Policy Committee Dates Are Approaching!

Metro Cities' policy development process begins the week of July 17th. Agenda packets for the first committee meetings will be emailed to committee members next week. If you're interested in signing up for a committee, please click here for committee descriptions and a sign-up sheet. Committee participation is open to local elected officials and staff.

Please contact Kimberly Ciarrocchi at 651-215-4004 or kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org for more information.

Applications Being Accepted for TED Grants

The MN Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) are currently accepting applications for the Transportation and Economic Development (TED) program. There are two separate programs with separate criteria. MNDOT received $18.4 million for its program and DEED received $4.2 million. Funding will be split evenly between the seven-county metro and greater Minnesota. Funding from MNDOT's program will be limited to projects that are components of a trunk highway project, and projects under the DEED program must not be part of the state trunk highway system.

Selection criteria include transportation benefits, economic benefits and project readiness. Projects must also contribute to job creation or retention or another measurable economic outcome. The maximum award to any one project will be $10 million. Applications are open to cities and other governmental entities.

The deadline for applications is **5:00 pm, Friday, September 15th, 2017.** For more information and to apply for the programs, click here. Questions about the solicitation may be directed to Kenneth.Buckeye@state.mn.us or Jeremy.Lacroix@state.mn.us.

Adam Duininck to Leave Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chair Adam Duininck announced last week that he will resign his position with the Council to take a government affairs position with the Northern States Regional Council of Carpenters at the end of this month. Chair Duininck was appointed by Governor Dayton in 2015 and was the first full-time Chair for the Metropolitan Council.

Governor Dayton has appointed Alene Tchourumoff as the new incoming Council Chair. Ms. Tchourumoff is currently the Rail Director for the State of Minnesota. Her appointment requires confirmation by the State Senate.

Metro Cities would like to thank Mr. Duininck for his leadership of the Council, and his strong and consistent collaboration and partnership with this organization and local officials in the region. We wish him well in his new endeavors. Metro Cities congratulates Ms. Tchourumoff on her appointment as Chair, and looks forward to working with her as she assumes her new role.

TAB Releases TIP for Public Comment

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recently approved a draft 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for public comment. The TIP addresses transportation projects in the region that are prioritized by year and that use federal dollars or have effects on air quality.

Projects include highways, transit, bikeway and pedestrian improvements. All metropolitan planning organizations (MPO's) must draft a TIP. Comments will be accepted now through August 7th, with final approval by TAB scheduled for consideration on August 16th.

To view the draft TIP, click here. To comment on the TIP, click here.

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