



TAC Openings

Metro Cities is seeking interested applicants for two open seats on the Metropolitan Council's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which advises the TAB (Transportation Advisory Board). The TAC and TAB are official participants in the region's 3C transportation planning process on issues that determine transportation planning and funding.

Appointees 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.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and a resume/bio by **Tuesday, February 13, 2018** to Kim Ciarrocchi. Applications can be submitted via mail (Metro Cities, 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55103) or email: kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

DPS and MNIT Release Project Roadmap and Funding Request for MNLARS Fix

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) recently released a "project road map" with respect to improving the Minnesota Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS) system. The system, created to replace a 30-year old IT system for driver's license, identification card and vehicle registration transactions, has experienced numerous challenges since the motor-vehicle portion roll-out last summer.

The road map, developed with deputy registrars, auto dealers, financial institutions and policymakers, contains several priorities including repairing system glitches, filling gaps in functionality, and improving customer service and system performance. The goal is for high priority system defects to be addressed by July 2018, with a goal of addressing all system improvements by December 2019.

DPS and MNIT will request \$43 million from the 2018 Legislature, with \$37 million for critical system improvements and \$6 million for customer service capacity increases. DPS and MNIT have warned that without funding, high priority defects cannot be addressed until June 2020. Funding to address costs incurred by deputy registrar offices resulting from MNLARS system defects are not included in the request.

At a Senate hearing last month, several legislators expressed frustration and disappointment that the system continues to not function properly and were surprised that a clear timeline for fixing the system was not available.

For more information on the MNLARS Project Roadmap, click [here](#).

Metropolitan Council Authorizes Public Hearing on Wastewater Reuse Amendments

The Metropolitan Council has authorized a public hearing to receive comments on three proposed amendments to the Water Resource Policy Plan (WRPP).

The proposed amendments are a result of the work of the Met Council Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force was to review the Council's regional wastewater reuse policies and make any recommendations to address potential opportunities and regional/local partnerships for wastewater reuse.

The task force found consensus on the need for a reuse program, that reuse capabilities should be developed and that MCES should work in cooperation, and not competition, with local water suppliers. The task force discussed the potential regional benefits of wastewater reuse and agreed any benefits are best evaluated on a case by case basis, with criteria that might include whether a project advances water sustainability, provides environmental benefit and fosters the regional economy by attracting a project that would otherwise not locate to the region without reclaimed water. It was recommended that MCES pursue non-Council sources of funding to provide reclaimed water services.

The Task Force did not reach consensus on regional cost sharing through use of the municipal wastewater charge for reuse purposes. The Task Force recommended that this issue be considered by the Metropolitan Council, with a pilot project that would include a cost share cap, public input and user agreement. To view a previous Metro Cities' newsletter article on the Task Force, click [here](#).

The Council has proposed three WRPP amendment options for comment. All three include: (1) setting reclaimed water cost on a case by case, cost of service model, (2) having the Metropolitan Council cooperate and partner with local communities, and (3) pursuing non-Council funding for re-use opportunities. The first option would not include any proposal for cost-sharing, or the use of regional fees, for this purpose.

The second amendment option includes the first amendment changes and applies a regional cost share based on defined environmental and economic development regional benefits. The third option would apply a regional cost share based on identified benefits to the wastewater system or that the project would be inhibited by a prolonged water appropriation permit process with the Department of Natural Resources. Amendments two and three would cap the regional cost share at 0.75% of total annual municipal wastewater charges.

Two hearings are currently being planned and will take place in mid-March. For more information on the proposed amendments, click [here](#).

Questions? Please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003.

Metropolitan Council Approves Corridors of Commerce Submissions to MnDOT

The Metropolitan Council has approved 10 projects for submission to MnDOT for funding from the Corridors of Commerce Program. As a reminder, MnDOT is accepting submissions through Feb. 5th. All projects proposed by the Council are consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). For more information and to view the list of projects, click [here](#).

The Corridors of Commerce program was created to provide additional trunk highway capacity by improving bottlenecks, reduce barriers to commerce and to make improvements to the movement of freight. Legislation enacted last year mandates that MnDOT consider eight criteria when scoring projects that include: return on investment, economic impact, freight efficiency, safety, regional connections, policy objectives, community consensus, and regional balance. Seven of these criteria will be scored.

To submit a project for consideration, click [here](#). As part of the community consensus metric, projects that receive letters of support from a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will

receive 45 of a possible 700 points. Projects will also receive points if a resolution of support is received from a local government.

Regional balance criteria will be applied, with a soft 50/50 split between metro and greater Minnesota projects. MnDOT has allocated \$400 million for the next round of projects. For more information, click [here](#).

Questions? Please contact Steve Huser at steven@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003.

Metro Cities Convenes Livable Communities Act Program Review Work Group

Metro Cities has convened a work group to review the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities (LCA) programs. Formation of a group was recommended by Metro Cities for the purposes of examining the programs and to identify any areas of concern and potential recommendations for modification to the programs. Metro Cities' policies strongly support the LCA programs and ensuring that program criteria are flexible and that programs are accessible to participating communities.

This work will include a review of the LCA programs by Metropolitan Council LCA staff, a review of city experiences with programs and any concerns, and discussion of potential recommendations from the group.

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

Metropolitan Council Hosts 50-Year Event

The Metropolitan Council hosted a 50-year event last week at the U of M's McNamara Center, with over 250 people in attendance. Governor Dayton gave opening remarks, highlighting the region's changing population and increased needs for regional services and infrastructure, the partnerships as well as divisions that influence the provision of regional services and the need for the seamless provision of regional infrastructure.

Chair Alene Tchourumoff spoke about the work the Council has accomplished in the past 50 years and highlighted priorities for her term: affordable housing, transit and building equitable communities. Chair Tchourumoff noted that the region must be competitive with other regions nationally and globally and compared this region's performance in providing regional services and infrastructure against other regions in the country that do not coordinate services or infrastructure.

The event featured a panel discussion with three former chairs of the Council. Sue Haigh, Curt Johnson, and Ted Mondale answered questions from moderator Brian McDaniel. The panel highlighted the value of engagement by local governments in the work of the Council, the challenges confronting the region and how panelists would define their successes. When asked about the future of the Council, the panel identified housing, water resources, autonomous vehicles, and attracting and retaining a quality workforce as the most important regional issues of the future.

To find out more about the Met Council's 50-year anniversary, click [here](#).

Metropolitan Council Approves Waivers on LCDA, TOD awards

The Metropolitan Council last week approved five additional Livable Communities awards for projects in Minnetonka, Minneapolis, Roseville and St. Paul. ([Minneapolis and Minnetonka project awards](#), [Roseville and St. Paul awards](#)) Funds were available from project relinquishments and interest earnings. Discussion at the Community Development Committee and full Council focused

on the timeline and process of awarding the additional funds outside the regular cycle as well as the recommendation to waive fund guidelines and per-city caps.

The Council chose to award the additional funds to projects that met the minimum score necessary to be considered for funding but did not receive full or any funding due to award guidelines and fund balances. The Council also chose to waive the guideline that states up to 40% of the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) funds available in a grant cycle are available to support projects located in the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and waived the funding limit of no more than \$2 million per city for the LCDA TOD (transit oriented development) program.

Metro Cities and a work group of Livable Communities-participating cities are currently reviewing the Livable Communities programs. See the article explaining this group in this newsletter.

Save the Date for the Metro Cities Annual Meeting!

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Metro Cities Annual Meeting! This year's event will be held on **Thursday, April 19th** at the **Como Park Zoo and Conservatory** in their Bullard Rainforest Auditorium. The evening will again start off with a social hour, followed by a guest speaker, and will wrap up with a brief (but important!) business meeting to elect members and officers to the Board of Directors. All member city staff and elected officials are welcome and encouraged to attend! **More information and details to come.**

Questions? Contact Kimberly at 651-215-4000 or kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

EVENT: Met Council Training for LCA Applicants

The Metropolitan Council is offering design workshops for applicants to the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) programs in an effort to improve the design of proposed projects. A panel of urban designers, landscape architects, and architects review project designs and provide feedback to applicants before full applications are submitted. The review provides the opportunity for applicants to strengthen their project to best meet LCA goals and priorities.

The workshops will once again be a two-part series with the first workshop in February and the second workshop sometime in early May. This format was established so that design review could be provided earlier in the development process and be more useful to applicants in their project development.

For more information, contact: Ryan Kelley, TOD Program at 651-602-1541 and ryan.kelley@metc.state.mn.us or Jonathan Stanley, LCDA Program at 651-602-1633 and jonathan.stanley@metc.state.mn.us.

Metropolitan Council SAC Task Force

The 2016-2017 SAC Task Force will be hosting a meeting with small businesses regarding the Task Force's recommended changes to the SAC Program on Tuesday, February 6. These changes include adjustments to the SAC determination and SAC credit process. A high level overview can be found [here](#).

For additional details, please join the Met Council:
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 2:30PM
Gandhi Mahal Community Room

3009 27th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Contact SACProgram@metc.state.mn.us with any questions.

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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