



Legislative Wrap Up

If you missed it, be sure to check out *Metro Cities'* [June 7th newsletter](#) for a comprehensive 2017 legislative session wrap-up.

Join Us for Breakfast Next Friday at the LMC Conference!

If you're attending the 2017 LMC Annual Conference in Rochester next week, plan to join your metro colleagues for breakfast next **Friday, June 16th at 7:30 am**. This is a great chance to mingle with other Metro Cities members and to hear a brief update from Metro Cities staff. Questions? Please let Kimberly know at 651-215-4000 or kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org. We hope to see you there!

MCES Budget Forums Outline 2018 Rates and Budget

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) held the second of two budget customer forums on Thursday, June 8th. MCES staff presented information on proposed 2018 waste water charge (MWC) rates and 2018 annual budget. MCES staff also answered questions related on individual city wastewater rates.

The MCES projected budget will be \$280.7 million for 2018. The revenue sources of this budget come from Municipal Wastewater Charges, the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC), and Industrial Waste Charges. Overall, the MCES wastewater charge is set to increase by 3.7%. Individual cities' rates will vary depending on their share of the region's wastewater flow. SAC fees will be held flat, as they have been for the last several years. The Industrial Strength Charge will be increased by 6.8% and the industrial permit fee will increase to 3.7%. Staff noted that overall costs for MCES have increased 3.1%. MCES staff stated they have a goal of keeping rate increases under 4% annually. MCES is funded by user fees, and receives no state appropriations.

The Met Council Environment Committee is scheduled to review the rate and budget at its July 11th meeting, with final rate adoption scheduled for July 26th. Click [here](#) to view the power point used in MCES' presentation.

CTIB Passes Resolution to Dissolve

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) held a special meeting last Wednesday to finalize details of a resolution to dissolve, and the Board voted on that resolution. The resolution was passed with one Dakota County member as the lone dissenting vote. The resolution stipulates that all five counties agree to the terms of the resolution and subsequently adopt county resolutions to put the agreement into effect. The terms of the resolution include each county agreeing to assume its share of CTIB debt, on-going net operating costs for existing and future transit lines, and 2017 grant agreements. The resolution includes a deadline of June 30th, 2017 for terms to be met and counties to pass resolutions to dissolve the joint powers agreement. Hennepin and Ramsey counties have at this point held hearings on potentially increasing their transportation sales tax to ½%. Once the CTIB is dissolved, counties, by state law, will be allowed to increase their sales tax from ¼ percent to ½ percent upon dissolution.

Reminder: Metropolitan Council Accepting Applications for Green Infrastructure Grant Program until July 17

The Met Council is accepting applications from local governments for the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. Successful projects will promote the concept of examining and addressing wastewater, storm water and water supply concerns together in a cost-effective way. Examples include but are not limited to private property mitigation of service lateral replacements and foundation drain and sump pump disconnections that reduce inflow and infiltration, water supply projects such as low-flow plumbing fixture installations and irrigation management systems to help stretch water supplies, low impact development projects that reduce the volume of storm water and/or improve water quality, utilizing green infrastructure to manage flooding, recharge aquifers, water reuse or other projects that diversify water resources, deploying advanced technologies that support water benefits while reinforcing and improving decision-making on all levels. The Council has \$1 million available for this pilot grant program. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to metropolitan area cities. The number of communities receiving a grant will depend on the projects proposed.

Grantees must be able to provide a 100% match to the dollars requested for the program. The grantees must be able to identify and quantify at a watershed level the water impacts and outcomes expected from the project. The Council will require all grantees to report on the results of these efforts. More information about these businesses can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Applications must be received no later than **July 17th of this year**. Projects receiving funding must be completed by Dec. 31, 2019. For more information, click [here](#), or contact Judy Sventek at judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1156. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Upcoming Workshops for City Officials

Metro Cities has been asked by the Metropolitan Council to share information about several upcoming workshops for city officials:

[Redevelopment Lessons for Comprehensive Planning](#) Workshop

Thursday, June 22nd from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.

The workshop will focus on redevelopment challenges and opportunities as well as strategies for addressing redevelopment in local comprehensive plans. Participants will share lessons learned on redevelopment issues and projects. The workshop will include discussions about challenges from different parts of the metro area, and strategies for effective implementation of comprehensive plans.

[Planning for Equitable Development, including Land use, Housing, Parks, and Transportation](#).

Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Workshop

Tuesday, June 27th from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM., Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway North in Saint Paul.

The focus of the workshop is on integrating racial equity into comprehensive plans and explore ways to use a Racial Equity Analysis in comprehensive planning. Local experts will provide insights on effective principles and practices for engaging communities for the process.

[Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Local Application](#) Workshop

Friday, July 21st from 9:30 Am to 12:00 PM, Silverwood Regional Park, [2599 County Road E](#), in New Brighton.

The focus of the workshop is on local approaches and strategies for mitigation and adaptation, and a policy based approach to addressing these issues through local comprehensive plans.

To register/RSVP for any of the workshops please contact Angela Torres, Planning Analyst and Sector Representative, Metropolitan Council, at 651-602-1566 or angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us

Metro Cities Policy Committees

It's not too late to sign up for a Metro Cities policy committee! Metro Cities policy committees are open to city staff and elected officials. The form to sign-up can be found [HERE](#). We welcome your participation in one or more of the committees in 2017.

The committees and dates are listed on our website [here](#), along with updates and additional information as it becomes available. All meetings take place at the Metro Cities/League of MN Cities building from 11:00-1:30pm.

Please consider serving, and encourage other staff and officials within your city to do the same!

Contact Kimberly with any questions, and email your sign-up form to kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

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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