

July 1, 2013

Dear Met Council,

I am Mayor Mark Korin for the City of Oak Grove, MN. We are an outer ring, northern Anoka County City that has followed a common sense growth plan for the last 30 years of a 2.5 acre density without any need for MUSA now or in the perceivable future. Looking back at the way in which our 2030 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Oak Grove was forced to include a designated future MUSA in the southeastern corner of the City was extremely poor planning then and would be misguided now. Creating this oasis of a high density designation will limit all the property owners in that area to 1 home per 10 acre density development. Under this current plan, land owners in this area would NOT be able to utilize their property like the rest of the residents of Oak Grove until MUSA services become available which would be unacceptable and unnecessary for any reasonable growth plan.

The sewer system that the City of East Bethel installed, currently and for many years to come, does NOT have sufficient ERU's to allow for their system to be justified, not to mention they are tasked with creating development which will populate the new system. East Bethel's focus runs north and south along Highway 65, meaning that even when fully developed, there will be a gap of non-sewered residential in East Bethel and no infrastructure to support Oak Grove for forced future MUSA.

The mission for Thrive MSP 2040 is **“Working together towards a prosperous, livable and sustainable region where all will thrive.”** The elected leadership for the City of Oak Grove vehemently rejected the future MUSA dedication from the very start and all the way through the 2030 comprehensive planning process. The City of Oak Grove, MN. requests Met Council's cooperation in reviewing the true and actual need for MUSA in our City when compared to the existing and future commercial uses along Highway 65. We realize the Met Council has made considerable investments in East Bethel, but significant additional costs would be necessary for a system that was poorly planned from the beginning. We believe that your desire to waist taxpayer's money should not be justified at the expense of property owners in the City of Oak Grove who NEVER asked or wanted this.

A goal of the Thrive MSP 2040 is “preservation protects natural areas and resources for enjoyment today and into the future.” The MUSA area in our City is nearly 50% wetlands and includes Swan Lake which is a natural environment lake; it is also bordered on the west side by Cedar Creek which is a protected natural corridor. When you factor in these natural areas, flood plains and shoreland districts, your buildable area becomes limited and non-contiguous. Our leadership understands planning now for the future however; this is further justification for review of the existing MUSA to determine if even its existence is or was sound planning.

While moving forward with Thrive MSP 2040, please consider your mission, principles and goals and how they apply to the existing future MUSA in Oak Grove. I have been part of the City's leadership for many years and understand the needs of my residents. We will never support or fund any infrastructure or plans that take our residents land use rights away.

Thank you for your time, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. I can be reached at: 763-506-9990 Ext. 201

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark R. Korin
City of Oak Grove, MN