

MnDOT Opens Solicitation for Local Road Improvement Program

MnDOT is now accepting applications for funding through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). \$25.3 million was made available through the capital investment bill passed during the 2017 special session. These funds are available statewide, for projects constructed in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

LRIP is administered by the MnDOT State Aid Office with guidance from the LRIP Advisory Committee, made up of local officials, including three city representatives. Eligible projects must meet requirements of the Route of Regional Significance, Rural Road Safety Account or the Trunk Highway Corridor Account. According to MnDOT, the criteria that will be used to identify priority projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The availability of other state, federal, and local funds.
2. The regional significance of the route.
3. Effectiveness of the proposed project in eliminating a transportation deficiency.
4. Effectiveness to reduce traffic crashes, deaths, injuries and property damages.
5. The local share for costs that are directly or partially related to trunk highway improvements.
6. The number of persons who will be positively impacted by the project.
7. The project's contribution to other local, regional, or state economic development or redevelopment efforts.
8. The ability of the local unit of government to adequately provide safe operation and maintenance of the facility upon project completion.

The LRIP solicitation schedule is:

Aug. 1, 2017: Solicitation opens.

Nov. 3, 2017: County and municipal state aid applications due.

Dec. 1, 2017: Non-state aid city and township applications due.

November/December 2017: Advisory committee reviews applications.

March 2018 Grant awards announced.

The solicitation application and guidance can be found [here](#). For more information, contact Patti Loken, State Programs Engineer, 651-366-3803, Patti.Loken@state.mn.us.

Metro Cities Staff News

Metro Cities' Office Manager Kimberly Ciarrocchi and her husband Dan welcomed a son, Daniel Patrick Ciarrocchi III, to their family on Thursday, July 27. Mom and baby are doing well! Metro Cities sends warm congratulations and best wishes to the Ciarrocchi family!

Met Council Releases Training Tools for Comprehensive Plan Updates

- Updated **Checklists** are now available in the Local Planning Handbook on a city's Community Page. Some of the changes include the addition of Mississippi River Critical

Corridor Area (MRCCA) Requirements checklist items, updated Solar Protection and Development requirements, and clarification of Wastewater Plan requirements. Contact your [Sector Rep](#) if you have any questions.

- **REGISTER** for the [Community Engagement: Critical Conversations for Authentic Connections](#) workshop on Friday, **August 18** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Columbia Heights Public Library, 3939 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN. In this workshop, participants will review actual scenarios that occurred between planners and residents, and have the opportunity to dialogue about engagement challenges. Engagement specialists will also be available to lend clarity to the process. **2 CM Credits**
- **REGISTER** for the [Building 21st Century Suburbs](#) workshop on Thursday, **August 24** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., at Ford Center, 409 North 5th Avenue, Minneapolis. The Metro Transit Office of Transit Oriented Development will present on Building 21st Century Suburbs, a panel discussion on the future of suburban development in the Twin Cities region. Hear experts from the development community discuss why they have invested in walkable mixed-use developments, where they see the suburban development market headed, and how cities and developers can work together to create the kind of places that will be in demand in the 21st century. **1.5 CM Credits.**
- **REGISTER** for the [Water Management Tools: Going Beyond the Comprehensive Plan](#) workshop on Tuesday, **September 12** from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Office, [2522 Marshall St. NE](#), Minneapolis. There are a variety of approaches communities can take to go above and beyond their minimum comprehensive plan requirements to implement sustainable water resources strategies. This workshop will explore water management activities which can provide multiple benefits in communities. The event will showcase local examples of integrated water management strategies, such as stormwater best management practices that also protect source water. Attendees will leave with tools they can use, such as model ordinances as well as information about current grant opportunities and stronger partnerships for doing the work. **3.5 CM credits.**
- Newly published Online Tutorials are now available on these topics:
 - [How and Why to Use Mixed-Use Categories](#)
 - [Tracking Land Guided for Affordable Housing](#)
- Newly published Resource Library materials in the Local Planning Handbook are now available on these topics:
 - [Density, Design, and Character](#) (new)
 - [Housing, Livability, and Health](#) (new)
 - [Housing Choice Policies](#) (new)
 - [Local Funding Resources to Address Housing Needs](#) (new)
 - [Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study](#) (new)
 - Generalized Land Use Maps on Community Pages (updated)
 - Printed version of the Local Planning Handbook (updated)
- Read a short article on [Successfully Engaging with Underrepresented Communities for Comprehensive Plans](#) written by Julie Aldrich from Community Design Group. See previously published [articles](#) as well.
- The Metropolitan Council has partnered with The University of St. Thomas' Sustainable Communities Partnership to help initiate a student-facilitated Climate Change Conversation in a select community. The session(s) will assist in goal-setting and visioning for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Council is seeking to collaborate with a community that

is somewhat new to community resilience planning, and the selected community should demonstrate a staff-level and municipal commitment to this project. The project will start this autumn and wrap up in December of 2017. Contact Eric Wojchik in Local Planning Assistance at 651-602-1330 or eric.wojchik@metc.state.mn.us by **Thursday, August 24** if you are interested in this opportunity.

- The [Integrating Economic Development Strategies into Everyday Planning](#) webinar video, presentation slide with notes, handouts, and the Q&A Summary are available. Check out previous **PlanIt** webinars online too.
- Presentation materials from the GARE [Planning for the Environment – Resiliency as Racial Equity](#) workshop on Thursday, July 27 have been published and are available online.
- Presentation materials from the [Mississippi River Planning in Your Comprehensive Plan](#) workshop on August 2 have been published and are available online.
- [Subscribe](#) for PlanIt program updates by going to the **PlanIt** page of the Local Planning Handbook.

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