

Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee Meetings

The nominating committee for the Metropolitan Council will begin public meetings to interview identified candidates starting next week. Five candidates will be interviewed for each district (see list [here](#)). The nominating committee consists of 12 members, five of whom are ex-officio. See [Metro Cities' January 11 newsletter](#) for the nominating committee makeup.

Dates and locations of meetings are below. The nominating committee's recommendations will be posted on the Metropolitan Council's website.

Date	Council District	Location	Time
Jan. 29	1, 2, 9, 10	Blaine City Hall	6:00 pm
Jan. 30	11, 12, 13, 14	Oakdale City Hall	6:00 pm
Feb. 12	3, 4, 15, 16	Savage City Hall	6:00 pm
Feb. 13	5, 6, 7, 8	Minneapolis Urban League	6:00 pm

Local Comprehensive Plans Update

Metropolitan Council staff are in the initial review process on local comprehensive plans that were due to the Council at the end of December. Staff have noted some plans that need additional information or documents and have identified areas in plans where there are any internal inconsistencies. Staff will communicate with cities following the initial review process. The Council must complete its initial review within 15 days of receiving a plan. Cities can track the status of communications due to the city from the Council on the Community Page of their local plan.

Questions? Contact Patricia Nauman at patricia@metrocitiesmn.org.

House Bonding Committee Hears Process for Local Government Projects

The House Capital Investment Committee heard a presentation by the Department of Management and Budget (MMB) on its capital project request process for political subdivisions, including cities. MMB will begin authorizing users for the system and conduct training this spring. Political subdivisions will be able to again submit project requests beginning in May and submit a preliminary capital budget submission to the Legislature on July 15th. The preliminary submission process will serve as the basis for legislative capital bonding tours this summer and fall.

Submitting a local request to MMB through this process allows bonding requests to be reviewed by the administration as proposals are considered for the Governor's budget recommendations.

Information on the Capital Budget System, including the CBS User Authorization Form, can be found [here](#). Cities may also work with local legislators on bonding requests. Cities interested in submitting a project request can find more information at a FAQ website [here](#).

To view a copy of the MMB presentation, click [here](#).

New Metropolitan Council Chair Speaks with Legislative Committees

Metropolitan Council Chair Nora Slawik spoke to two legislative committees this week--the Senate Local Government Committee and House Transportation Committee. Chair Slawik and Council staff presented an overview of the Council's work as well as an overview of the regional transit system and the Council's role in transportation planning. Discussion in the House centered on the growing costs related to Metro Mobility and the need to find solutions to this issue. Metro Cities policies support stable and growing funding sources for Metro Mobility.

Apply for Redevelopment Grants, Demolition Loans by February 1

Cities seeking redevelopment and demolition loan funds will have a new opportunity to apply for state dollars this winter. Even though the Legislature did not appropriate funds to the program in 2017 or 2018, DEED used its statutory authority to transfer funds to the Redevelopment and Demolition Loan Program to fund approximately \$2 million in the February grant round. The deadline for the submission of applications is 4:00 pm on Friday, February 1, 2019. More information on the application process can be [found here](#).

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. Applications must be submitted by cities, counties, port authorities, housing and redevelopment authorities (HRAs) or economic development authorities (EDAs). A local match of 50 percent is required for each project site receiving a Redevelopment grant. There is no match required for Demolition Loans.

Metro Cities is interested in hearing about your city's redevelopment opportunities to highlight the need at the legislature for state funding for this important program. Please contact Charlie Vander Aarde to share your city's plans: 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitiesmn.org.

Does Your City Have a Local Housing Trust Fund?

Metro Cities is supporting a state match contribution appropriation for cities that have a local housing trust fund or participate in a regional housing trust fund. The proposal for \$10 million would partially match local efforts to capitalize their funds. Metro Cities is aware of some cities with established funds and want to make sure we have an accurate list of cities with funds. We are asking cities with funds or plans to establish a fund to send an email to Charlie Vander Aarde at charlie@metrocitiesmn.org with this information. Thank you!

EVENT: 2019 Economic Development Day at the Capitol

Metro Cities, the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), Minnesota Brownfields, Small Business Development Center, and County Economic Development Officers are partnering on an event at the Capitol.

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Room 300 North

State Office Building, 100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

St. Paul, MN 55155

Join Metro Cities and economic development officials from across the metro region and state to get involved in the state legislative process and advocate for economic development funds and tools. City, county, state and private sector officials are coming together to demonstrate the importance of local tools to address housing, economic development and community revitalization. It will be a great opportunity to meet with lawmakers and network with your peers across the state. You will be able to visit with your lawmakers and legislative leadership. Metro Cities members may [register for free](#).

For answers to questions regarding the application process, please contact Brownfields and Redevelopment Unit staff at 651-259-7451.

EVENT: Affordable Homeownership Models for Suburban Cities

Registration is open for a February event that will present models for cities to support affordable homeownership opportunities. Cities will be able to connect with similar communities and learn how to support or expand affordable homeownership opportunities. Community land trusts, manufactured home park preservation and cooperative models will be covered. The event is sponsored by Grounded Solutions Network and the Metropolitan Council. [Registration information](#).

Thursday, February 28, 2019

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

New Brighton Community Center

Metropolitan Council Advisory Committee Openings

The Metropolitan Council has openings on several of its [advisory committees](#). Although some committees are open generally to local elected officials as well as community members, the [Land Use Advisory Committee](#) (LUAC) has specific seats for local officials, as officials must make up at least 50% of the LUAC. The LUAC provides advice and assistance to the Metropolitan Council on regional land use and comprehensive planning.

Applications will be accepted until early spring 2019 for all advisory committees. Applications will be reviewed early spring.

Bills of Note

[HF 212](#), Davnie: Bill eliminates the state preemption of certain pesticides control ordinances for cities of the first class.

[HF 218](#), Nornes: Bill authorizes certain religious services signs adjacent to highways and prohibits zoning authorities from imposing permits or fees on them.

[HF 219](#), Carlson, L: Bill amends the application of certain liability limits for co-located freight rail and light rail transit related to the SWLRT project.

[HF 242](#), Quam: Bill directs MnDOT to establish a microtransit rideshare pilot program, establishes a microtransit rideshare account, requires a report and appropriates an undefined amount of funding.

[HF 245](#), Torkelson: Bill appropriates funding from the environment fund from motor vehicle title fees for reimbursements to deputy registrars.

[HF 266](#), Freiberg: Bill appropriates \$5 million for local inflow and infiltration reduction programs from the clean water fund.

[HF 268](#), Drazkowski: Bill would provide for the right to carry a fire arm without a permit, including on city property, and provides for an optional permit to carry.

[HF 279](#), Richardson: Bill provides construction exemption for a fire station in the city of Inver Grove Heights.

[HF 281](#), Koegel: Bill makes changes to the Open Meeting Law to allow for attendance by interactive television.

[HF 285](#), Koznick: Bill authorizes data sharing between the Department of Human Services and the Metropolitan Council for special transportation purposes related to Metro Mobility and other transportation programs.

[HF 307](#), Koznick: Bill authorizes data sharing between the Department of Human Services and the Metropolitan Council for special transportation purposes and extends the Metro Mobility service area.

[HF 316](#), Elkins: Bill appropriates funds to the Metropolitan Council to distribute grants to transportation management organizations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

[HF 325](#), Lee: Bill provides reimbursement grants to local units of government for public safety personnel on authorized military leave.

[HF 338](#), Davnie: Bill authorizes cities to create land-value taxation districts.

[HF 346](#), Carlson: Bill clarifies authority for political subdivisions to impose and collect local lodging taxes.

[HF 361](#), Liebling: Bill expands the scope of the rideshare and transit customer data classifications.

[HF 370](#), Fischer: Bill requires staggered terms for Metropolitan Council and expands the membership of the nomination committee; requiring additional information to be made publicly available as part of the selection process; clarifying council member qualifications.

[HF 371](#), Quam: Bill dedicates a portion of local government aid to cities for housing.

[SF 302](#), Bigham: Bill modifies Sunday off-sale hours.

[SF 305](#), Pappas: Bill provides reimbursement grants to local units of government for public safety personnel on military authorized leave.

[SF 312](#), Bigham: Makes changes to early voting and hours and appropriates an unspecified amount to the Secretary of State for costs related to implementation.

[SF 316](#), Howe: Bill requires involvement in user acceptance testing from local units of government impacted by new information technology business software.

[SF 317](#), Latz: Bill prohibits certain activities by Internet service providers serving Minnesota customers and those under contract to the state or political subdivisions, including cities

[SF 367](#), Frentz: Bill would increase the motor fuels tax by 10 cents per gallon.

[SF 391](#), Dziedzic: Bill expands the tax exemption for firefighting equipment.

[SF 395](#), Klein: Bill authorizes the city of West St. Paul to impose a local option sales tax.

[SF 410](#), Rest: Bill amends application of certain liability limits for collocated freight rail and light rail transit in the seven-county metropolitan area.

[SF 422](#), Carlson: Bill authorizes mail balloting in any town or any city with fewer than 400 registered voters.

[SF 442](#), Anderson: Bill provides an exemption for a public safety facility in Minnetonka.

[SF 443](#), Anderson: Bill appropriates funds for Metropolitan Council to distribute grants to transportation management organizations that provide services to cities along Interstate Highway 494.

[SF 468](#), Nelson: Bill expands rideshare data classification to include all “government entities”.

[SF 473](#), Wiklund: Bill clarifies authority for political subdivisions to impose and collect local lodging taxes.

[SF 481](#), Housley: Bill modifies provisions related to electronic voting systems, permitting alternative printed ballot styles.

[SF 486](#), Osmek: Bill authorizes data sharing between the Department of Human Services and the Metropolitan Council for special transportation purposes.

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