



## **Metropolitan Council and State Agency Appointments Process**

Following the November 6<sup>th</sup> election, Governor-elect Walz and a transition team have begun the process for appointing the Governor's cabinet and administration. The Governor's appointments will include appointment of a new Metropolitan Council Chair and Metropolitan Council members. Governor-elect Walz has indicated that any current appointees must re-apply to be considered for appointment.

The Metropolitan Council will transition with a new Chair and appointment of new members, which could include re-appointment of some current members. Traditionally, a Governor appoints a new Chair and Regional Administrator early in a new administration. The appointment of Council members will follow a statutory nominating committee process. Current members of the Council, meanwhile, continue to serve until new appointments to the Council are made. All appointments must be made by March 4, 2019.

Applications for commissioner positions as well as the Chair and members of the Metropolitan Council can be submitted online through the Secretary of State's office, at this link: <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Position/Index/1>

Metro Cities has been asked to pass this information along to its members and encourages members to pass this information along to individuals who may have an interest in the Metropolitan Council or administration.

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

## **Metropolitan Council Approves Construction Contract for SWLRT**

The Metropolitan Council last week approved a \$799 billion contract to Lunda/CS McCrossan Joint Venture for construction on the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project. The action comes after the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) submitted a letter of no prejudice to the Council for the project.

The Council also approved several other items related to the SWLRT, including a quality management services contract for an amount of \$36 million and agreements with MnDOT, Hennepin County, Minneapolis and Eden Prairie. A limited notice to proceed will now be issued. Council staff indicated that construction will likely commence in the first quarter of 2019, with a ceremonial ground breaking taking place in December of this year. For more information, click [here](#).

## **EVENT: Census Planning Roundtable**

**Friday, December 7, 2018**

1:00 - 2:30 pm

*Ramsey County Library - Roseville*

2180 Hamline Avenue North

Roseville, MN 55113

### Registration

This is a meeting of local governments working together to promote awareness and participation in the 2020 Census. This group includes local government professionals and officials who are organizing and supporting such committees.

Community engagement specialists, voter-registration promotion specialists, and interested elected officials are encouraged to attend. Show up early (12:15-12:30) for lunch and informal networking.

### **EVENT: Metro Cities' Livable Communities Workshop – December 11**

Metro Cities is hosting a workshop for city officials and staff to hear from Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Act Program staff on tips, tools and other information for submitting competitive LCA applications.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

9:00 - 11:30 am

*LMC/Metro Cities Building - St. Croix Room , 145 University Ave*

The workshop will cover the following:

- A review of LCA goals
- Examples of successful and unfunded applications
- Eligibility and competitiveness for a range of cities
- A review of timelines and scoring process for applications
- Questions from attendees

The workshop is open to interested city officials and staff. Seating is limited. **Please register by Friday, December 7th to [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org) or 651-215-4000.**

### **EVENT: Metro Regional Meeting/Metro Cities Policy Adoption Meeting**

There's still time to register for the LMC Metro Regional Meeting and Policy Adoption Meeting on November 29th, 2018 at Brookview in Golden Valley!

The cities of Minnetonka, Eagan, and Prior Lake will discuss their strategies for community engagement. LMC and LMCIT staff will present on conflict in local government and how to work together for more effective governing and problem-solving. Metro Cities membership will also meet to approve the 2019 Legislative Policies for Metro Cities staff to use going into the 2019 legislative session. **A membership quorum is required for policy adoption, so each member city should make sure to send a representative!** The event will end with a great networking social hour.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Metropolitan Council May Use Additional \$900,000 in General Levy to Support Housing Vouchers**

Responding to increased rents across the metro region, the Community Development Committee (CDC) [recommended using an additional \\$900,000](#) of 2019 general levy funds to maintain and pay for the current level of housing choice vouchers in 2019. The draft 2019 Council budget, out for public comment, already includes \$1.1 million in general levy subsidy for rent assistance. If approved by the full Council, the 2019 budget would have a total subsidy of \$2 million. [Other options](#) considered by the Council included reducing the number of vouchers by 100 or reducing the community choice initiative by \$1 million.

Under current HUD rules the Met Council can issue up to 6,616 vouchers. The 2018 budget used \$1.9 million of Met Council housing reserves to issue all available vouchers this year. The Council discussed a desire to set rent limits high enough to allow choice in all communities while setting them low enough to serve as many families as possible.

The community choice initiative responds to what the Council has identified as higher payment standards in thirteen high rent communities (Chanhassen, Chaska, Eden Prairie, Edina, Excelsior, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Maple Grove, Minnetonka, Roseville, Shoreview, St. Anthony and White Bear Lake).

Discussion by the committee included comments noting this proposal would use the region-wide levy to support the subregional geographic footprint of the Metro HRA. The [Metro HRA's service area](#) includes nearly 100 communities in Carver, Hennepin, Anoka and Ramsey counties.

The full Met Council will review and vote on the revised budget proposal later this month.

Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

## **CDC Approves 2018 Livable Communities Demonstration Account Funding Recommendations**

The CDC approved nine projects in six cities for Livable Communities Demonstration Account funding this week. The projects support a range of improvements and end uses including housing, workforce development, public infrastructure, stormwater management, placemaking, and tax capacity increases.

Nine of 10 applications were approved. Projects are in Brooklyn Park, St. Louis Park, Eden Prairie, Richfield, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The committee waived the 40/60 guideline in order to more fully fund requests for projects in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The award guideline states the Council may issue up to 40% of available funds to projects located in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

## **Local Government Innovation Awards**

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota recently named 19 winners of Local Government Innovation Awards. Projects are recognized in up to five categories (cities, counties, schools, townships, and Native nations) and one entry in each category is named Leading Innovator.

Award winners from the City category were the Ramsey County Fire Chiefs Association (Leading Innovator), the city of Big Lake, the city of Minneapolis, the city of Richfield, and the Rochester Public Library. To see more information on each category and projects awarded within each category, click [here](#).

An awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Click [here](#) for more information and to RSVP.

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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.

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**Metro Cities 145 University Ave W., St. Paul, MN 55103-2044 Phone 651-215-4000 Fax 651-281-1299**  
[www.MetroCitiesMN.org](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org)