



Metro Cities Forum is Next Friday! Join Us!

As a reminder, Metro Cities is hosting a forum on *local comprehensive planning* next Friday, September 15, 2017, from 8am-noon at the Roseville Skating Center. Elected officials and staff are welcome. We will touch on the basics—the foundations of planning, frequently asked questions, and new requirements for the next round of plans. We will also host a panel with local officials from four metro communities to discuss local approaches to planning, followed by a 'breakout' session based on your community designation (urban, suburban, et al) allowing for more tailored discussions on issues, concerns and opportunities related to the planning process.

The morning includes light refreshments and a chance to network with city officials from throughout the region. Register with Sarah Fredericks at sarah@metrocitiesmn.org, or 651-215-4000. We hope to see you there!

Metropolitan Council Forms Regional Growth Strategy Group

The Metropolitan Council recently approved the formation of a Regional Growth Strategy Work Group, comprised of six Metropolitan Council members. The group will consider long-term trends and issues related to the four regional systems and monitor implementation of *Thrive MSP 2040* from a deliberately 'cross-divisional' and strategic approach. The formation of the group follows recent Community Development Committee meetings at which members have had discussions about the MUSA and regional growth strategies as well as questions on various local comprehensive plan amendment requests.

Members appointed to the group are Jon Commers, who will also chair the group, Steve Elkins, Deb Barber, Cara Letofsky, Katie Rodriguez and Sandy Rummel. Metro Cities will monitor the work of this group and provide updates and information.

Local Update of Census Addresses

Metro Cities has been asked to share information on a Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program, for which the U.S. Census Bureau is requesting assistance from local governments.

A few weeks ago, local governments received a request from the Census Bureau to help update local addresses through this program, which allows local governments an opportunity to review and update the Bureau's address list and boundaries. The 2020 Census will be sent to each housing unit for which the Census Bureau has an address, and the Bureau is seeking assistance to ensure it has correct records. The Minnesota Department of Administration's State Demographic Center is Minnesota's liaison with the Census Bureau. State Demographer Susan Brower is encouraging local governments to assist in this effort, as funding for many federal programs is based on population. Participation is voluntary.

The deadline to register online to participate is **December 15, 2017**. Address review materials will be mailed to registered participants in February 2018.

Questions may be directed to the Chicago Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau at 844-344-0169 or via e-mail at GEO.2020.LUCA@census.gov or at their website at www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html. Questions may also be directed to the State Demography Center at 651-201-2770 or email, at demography.helpline@state.mn.us.

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.

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