



2023

Golden Valley

State Legislative Priorities

city of  
*golden*  
valley



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# FINANCIAL



## F1. Support Local-Option Sales Tax

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports a local-option sales tax at .05 percent. The estimated potential revenue of \$2.85 million per year would help fund critical infrastructure and building improvements.

### Issues

**City Buildings:** Current City facilities do not accommodate contemporary fire protection, policing, administrative, or public works operations. To better serve the community, improve operational efficiencies, and expand economic development opportunities, the City developed a long-term, phased plan to address its building needs. The plan includes relocating public works operations out of the downtown area, constructing a modern public safety building and firefighting facilities that accommodate 24/7 duty crews, and a new City Hall. These improvements are scheduled to occur over the next 30 years at an estimated cost of \$160 million. Additional resources are needed to fund debt and keep property taxes in check.

### Action

To fund the above described capital improvements, the City of Golden Valley requests authorization to enact a local-option sales tax in accordance with Department of Revenue steps, which include:

- passing a resolution that includes a proposed tax rate; detailed description of up to five capital projects funded with the tax; documentation of how each project will provide economic benefits to residents, businesses, and visitors from the jurisdiction; amount of revenue to be raised for each project and estimated time needed to raise funds; total amount of revenue to be raised for all projects; and estimated length of time the tax will be in effect if all proposed projects are approved
- submitting the resolution and supporting documents to the Senate and House Tax Committee chairs by Jan 31, then passing a resolution with approved language for a local ballot once legislative approval is received
- passing the resolution at least 90 days before a general election for voters to approve by a majority vote, and if a project is not approved, adjusting the revenue and expiration date

# FINANCIAL



## F2. Support Bond Allocation For Remote Fire Station

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting State funding in the amount of \$17 million to acquire land, complete predesign and design work, and construct a new remote fire station for the Golden Valley Fire Department

### Issues

The City of Golden Valley is in need of constructing a new remote fire station. Currently the City operates a paid on-call fire department out of three stations. To continue delivering effective service, the fire department needs to move to a duty-crew staffing model. However, the current three stations lack the facilities needed to accommodate a duty-crew model, and the two existing remote stations are not geographically located to provide optimal response time within the community, as well as within the western metro for mutual aid requests.

The City proposes to construct an approximately 20,000-square-foot remote fire station on the east side of Highway 100. This general location, combined with the current headquarters location at Winnetka Avenue and Golden Valley Road, provides quick access to major thoroughfares and improves response times throughout Golden Valley. The current department staffing model does not result in 13 to 15 personnel arriving on scene at a structure fire within eight minutes, as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association.

The City's bonding request includes funding for land acquisition, pre-design and design work, followed by station construction. The station is proposed to include an apparatus bay of approximately 7,500 square feet and support space (office, sleeping quarters, meeting area, etc) of approximately 7,700 square feet. The station will serve as a polling location for the City and provide community meeting and training space.

### Action

- Advocate to include the City's funding request of \$17 million for design and construction of a new remote fire station in the 2022 bonding bill.

# FINANCIAL



## F3. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports funding of the Local Government Aid (LGA) component to help ensure needs for public services can be met by equalizing the tax base for all cities.

### Issue

Golden Valley is one of the few cities statewide that does not receive LGA but has many basic public service needs that are underfunded.

### Action

Advocate for the state to keep pace with inflationary pressures and support increased funding for LGA. Golden Valley supports an increase in the LGA appropriation and a review in its entirety of the formula that would at least provide a minimum distribution to help fund public services. Golden Valley supports HF 2031 authored by Representative Hertauss in 2019.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix F3)

- Table: 10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley (1 page)



# FINANCIAL



## F4. Support Sales Tax Exemption On Local Purchases

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports the tax exemption of motor vehicle tax of 6.5 percent on all municipal vehicles.

### Issues

Currently only police and fire emergency vehicles are exempt. The City has many other vehicles, such as sweepers and large trucks, that respond to snow emergencies, flooding, road repair, etc.

### Action

Support language regarding the exemption of Motor Vehicle Sales Tax on all municipal vehicles purchased by governmental agencies.

# FINANCIAL



## F5. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports reviewing and amending the 50-year-old Fiscal Disparities formula to ensure all metro area local governments have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs. By amending the Fiscal Disparities formula, all metro area cities can use the additional amount of property taxes received to help fund needed improvements.

For nearly 50 years, the Fiscal Disparities program has reapportioned 40 percent of tax capacity from metro area cities with higher commercial/industrial tax bases to those with less market value per capita. This is to help equalize funding for the betterment of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

While all cities have needs, those that historically have been net Fiscal Disparities contributors have aged and are experiencing greater infrastructure needs than 50 years ago. Much of this infrastructure was built before the early 1960s and is due for replacement. It is time to recalculate the Fiscal Disparities formula to reflect today's realities. Since just 2001, Golden Valley has contributed almost \$40 million to help other communities meet their needs. With the proposed change, over the next 20 years Golden Valley would keep an estimated \$18 million help meet its needs.

### Issue

Golden Valley, like most cities in Minnesota and the nation at large, is facing a looming infrastructure crisis. All across the US, aging systems for water supply, sanitary sewer management, storm water and flood control, transportation, etc, are in need of repair and/or replacement. Not only is much of Golden Valley's infrastructure a half century or more old, but as populations grow, it's taking on service demands it was not built to handle. The Fiscal Disparities program has been in existence for almost 50 years and is in need of an overhaul.

### Action

Advocate for modifying the obsolete Fiscal Disparities formula so all metro area cities can fund needed infrastructure improvements while keeping taxes and utility expenses lower than they inevitably would be if this infrastructure problem is allowed to grow into a full-blown crisis.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix F5)

- Table: 20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program And 20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program (1 page)

# FINANCIAL



## F6. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports additional tools for local communities to develop and preserve affordable and workforce housing and to advance diverse, inclusionary, and equitable housing opportunities.

### Issue

Cities must ensure they provide a full range of housing choices in the community. As cities, businesses, and the overall economy in the Minneapolis–St Paul region continues to grow, the need for housing available to those with low and moderate incomes also grows. Failure to expand housing options will impact the region’s ability to attract talent, grow its economy, and reinvest in itself.

If resources and policies needed to advance affordable housing opportunities for BIPOC homeowners and renters across the state are specifically identified, housing opportunity would be more effective from a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.

### Actions

Advocate for policy and financial tools that support both the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing, construction of new affordable housing, as well as additional resources needed for cities to address the unequal distribution of housing resources, including:

- policies, programs and resources for affordable rental housing eligibility based on income and social vulnerability indicators
- policies, programs and resources for affordable homeownership eligibility based on income, social vulnerability indicators, and first generation homebuyers
- increasing funding for the state’s rental rehab loan fund for naturally occurring affordable housing and including use of the fund in the metro region
- enhancing state programs, policies, and funding allocations to promote and finance the preservation and construction of affordable housing, particularly for assisted, senior, and supportive housing
- modifying Tax Increment Financing (TIF) statutes to clearly enable pooling of TIF revenue for affordable housing
- establishing a statewide notification requirement for rental properties prior to ownership transfer
- creating incentives for property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to increase housing options for low and moderate income earners
- preserving and expanding the state’s 4d low-income property tax program that provides a property tax benefit to qualifying low-income rental properties

### Additional Documents (See Appendix F6)

- Memo: Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan (2 pages)

# TRANSPORTATION



## T1. Support Full Funding For Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) And Multimodal Infrastructure Or Transportation

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports investment in Bus Rapid Transit and multimodal infrastructure on the Highway 55 corridor from Wright County to Minneapolis due to a high concentration of jobs, strong reverse-commute patterns, and increased residential development along the corridor. This includes improving safety and mobility at key intersections, like Winnetka Avenue, to better accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, transit, etc.

### Issue

Trunk Highway 55 is a major transportation route serving the west metro area and beyond. The corridor contains a high concentration of jobs, has a strong reverse-commute pattern, and is experiencing increased residential development. Bus Rapid Transit is a practical and affordable component of a comprehensive regional transportation system.

Because Highway 55 also creates a barrier between the northern and southern portions of communities, infrastructure to support BRT ridership and promote multi-modal transportation must be planned for and funded as part of the Highway 55 BRT corridor.

### Actions

- Advocate for full funding for Bus Rapid Transit on Highway 55, which impacts all communities along the corridor (Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Medina, and beyond).
- Leverage federal dollars to the extent possible to fund infrastructure improvements that support BRT, including a pedestrian overpass at Highway 55 and Winnetka Avenue.
- Aggressively pursue Federal infrastructure funding to advance these initiatives.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix T1)

- Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)
- Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concept (1 page)

# TRANSPORTATION



## T2. Support Comprehensive Transportation Funding

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports dedicating more resources to all components of the state's transportation system and ensuring local units of government have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs.

### Issue

A comprehensive regional transportation system that meets the physical, social, and economic needs of Golden Valley and the state requires adequate funding. This transportation system includes streets, bridges, highways, transit, and multi-modal solutions. Collaborative efforts and initiatives are already in progress.

### Actions

- Establish a sustainable formula to increase transit and transportation funding.
- Advocate for including improvements to US Highway 169 between I-394 and Medicine Lake Road in the MnDOT Capital Improvement Plan.

# ENVIRONMENTAL



## E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting legislative approval of funds through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Flood Damage Reduction Program to continue to implement public improvements within the DeCola Ponds and Medicine Lake Road watershed. These projects include improvements within the Cities of Crystal, New Hope and Golden Valley (eg, flood storage, subwatershed diversion, and runoff rate control projects).

### Issue

The City of Golden Valley experiences localized flooding in the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue area and flooding from Bassett Creek in numerous locations throughout the community. This flooding causes damages to homes and businesses, and impacts infrastructure and emergency services. The City is currently pursuing Phase III of a multi-phase project.

### Action

Advocate for continued full funding of the Minnesota DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program, including funding of the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Project.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix E1)

- Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (1 page)



## E2. Climate Emergency Declaration: Support Policies And Investments Mitigating The Impact Of Climate Change

### City Position

The Golden Valley City Council declared by resolution a Climate Emergency Dec 21, 2021. On Jan 18, 2022, the City passed an additional resolution to join more than 2,000 jurisdictions in 34 countries to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

### Issue

Golden Valley residents, businesses, and property owners are experiencing the impacts of climate change through increased flooding and flood risk, excessive heat, drought, invasive species, diminished air quality, and extreme weather events. Not only do these events affect the health, safety, well-being, and economic vitality of Golden Valley residents and businesses, these climate-related impacts affect the City's operations, infrastructure, and finances.

Additionally, climate change disproportionately impacts historically excluded, marginalized, and underserved communities, low-income families, and residents with disabilities who are most at risk from the negative impacts of climate change.

### Actions

The City of Golden Valley calls on the Minnesota Legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support mitigation and adaption efforts by providing funding and resources to develop and implement climate actions plans.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix E2)

- City Council Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency in Golden Valley (5 pages)
- City Council Resolution No. 22-009 Joining with Cities and Counties Across Minnesota/US/World Declaring a Climate Emergency

# ENVIRONMENTAL



## E3. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/ Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements

### City Position

Because I/I reduction efforts benefit the entire metropolitan area, the City of Golden Valley supports the state providing continued capital assistance for grants to cities as well as financial assistance for private property through future Clean Water Legacy Act appropriations.

### Issue

Many metro communities are contributing excess inflow and infiltration of clear water into the regional wastewater system. Excess I/I results in wastewater flows that exceed the capacity of conveyance and treatment systems, resulting in significant environmental and public health issues and excessive costs to upgrade these systems.

### Action

Advocate for financial assistance through future Clean Water Legacy appropriations to metro area cities with excess I/I. These resources should include assistance for cities to address I/I contributions from private property.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix E3)

- Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)



# ENVIRONMENTAL



## E4. Advance Building Performance

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports statewide energy efficiency improvements in buildings, lighting, and infrastructure and includes these as local goals in the Resilience and Sustainability Chapter of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

### Issue

The State of Minnesota has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 but is not on track to do so. Buildings are a top greenhouse gas emitter, and a different approach is needed to building design and construction. Building codes, which are established by the State, are not advancing fast enough to reach carbon reduction goals.

### Action

The City of Golden Valley supports policy changes and other solutions that lead to increased building efficiency, including:

- clear standards for developers and designers
- financial support and incentives for energy efficient improvements
- educational support and training
- advancing code requirements at a rate faster than the typical building code update cycle
- statewide adoption of building codes that advance energy performance in new and remodeled buildings



## C1. Support For Ban On Conversion Therapy Practices

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports the State Legislature banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors in the State of Minnesota.

### Issue

Conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, is a practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender.

Conversion therapy is based on the discredited premise that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) is a mental disorder that can be cured or corrected. Medical, mental health, and child welfare experts, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, have denounced conversion therapy as ineffective, unreliable, unethical, and unsafe for the people who undergo such treatment, including LGBTQ+ people.

Furthermore, conversion therapy has been shown to cause serious and dangerous harm to those who are subjected to such treatments, including depression, anxiety, increased suicidal behaviors, lowered self-esteem, internalized homophobia, self-blame, intrusive imagery, sexual dysfunction, and interpersonal harm, such as alienation, loneliness, social isolation, interference with intimate relationships, and loss of social supports. The State of Minnesota regulates and licenses behavioral and mental health professionals but has so far not addressed the serious issue of conversion therapy.

### Action

The City of Golden Valley supports the State Legislature banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors in the State of Minnesota. The City supports a ban that applies to any and all forms of conversion therapy, but that excludes a prohibition on practices or treatments that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, or treatment to support gender identity transition.

# COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



## C2. Support For Gun Control/Reform

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports Minnesota's red flag legislation for gun reform and a bill that would require criminal background checks for all firearm transfers and sales.

### Issue

Gun violence is at an all-time high across the country as well as in Minnesota, especially in the Twin Cities area. In 2021 the number of Minnesota people killed by gunfire rose to the highest level in 20 years—there were 570 gun deaths, including 164 homicides and 393 suicides where a gun was used. Weak guns laws are hurting police officers and, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics, disproportionately harming communities of Color.

### Action

The City encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass the red flag law for gun reform and the bill requiring criminal background checks for all firearm transfers and sales.



## C3. Support Equitable And Inclusive Elections

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports expansive and accessible voting rights. Providing consistent statewide standards, allowing local decision-making control of certain aspects in city elections, and expanding voting rights are vital to improving access to voting and the efficiency of election administration.

### Issue

Current law limits the ability for some residents of Golden Valley to use voting as their voice. Many Golden Valley residents are unable to vote due to:

- burdensome rules and inconsistent information about when voting rights are restored to those convicted of a felony
- restrictions prohibiting taxpaying, lawful, noncitizens from participating in selecting their local representatives
- state laws that do not allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections

Furthermore, local decision-making control to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in city elections is currently only available to charter cities. RCV allows voters to rank candidates by preference, which leads to a more representative government because the winning candidate in an RCV election has the broadest support of all voters in the community.

### Actions

The City of Golden Valley supports:

- restoring voting rights for those convicted of a felony who have served the entirety of their sentence and are not incarcerated
- giving cities the authority to consider and adopt regulations that would allow all lawful residents over age 18 to vote in city elections, regardless of US citizenship status
- creating consistency in absentee voter outreach opportunities, including legislation to allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections
- allowing statutory cities to consider and adopt RCV
- enacting state-level standards and equipment for RCV



## C4. Police Arbitration Reform

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley strongly urges the Minnesota State Legislature to consider changes to the current Minnesota Public Employment Labor Relations Act (MPELRA) arbitration system in any further discussions or proposals that address police reform measures.

### Issue

As it now stands, the arbitration system undermines the ability of elected and appointed officials, including police chiefs and city managers, to make lasting departmental disciplinary or termination decisions that protect residents and help to ensure a responsible public safety environment in their communities. Without systemic changes, arbitrator opinions are allowed to override the professional judgment of police supervisors when it comes to deciding what constitutes just cause and who ultimately is permitted to return to the streets as an officer. Consequently, rigorous police department accountability standards continue to be compromised at a time when they are needed more than ever.

### Actions

- The City supports a new reasonable standard of review in police misconduct cases. This is necessary to uphold discipline decisions that are entrusted to the local officials ultimately responsible for protecting their communities. Including a new, reduced standard of review in police discipline matters is important to foster cultural change as well as to enhance and support effective police officer accountability and transparency measures that are included in the Police Accountability Act of 2020. The new standard should focus the arbitrator's role on simply determining whether the facts presented show that the employer's actions were reasonable and consistent with city and departmental policies.
- The City supports using administrative law judges (ALJs) for grievances involving terminations and discipline related to police misconduct. The ALJ process would involve robust fact-finding and technical legal parameters that would help ensure a thorough review of the officer's and employer's actions. This model also provides an appeals process, which the arbitration process does not. The City believes the severity and importance of police cases involving terminations and discipline related to police misconduct warrant them being elevated into the ALJ system.

# APPENDIX

## Appendix F3. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

<b>10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley</b>		
	<b>Total LGA Statewide Distribution</b>	<b>Golden Valley Portion</b>
2011	\$425,345,348	0
2012	\$425,238,384	0
2013	\$427,494,640	0
2014	\$507,598,012	\$219,081
2015	\$516,898,012	\$240,503
2016	\$519,398,012	\$252,446
2017	\$519,398,012	\$252,895
2018	\$534,398,012	\$37,185
2019	\$534,398,012	0
2020	\$560,398,012	0

## Appendix F5. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

<b>20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program</b>		<b>20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program*</b>	
2001	\$629,460	2021	\$698,408
2002	\$1,289,977	2022	\$718,685
2003	\$873,927	2023	\$739,182
2004	\$1,343,255	2024	\$759,902
2005	\$1,384,112	2025	\$780,845
2006	\$1,462,884	2026	\$802,012
2007	\$1,437,447	2027	\$823,406
2008	\$1,756,887	2028	\$845,026
2009	\$2,141,648	2029	\$866,876
2010	\$2,325,874	2030	\$888,956
2011	\$2,311,610	2031	\$911,266
2012	\$2,262,916	2032	\$933,810
2013	\$2,119,872	2033	\$956,587
2014	\$2,662,702	2034	\$979,600
2015	\$2,401,573	2035	\$1,002,848
2016	\$2,321,355	2036	\$1,026,335
2017	\$2,676,662	2037	\$1,050,060
2018	\$2,674,558	2038	\$1,074,026
2019	\$2,727,495	2039	\$1,098,233
2020	\$2,961,983	2040	\$1,122,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,766,196</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,078,744</b>

\* New commercial/industrial tax capacity value prospectively



## **Appendix F6. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing**

- **Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan 2022 (2 pages)**

# Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan 2023

Last updated: December 2022

## Prepared By

Cherie Shoquist, Housing and Economic Development Manager

## Summary

Based on direction from the Council and Manager, staff has developed a work plan on affordable housing strategies and policies.

## Key Points

- The role that the City plays in local housing policy and programming has expanded rapidly since 2017. Staff will continue to:
  - Promote increased investment in affordable, mixed income, market rate rental and ownership housing development
  - Preserve Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
  - Provide diverse, equitable, and inclusionary housing opportunity
- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies many goals and action steps for the City to take. They are categorized into five goals: quality, variety, affordability, sustainability, and equity. Staff will work with existing human and financial resources to implement the plan.
- Since health and safety are central to the City's housing interests, any new policies or programs should not unintentionally discourage property improvements, rehabilitation, and code compliance.
- Staffing and budgeting impacts associated with policy and program options must continue to be examined to ensure that administration, enforcement, and education can be completed properly.
- Some policies and program ideas will be most impactful if enacted on a regional or state level. Staff at Golden Valley and other city governments regularly attend meetings with Hennepin County and other counties, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Metropolitan Council, Metro HRA, Urban Land Institute, Family Housing Fund, Twin Cities LISC, and Minnesota Housing Partnership. The meetings are held to inform policy recommendations, share knowledge, and bring important stakeholders to the conversations. These groups continue to meet regularly:
  - Minnesota Housing NOAH Preservation Working Group
  - Minnesota Homeownership Center/Homeownership Opportunity Alliance
  - ULI Regional Housing Policy Work Group
  - LISC Housing Collaborative Initiative

**Actions:**

1. Approved a Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy to advance affordable housing strategies in Golden Valley and build a fund to support affordable housing efforts.
2. Adopted a Tenant Protection Ordinance (applicable to owners upon sale of NOAH property), notified property owners, and drafted a communication plan for tenants in the event of a sale.
3. Promoted the 4d property tax program to help preserve existing NOAH units within the City.
4. Adopted a Fair Housing Policy.
5. Adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which includes an extensive list of actions to be taken to meet affordable housing goals.
6. Actively engaged in the implementation of the adopted Mixed Income Housing Policy; working with developers to include affordable housing units in proposed developments, and refining the planning, contracting and compliance process.
7. Explored additional applications for CDBG, AHIF, HOME and LHIA funding for future land trust homes in partnership with West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust Homes Within Reach.
8. Created a plan and timeline for selling and developing publicly owned vacant land for affordable housing.
9. Established the Home Ownership Program for Equity for non-profit developers in partnership with Homes Within Reach to provide homeownership opportunity to homebuyers with incomes at 60%- 80% of Area Median Income. The approved developers have a proven track record of serving Black, Indigenous and people of color including first generation homebuyers. Three homes are likely to begin construction in 2023 and an additional four homes in 2024.
10. Performed an evaluation of the Stable Renters and Tenants program for rental properties and recommended enhancements that help the City meet a variety of housing goals.
11. Planning, Fire, and Police department staff met regularly to monitor condition of housing stock, including NOAH properties.
12. Expanded the City's legislative priorities on affordable housing.

**Continuing Actions:**

13. Actively engage in the implementation of the adopted Mixed Income Housing Policy to include affordable housing units in proposed developments and refine the planning, contracting and compliance process.
14. Strengthen relationships with NOAH property owners, landlords, and property managers. Partner with non-profit organizations to plan to acquire any NOAH properties that enter the market to preserve affordable rental units.
15. Implement the Home Ownership Program for Equity to develop three homes in 2023 and plan for the development of four homes in 2024.
16. Explore the establishment of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and/or revolving loan program for new construction of affordable rental units, the acquisition and/or maintenance of NOAH and/or single-family homes as well as other programs that further the Housing Policy Plan in the 2040 Comp Plan.

17. Explore an advance notice of eviction ordinance to provide tenants the opportunity to access rental assistance or move out before an eviction is filed.
18. Continue monitoring condition of housing stock and rental rates:
  - a. Request rental rate information with rental licensing program applications
  - b. Perform update to housing inventory every 5 years – Complete the 2020 Housing Study in 2023
  - c. Continue monitoring housing stock conditions with inspections
19. Continue to explore additional applications for CDBG, AHIF, HOME and LHIA funding for future land trust homes in partnership with West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust Homes Within Reach.
20. Continually update the City's new website with additional information and tools for housing.

Staff is **continuing research in partnership with other suburban cities** on the following strategies:

21. Consider an ordinance prohibiting landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process. Continue monitoring lawsuit involving the City of Minneapolis policy that prohibits landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process (at least 4 cities are interested in adopting a policy if lawsuit decides in favor of City of Minneapolis)
22. Identify additional resources that are needed for cities to address unequal distribution of housing resources and recognize that cities are committed to including all perspectives in addressing challenges. Specific examples could include:
  - a. Policies, programs and resources for affordable rental housing eligibility based on income and social vulnerability indicators.
  - b. Policies, programs and resources for affordable homeownership eligibility based on income, social vulnerability indicators, and first generation homebuyers.
  - c. Inclusion of BIPOC.

## **Appendix T1. Support Full Funding For Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) And Multimodal Infrastructure Or Transportation**

- **Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)**
- **Map: Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concepts (1 page)**

## RESOLUTION NO. 19-76

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUTURE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) SERVICE ON HIGHWAY 55 AND PARTICIPATION IN ADDITIONAL STUDY OF THE CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council commissioned a study of Highway Transit Corridors in 2014 and included the Highway 55 corridor in an addendum to that study in 2015 identifying the segment of Medina to Minneapolis through Golden Valley as a possible BRT route; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, and Scott County funded, and the City of Golden Valley participated in, the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, which also considered BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Valley City Council adopted Resolution 17-72 supporting the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, including the location of BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the studies of BRT service on Highway 55 have identified a strong reverse commute market to Plymouth and Golden Valley, found a strong market for express bus service that connects corridor communities to jobs in Minneapolis, and provides a connection to the future METRO Blue Line light rail extension; and

WHEREAS, BRT Service on Highway 55 is projected to service 8300 riders per day by 2030, serves corridor employment centers with more than 7000 jobs and job density of ten or more jobs per acre, and scores "high" in meeting the five goals for transit investment identified in the 2014 Highway Transitway Corridor Study; and

WHEREAS, BRT service on Highway 55 is identified in the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan as an unfunded potential BRT route, Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and Golden Valley's Legislative Priorities; and

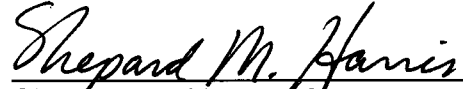
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Plymouth adopted a resolution in May 2019 supporting efforts to complete a Highway 55 Mobility Study in conjunction with Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, and the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, leadership from the corridor cities, Hennepin County, and Metropolitan Council met in October and November of 2019 to discuss how to advance the development of BRT Service on Highway 55 and concluded that support and investment by the corridor communities was necessary to advance BRT service on Highway 55; and

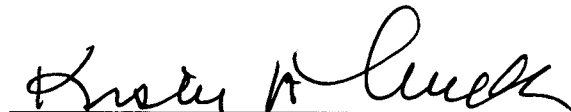
WHEREAS, legislative, regional and local leaders meet on December 12, 2019 to discuss BRT service on Highway 55, including challenges, engagement, goals, and ways to advance the development of BRT on the corridor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Golden Valley continues to support the development of BRT service on Highway 55 and, in collaboration with other cities and agencies, is willing to further study BRT on the Highway 55 corridor to identify corridor improvements, demonstrate ridership demand, conduct additional land use analysis and consider other factors that support BRT development along the corridor.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine A. Luedke, City Clerk

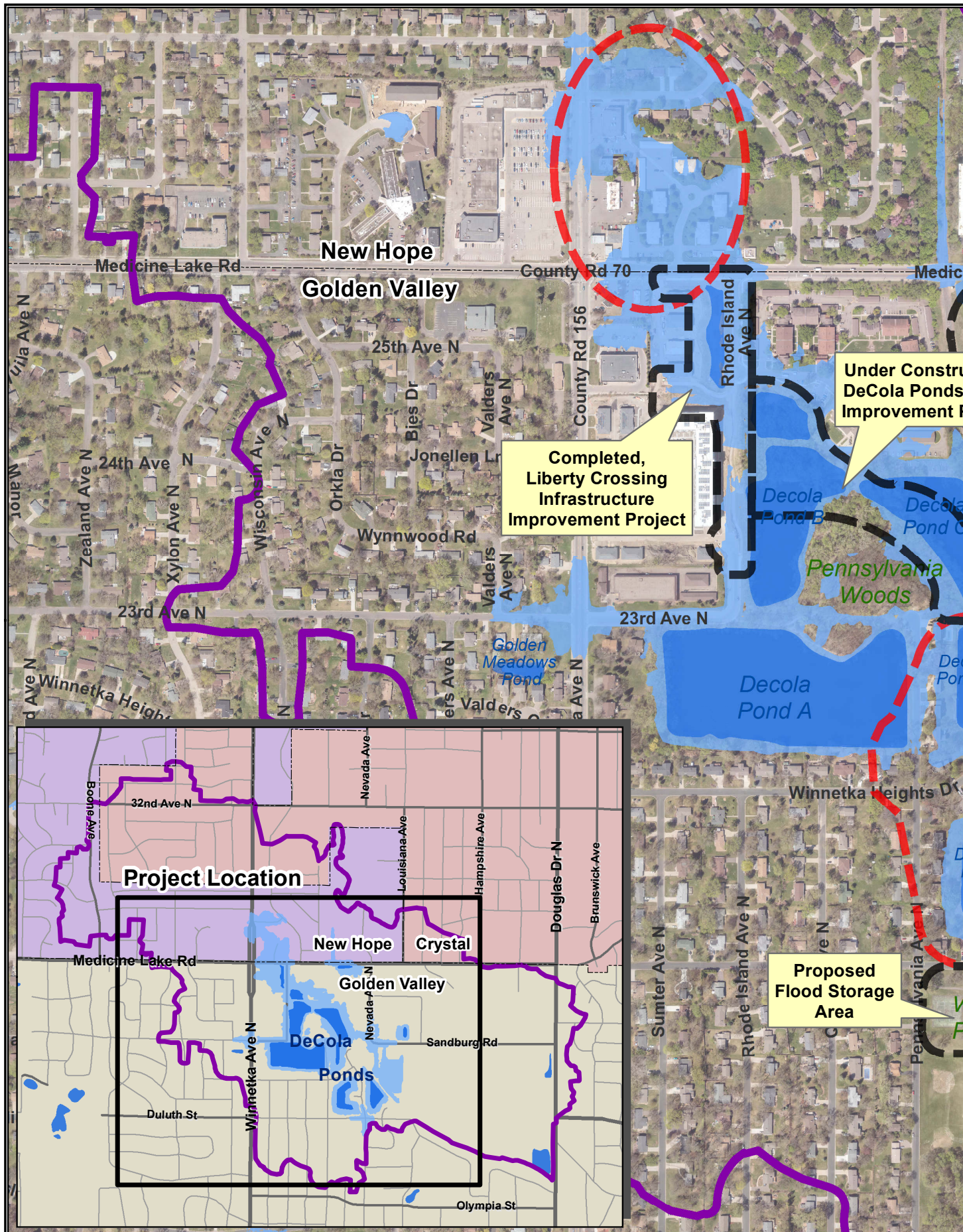




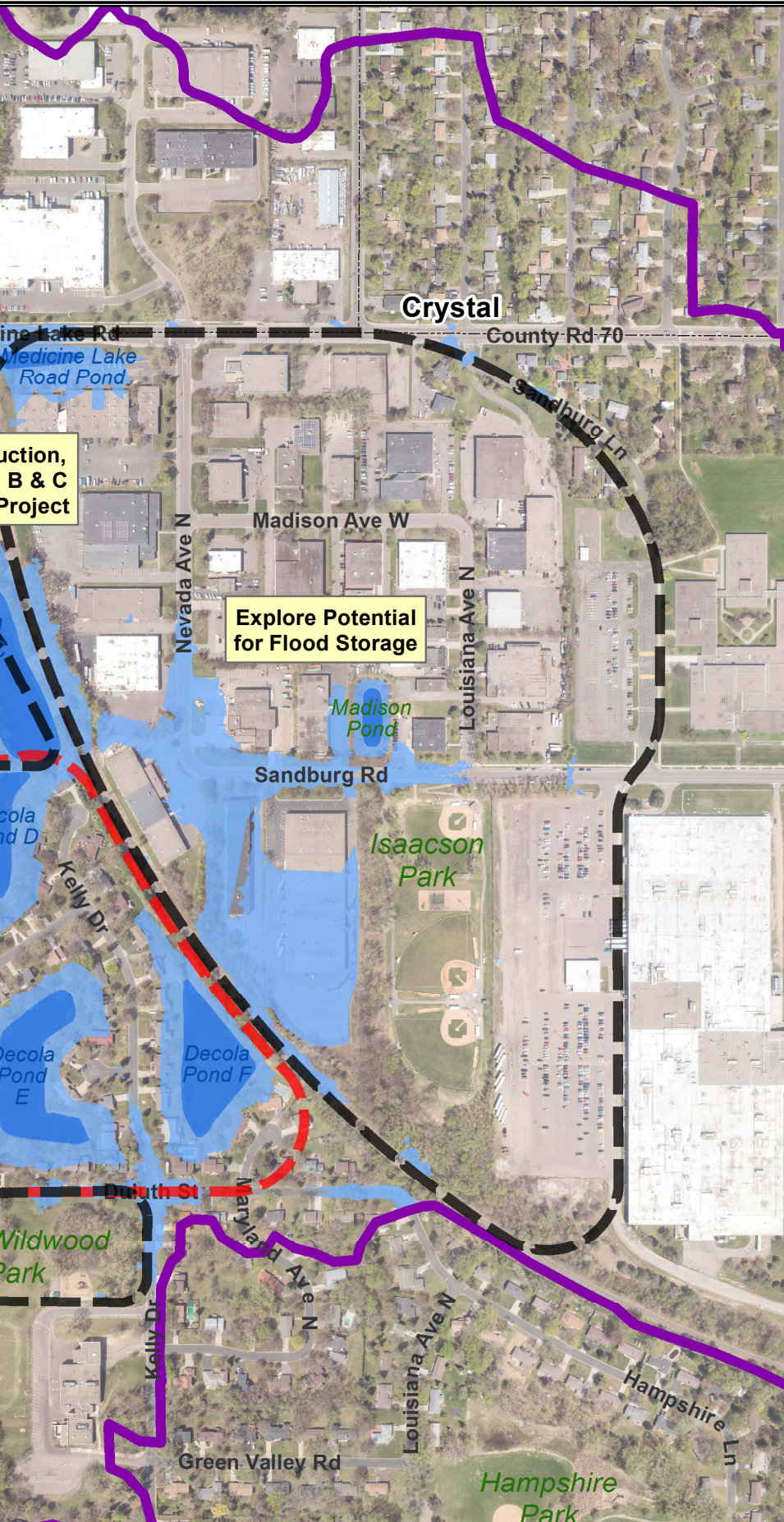


## **Appendix E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects**

- **Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (2 pages)**







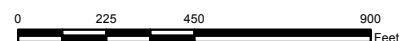
## DeCola Ponds, Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Long-Term Flood Mitigation Plan

-  Floodplain
-  Flood Prone Properties
-  Flood Storage Area
-  Sub-Watershed Boundary

Print Date: 1/8/2020

Sources:

- Hennepin County Surveyors Office for aerial photography (2018).
- MnDNR for city boundary lines & road data (2014).
- Barr for 100-year inundation area & watershed boundary of project area (2017).
- City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



## **Appendix E2. Climate Emergency Declaration: Support Policies And Investments Mitigating The Impact Of Climate Change**

- **City Council Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency in Golden Valley (5 pages)**
- **City Council Resolution No. 22-009 Joining with Cities and Counties Across Minnesota/US/World Declaring a Climate Emergency**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 21-100**

### **RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 Golden Valley experienced numerous climate change-related impacts including a record June heat wave, drought conditions, water use restrictions, and poor air quality from drought-fueled forest fires prompting residents to restrict outdoor activity and remain indoors for periods, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of Golden Valley properties are at risk of flooding and flood damage during heavy or intense precipitation events which can cause significant hardship and economic loss;

**WHEREAS**, Golden Valley residents have increasingly reported experiencing drainage and flooding issues, high groundwater issues, and historically high surface water levels in water bodies throughout the community;

**WHEREAS**, the frequency of daily rainfalls greater than 3 inches has increased 66% in the past century and annual precipitation in the Twin Cities increased from an average of 26.18 inches between 1940-1979 to an average of 30.92 inches between 1980-2018, increasing the frequency of flooding, landslides, freeze/thaw cycles, ice storms, rain on frozen ground events, and heavy snowstorms which put increased strain on city operations, residents, businesses, and the natural environment;

**WHEREAS**, ice cover on Minnesota lakes has declined an average of 10-14 days over the past 50 years and winter temperatures are warming nearly ten times faster than summer temperatures, increasing by approximately 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1969 based on data collected at MSP airport;

**WHEREAS**, the urban heat island effect causes nighttime temperatures in the first ring suburbs of Hennepin County to be 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher on average compared to surrounding areas and spikes to as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas during a heat wave, and is expected to increase due to climate change, affecting the health and well-being of residents;

**WHEREAS**, the high-risk climate hazards for Golden Valley include invasive species and pests, more freeze/thaw cycles, more frequent and intense heavy rainfalls, and extreme heat, and the moderate-risk climate hazards include extreme wind events and tornadoes, diminished air quality, and vector-borne diseases as outlined in the



Vulnerability Assessment in the Resilience and Sustainability chapter of Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan;

**WHEREAS**, extreme weather will create new challenges for Golden Valley's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the health, safety, and economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

**WHEREAS**, historic and present policies and decisions created disparate impacts for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and people of lower socioeconomic status;

**WHEREAS**, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically excluded, marginalized and underserved communities, the youngest generation including the children and grandchildren of Golden Valley community members, and future generations;

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of climate change are affecting all residents, but the impacts will not be felt equally, and like other environmental justice issues, Hennepin County data show that our communities of color, low-income families, and residents with disabilities contribute least to the problem of climate pollution but are the most at risk from negative climate impacts, especially during flooding events, heat waves, and poor air quality days, and we acknowledge that those who have the least capacity to respond to climate change will be most affected;

**WHEREAS**, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters and leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising faster than the national average and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

**WHEREAS**, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

**WHEREAS**, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

**WHEREAS**, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)”;

**WHEREAS**, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the widespread impacts already realized by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather, threatening the food security, water supply, and well-being of billions of people;

**WHEREAS**, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger,” and “leaders at all levels must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent catastrophic impacts”;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top homeland security risk;

**WHEREAS**, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

**WHEREAS**, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities and affordable and reliable energy for local residents;

**WHEREAS**, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address climate change;

**WHEREAS**, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

**WHEREAS**, acting together with these other communities now will magnify our impact, and increase our visibility and leverage for state and federal funding and support;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Golden Valley declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Golden Valley commits to working for a just transition to a clean energy economy and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to collaborate with residents, businesses, institutions, and non-profits to implement its Resilience and Sustainability Plan, Energy Action Plan, Natural Resources Management Plan, and Surface Water Management Plan, all of which contain goals, objectives, policies, and actions to help address climate impacts
- Continue to implement its Equity Plan including actions and practices that promote economic prosperity for all
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and community resilience
- Work with the City's Environmental Commission to address climate impacts and improve the environment, economy, and human health through the development and implementation of its annual work plan
- Update and implement its 10-year capital improvement program with an increasing focus on sustainability, equity, and climate adaptation
- Position the City with shovel-ready projects to take advantage of state and federal infrastructure funding and climate action funding opportunities
- Consider the environment, energy, and climate in the development of its annual legislative priorities
- Strategically partner with Hennepin County to implement its Climate Action Plan and help the County achieve its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Consider advancing the development of a Citywide climate action plan sooner than 2030 as scheduled in the City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan
- Continue to explore and secure the resources needed to fulfill its environmental goals and commitments



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Golden Valley calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Golden Valley calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 21st day of December 2021.

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*Shepard M. Harris*  
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
*Theresa Schyma*  
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Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk

## RESOLUTION NO. 22-009

### RESOLUTION JOINING CITIES ACROSS MINNESOTA DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH

**WHEREAS**, on December 21, 2021, the Golden Valley City Council adopted Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency Impacting the Environment, Economy, and Human Health;

**WHEREAS**, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township in Minnesota, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 and 2022 a non-partisan coalition of elected and appointed officials from cities of all sizes throughout Minnesota has been meeting to discuss how to influence policy and regulations to help cities meet their climate and energy goals and accelerate the learning and spread of best practices and policy ideas;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2022 at least fifteen cities from this emerging coalition are taking action locally and calling on the state and federal government for immediate assistance to address climate change and the adverse impacts it has on cities' economic well-being and quality of life, with more cities expected to announce declarations in the months ahead;

**WHEREAS**, acting together with these communities now will magnify our impact and increase our visibility and leverage for state and federal funding and support;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Golden Valley joins this growing coalition of cities across Minnesota declaring that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Golden Valley commits to carrying out the actions outlined in Resolution No. 21-100 and working with this coalition to leverage state and federal assistance for local communities.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 18th day of January 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
*Shepard M. Harris*  
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:  
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*Theresa Schyma*  
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Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk

## **Appendix E3. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements**

- **Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits – City of Golden Valley (1 page)**



# MEMORANDUM

## Physical Development Department

763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 28, 2016

**To:** Tim Cruikshank, City Manager

**From:** Jeff Oliver, PE, City Engineer  
R.J. Kakach, EIT, Engineer

**Subject:** MCES I&I Grant Benefits – City of Golden Valley

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The City of Golden Valley has utilized funding from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Grant Programs to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in both the public and private sewer systems over the past several years. The public grants have provided additional funding to allow expanded scopes on projects and decreased timelines on I&I reduction programs. For example, as part of the annual street reconstruction projects, we have been able to increase sewer lining and manhole sealing quantities with the extra grant money that was available. Also, we were able to expedite a five to seven year sanitary sewer manhole cover replacement program into four years with additional funding from MCES.

The 2013-2014 MCES private sewer grant allowed residents to repair their sanitary sewer lateral and be reimbursed by MCES at 33% of the repair cost up to \$2,000. The available funding through this grant was so popular that City staff had to turn away applicants. Nearly 300 properties applied for the grant over the two year period. This reimbursement opportunity from MCES led to an increase in I&I compliance with the City Ordinance. The Ordinance requires all properties to become compliant prior to the sale of a property. This allows the City to gradually reduce I&I in the private system. The grant money attracted interest from properties all over the City, including people who were not selling their home. This extra interest in becoming I&I compliant from the available MCES grant funding helped propel the City forward in their I&I mitigation efforts.

The public and private grants provided by MCES have helped to lower Golden Valley's annual sanitary sewer flows over the past five years. The public grant has allowed for more thorough I&I reduction to be done with street reconstruction projects and I&I mitigation programs whereas the private grant increased interest in becoming compliant with the City's I&I Ordinance. The additional funding from MCES has pushed Golden Valley ahead in their goal to reduce I&I in the sanitary sewer system.



