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DATE: July 19, 2019

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee

RE: Highland Park District 15 Plan

BACKGROUND

Highland District Council began work on a new district plan in fall 2016 and its plan task force began meeting in spring 2017. Shortly thereafter Highland Park staff and volunteers began outreach and engagement efforts that continued through much of 2018. They collected input from residents through an extensive community engagement effort including online surveys conducted prior to and after the plan was drafted. Participation in the survey was encouraged through Twitter, Facebook, the district council website, the Highland Park District Council newsletter, and announcements in the Villager newspaper. Community, school, and association websites were leveraged to expand the outreach. Tabling occurred at community events that included a jazz concert, National Night Out, farmers' market, park pop-up meeting, Parks and Recreation movie nights, home improvement fair, Pool House Rock, community center, Highland Fest, and a local grocery store. The draft Highland Park District 15 Plan was prepared and presented to City staff in December 2018. Upon receipt of comments from City staff review, Highland Park District Council made revisions and adopted the plan on April 17, 2019 and then presented it to the City for review and adoption.

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

The Saint Paul Planning Commission held a public hearing on the plan on June 28, 2019; one person spoke in support of the plan and no one spoke in opposition. The in-person testimony came from a member of the Highland Park plan task force and focused on the planning process, public outreach and engagement, the hard work of many neighborhood volunteers, and how the plan's objectives and strategies address the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and equity. Two individuals provided written testimony. Comments from a City of Saint Paul Heritage Preservation staff person focused on suggested minor edits to language in the plan to make strategies clearer. Testimony from a neighborhood resident focused on transportation and transit-related topics, including a call to have the CP Rail spur placed in government ownership to preserve and protect it for future transportation purposes related to Ford Site redevelopment. The comments also suggested setting a mode share goal of 30 percent to help shift more trips to transit and suggested that Saint Paul use congestion pricing to induce greater single occupant vehicle travel.

ANALYSIS OF TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT PLAN

Staff recommends the minor edits suggested by Heritage Preservation staff be accepted to make the intent of the plan's strategies clearer. Staff does not recommend the plan call for placing the CP Rail spur in government ownership because the property in question is in private ownership and there are no plans for a governmental entity to purchase it. Regarding transit mode share, the draft plan calls for improving public transit mode share but does not identify a specific goal. Nor does the 2040 Comprehensive Plan identify a specific goal. The 2040 plan calls for "True transportation choice throughout the city, with a shift from single-occupant vehicles toward other modes". No change to the draft plan is recommended. Finally, staff does not recommend adding a strategy to use congestion pricing because this is not

consistent with the transportation policies in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Also, attached for your reference are two documents that provide a comparison of policies in the 2040 plan and the Highland Plan and policies in the Highland Plan that address equity.

OTHER PLANS
The Highland Park Neighborhood Plan Summary (2007) should be decertified when it is superseded by the Highland Park District 15 Plan.

The Shepard Davern Area Plan and the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan are adopted plans that set a vision and policies to guide growth, investment, and development in their respective geographic areas of the Highland Park. They are of part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and supplement the Highland Park District 15 Plan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
The Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommends the plan be revised according to the analysis discussed in this memo and recommends the Planning Commission recommend adoption of the Highland Park District 15 Plan to the Mayor and City Council. See the attached Planning Commission resolution.

Attachments
1. Written comments received during public hearing
2. Similarity of Policies in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Draft Highland Park District 15 Plan
3. Equity in the Draft Highland Park District 15 Plan
4. Planning Commission resolution recommending adoption of the plan to the Mayor and City Council