a new design that is essentially a smaller version of a light rail car

Streetscaping – planning and placing distinctive lighting, furniture, art, trees, other landscaping, etc. along streets and at intersections

Traffic analysis zone (TAZ) – unit of geography most commonly used in conventional transportation planning models; size varies based on the density of an area's population and its transportation network

Transit oriented development (TOD) – a mixed-use community within walking distance of a transit stop that mixes residential, retail, office, open space, and public uses in a way that makes it convenient to travel on foot or by public transportation instead of by car

Travel demand management plan (TDM) – a set of actions or strategies, the goal of which is to encourage travelers to use alternatives to driving alone, especially at the most congested times of the day

Travel forecasting – a set of methodologies, frequently using computerized models, to forecast future traffic patterns and levels on a defined transportation network

Urban Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – design and use of the built environment in a way that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life

Eyes on the street – natural surveillance of street activity based on the orientation of development, particularly through the placement of windows, active uses, and outdoor gathering places overlooking the street

Infill development – the practice of building on vacant lots or undeveloped parcels within the older parts of an urban area or already developed area

Pedestrian scale/orientation – designing neighborhoods at a human scale, which are walkable and accessible to the pedestrian

Pervious surface – an outdoor surface which will allow rain and snowmelt to flow into the ground and prevent runoff except in very heavy rains

Setback – the distance between a property boundary and a building

Traditional urban form – urban design reminiscent of pre-WWII cities, which includes wide sidewalks, shade trees, well-marked crosswalks, good lighting and visibility, buildings that have entrances and windows facing the street, and stretches of storefronts uninterrupted by parking lots

Urban design – the practice of determining how buildings fit together to create valuable spaces