



Mark Your Calendar for September 15th! Metro Cities Forum on Local Comprehensive Plans

Metro Cities will host a forum Friday, September 15, 2017, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon on local comprehensive plans. The forum will be held at the Roseville Skating Center and is open to city elected officials and staff. Topics will include the foundations of comprehensive planning, frequently asked questions about the planning process, new requirements for 2018, a city-official panel on local approaches and breakout sessions according to community designation. Join us for an informative discussion! Light refreshments will be served. Register with Sarah Fredericks at sarah@metrocitiesmn.org, or 651-215-4000. We hope to see you!

State Revenue Update

State revenue projections for the first month of Fiscal Year 2018 are \$66 less than forecast, and show declines across various tax types. The lower-than-anticipated revenue projection follows several months of lower than forecasted revenue predictions for the state. State MN Management and Budget officials note that revenues may vary from month to month. The next complete budget forecast will be released in early December.

Met Council Approves Guidelines for Inflow-Infiltration Program

The Metropolitan Council, at its meeting on Wednesday, approved guidelines for inflow-infiltration (I/I) grants that will be available through \$3.7 million in funding appropriated by the 2017 Legislature. Metro Cities advocated for this funding to assist communities with inflow-infiltration mitigation. 80 cities will be eligible to apply for the funding. Council staff will contact eligible cities to provide information on how to apply. Funds will be paid on a reimbursement basis in 2019.

Questions? Please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or patricia@metrocitiesmn.org

Metro HRA Considers Increasing Project Based Vouchers, Discusses Federal Funding

Metro HRA staff presented two information items at Monday's Community Development Committee meeting. The first item was an option to increase the number of project based vouchers from the current ten percent (665 vouchers) to the maximum twenty percent allowed by HUD (an additional 635). The majority of Metro HRA vouchers are tenant-based and move from place to place with the tenant. Project based vouchers tie the rental assistance to a housing unit instead of to a tenant. Rents are paid through two streams: the tenant pays 30 percent of their income toward rent and the HRA pays the remainder.

According to staff, increasing the number of project based vouchers would help renters find housing because they would not have to find a landlord willing to accept a voucher. Tenant-based voucher holders have expressed difficulty finding units available to rent due to factors such as low vacancy rates. CDC members heard several impacts to this potential change, including decreased

housing location choice options and increased administrative burdens on HRA staff. The Met Council's Equity Advisory Committee reviewed this option and supports an increase to twenty percent. No action was taken on the item at this week's meeting.

The second item concerned the 2017 federal budget for the Metro HRA and the number of housing choice vouchers that could be funded. As Metro Cities reported in April, the HRA faced several funding shortfall scenarios due to HUD budget uncertainty. Since then, Metro HRA received its 2017 budget from HUD and staff reported it is not enough money to maintain rent assistance for all current families. Staff presented three options: stay within the 2017 budget authority and serve 100 fewer families, thereby permanently reducing the program size in future years; spend \$800,000 in reserves to serve the maximum number of families (6,502); or some point in between, meaning lower reserve spending. The full CDC and Met Council will review and vote on an option in September.

Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions.

Met Council Approves Preliminary 2018 Levies, Sets Budget Adoption Date

The Metropolitan Council set the date for its final 2018 budget adoption to occur on December 13, 2017. At Wednesday's meeting, the full Council approved this timeline as well as resolutions for the Council's preliminary 2018 unified operating budget and proposed 2017, payable 2018 tax levies. Council members explained the levy amount represents a two percent increase over the previous year.

Opening on the TAC

Metro Cities is seeking interested applicants for a seat on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for making municipal appointments to the TAC. The TAC and TAB (Transportation Advisory Board) are official participants in the region's 3C transportation planning process on issues that affect transportation planning and funding in the Twin Cities region.

Appointees for the TAC must be department head level staff with an engineering, planning or public works background. Metro Cities' guidelines place a high priority on making the TAC balanced with respect to city size and geography. The Board also gives preference to those who agree to serve on Metro Cities Transportation Policy Committee. The Board seeks candidates who will be committed to strong attendance at meetings.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest and a resume/bio by **Friday, September 1, 2017** to Sarah Fredericks. Applications can be submitted via mail (Metro Cities, 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55103) or email: sarah@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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