



## **Openings on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)**

Metro Cities is seeking candidates for the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) for two municipal seats that will become open in January. The TAB qualifies the region for federal transportation funds and is a participant in the 3C transportation processes that affect transportation planning and funding in the metro region.

Municipal appointees must be elected officials, and Metro Cities' guidelines place a priority on making the TAB balanced for city size and geography. The Board of Directors gives preference to those who agree to serve on the Metro Cities Transportation Policy Committee. There are no term limits for TAB seats, but members are reappointed every two years and must meet attendance requirements to qualify for reappointment.

The deadline for application is **Friday, January 4, 2019**. Interested candidates should submit a completed [questions form](#), and submit a letter of interest and resume to Kim Ciarrocchi at [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org) or by mail to Metro Cities at 145 University Avenue W, St. Paul, MN 55103.

## **Opening on Metro Cities Board of Directors**

The Metro Cities Board of Directors will have an open Board seat in January 2019 that will require appointment by the Board. The Board consists of 19 city officials, and members serve two, two-year terms. The Board is comprised of elected and appointed officials and its composition is required to be balanced by city size and population.

The Board is responsible for overseeing Metro Cities' budget, strategic goals and legislative priorities, and makes appointments to the TAB and TAC. Interested candidates are asked to provide a resume and cover letter and to complete this [application form](#). Candidates may also provide letters of reference.

For more information on Metro Cities, please visit our website at [www.metrocitiesmn.org](http://www.metrocitiesmn.org) or contact Patricia Nauman, Executive Director, at 651-215-4002 or [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org).

Please submit information and the completed application to Kimberly Ciarrocchi at [kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org) by **Friday, January 4, 2019**.

## **Metropolitan Council Adopts 2019 Unified Budget**

The Metropolitan Council voted to approve its 2019 unified budget Wednesday. The budget includes \$87 million in property tax levies, a \$1.1 billion operating budget and \$7.6 billion 6-year capital program.

Motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) revenue, which funds Met Council transit operations, showed an \$8 million increase in the state's November 2018 Budget Forecast (over the February 2018 forecast). Staff highlighted continuing concerns with the Council's structural transportation budget. Metro Mobility continues to be the largest portion of the transportation deficit.

The budget also includes \$900,000 from the Metropolitan Council's general fund to support maintaining the current level of housing choice vouchers. See the [November 21 Metro Cities News](#) for additional details.

## **Metro Cities Livable Communities Workshop**

Several city officials and staff attended a workshop this week on the Livable Communities Act (LCA) funding programs. The workshop was organized by Metro Cities in response to a Livable Communities [Task Force](#) of city officials last spring. The task force issued a [report](#) earlier this year. Metropolitan Council staff presented information on Livable Communities funding opportunities, grant sources and award levels, application tips, and examples of funded and unfunded applications. City staff were able to learn about technical assistance and updated timelines for the 2019 grant rounds. The workshop presentation slideshow can be [found here](#). Thank you to the Council's Livable Communities Program staff for the informative presentations on Tuesday.

Metro Cities' policies support the LCA programs and support ensuring that program criteria are flexible and programs are accessible to participating communities. The Community Development Committee will discuss the Council's 2019 LCA Fund Distribution Plan next week.

Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

## **Metropolitan Council Approves Reclaimed Water Agreements**

The Metropolitan Council this week approved a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) and design agreement with energy company Enerkem for a proposed reclaimed wastewater facility.

The facility is proposed at a former wastewater treatment plant in Rosemount and would generate approximately 2 million gallons of treated wastewater from the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant. A distribution pipeline would deliver the reclaimed water to a proposed waste-to-biofuel facility being developed by Enerkem in Inver Grove Heights. The MOU outlines Enerkem's method of payment for Council activities and applicable terms for use, fees, financial guarantee, permits, insurance, default, dispute resolution, terms and agreement termination. To view the MOU, click [here](#).

The design deposit agreement stipulates that Enerkem will pay for the preliminary design work, in an amount of \$300,000. This project has also been approved for an additional \$300,000 through Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water reuse grants. The funds will be put toward preliminary design costs. The \$600,000 is expected to be sufficient to cover all preliminary design costs.

The preliminary design work is expected to take place from January to June of 2019 at which point the Metropolitan Council will initiate a public process to determine if any regional investment or regional cost share are appropriate. Metro Cities policies support regional efforts to pursue wastewater reuse opportunities and also stipulate that any fees collected must be used for the services or programs for which they are collected. For more information on these agreements, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Huser at [steven@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:steven@metrocitiesmn.org).

## **Metro Cities Internship**

Metro Cities is excited to announce that Emma Keiski will join Metro Cities as the organization's 2019 Legislative Intern. Emma will assist Metro Cities with its 2019 legislative work. Ms. Keiski is completing her Master's in Public Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Olaf College. Most recently she has been employed with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization as a Communications and Outreach Intern.

Ms. Keiski will assist Metro Cities staff in monitoring bills, writing newsletter articles, and researching legislative and policy issues. We look forward to welcoming her to the team and invite you to welcome and visit with her if you see her around the Capitol or at Metro Cities events.

---

**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](mailto:newsletter@metrocitiesmn.org) and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

**Metro Cities 145 University Ave W., St. Paul, MN 55103-2044 Phone 651-215-4000 Fax 651-281-1299**  
[www.MetroCitiesMN.org](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org)