



Metro Cities Annual Meeting is Next Thursday!

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to RSVP and join us at Metro Cities Annual Meeting next Thursday April 20. The event will be held at the University Club on Summit Avenue. It begins at 5:30 pm with a social hour, followed by guest speakers Briana Bierschbach with MinnPost and Patrick Condon with the Star Tribune, and wraps with a brief (but important!) business meeting to elect members and officers to the Board of Directors.

All member city staff and elected officials are welcome! Please contact Kimberly if you have any questions; click [here](#) for more information. RSVP to Kimberly at 651-215-4000 or Kimberly@MetroCitiesMN.org.

Upcoming Transit and Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Metro Cities has been asked by the Met Council to invite city officials to two upcoming tours – a riding tour of the **Green Line/A Line/future Orange Line during on Friday, April 28** and a guided tour of the **Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment plant in Shakopee on Friday, May 5**. Both tours start at **9:30 a.m.**, and will run two hours. The Council hosted a Metro Plant tour last month that was well attended and drew high marks from city officials.

Spaces are limited, so if you are interested, plan to register soon. The tours offer networking opportunities with other city and Met Council officials, and the opportunity to see regional services firsthand. Details and registration information are below.

Southside Transit Sampler

Green Line / A Line / projected Orange Line

Learn from Metro Transit staff about current lines and future Orange Line.

Friday April 28th, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Park at Metro Cities offices parking lot (145 University Avenue, St. Paul); board LRT at Rice Street Station, and eventually come back to St. Paul via Metro Transit bus.

<https://www.metrotransit.org/metro-orange-line>

Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant and Solar Garden

6957 Trunk Highway 101, Shakopee 55379

Visit the region's 2nd largest wastewater treatment plant in the state.

Friday May 5th, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Parking available on-site at the plant.

<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/Blue-Lake-Wastewater-Treatment-Plant.aspx>

To register, contact Metropolitan Council Director of Community Relations Jennifer O'Rourke at jennifer.orourke@metc.state.mn.us or 651.602.1576. Again, spacing is limited, so you are encouraged to register soon.

Legislative Update

The Legislature is on break this week and will resume work next Tuesday, April 18. Most omnibus finance bills, as well as the omnibus tax bills, have passed off the House and Senate floors.

Legacy and capital appropriation (bonding) bills in the Senate and House respectively are still moving through the committee process. Metro Cities expects conference committees on bills will be appointed soon after the Legislature resumes business. As reported last week, Governor Dayton has provided written communications to legislators outlining agreement and concerns with provisions in bills and will provide additional communications on other bills after the recess.

Metro Cities appreciates efforts by city officials who contacted legislators last week in response to an alert on an amendment we expected to be offered to the House Health and Human Services bill that would have eliminated local regulatory authority over the drilling of private wells. The author of the amendment, Rep. Mary Franson, did not offer the amendment to the bill.

Metropolitan Council Approves Public Process to Consider Transit Fares

The Met Council has approved the first step in a process to consider transit fare increases. The Council reviewed a slate of increase scenarios and adopted a public hearing/meeting schedule. Options under review would increase fares by .25 to .50 cents per ride on regular transit routes. A .50 cent increase for regular transit would generate \$12.8 million per year. Metro Mobility fare increases could increase up to .75 cents, with a \$1.25 surcharge on trips longer than 15 miles. A .75 cent increase for this service would generate \$12.82 million per year. These scenarios represent what a maximum increase could look like.

A public hearing and comment process is required under federal guidelines and Met Council policy. The action approved on Wednesday puts that process in motion. The comment period begins [April 13](#) and will continue through [June 26](#). Public comments can be made via email at public.info@metc.state.mn.us, or on a recorded line at 651-602-1500. The first of four public hearings, where oral and written testimony will be taken, is scheduled for [May 17](#). A series of eight public meetings, with an open house format but without formal testimony, will begin May 11.

The Met Council faces a transportation deficit of \$74 million. Fare increases combined with cost savings due to lower demand would reduce the projected deficit. It is possible for the Council to approve an amount that is less than what has been approved for discussion. A new public input process would be required to approve a fare increase larger than what was included in the approved scenarios. Changes to service, including bus route reductions, are also likely to be discussed by the Council in the future.

For more information regarding the potential fare increase scenarios or public input meetings, click here. https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Metropolitan-Council/2017/4-12-17/0412_2017_-84-SW.aspx

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@metrocitysmn.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 *...click for full article*