

Community advisory committee overview

Advisors to the community for the small area planning process...

Small area plans overview

The City of St. Louis Park is beginning a city-led planning process to update existing transit station area plans and create a new small area plan to guide development decisions. The process will include updates to the three existing light rail station area plans and the creation of a new small area plan for western Excelsior Boulevard. The resulting plans will provide guidance and implementation actions to support development that aligns with the community’s interests, the city’s strategic priorities, and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Community advisory group role and purpose

The community advisory group (CAG) will advise the planning team in three areas during the small area plan process:

- Support the identification of the **community’s needs** and **experiences**
- Provide an **understanding of the community**
- Identify the best ways to **provide information** and **gather input**

Who is involved in the process?

There are four key groups that will be involved in the small area plan process:

	Community and stakeholders	Community advisory group	Planning team	City of St. Louis Park
Who is included?	Community members, visitors, property owners, business owners, employees, etc.	Interested community members and leaders	SRF Consulting Group, Mend Collaborative, and city staff	City departments, city council, planning commission, other commissions/councils
What is their role?	Participate in the community engagement process and share input	Share needs, desires, and experiences; Connect with the community	Guide the plans’ development, including facilitating the process, analyzing technical data and summarizing community understanding	Provide guidance and direction to the plans via policy and inform solutions and outcomes specific to the community

Contact information

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Who should join the community advisory group?

- Those that are connected to their community within St. Louis Park
- Those who want to help shape future decisions within the small area plans
- Those who have an interest in learning about how decisions are made within the city

Why join the community advisory group?

Connect the broader community to the process to inform outcomes

Ensure the process responds to community input and is truly reflective of St. Louis Park

Set the framework on how we collaborate with the community and gather input

What should community advisory group members expect?

What are members committing to?

Attend five in-person meetings over the course of the year-long project and review materials and deliverables. Meetings will generally be 90 minutes but may extend to up to two hours in length.

What is the expectation of a member?

- Promote the small area planning process and activities with the community
- Participate in at least one engagement event
- Attend the five community advisory group meetings
- Prepare for discussion and review materials
- Engage with the planning team

What can members expect from the team?

- An open and transparent process - through shown links and connections to how input is used to inform solutions
- Thoughtful discussion and analysis - no actions are done to simply check a box
- A process rooted in public input and sound technical process

Contact information

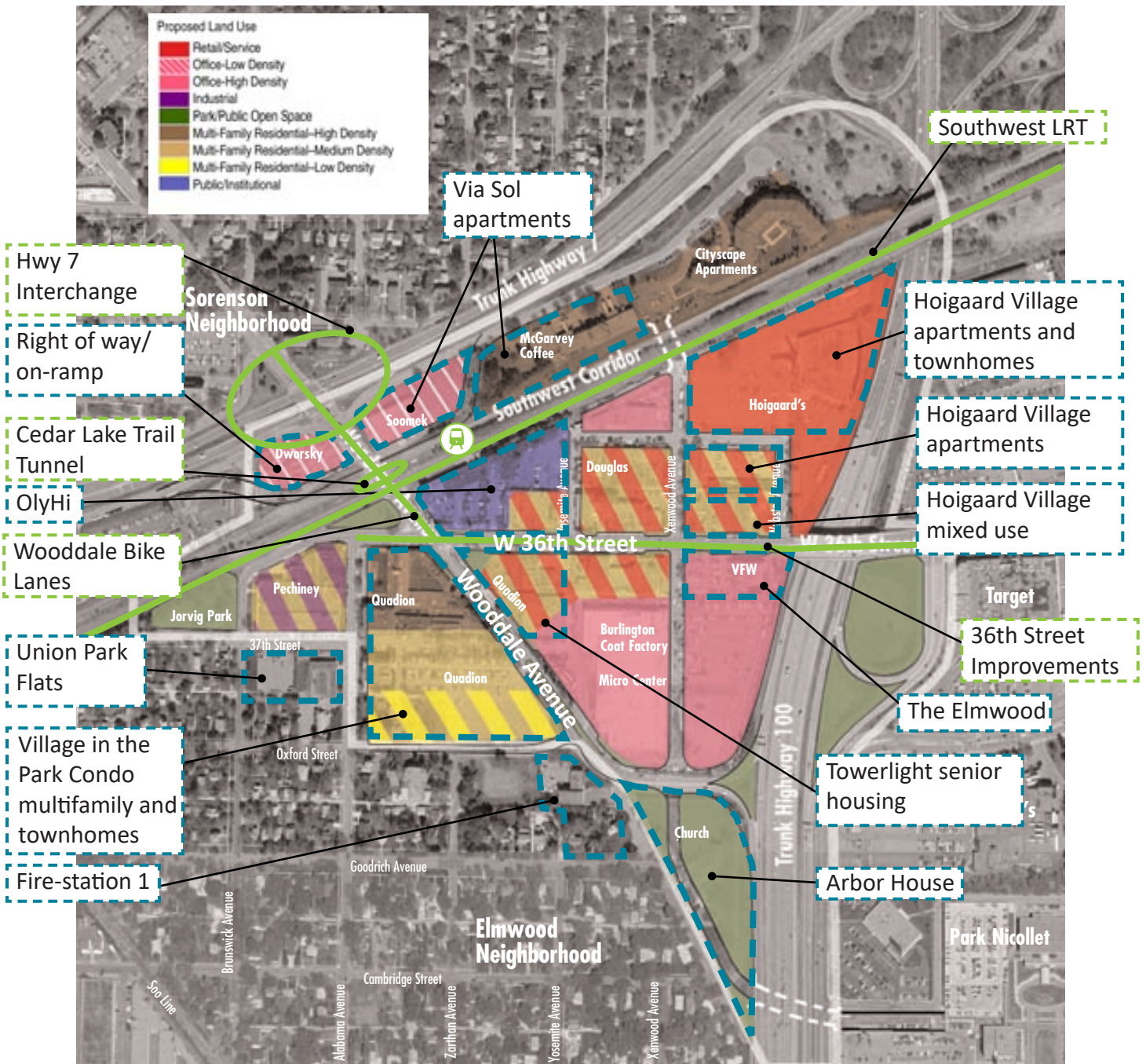
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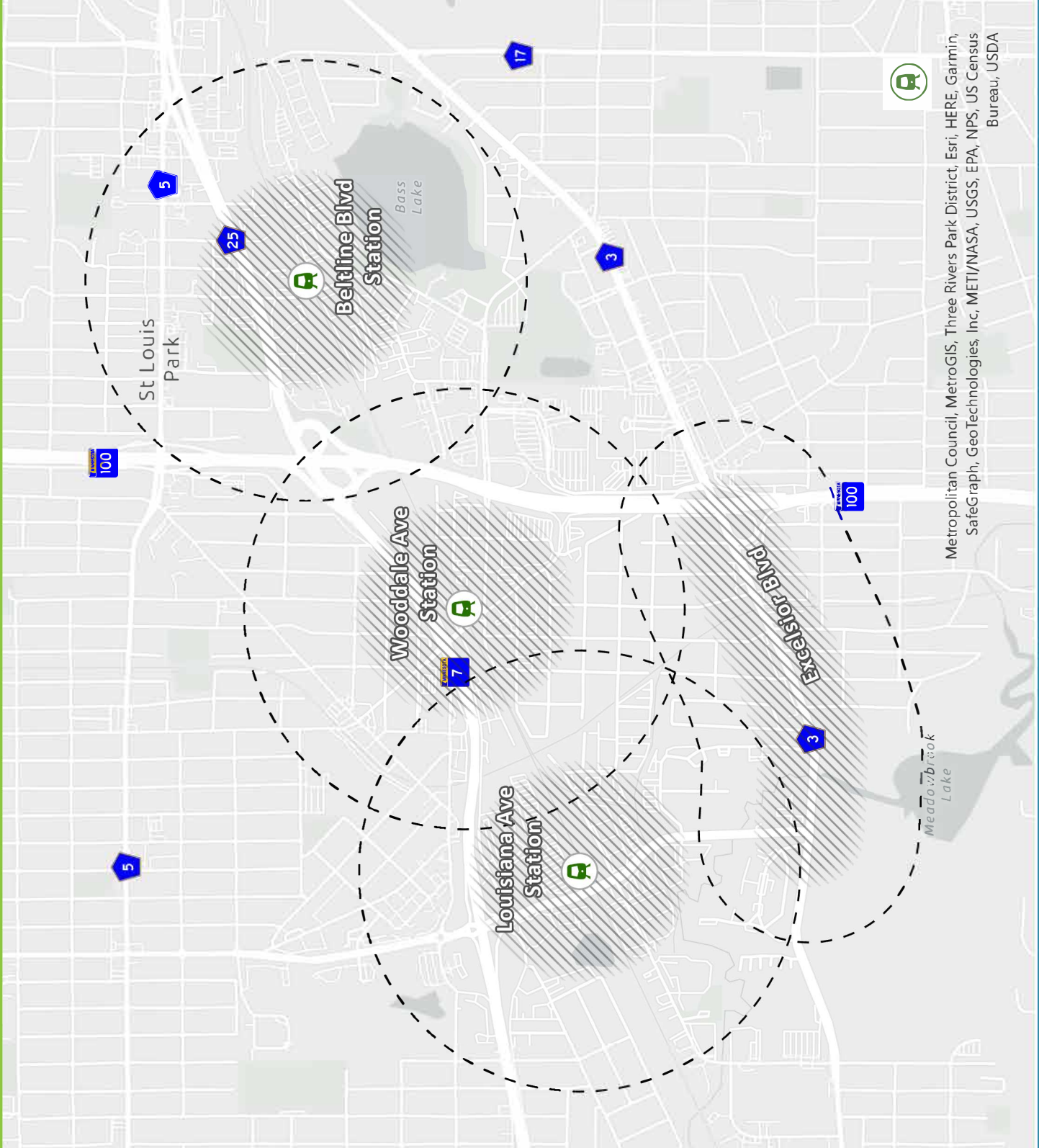
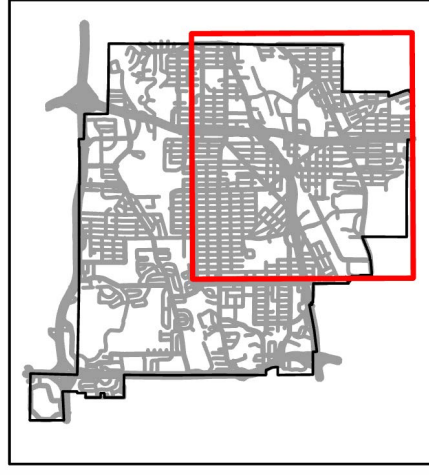
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What happens with the small area plans?

The City of St. Louis Park has used small area plans for more than a decade to guide public and private investments around the light rail station areas. These investments include new development, transportation improvements, and more. The three existing small area plans were developed in the early 2010's and have influenced many investments in the community. For example, the Elmwood Area Land Use, Transit and Transportation Study identified preferred land use patterns that were used to guide development decisions and approvals. The graphic below highlights the investments that were informed by the plan.



Small area plan study areas



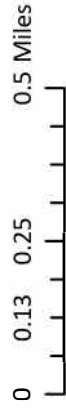
Green Line LRT Station



Analysis Area



Focus Area



Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA