



Legislative Update

The Legislature has completed its third week of business. Health care premium relief has been a key focus for legislators in the first weeks of the 2017 session, and a premium relief bill passed the House on Thursday, following the Senate's passage of a bill last week. The bills will now go to a conference committee. Differences among legislators and the Governor have centered on the scope of a bill and the inclusion of reform measures that go beyond premium relief.

Last week the House Property Tax Division heard HF 166-Peppin, which would cap the fiscal disparities contribution for cities that own and operate municipal wastewater treatment systems. The bill was laid over. Metro Cities' staff testified that the organization's policies stipulate that changes to the fiscal disparities program should only be considered within a framework of property tax/aids reform. Metro Cities expects that proposals to use the fiscal disparities program to fund specific objectives, such as transportation, may receive legislative consideration this year.

The Governor's administration briefly summarized the Governor's bonding recommendations for the Senate Capital Investment Committee last week, and the Governor is expected to release his tax and budget recommendations this week. The Governor will also give his State of the State address tonight at 7:00 pm.

Senator Senjem introduced a bonding bill this week that has not yet been heard but contains several recommendations from last year's Senate capital investment bill. The bill contains \$2.5 million for inflow-infiltration mitigation assistance for metro communities, an initiative of Metro Cities.

At a hearing on Tuesday, the House Commerce Committee heard and passed HF 30, a bill that would allow for the sale of liquor on Sundays. An amendment to the bill would restrict sales to between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. The bill would go into effect on July 1st. The bill was passed to the House on a 15-4 vote. A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the Senate. The Governor has said that he would not veto a bill authorizing Sunday liquor sales.

Several bills of interest were introduced this week, including bills that would require a two-thirds majority for passage of interim ordinances. This proposal received consideration last session, and is opposed by Metro Cities. Bills were also introduced regarding the regulation of document retention for local governments. See the end of this newsletter for other introduced bills of interest to Metro Cities. Metro Cities will provide more information as any bills are considered.

Legislature Discusses CTIB as It Takes First Step Toward Dissolution

The future of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) was discussed by a joint House-Senate legislative committee on transportation last week and the CTIB itself met on Wednesday to take next steps toward potential dissolution.

At the hearing, legislators heard a presentation of Metro Transit's finances and presentation by CTIB Chair Peter McLaughlin on reasons for dissolving the CTIB, as well as possible scenarios for funding future transit projects in the metro region should the CTIB dissolve. Commissioner McLaughlin explained that by dissolving the CTIB, the five counties currently making up the CTIB

would be allowed to impose a half cent local sales tax as other non-CTIB counties across the state are allowed to do under law.

Although there is no guarantee that counties would choose to impose a tax, imposition of a half cent by counties could alleviate the need for state support for transit projects. During the hearing, some legislators questioned this approach and expressed concern about the potential for counties to fund transit projects for which the state's participation in future operating costs for projects would still be required. No action was taken.

On Wednesday the CTIB acted on a resolution to move the CTIB toward dissolution. The resolution, titled "Preliminary Intent to Dissolve the CTIB" explained the rationale for dissolving the current structure and outlined conditions for an agreement to ensure that current CTIB funding obligations would be met. The resolution cites the lack of state funding, as well as giving counties the option to impose their own sales taxes, as reasons to dissolve. Conditions that would need to be addressed include payment by CTIB for outstanding debts and 2017 grants. Member counties would also need to agree on how operating costs paid by CTIB would be allocated to each county.

The preliminary resolution was passed with a vote against by Dakota County, and Anoka County splitting its two votes. To view the resolution, [click here](#). To view the presentation presented to CTIB members, [click here](#).

Questions? Please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003.

TAB Approves 2016 Regional Solicitation

The Transportation Advisory Board has approved the 2016 Regional Solicitation. The Regional Solicitation process is the method by which federal transportation dollars are allocated within the seven-county metro area. In total, \$205 million will be distributed among roadway, transit and travel demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Board also approved \$2.7 million for an expanded Travel and Behavior Inventory. In all, 58 projects were funded, with three projects in Anoka County, one in Carver County, seven in Dakota County, four in Scott County, one in Washington County, 24 in Hennepin County, and 12 in Ramsey County. Six projects were either region-wide or included multiple counties. For a list of funded projects, [click here](#). To view a map of projects, [click here](#).

Questions? Please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003.

Met Council Reviews Use of 2016 Fair Housing Resources

The Community Development Committee received a [staff update](#) on how the Council used its budgeted \$100,000 on fair housing activities in 2016. This was the second year the Council has budgeted that amount to support efforts for equity and goals of expanding housing choice.

The Council spent \$20,000 to support a video on naturally occurring affordable housing, \$9,500 to support the Mixed-Income Housing Calculator, \$7,500 to the Fair Housing Implementation Council for community engagement grants for the addendum to the Analysis of Impediments, and \$23,000 to ensure accurate data on Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Two additional projects will utilize remaining 2016 funding and a portion of the 2017 budget funds. The Council has opened an RFP for a project to develop a model fair housing policy for adoption by local governments. The Council's Housing Policy requires cities receiving Livable Communities Act grants to have a fair housing policy. This project will provide a model ordinance for cities

wishing to adopt it or a similar ordinance to meet that requirement. A second RFP is open for testing on landlord acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers. Staff explained how the Council has heard anecdotal concerns about landlords not accepting the vouchers.

Metro Cities Welcomes Government Relations Intern

Metro Cities has hired government relations intern Ania McDonnell for the 2017 legislative session. Ania is a recent graduate of Hamline University, where she majored in political science. Ania will assist us with monitoring legislative hearings, tracking legislation and research and writing projects. We look forward to having her on board with us this session. Ania can be reached at ania@metrocitiesmn.org

Metro Cities Seeks Candidates for Board Seats

Metro Cities currently has vacancies on its Board of Directors. Members serve two, two-year terms. The board is made up of 19 city officials and comprised of elected and appointed officials. The board oversees Metro Cities' budget, strategic and legislative priorities. The Board also makes appointments to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Grant Evaluation and Ranking System (GEARS), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Boards. The board meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Interested candidates are asked to provide a cover letter, resume and completed [application form](#) by Friday, January 27, 2017. Candidates may also provide letters of reference. Metro Cities' by-laws require that the board be balanced with regard to geography and population.

Applications should be submitted to Kim Ciarrocchi at kciarrocchi@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metro Cities Seeks Candidates for a Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Seat

Metro Cities is seeking interested candidates for an opening on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for making municipal appointments to the TAB. The TAB qualifies the region for federal transportation planning, operating and construction funds. The TAB is also an official participant in the region's 3C transportation planning process on issues that affect transportation planning and funding in the Twin Cities region.

Municipal appointees for the TAB must be elected officials. Metro Cities' guidelines place a priority on making the TAB balanced with respect to city size and geography. The Metro Cities Board also gives preference to those who agree to serve on Metro Cities Transportation Policy Committee, and preference to persons from a city not represented on the Metro Cities Board. The board seeks candidates who will be committed to strong attendance at meetings.

Interested candidates for the TAB should fill out the [questionnaire](#), submit a letter of interest and resume to Kim Ciarrocchi at kciarrocchi@metrocitiesmn.org or by mail to Metro Cities at 145 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 27, 2017. If you have questions please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org.

Met Council to Hold Comp Plan Training Sessions

The Met Council will host three comp plan training events over the next month, details below. 2017 workshops will also include a series of podcasts accessible via the Council website.

EVENT: Transit Oriented Development in Your Comp Plan – The event includes a facilitated panel of local planners and Metropolitan Council staff.

Thursday, January 26
8:30 – 10:30 am
Rehearsal Hall
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431

More [information on the workshop](#) and [registration information](#) are on the Met Council website.

EVENT: Interactive Community Engagement - Urban Planner James Rojas will lead a workshop on techniques and strategies to facilitate community meetings.

Thursday, February 16
9:30 – 11:30 am
Great Room
Silverwood Regional Park
New Brighton

[Registration information](#) is available on the Met Council website.

WEBINAR: Regional Industrial Lands Inventory

Thursday, February 23
12:00 – 1:00 pm

The Met Council will post additional information as well as registration information soon. Metro Cities will share that information when it becomes available.

Bills of Note

SF 234 – Appropriates \$100 million to the border-to-border broadband fund.

[S.F. 123](#), Provides electronic communication retention requirements with regards to local government.

[S.F. 140](#), Bill authorizes Minneapolis and St. Paul cities to impose a parking facility fee. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

[S.F. 150](#), Osmeck- Bill prohibits the Metropolitan Council from carrying out a light rail project without explicit legislative authority. Referred to the Committee on Local Government.

[S.F. 166](#), Pratt -Authorizes the REAL ID Act, implements the it's governance. Notes requirements and fees modifications for driver's licenses and ID cards.

[S.F. 174](#), Provides additional financing of parks, trails and recreational facilities for local units of government by special fees. Referred to the Committee on Local Government.

[H.F. 248](#), Bill requires property tax credits for overvalued property.

[H.F. 298](#), Special taxing districts' levy certification dates. Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy.

[H.F. 305](#), Bill authorizes cities to create land-value taxation districts. Referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy.

[S.F. 183](#), Bill exempts the first tier of commercial-industrial property from the state general levy. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

[S.F. 201/HF 330](#), Bill requires a two-thirds vote to impose an interim ordinance and requires a public hearing after ten-day notice before imposing an interim ordinance relating to housing. SF 210-Miscellaneous capital investment provisions.

[S.F. 213](#), Osmek - Tax increment financing in Wayzata: extends the five-year rule for Tax Increment Financing District 3. Referred to the committee on Taxes.

[S.F. 218](#), Bill prohibits certain requirements and permits that govern mowing to be established by road authorities.

[S.F. 237](#), Bill provides a vendor allowance in regards to sales and use tax.

[H.F. 322](#), Bill allows governments to sue to pay for public safety response costs following unlawful assemblies and public nuisances. Referred to the Committee on Civil Law and Data Practices Policy.

[H.F. 323](#), Howe - Bill allocates state tax revenue generated from motor vehicle repair or maintenance to exclusively fund roads.

[H.F. 347](#), Bill regulates the transfers of manufactured homes when ownership is debated.

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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