



Reminder! Metro Cities Seeking Candidates for the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Metro Cities is seeking interested candidates for an opening on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for making municipal appointments to the TAB.

Municipal appointees for the TAB must be elected officials. Metro Cities' guidelines place a priority on making the TAB balanced with respect to city size and geography. The Metro Cities 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.

The deadline for application is Wednesday, January 8th, 2018. Interested candidates should complete this [questionnaire](#) and submit a letter of interest and resume to Kim Ciarrocchi at kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org or by mail to Metro Cities at 145 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN, 55103.

Questions? Please contact Steven Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metropolitan Council Committee Recommends Comp Plan Extension Policy

The Community Development committee this week recommended a policy for local governments to use in making requests for extension for submitting comprehensive plan updates. The updates, which are statutorily required to be submitted every ten years, are due December 31, 2018.

The recommended policy calls for local units of government to request an extension by the end of May 2018. Council staff will review requests and administratively grant extensions. Staff will also provide the Community Development committee regular updates on extension requests. Metro Cities provided written comments in support of a uniform and streamlined process and supports having extensions be administratively granted. In the last cycle, 70 communities submitted extension requests and Council staff have received requests for information on how extension requests will be handled.

Communities which have received planning assistance grants (70 communities sharing \$1.9 million) will have to amend their planning grant agreements recognizing a later deadline. This will allow these communities to receive the second half of their grants.

Council staff told the committee that four communities have submitted comp plan updates for plan review, a year ahead of the deadline.

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

Metropolitan Council Regional Growth Strategy Work Group Meets

The Met Council Regional Growth Strategy Work Group held its second meeting this week. The work group was created to serve as a forum for Council members to consider long term regional trends and their impacts on regional systems, from an integrated, cross-divisional perspective. Metro Cities supported having the meetings of the group be posted and will monitor its work. The group will allow a sub-set of Council members to provide feedback to staff on what information

might be useful to the Council in developing regional growth strategies.

At this meeting, members discussed what information and data should be included in a presentation by staff to the full Council in order to facilitate a discussion on regional growth strategy. The discussion will include information on the strategies the Council has used to plan development and other potential tools the Council can use in planning growth in the region.

Staff has been asked to include various metrics related to the management of growth and development and to make comparisons to peer regions based on the metrics into their presentation. The metrics that were asked for include population density and built infrastructure and their impact and effect on social mobility and equity measures, economic data and information from peer reviewed studies. Metropolitan Council staff will also present historical growth patterns and how Council policy has impacted regional development over time.

Council members also discussed how the Metropolitan Council plans for and operates regional level infrastructure, such as wastewater and transit, and how these systems have influenced development as well as their role in managing regional development in the future.

It has not been determined if this presentation will be as an informational item at a Council meeting or as part of a Committee of the Whole discussion. The Work Group is tentatively planning its final meeting in mid-January to finalize the presentation. The presentation will likely be made in late January or early February.

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

As we near the end of 2017, we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our members for joining committees, attending meetings, testifying at the Capitol, and all the other ways you are involved in and show your interest in the issues that matter to metro area cities. We are honored that you trust us with this work, and look forward to continuing to work for you in 2018! We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

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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