



MCES Customer Forum: 2018 Budget

The Metropolitan Council is hosting two upcoming customer budget forums to discuss and take input on MCES services, current topics, and upcoming fiscal year budget and rates. The forums will include a presentation regarding the MCES budget, budget drivers, the capital program, and the calculation of the MWC (municipal wastewater charge). Time will be available for city officials and staff to meet with MCES staff regarding questions they may have about the MWC, how it is calculated, and what may have influenced their MWC (growth, I/I, etc.).

MCES staff sent emails to customers which included information about the upcoming forums as well as the community's 2018 Preliminary Municipal Wastewater Charge (MWC).

Tuesday, May 23, from 9:00-11:00 am at Minnetonka City Hall Council Chambers
(14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka)

Thursday, June 8, from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Metro Cities/LMC building
(145 University Ave W, St. Paul)

These forums are open to all staff and elected officials. To attend, RSVP to Kristin Hess at kristin.hess@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1016. If you have further questions regarding budget, contact Ned Smith at ned.smith@metc.state.mn.us.

Session Adjournment Looms without Budget Agreement

The Minnesota Constitution requires the Legislature to adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 22. Legislative leaders and the Governor have met this week and traded budget offers but have not come to agreement on major budget items. Leaders were at a stalemate Thursday following discussions the previous day on what constitutes the "halfway point" in budget proposals. This morning, negotiations resumed. The Governor and leaders are not talking to the press about the status of negotiations today, referring to the "cone of silence." Legislative caucuses are meeting today, and legislators plan to meet with the Governor again later this afternoon.

Speaker Daudt said if there is no deal by Saturday, the House and Senate will start processing new budget bills for a Monday passage. The expectation is if these bills are passed without an agreement by the Governor, he will veto them. Governor Dayton has vetoed 16 out of 76 received bills this session, including the tax and omnibus budget bills.

The House and Senate have processed several "vehicle" bills, and appointed conference committees to these bills, that can serve to process new omnibus bills, with the same members from the previous budget and tax bill conference committees.

Earlier this week, a proposed House capital investment bill totaling \$800 million (up from \$600 million originally proposed) failed due to a lack of obtaining 81 required votes.

Legislative activity over the next few days will be very fluid. Metro Cities will post updates to its twitter account during this last weekend of the legislative session. Follow [@MetroCitiesMN](https://twitter.com/MetroCitiesMN). Stay tuned.

Small Cell Bill Update

The small cell bill, HF 739-O'Neill, was heard Wednesday in the House Jobs Committee and passed to the floor. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Saturday. Metro Cities and the LMC testified against the bill as it was heard on Wednesday. Since that meeting, LMC staff who have been negotiating on the bill's provisions with bill proponents and legislators, met with Rep. O'Neill yesterday, and the bill is expected to be amended on the floor on Saturday, with changes that may result in a position of 'neutral' on the bill for the League of Cities. Metro Cities is reviewing the amendments and will post further information. Click [here](#) to see the amendments to HF 739. Click [here](#) for a summary of the bill (this summary applies to the bill without the above-noted proposed amendments).

Metro Cities continues to have significant concerns with key tenets of the bill that allows a specific industry special access to public rights of way, and defined regulatory costs and stipulations for one entity. This bill will also have its greatest effects on communities in the metropolitan area.

Metro Cities encourages city officials to review the amendments and bill, linked above, and to contact your local legislators with your concerns or opposition to the bill. At this point, the bill has not been considered by the Senate. Stay tuned for additional information.

Business Notice Bill Sent to Governor

A bill that requires cities to post changes to ordinances 10 days in advance of a hearing passed the Legislature and has been sent to Governor Dayton. [HF 1242](#) requires that cities proposing to change an ordinance or amend an ordinance must post notice of the change 10 days prior to when the ordinance is first discussed. Notices can be posted electronically or in locations where other notices are posted. A city must also send electronic notification to anyone who has signed up for notification. Cities must also notify people of the electronic notification process when they apply for a new business license or license renewal. The bill passed in the Senate on a vote of 41-26.

Condo/Townhome Bill Passes Senate

A bill that aims to increase the production of owner-occupied condo and townhome units across the metro region as well as statewide passed the Minnesota Senate Thursday on a bipartisan 61-3 vote. HF 1538-Dziedzic, received support from several metro cities that passed resolutions backing the bill.

Metro Cities supported the bill based on policy support for increasing housing choices in the region. In an informal survey of cities conducted by our association last fall, communities across the region identified the need for additional condominium and townhome units to meet the needs of residents.

The goal of the legislation is to encourage condo and townhome development by reducing the risk of litigation associated with these types of housing and encourages the involved parties to resolve construction defect disputes through negotiations or mediation while also preserving the warranty rights of owners.

A handful of differences remain between the House and Senate versions of the bills. These include responsibility for paying attorney's fees on litigation (the House requires each party to pay their own fees while the Senate requires the prevailing party to pay fees) and the effective date (the House version is retroactive and the Senate is prospective).

The differences will need to be reconciled before a bill can be sent to Governor Dayton. Contact

Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions.

Met Council Accepting Green Infrastructure Grant Program Applications

The Met Council is accepting applications from local governments for the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The Council is interested in working with local governments to implement integrated solutions to the regions water-related problems. These projects could be part of non-water related work, such as land use, transit development or parks and green spaces. Successful projects would promote the concept of examining wastewater, stormwater and water supply issues together and address issues in a cost-effective way. Examples of water-related problem solutions include but are not limited to:

- Private property mitigation of service lateral replacements and foundation drain and sump pump disconnections that reduce inflow and infiltration to our wastewater infrastructure
- Water supply projects such as low-flow plumbing fixture installations and irrigation management systems to help stretch water supplies
- Installing low impact development projects that reduce the volume of storm water and/or improve water quality
- Utilizing green infrastructure to manage flooding, help to recharge our aquifers, and revitalize neighborhoods
- Water reuse or other projects that diversify and stretch our water resources while fostering climate resilience
- Deploying advanced technologies and projects that support multiple water benefits (such as fixing a wastewater issue while addressing a surface water issue) while reinforcing and improving decision-making on all levels

The Council has \$1 million available for this pilot grant program. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to metropolitan area cities. The number of communities receiving a grant will depend on the projects proposed. The Council may divide the funds among multiple projects or select a single project to receive the entire \$1 million. Grantees must be able to provide a 100% match to the dollars requested for the program. Grantees must also be able to enter an agreement with the Metropolitan Council, using standard Council contract terms. The grantees must be able to identify and quantify at a watershed level the water impacts and outcomes expected from the project. The Council will encourage all successful applicants to include Metropolitan Council Underutilized Businesses in grant-funded activities. The Council will require all grantees to report on the results of these efforts. More information about these businesses can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Applications must be received no later than July 17th of this year. Projects receiving funding must be completed by Dec. 31, 2019. For more information, click [here](#), or contact Judy Sventek at judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1156. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Metropolitan Council Discusses Comp Plans

Comp Plan Update Timeline

The Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee on Monday received a staff overview of the [comprehensive plan](#) update review process. The [presentation](#) included information on timelines, statutory review standards and the process for submitting the updates.

Council staff explained several communities have already submitted draft versions of their comp plan updates. Staff will review draft submissions and provide feedback on conformance, policy consistency and inconsistencies, and the completeness of information.

At least six months prior to submission, cities must allow adjacent jurisdictions to review the comp plan update. [M.S. 473.858](#) defines this as review by adjacent governmental units, affected school districts and affected special districts. Combined with city council hearings, the Council is recommending cities plan for an eight to ten month procedural process before submission.

The official Met Council review process runs for up to 120 days. The clock starts when the comp plan update is received and must be completed via Council approval by day 120. During that time, Council staff do a completeness review, prepare a staff report, and present to the Community Development and Environment committees before sending to the full Council for approval.

Cities will be able to submit their comp plan updates, which are due December 31, 2018, through a new online tool. Information is available via the [Local Planning Handbook](#).

Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions.

Interested in a TAC Seat?

Metro Cities is seeking interested candidates for an opening on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for making municipal appointments to the TAC. The TAC and TAB (Transportation Advisory Board) are official participants in the region's 3C transportation planning process on issues that affect transportation planning and funding in the Twin Cities region.

Appointees for the TAC 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.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest and a resume/bio by **Monday, June 1, 2017** to Kim Ciarrocchi via mail (Metro Cities, 145 University Avenue, St Paul, MN 55103) or email: kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metro Cities Policy Committees

It's not too late to be added to the Policy Committee(s) of your choice! Policy Committees are open to city staff as well as elected officials and the form to sign-up can be found [HERE](#). Whether you are new to the process or have participated in a committee in the past, we welcome your participation in one or more of the committees in 2017.

The committees and dates are listed on our website [here](#), along with updates and additional information as it becomes available. All meetings take place at the Metro Cities/League of MN Cities building from **11:00-1:30pm**.

Please consider serving, and encourage other staff and officials within your city to do the same!

Contact Kimberly with any questions, and email your sign-up form to kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metro Cities Breakfast at the June LMC Annual Conference

If you're attending the 2017 LMC Annual Conference in June in Rochester at the Mayo Civic Center, plan to join your metro colleagues for breakfast on Friday, June 16th at 7:30 am. This is

a great chance to mingle with other Metro Cities members and to hear a brief update from Metro Cities staff on Capitol issues, the Met Council, and the legislative session.

If you're able to join us, please let Kimberly know at 651-215-4000 or kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

We hope to see you there!

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 and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

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