



Metro Cities Policy Adoption Meeting and Metro Regional Meeting

Metro Cities' Policy Adoption meeting and the Metro Regional Meeting hosted by the League of Minnesota Cities and Metro Cities will be held **Wednesday, November 29** at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth. Please plan to attend! [Click here to read the agenda and here to register.](#)

[Draft 2018 Legislative Policies](#) are now online for review. The draft policies were recommended by four policy committees and approved by the Metro Cities Board of Directors. Draft policies and the policy adoption process were mailed to city administrators/managers.

Comments or questions on proposed policies should be directed to sarah@metrocitiesmn.org. Once the policies are adopted, they will serve as the framework for Metro Cities' work at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council in 2018. We hope to see you at the policy adoption and joint regional meeting on November 29.

Final Outreach Meeting on SAC Task Force Recommendations

A third and final outreach meeting being conducted by Met Council Environmental Services (MCES) staff to discuss results from a recent SAC (Sewer Availability Charge) task force is this Thursday from 1-3 pm at Golden Valley City Hall. Metro Cities encourages city officials to attend and learn more about proposed recommendations for the SAC program.

Metro Cities staff, city officials and business representatives participated on the task force that examined outdoor seating and how SAC determinations are made, and has made recommendations that call for using gross square footage for determinations rather than net square footage that are intended to simplify SAC processes. Metro Cities encourages city officials to attend the meeting and provide feedback. Following the outreach process, the recommendations will be considered by the Metropolitan Council for adoption early in 2018.

Thursday, November 9, 1 to 3 p.m.

Golden Valley City Hall, Council Chambers, 7800 Golden Valley Road

Register at SACProgram@metc.state.mn.us.

Met Council Discusses Climate Vulnerability and Impacts on Infrastructure

The Metropolitan Council recently discussed an assessment on climate vulnerability on regional infrastructure and operations. The assessment specifically noted localized flood (surface water flooding) risks and analyzed potential flooding impacts on Metro Transit infrastructure. The Council has identified extreme rainfall and heat waves as climate hazards. Staff explained that metrics used are the same as those used by the State's Climatology office.

The Council has identified tools to assess local flooding and will use the data and modelling to conduct assessments of vulnerable transit and transportation corridors. The Council did not adopt any response strategies, but discussed possible future actions, including increasing surface water infiltration, and planning for re-routing roads used by traffic and transit buses.

Met Council staff explained that resiliency is not a comprehensive plan requirement but said they have received interest in data and strategies from city officials. Staff said the Council will continue to gather data, collaborate with local governments and engineers, promote local stormwater management practices and make public safety information available for transit riders. The Land Use Advisory Committee will also review climate change and human vulnerability to localized flooding and extreme heat. Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions.

Met Council Advisory Committees Discuss Water Supply Planning and Land Use

The Metropolitan Council has begun to explore connections between water and land use planning and development. At a joint meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) this week, the advisory committees discussed potential joint work in this area.

Advisory committee members were invited to give feedback on how each committee's jurisdictions and workplans could be utilized to explore the region's use of groundwater and stormwater and how to use existing financial resources for planning needs regarding land use and water supply.

The LUAC and MAWSAC include city officials in addition to representatives from the business community and other sectors. Participant suggestions included the need to recognize the MUSA and where development can occur, water use reduction strategies, a consideration of transportation corridor planning and its effects on future development, stormwater planning considerations in relation to development and redevelopment, and the need for community engagement and education on water use and water resources.

Additional strategies for water supply planning and conservation were suggested, including updating the plumbing code to improve lawn irrigation equipment efficiency, removing barriers to reuse, implementing tiered rate structures for water users, promoting best practices for conservation including public education, and incentives for conservation.

Metro Cities staff participated in the meeting, and responded to various discussion points, noting Metro Cities policies, including support for removing barriers to wastewater and stormwater reuse and statewide resources to plan for water supply, support of conservation strategies, and opposition to elevating water supply to a regional system.

Metro Cities will continue to closely monitor future Council activity in this area and provide updates. Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions.

TAC Makes Regional Solicitation Recommendations

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recently recommended several changes to the draft Regional Solicitation. The Regional Solicitation process is the method by which federal transportation dollars are allocated within the metro area. The funding is distributed among roadway, transit and travel demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Recommended changes include using a 50-point scoring measure for non-motorized trail projects that include a year-round maintenance plan for snow and ice control, increasing the amount that can be awarded to the Travel Demand Management from \$350,000 to \$500,000, and decreasing the amount for a bike or multi-use trail from \$5 million to \$3.5 million. In addition, applicants will be

asked to commit to fully funding projects, even if other funding sources are not realized. These recommendations will be considered by TAB at their November 15 meeting. If approved, the Regional Solicitation will be released for public comment.

Minnesota Housing Announces Funding Awards

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency announced \$126 million in affordable housing awards to support the construction and preservation of affordable housing. Metro Cities advocated for housing funding in the 2017 session. The Legislature appropriated \$42 million in housing infrastructure bonds and a \$25 million general fund appropriation for projects.

The funds are awarded through a “super RFP” process with funds from Minnesota Housing, the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Metropolitan Council, City of Minneapolis, City of Saint Paul, Dakota County, Hennepin County and Washington County.

In the metropolitan area, awards were issued to applicants for projects in Waconia, Shakopee, Savage, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Blaine, Plymouth, Bloomington, West St. Paul, Maple Grove, Prior Lake, Bayport, Hugo, Roseville, St. Paul, Minneapolis as well as several region-wide applicants. The awards include funding for new construction and rehabilitation of single family and multifamily projects as well as land trust expansions. [Click here for a map](#) of selected single family and multifamily awards. More details on the awards can be found on [Minnesota Housing's website](#).

Events and Workshops for City Officials

MN NAHRO and the Metro Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) will host a redevelopment symposium that city officials and staff are invited to attend. The event is comprised of several sessions, including: Attracting Redevelopment, Financing Tools & Requirements, Legal Nuts & Bolts for Redevelopment and Putting the Redevelopment Puzzle Together. The symposium is offered on two dates: **November 14 in Woodbury or November 17, in Bloomington**. The event is approved for 5 AICP CM credits. Visit <http://www.mnnahro.org> for complete details and to register.

The Metropolitan Council will host upcoming webinars and workshops for city officials:

A webinar [It's Not Just a Color on the Map: Zoning in Plan Implementation](#) on Thursday, **November 16** from **12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**. The webinar will address regulations and statutes governing land use and comprehensive plan requirements. Presented by Lisa Barajas and Mike Larson. **1 CM Credit**.

The workshop [Continuing the Comprehensive Plan Conversation](#) will be held on **December 1** from **11:30 AM – 2:00 PM** at the Ramsey County Library, 2180 N Hamline Avenue in Roseville. The session will cover what happens after the comprehensive plan is adopted and how communities can sustain relationships built during this process. Facilitated by Todd Streeter, Principal of Community Collaboration. **2 CM credits. Lunch will be provided**. Contact angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us for information.

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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