



Forum on Local Comp Planning This Friday—Join Us!

A friendly last reminder -- if you haven't yet registered, Metro Cities' forum on the local comprehensive planning process is **this Friday morning, September 15, at the Roseville Skating Center from 8 am - noon.** The forum will include frequently asked questions and new requirements for local comprehensive plans, a city panel covering local approaches to the planning process, and a breakout session by community designation offering more tailored conversations. Elected officials and staff are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Join us! Register with Sarah Fredericks at 651-215-4000, or at sarah@metrocitiesmn.org. Questions? Call 651-215-4000.

Inflow-Infiltration Grant Applications Due September 22

Cities eligible to apply for inflow-infiltration grant funding must apply by next Friday, September 22, 2017. Eligible communities should have received notice of the grant funds and notice to apply in August. Cities that are eligible are those found to be contributing excess levels of I/I, or on the threshold of being an excess contributor, to the regional wastewater system. Metro Cities worked to secure the \$3.7 million appropriated by the Legislature during the 2017 session. Grant requirements, guidelines and timelines can be [found here](#). Please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 if you need additional information.

Next Week: Final Policy Committee Meetings

Third and final 2017 policy committee meetings will be held next week, with packets sent this week. Metro Cities Transportation/General Government, Municipal Revenues and Housing/Economic Development Committees will host third meetings. The Metropolitan Agencies committee finished its work in August, and will not meet next week. Committees will consider and make recommendations on any outstanding policies, and finalize recommendations that will then be forwarded to the Metro Cities Board of Directors for consideration at their October meeting.

House Transportation Committee Discusses MNLARS

The House Transportation Finance Committee held an informational hearing this week to discuss challenges with the recent roll-out of the MN Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS). MNLARS is replacing a 30-year old registrar system. This system processes all motor vehicle licensing transactions.

The committee heard testimony from deputy registrars, citizens and the Department of Public Safety on problems caused by the new system. Several on-going glitches in the new system have caused several inefficiencies at local deputy registrar offices and resulted in inaccurate information being filed with the state.

There are 11 city-operated deputy registrar offices in the metropolitan area, out of 36 city-operated offices statewide. Metro Cities participated in a recent meeting with other city organizations and registrar representatives to discuss these issues and provided a letter to the committee stressing

the need for effective solutions to fix the problems, and support for an on-going oversight committee that includes local official participation.

Department of Public Safety officials said that progress has been made to make improvements to the system and new upgrades to the system are scheduled to continue. Questions? Please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003.

Met Council Transportation Committee Approves TIP

The Met Council Transportation Committee approved a draft 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) on Monday. The TIP addresses transportation projects in the region that are prioritized by year and that use federal dollars or have effects on air quality. Projects include highways, transit, bikeway and pedestrian improvements. All metropolitan planning organizations (MPO's) must draft a TIP. The Transportation Advisory Board approved the TIP at their August meeting. The TIP will now go the full Council for approval. To view the draft TIP, click [here](#).

Met Council Environment Committee Approves Green Infrastructure Grants

The Met Council Environment Committee recommended grants for five local projects as part of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The Council has allocated \$1 million to this program. The Met Council received 30 applications from local governments, including cities. Grants were awarded on a competitive basis. Grantees were required to identify and quantify watershed level sources and causes of pollution, provide a 100 percent match and begin construction no later than 2018. The full Council will consider these grant recommendations for final approval. For more information and to view recommended grant recipients, click [here](#).

State Revenues Update

State revenues are \$17 million (1.1 percent) more than forecast according to the latest update from the MN Department of Management and Budget (MMB). The slight uptick in forecasted revenues comes after several months of lower than projected receipts in revenues. With the current update, for fiscal year 2018, receipts are now \$50 million, or 2.0%, less than anticipated in the last forecast. The next complete budget forecast will be released in early December. The latest update can be found here: <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/000/az/forecast/2017/revenue-review-august-2017.pdf>

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