



Regional Solicitation Application Deadline

The deadline for applications for Regional Solicitation project funding is Friday, July 13th at 4:00 pm. The solicitation is the method by which federal transportation dollars from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program are allocated within the metropolitan area, with funding distributed among roadway, transit and travel demand management, bicycle and pedestrian projects. Project evaluation will occur from August-December 2018, with project selection taking place in January 2019. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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

Highway Safety Improvement Program Application Process Open

MnDOT is now accepting project applications for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The purpose of this funding is to help reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. \$22.7 million is available. Approximately 70% of funding is dedicated for reactive safety projects, with the remaining 30% to proactive safety projects. The maximum total project cost is \$2 million, with a maximum award limit of \$1.8 million. Project improvements can be used for safety projects for all modes, and should be generated from Road Safety Plans or a similar study. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 31, 2018. Any necessary crash data must be requested from MnDOT by July 18, 2018. HSIP projects will be approved by the TAB in January, on the same schedule as Regional Solicitation projects.

For general HSIP information, click [here](#). For more detailed program and application information, click [here](#).

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

TPP Approved for Public Comment

This week, the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee recommended approval of a draft Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for public comment. The TPP plays a central role in the regional transportation planning process and is updated every four years. [See the draft here](#).

The draft includes updated sections on electric cars and a metro mobility task force report. Corridors of Commerce projects that were recently announced have also been added. After approval by the full council, the public comment will begin in July. A public hearing is scheduled for August 1st. Metropolitan Council staff is also working on other opportunities for public comment. Metro Cities will post additional information as we receive it. After the public comment period, the TAB will consider final approval in September, followed by the Metropolitan Council's consideration in October.

For more information on the TPP update, click [here](#).

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

DEED Redevelopment & Demolition Loan Program Funds; Webinar Planned for June 20

Cities seeking redevelopment and demolition loan funds will have a new opportunity to apply for state dollars this summer. Even though the Legislature did not appropriate funds to the program in 2017 or 2018, DEED used its statutory authority to transfer \$1.5 million of the Minnesota Investment Fund's balance to the Redevelopment and Demolition Loan Program to fund the August grant round. The deadline for the submission of applications is **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2018**. More information on the application process can be [found here](#).

DEED will hold a webinar on June 20, 2018 to provide details about the August 2018 grant round. The webinar is designed to provide information about the Redevelopment Grant Program and Demolition Loan Program, highlighting eligible applicants, activities, and projects that will compete well for grant funds. The Redevelopment Grant funds assist with the cost of demolition and abatement, as well as other project-related improvements such as soil stabilization and site preparation-related infrastructure necessary for redeveloping blighted property. Demolition Loan funds help public entities demolish and abate blighted structures to eliminate a public safety threat and prepare sites for potential future development.

The webinar will be held from 1-2 p.m. Contact DEED's [Kristin Lukes](#) at 651-259-7451 with questions.

[Webinar Link](#)

Meeting number: 597 807 651

Meeting password: Brownfields

Audio connections:

1-888-742-5095 (US/Canada) Call-in toll-free number

1-619-377-3319 (US/Canada) Call-in number

Conference code: 176 233 5404

Metro Cities Responds to Governor's Housing Task Force Reviews Draft Recommendations

Governor Dayton's Housing Task Force is completing its work this summer. The three work groups (homeownership, rental housing, housing stability and opportunity) held final meetings in June to review draft recommendations and action steps. Draft recommendations range from increasing funding, to reducing building and construction regulations, to increasing supportive services, to increasing homeownership opportunities, to preserving existing housing.

Metro Cities has submitted comments to the task force indicating support for increased state funding, support for effective and flexible existing programs such as the Challenge Program as well as support for increased funding for new construction and preservation of affordable units via state bonds. Metro Cities also supports local decision-making authority and maintaining the proper role of cities and other housing stakeholders to address a full range of housing needs across the metropolitan region, and has expressed the organization's policy positions along these lines in response to some of the recommendations. Click [here](#) for Metro Cities' letter and response document.

The full task force is scheduled to meet June 25 to review final recommendations and plan the final report, to be issued in July. More information on the task force can be found at mnhousingtaskforce.com.

Minnesota Housing Fix Up Fund Expands Eligibility

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency announced changes to the Fix Up Loan Program. Changes include increased program income limits for the 11-county metro as well as statewide, application changes including document simplification, and interest rate options. Other changes include an increase to the garage size limit from 800 to 1,000 square feet.

MHFA will hold two webinars on the changes, which go into effect July 2. The webinars will be held:

- [Wednesday, June 20 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, June 26 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.](#)

For registration assistance, contact [Nicola Viana](#) at 651.297.9510. Questions on program changes should be directed to [Shannon Gerving](#) at 651.296.3724.

Met Council's New Report Highlights Region's Housing Supply Needs

Metropolitan Council research staff recently analyzed building permit data from the metro region's local governments. Data showed the majority of the region's added housing units were multifamily units, a point consistent with national trends. Residential growth continues to take place across the region, including from the urban core through developing edges of the seven-county metro.

Staff [told the Community Development committee](#) that housing production was not keeping pace with increases to household growth. This increasing housing scarcity is also seen across other metro regions in the U.S. The Council has an [interactive data visualization tool](#) available on its website to view new housing permits and locations across the regional map. Staff explained that housing shortages may push up housing costs.

The ten cities with the largest net change in 2017 were: Minneapolis, Lakeville, Apple Valley, Golden Valley, Eagan, Woodbury, Minnetonka, St. Paul, Plymouth and Edina.

RSVP Today for the Metro Cities Breakfast at the June LMC Annual Conference

It's not too late to attend the Metro Cities breakfast at the 2018 LMC Annual Conference in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center. Join your metro colleagues for breakfast on Friday, June 22nd at 7:30 am in the Weidner Room on the first floor of the River's Edge Convention Center. This is a great chance to mingle with other Metro Cities members and to hear a brief update from Metro Cities' staff.

If you're able to join us, please let Kimberly know as soon as possible via 651-215-4004 or kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org.

We hope to see you there!

Metro Cities Policy Committees

Don't forget to join Metro Cities' Policy Committees! Policy Committees meet in July, August, and September and cover four different policy areas: Transportation and General Government, Municipal Revenues, Metropolitan Agencies, Housing and Economic Development. Policy Committees recommend legislative policies for the next legislative session, and those policies serve as a foundation for our work at Metro Cities. Being part of a Policy Committee is a great opportunity for your city to have a voice in the processes for the policies as well as at the legislature. **Please note there are NEW times for committees, as well as a NEW date change for the Housing and Economic Development Committee.**

Policy committees are open to city staff as well as elected officials and the form to sign-up can be found on our [website](#). Whether you are new to the process or have participated in a

committee in the past, we welcome your participation in one or more of the committees in 2018.

Changes This Year:

• **Committees will meet either Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday in the morning from 9:00-11:30 am or the afternoon from 1:00-3:30.** We hope this change will be beneficial for planning your schedules! The committees and dates are listed on our website here, and updates and additional information will be posted on these pages as it becomes available.

• **This year we ask that you actively sign up for the committee(s) you wish to attend, even if you have been on the committee in the past.** You are NOT automatically signed up for this year if you were on a committee last year. This will help us keep our rosters current and correct!

All meetings take place at the Metro Cities/League of MN Cities building at 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul.

Please consider serving, and encourage other staff and officials within your city to do the same!

Email or call Kimberly with questions at kimberly@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4004.

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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