



## Opening on Metro Cities Board

Metro Cities has a vacancy on its Board of Directors and is seeking interested applicants for the seat. 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), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Boards. The board meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. This vacancy is occurring outside of the annual election process for Board members, and as such is required to be filled by the Board.

Interested candidates are asked to provide a cover letter, resume and completed [application form](#) by Friday, October 6, 2017. Candidates may also provide letters of reference. Metro Cities' by-laws require that the board be balanced with respect to geography and population.

Applications should be submitted to Sarah Fredericks at [sarah@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:sarah@metrocitiesmn.org)

## House Committee Approves Bill Requiring Approval of Local Housing Goals

The House Jobs committee convened Monday for an interim hearing on five bills, including [HF 1037 – Vogel](#), that would require legislative approval of housing goals negotiated between local and regional officials as eligibility criteria for the Livable Communities Programs (LCA). The bill also stipulates that a law must be enacted before a regional housing policy plan could be effectuated and would require legislative approval of the affordable, life-cycle housing opportunities amount (ALHOA) that represents local funding commitments for certain LCA programs.

Metro Cities testified with concerns about inserting state-level regulation over housing goals that are local, voluntary, and negotiated for accessibility to regional grant program funding. The bill passed the committee on a voice vote and was sent to the House floor. The legislature is scheduled to reconvene in February 2018. Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

## Met Council Approves Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

The Metropolitan Council approved a 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) on Wednesday. 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 (MPOs) must draft a TIP. The Transportation Advisory Board approved the TIP at their August meeting. To view the draft TIP, click [here](#).

## CTIB Has Final Meeting

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) held its final meeting on Wednesday. The CTIB approved final spending agreements for agreed-to obligations that include outstanding operating and capital grant agreements. The Board also approved a contingency plan for unanticipated costs that may occur in the future. Click [here](#) for meeting materials.

## **Transit Fares to Increase October 1**

An increase to Metro Transit fares will take effect on Sunday, Oct 1. Fares for buses, light rail and commuter rail will increase 25 cents, while Metro Mobility will see an increase of 50 cents. The increases will generate \$7.8 million in 2018.

This is the first increase to transit fares since 2008. The 25-cent increase will increase the fare box recovery ratio from 24 to 27 percent. Metro Transit has used a 30 percent fare box recovery ratio as its goal.

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