

Senate Passes Omnibus Finance Bill

After nearly 12 hours of debate, the State Senate on Thursday passed SF 3656-Rosen, an omnibus supplemental finance bill. The bill is 579 pages, and covers all budget areas. In the House, omnibus budget bills have been moving separately, but are expected to be rolled into one bill.

Jobs and Economic Development Amendments

Senator Latz successfully amended language that would require the DEED commissioner, when awarding broadband grants, to give priority to projects that include broadband providers who commit to adhere to net neutrality principles.

Senator Draheim offered an amendment that would have established a residential construction codes and licensing work group. Five members would represent the building and construction industry, one metro city official, one greater Minnesota city official, the Department of Labor and Industry commissioner and one legislator from each caucus. The report was to include specific recommendations for statewide improvement of code enforcement, building inspections, builder licensing enforcement, and independent contractor self-registration compliance. Senator Jeremy Miller, chair of the Senate Jobs committee, committed to working on the issue next legislative session and the Draheim amendment was withdrawn.

Transportation Amendments

An amendment offered by Senator Newman and adopted removes Metropolitan Council reporting sections from the bill. Those sections would have:

- Required the Metropolitan Council to develop a financial overview and forecast in conjunction with state budget forecasts.
- Required the Metropolitan Council to include three specific components in its report to the legislature and identify budget assumptions used to prepare the report and explain the impact of identified assumptions on the Council's budget forecast.
- Required the Metropolitan Council to include three revenue scenarios in the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP).

An amendment offered by Senator Hall to allow the City of Burnsville to restrict or prohibit engine breaking was adopted. An amendment offered by Senator Cwodzinski to remove a provision that prohibits the colocation of LRT and freight rail in the same corridor failed.

An amendment offered by Senator Little to allow data sharing between the Department of Human Services and Met Council Metro Mobility and to extend Metro Mobility to areas in the transit taxing district and not receiving service failed.

Auxiliary Containers Preemption Bill Passes Senate Committee

A bill that would preempt local governments, including cities, from enacting ordinances related to auxiliary containers, was passed by the Senate Local Government Committee. [SF 3135](#) – Hall, would prohibit any ordinance that regulates, imposes a fee, or prohibits containers used to carry or

protect food or merchandise. The bill would also nullify current ordinances. Metro Cities testified in opposition to this bill, as it contradicts Metro Cities' policies that support local control. The bill was passed to the Commerce Committee, but was referred to the Rules Committee because it did not meet legislative deadlines.

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

Constitutional Amendment for Transportation Funding Passes Senate and House Committees

A bill that would put a constitutional amendment on the 2018 ballot proposing to dedicate automobile related sales taxes to transportation passed the House Transportation Finance Committee. [HF 4437](#) – Torkelson, was amended and would constitutionally dedicate all sales tax revenue on auto repair and replacement parts to transportation related purposes. The sales tax dedication would be under a phased in schedule from 2021 to 2024. The proposal would dedicate 4.5 percent of these funds to the Small Cities Assistance program. The bill was passed on a voice vote to the House Taxes Committee.

The MN Chamber of Commerce, construction trade unions and the Transportation Alliance testified in support of the legislation. Education advocates, SEIU, AFSCME Council 5 and the Coalition of Greater MN Cities testified in opposition and cited concerns that dedicating funding that now goes into the General Fund could cause reductions or pressures in other budget areas.

The Senate Companion bill, [SF 3837](#)- Newman, was heard in the Senate Rules Committee and was passed to the Taxes Committee. In the Senate version, in addition to dedicating sales tax revenues, the amendment would create a new Road and Bridge Fund in the state Constitution with revenues from the sales tax on motor vehicle repair and replacement parts and rental vehicles deposited into this fund. The bill would distribute 4% of funding to the Small Cities Assistance Fund, 3.25% to the town roads account and 1.75% to the town bridge account. Of the remaining 91% of funds, 62% would be distributed to a new Trunk Highway Construction Fund, 29% to the CSAH fund and 9% to MSA. Revenue from the sales tax on auto parts and rental vehicles would be phased in over 3 years.

This legislation would also create a Motor Vehicle Lease Sales tax revenue section in the state constitution. Beginning July 1, 2019, 100% of the revenue from leased vehicle sales tax would be dedicated to transportation and apportioned according to the law passed during the 2017 session which provides funding for the CSAH fund, Greater MN transit, a local bridge fund and the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund (HUTDF). Legislation passed last session statutorily dedicated \$145 million per year from the sales tax on auto parts to the HUTDF.

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

US House Repeals Metropolitan Council MPO Status

On Thursday in the US House of Representatives, Rep. Jason Lewis offered an amendment to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 that repeals the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) status, and would require the MPO to be recertified with local officials. The Metropolitan Council received its MPO designation in 1973.

Metro Cities, along with several other organizations and public officials, sent a letter to Congressional representatives outlining concerns with the amendment and its trigger of a recertification process that would likely be complex, lengthy and uncertain and could result in the loss of billions of dollars in federal funding for roads and transit to the region. Stay tuned for additional updates and information.

Questions? Contact Patricia Nauman at patricia@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metropolitan Council Environment Services (MCES) Open House and Budget Workshops

You are invited to participate in one of the two Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Open House and Budget Workshops the Met Council is offering as part of their annual customer forums. The workshop dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Minnetonka Community Center Banquet Room

Thursday, May 24th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eagan Community Center Oaks Room

Thursday, June 7th, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

1501 Central Parkway

Eagan, MN 55121

Please RSVP to Kris Hess (kristin.hess@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1016) by Friday, May 18.

MCES staff will be available to discuss various topics, including the 2019 municipal wastewater charge (MWC), the capital improvement program, SAC, Inflow and Infiltration, water resources and monitoring, water supply, metering and collection systems, wastewater reuse, and asset management.

As in previous years, MCES staff will provide you with information on MCES budget drivers, their capital program, and their strategies for managing rate increases. MCES has also responded to previous requests to increase the number of fact sheets available on a wide variety of wastewater and water topics, and these new publications will be available at the workshops.

Please contact MWC Inbox, MWC@metc.state.mn.us or call 651-602-1016 with any questions.

Sign Up for Metro Cities Policy Committees

It's time to sign up for Metro Cities' Policy Committees! Policy Committees meet in July, August, and September and cover four different policy areas: Transportation and General Government, Municipal Revenues, Metropolitan Agencies, Housing and Economic Development. Policy Committees recommend legislative policies for the next legislative session, and those policies serve as a foundation for our work at Metro Cities. Being part of a Policy Committee is a great opportunity for your city to have a voice in the processes for the policies as well as at the legislature.

Policy committees are open to city staff as well as elected officials and the form to sign-up can be found on our [website](#). 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 2018.

Changes This Year:

- **This year we ask that you actively sign up for the committee(s) you wish to attend, even if you have been on the committee in the past.** This will help us keep our rosters current and correct!
- **Committees will meet Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday in the morning from 9:00-11:30 am or the afternoon from 1:00-3:30.** We hope this change will be beneficial for planning

your schedules! The committees and dates are listed on our website [here](#), and updates and additional information will be posted on these pages as it becomes available.

All meetings take place at the Metro Cities/League of MN Cities building at 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul. Please consider serving, and encourage other staff and officials within your city to do the same!

Email or call Kimberly with questions at kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4004.

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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