

February 9, 2018

## Metro Cities Board of Directors Openings

Due to term completions on the Metro Cities Board there will be openings for terms that begin July 1, and the organization is seeking interested candidates.

The Metro Cities Board of Directors is comprised of 19 city officials, elected and appointed, from throughout the region. The Board is responsible for overseeing Metro Cities' budget, strategic plan and legislative priorities. It also makes appointments to the Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the TAB, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Board. The Board meets the third Thursday of each month (June and October meetings are held on the second Thursday). Members are elected at the Metro Cities Annual Meeting and serve two two-year terms. Metro Cities' bylaws require that the slate of Board members be balanced regarding geography and city population.

Candidates are asked to provide a cover letter, résumé and completed [application form](#). Candidates may also provide letters of reference. A Nominating Committee will meet in March to make recommendations on candidates for election by the membership in April.

Applications can be submitted to Kimberly Ciarrocchi at [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org). The deadline for application is **Friday, February 23, 2018**. If you would like additional information, please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org).

## Reminder: TAC Openings – Application Deadline This Tuesday

Metro Cities is seeking interested applicants for two seats on the Metropolitan Council's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that advises the TAB (Transportation Advisory Board). Appointees must be department head level staff with an engineering, planning or public works background. Metro Cities' guidelines place a high priority on making the TAC balanced with respect to city size and geography. The Board also gives preference to those who agree to serve on Metro Cities Transportation Policy Committee. The Board seeks candidates who will be committed to strong attendance at meetings.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and a resume/bio by **Tuesday, February 13, 2018** to Kimberly Ciarrocchi. Applications can be submitted via mail (Metro Cities, 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55103) or email: [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org).

## Metropolitan Council Announces Wastewater Reuse Workshops and Public Hearing

The Metropolitan Council Environment Services Division (MCES) will hold two workshops and a public hearing related to proposed amendments to the Water Resource Policy Plan, and will accept comments on these amendments. The proposed amendments follow work by a recent Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force that reviewed regional wastewater reuse policies and made recommendations for potential regional/local partnerships for wastewater reuse. The task force, which included city officials, reached agreement on several policy considerations but did not find consensus on the use of wastewater fees to support reuse opportunities. Two of the three amendment options for the Water Resources Policy Plan include a regional cost share (use of wastewater fee) using specific criteria. To view the proposed amendments, click [here](#).

To view a previous newsletter article on these amendments, click [here](#). To view the Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force Report, click [here](#). To view the Water Resource Policy Plan, click [here](#).

**Two workshops will be held:**

**Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>,** Inver Grove Heights Community Center, 8055 Barbara Avenue East, Inver Grove Heights, from 1-3 pm

**Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>,** Brooklyn Park Library, 8500 Broadway Avenue, Brooklyn Park from 2-4 pm

**The public hearing will be held as follows:**

**Metropolitan Council**

390 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN, Room LLA  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Metro Cities will submit formal comments that will be included in a future newsletter. Members are encouraged to attend a workshop and provide comments at the public hearing. Comments will be accepted through March 23, 2018. Comments can also be submitted in the methods below:

- Send written comments to: Tim O'Donnell at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, 390 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55101-1805
- Fax comments to: Tim O'Donnell at 651-602-1477
- Record comments on: Metropolitan Council Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- E-mail comments to: [info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:info@metc.state.mn.us)
- Send TTY comments to 651-291-0904.

**MnDOT Releases Tolling Feasibility Study**

The MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) recently released a Tolling Study Report. The purpose of the study was to examine the feasibility of toll roads in Minnesota. The study resulted from 2017 legislation directing MnDOT to examine practices in other states and conduct an analysis.

MnDOT selected interstate and trunk highways representing typical corridors to provide estimates. The legislation required that the study evaluate tolling as a funding source by converting existing general-purpose lanes of the studied corridors to toll lanes. Currently, Minnesota only has toll facilities on MNPASS lanes, with these lanes constructed as additional lanes.

MnDOT did not recommend that any examined corridors be converted to tollways and concluded that a more detailed study would be needed before a decision could be made to implement a toll project.

To view the Minnesota Tolling Study Report, click [here](#).

**Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government Passes SWLRT Resolutions; Discusses Governance**

The bi-lateral Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government met on Thursday. The Commission passed two non-binding resolutions related to the Southwest LRT (SWLRT) project and heard testimony on regional governance positions.

The first resolution is a response to a decision by the Metropolitan Council to change its civil construction bid policy. The Council had informed the Commission that the policy changes were made to conform with new federal regulations and meant to avoid organizational conflicts of interest. The changes resulted in 36 contractor and subcontractor firms that were part of design consulting work being ineligible to bid on the construction phase of the SWLRT project. The Council provided a letter indicating they will make these decisions separate from other solicitations and would further define and clarify future design and engineering solicitations to confine any conflict of interest restrictions to the work performed by individual contractors and subcontractors.

The resolution recommends that the Council rescind the disqualification of the 36 firms, evaluate the conflicts of interest of these firms, and reconsider their conflict of interest policy. To view the commission resolution, click [here](#). To view Metropolitan Council's response, click [here](#).

The second resolution relates to the Calhoun Isles Condominium Association building and a request by its association to the Metropolitan Council to conduct a vibration study to determine the impacts of the construction and operation of the SWLRT. In a letter submitted to the Legislature, the Council stated that it has been in consultation with the association and will continue to work with them on the scope of a study to be conducted in March and April of 2018. The resolution recommends that the Council have a third party conduct a study on vibrations caused by the project, as well to determine what mitigation measures could be taken to protect the structure during construction and operation of the line.

To view the commission resolution, click [here](#). To view the Council's response, click [here](#).

The Commission also heard testimony from several individuals and organizations, including Metro Cities, on the governance of the Council. The Commission heard from the Citizens' League, Metro Cities, U of M Law Professor Myron Orfield, the Center for the American Experiment and representatives from suburban counties. Commission members asked questions of testifiers following presentations. The Commission reviews, monitors, and makes any recommendations on the Metropolitan Council's budget and functions. Commission Chair Senator Eric Pratt indicated that he wanted to have governance ideas on the table for consideration prior to the start of the legislative session that begins on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org).

## **Metropolitan Council Work Group Continues Review of Regional Growth Strategy**

A newly formed Metropolitan Council Regional Growth Strategy Work Group met this week, and discussed changing development patterns in the Twin Cities. The work group was created to serve as a forum for the Council to consider long term regional trends and impacts on regional systems from a cross-divisional perspective, and to provide feedback on what information might be useful to the Council and its standing committees in developing regional growth strategies.

The group discussed a range of issues at the intersection of development patterns, market demand, and local and regional policy. Council staff discussed how development is market driven, yet affected by policy. Council policies that guide growth include land use and density policies, wastewater and transportation infrastructure, coordination of local comprehensive plans and Livable Communities program funding.

The work group discussed previous and current development trends as well as future planning considerations. Staff explained how changes to land use can be tracked through comprehensive plan amendments. Staff noted that most amendments have been from communities with suburban community designations (suburban, suburban edge and emerging suburban edge), recognizing changes in development patterns since the last comp plan updates in 2008.

Future trends discussed predict more growth in older suburbs, a need for smaller housing units for an older population (more older adults and households), the need for more multifamily housing units and locations with amenities (transit, retail, lakes and rivers, and accessibility).

The discussion at the work group will inform a March Committee of the Whole presentation. Metro Cities will continue to monitor these discussions and provide updates via the newsletter.

## **Comprehensive Plans and Preliminary Reviews**

Local comprehensive plans are due to the Metropolitan Council at the end of 2018. In preparing for submissions, cities may submit a local comprehensive plan to the Metropolitan Council for a preliminary review. This review is optional, but encouraged by Council staff as preliminary reviews can identify potential and allow for an opportunity for the Council and community to work together prior to the formal review to resolve any potential issues. Plans may be submitted for a preliminary review until September 30, 2018. Please see [Preliminary Review](#) basics and information on Council staff contacts.

Metro Cities' policies recognize the Metropolitan Council's review and comment role for comprehensive plans, and support the cooperative and timely resolution between the Council and local communities on any outstanding issues. Metro Cities recently emphasized with Metropolitan Council staff the importance of clarity on preliminary review feedback on issues in local plans that may result in non-conformance with regional plans versus advisory comments on plans that do not require action by the local community.

Questions? Please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org).

## **Comprehensive Plans: Plan It Podcasts and Updates**

The Metropolitan Council's Podcast Training Program on Comprehensive Plan Updates, PlanIt, has two new episodes that may be of interest to metro officials. [Episode 10](#) discusses partnering with Colleges and Universities, providing examples of local governments and agencies connecting with students and higher education communities. [Episode 11](#) explores the connection between transportation planning and planning for equity.

The PlanIt podcast series features monthly episodes on a variety of topics that are not required elements of a comprehensive plan through conversations with planning experts and professions outside of the Met Council. For more information and planning resources, including newly published Local Planning Handbook Resources, check out the Planit website [here](#).

## **EVENT: Register for Economic Development Day at the Capitol**

City officials are encouraged to attend Economic Development Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 7. Metro Cities, the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), the Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Minnesota Brownfields have partnered on this year's event. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with state lawmakers and legislative leadership and with others in the economic development field. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and there is no cost to attend. Registration information is [available here](#).

## **Save the Date for the Metro Cities Annual Meeting!**

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Metro Cities Annual Meeting! This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 19th at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory in their Bullard

Rainforest Auditorium. The evening will again start off with a social hour, followed by a guest speaker, and will wrap up with a brief (but important!) business meeting to elect members and officers to the Board of Directors. All member city staff and elected officials are welcome and encouraged to attend! More information and details to come.

Questions? Contact Kimberly at 651-215-4000 or [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org).

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**Metro Cities News** is emailed periodically to all Metro Cities member mayors, councilmembers, city managers and administrators to keep officials abreast of important metro city issues. This information is also intended to be shared with city staff.

If you'd like to sign up to receive Metro Cities News, please email [newsletter@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:newsletter@metrocitiesmn.org) and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

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