



Comprehensive Plan Deadline Extensions for Planning Grant Communities

The Metropolitan Council's Community Development committee [approved a plan](#) this week to allow a second application round for extensions to the 2018 comprehensive plan update deadline. The eligibility for extensions would be limited to recipients of planning assistance grants, with an application deadline of December 21, 2018. \$1.9 million in planning grants were awarded to 70 local units of government, 24 of which requested extensions in early 2018. Deadline extensions would be for up to six months, which is June 30, 2019.

All local units of government in the metropolitan region could request up to a one-year extension. Those applications were due May 31, 2018. Forty-six cities requested extensions under that deadline.

The applications will require a description of completed activities, a description of remaining activities and a timeline for completion, and an adopted resolution requesting the extension and the length of the extension request (up to six months). Minnesota statutes allow the Council to grant extensions.

Metro Cities supports Council flexibility for extensions. Contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with any questions or comments.

DFL Gains House Majority, Constitutional Offices; GOP Maintains Senate Leadership

Tuesday's election brought changes to the executive and legislative branches at the State Capitol. Those changes, in addition to three new constitutional officers, will shape the 2019/20 biennium.

In the House, the DFL gained 18 seats and will have a 75-59 seat majority. Rep. Melissa Hortman of Brooklyn Park was elected Speaker by the House DFL caucus on Thursday evening.

A list of [new House members](#) can be found on the House website. The new [House election directory](#) can be found here.

The Minnesota Senate, now at a 33-33 party tie, will seat a new Republican senator after a special election in central Minnesota. Former State Representative John Howe was elected to the Senate in an open seat created by the resignation of current Lt. Governor Michelle Fischbach. That means the Senate will continue with a Republican majority.

Former DFL Congressman Tim Walz and his running mate Rep. Peggy Flanagan were elected Governor and Lt. Governor. They will be joined by an all-DFL slate of constitutional officers, who include current Secretary of State Steve Simon, Attorney General-Elect Keith Ellison, and State Auditor-Elect Julie Blaha. A map of [precinct by precinct votes](#) in the governor's race can be found here.

Election results will be official once they have been certified by the state canvassing board, a meeting scheduled to occur November 27.

Metropolitan Council Recommends LCDA Housing, Transit Oriented Development Awards

The Community Development Committee at the Metropolitan Council has approved Livable Communities program grants under the Transit Oriented Development and Local Housing Incentives Account categories.

The [committee recommended](#) approving five multifamily rental and two single family ownership grants totaling \$2.5 million. The multifamily housing awards are in Coon Rapids, Inver Grove Heights, Maplewood and Minneapolis. The single-family housing awards are in Minnetonka and Minneapolis. These awards will support 204 new affordable units and preserve 49 existing units. These awards were applied for as part of the Consolidated Request for Proposals, in partnership with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and other funding agencies. The LHIA recommendations now move to the full Council for approval.

The [committee recommended](#) and the full Council approved four Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development grants. The four grant awards for projects located in Minnetonka, St. Paul and Minneapolis, total \$4.5 million. The Council allocated \$6.75 million for TOD awards in 2018, leaving a balance of \$2.25 million for future awards. Expected outcomes from the four awards include 674 units of housing affordable to households earning up to 80 percent of the area median income, 85 full time jobs, 850 construction or temporary jobs, and a net tax capacity increase of \$740,000.

Cities interested in refreshing their understanding of or learning more about funding awards made through the Livable Communities program should register to attend a December LCA workshop hosted by Metro Cities and featured in this newsletter.

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

MnDOT Announces 10 Year Highway Plan and LRIP Awards

On Wednesday, MnDOT announced its 10 Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). The plan will guide planning and investments on the state's highways for projects beginning next year, with final projects ending in 2028. The cost of projects is estimated to be \$10 billion, with funding coming from both Federal and State sources. Seven metro area projects are included in the plan.

For more information on the CHIP, click [here](#). For more information on the projects included in the plan, click [here](#).

MnDOT has also announced the selection of 56 local road projects as part of the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). Projects selected were submitted during the 2017 solicitation process and will be constructed in 2019/20. This solicitation garnered \$125 million in eligible requests, with \$35 million in LRIP funds available. MnDOT distributed the funds evenly among the states' transportation districts, with \$5.325 million being awarded to five Metro District projects. Cities in the metro area that have projects receiving awards are Maplewood, Willernie/Mahtomedi, Jordan, Marine on St. Croix, Oakdale, and Lakeville. Metro Cities will continue to advocate for increased LRIP funding this upcoming legislative session. For more information on the LRIP, click [here](#). To see a list of funded projects, click [here](#).

EVENT: Metro Cities' Livable Communities Workshop – December 11

Metro Cities is hosting a workshop for city officials and staff to hear from Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Act Program staff on tips, tools and other information for submitting competitive LCA applications.

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

9:00 - 11:30 am

LMC/Metro Cities Building - St. Croix Room ,145 University Ave

The workshop will cover the following:

- A review of LCA goals
- Examples of successful and unfunded applications
- Eligibility and competitiveness for a range of cities
- A review of timelines and scoring process for applications
- Questions from attendees

The workshop is open to interested city officials and staff. Seating is limited. Please register by Friday, December 7th to Kimberly@MetroCitiesMN.org or 651-215-4000.

Minnesota Housing Announces 2018 Affordable Housing Awards

Minnesota's state housing finance agency announced its 2018 affordable housing awards, which will invest \$87.5 million to create and preserve more than 1,700 affordable homes across Minnesota. The awards, in support of multifamily rental and single-family home ownership, are for 55 developments. The awards include funds from the state, Metropolitan Council and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. These awards were applied for as part of the Consolidated Request for Proposals. A [map of awards](#) can be found on Minnesota Housing's website.

This year's awards include nine developments that will create more than 500 new housing opportunities for families in suburban high opportunity areas, including new construction projects in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Inver Grove Heights, Vadnais Heights, Shakopee and Waconia.

Funds for the metro also include affordability gap/down payment program for 20 households in Minneapolis and owner-occupied rehabilitation of 20 single family homes in Minneapolis through City of Lakes Community Land Trust; single family home construction, rehabilitation of 40 rental homes and new construction of 38 rental homes with efficiency units in Minneapolis; single family home preservation and construction in St. Paul; and investments in Habitat for Humanity in support of single family construction and mortgage affordability across the metro region. A full list of awards can be found on Minnesota Housing's website [here](#) by clicking on "**Selection Summaries**" in the bullet list below the map.

Metro Cities supported state funding for a full range of housing choices and housing needs at the legislature through the bonding bill and appropriations to Minnesota Housing.

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

EVENT: Census Planning Roundtable

Friday, December 7, 2018

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Ramsey County Library - Roseville

2180 Hamline Avenue North

Roseville, MN 55113

[Registration](#)

This is a meeting of local governments working together to promote awareness and participation in the 2020 Census. This group includes local government professionals and officials who are organizing and supporting such committees.

Community engagement specialists, voter-registration promotion specialists, and interested elected officials are encouraged to attend. Show up early (12:15-12:30) for lunch and informal networking.

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.

If you'd like to sign up to receive Metro Cities News, please email newsletter@metrocitiesmn.org and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

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