

## Chapter 1 - Preface

Twin Cites area communities are required to update their comprehensive plans every ten years. By statute, comprehensive plans have a number of required elements that address potential future changes in land use, housing, parks, transportation and utilities. The 2008 Hopkins Comprehensive Plan addresses these topics but, more importantly, it attempts to position the community to proactively adjust to best meet and embrace the economic, societal and technical changes that will occur between now and 2030.

The Metropolitan Council classifies Hopkins as a developed community. Since virtually all of the land in Hopkins is fully developed, large scale land use changes are unlikely to occur. Current and future trends, however, will have a significant impact on the community. As this plan was being assembled, a number of trends were identified that are likely to impact Hopkins in the years ahead. Three of those general trends are particularly noteworthy.

### **The population of the community will continue to change....**

Hopkins' population is becoming increasingly diverse. Diversity will have an impact on housing choices, the demand for some types of retail goods, park and recreation services and social services. While the Comprehensive Plan attempts to address future population changes, determining how demographic changes will actually impact the community will be an ongoing learning experience.

### **Transportation modes are changing....**

This Comprehensive Plan was assembled during a time of unprecedented fluctuations in energy prices. Energy costs have influenced driving habits and people's preferences in transportation mode choices and have heightened the awareness of "walkability." Hopkins is perfectly positioned to offer a wide range of future transportation options. It sits at the crossroads of major regional bike trails. The Southwest LRT

corridor generally parallels Excelsior Boulevard through the heart of the community, and light rail is to serve Hopkins by 2015. Station area planning activities have identified opportunities for future land use changes that will create new, exciting places for people to live and work while supporting existing neighborhoods and businesses. Hopkins is a walkable community. Its traditional pattern of residential grid streets, neighborhood schools and churches and a traditional downtown make it convenient for people to move around the community on foot.

**Purchasing patterns for goods and services will continue to change....**

Electronic commerce has been an influencing factor for the past decade. The number of people that purchase goods online increases annually. Despite this trend, communities still need a center for commerce and culture. Downtown Hopkins is that center. It has the mix of commercial uses, government services and recreational opportunities that make it a great place to gather.