

8/29 work session

# METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

**DATE:** August 29, 2019  
**TO:** City Administrators, City Managers, City Clerks  
**FROM:** Patricia Nauman, Executive Director  
**RE:** 2019 Annual Brochure

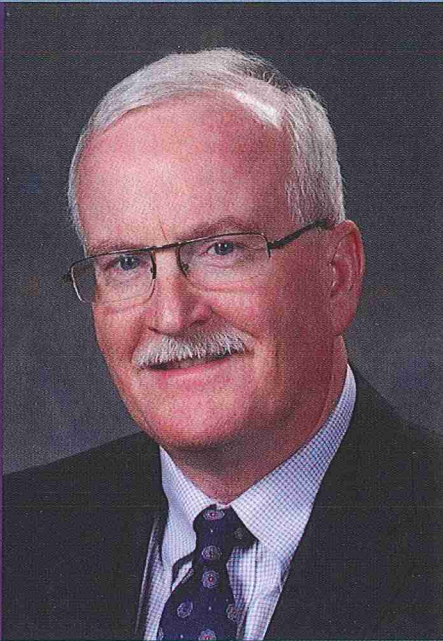
Enclosed please find the **2019 Metro Cities Annual Brochure**. Copies have been included for your Mayor, Councilmembers, and yourself. Please distribute, and do not hesitate to contact us if you would like additional copies.

In this year's brochure, you will find a summary of Metro Cities work at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council, along with some additional organization information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org) or **651-215-4004**.

We look forward to seeing many of you this fall at our city visits!

# METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities



*“Metro Cities works effectively to make sure Metropolitan Council members consider the effects of regional decisions on urban, suburban and rural communities.”*

– Deb Barber  
Metropolitan Council  
Member, District 4

*Summer/Fall 2019*

## **Dear City Official:**

On behalf of the Metro Cities Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your membership in Metro Cities.

Since its inception in 1974, the mission of Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities) has been to represent the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan region at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. The association is unique in its representation of metropolitan city interests at the Metropolitan Council, and monitors and responds to the scope of Council policymaking. Legislative policies are developed by member city officials and cover a wide range of policy issues that are significant to metropolitan communities.

Metro Cities also serves as a forum for city officials to learn from each other and find productive solutions to shared problems. A recent communications audit of the association confirmed that city officials value opportunities to get to know each other, to learn about other communities' challenges and needs, and to have opportunities to share information and best practices.

Thank you for your time and engagement with Metro Cities. Whether it is through a policy committee, attending a regional forum, the annual meeting, metro regional meeting, or other events, your involvement is vital, and carries with it benefits for your city and for cities across the region, in finding common ground and advancing shared interests and priorities.

Metro Cities is committed to providing excellent service to its members, under its core values of stewardship, partnership, quality, integrity, and leadership. As the newly elected President of Metro Cities, that mission has my full support.

Thank you again for your membership and participation.

Sincerely,

**Mark McNeill**

*City Administrator, Mendota Heights  
2019-2020 President, Metro Cities*

# HIGHLIGHTS

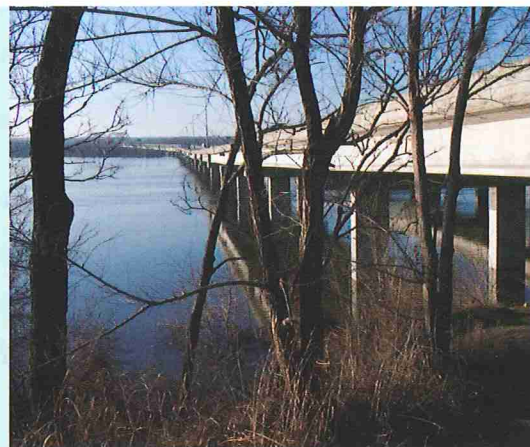
## 2019 Issues, Work and Accomplishments:

### LEGISLATIVE

- Metro Cities effectively advocated for economic development and redevelopment funding through DEED's MN Investment Fund (MIF) and Job Creation Fund (JCF), and redevelopment funding. The 2019 Legislature funded MIF and JCF and authorized DEED to transfer funds to the redevelopment and demolition programs.
- Metro Cities supported increasing the Local Government Aid (LGA) appropriation this session. The Legislature appropriated an additional \$26 million in 2020 and \$30 million in the following biennium and beyond. Metro Cities monitored legislation that would have provided LGA funding to cities not receiving it under the current structure, and Metro Cities supports ongoing analysis of the LGA program to ensure it is addressing the needs of metropolitan cities.
- Metro Cities supported legislation to extend the date for PERA aid to local governments this session. This legislation was considered but not passed. The aid will expire in 2020; Metro Cities will support this extension again next year.
- Metro Cities supported funding to meet a variety of local housing needs, including housing infrastructure bonds, a state match for local housing trust funds, and a state tax credit, among other proposals. The Legislature passed a \$60 million capital appropriation for housing infrastructure bonds.
- Metro Cities monitored legislation initiated by the builder's association that establishes a commission on affordable housing, and worked to secure changes to the authorizing language to more precisely define the terms and scope of issues to be considered. Metro Cities will closely monitor the work of the commission and will respond to any recommendations consistent with the organization's policies.
- Metro Cities initiated legislation for a \$10 million capital appropriation to assist cities in the metropolitan area with inflow and infiltration (I/I) mitigation on local public infrastructure, and supported legislation to assist private property I/I mitigation efforts. A House capital investment bill included \$8 million for this purpose. A House Legacy bill appropriated \$1.8 million for private property I/I mitigation. There was no bonding bill this session, and the final Legacy bill did not include private property I/I assistance. Metro Cities will continue to advocate for I/I funding.
- Metro Cities supports comprehensive transportation funding that includes support for local road needs, including funding for the Small Cities Account and a Large Cities account to assist cities with local road needs not addressed in the Municipal Street Aid (MSA) formula, and state funding for regional transit systems. The final 2019 transportation bill did not include this funding.
- Metro Cities supported funding for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) mitigation. The Legislature included funding for this purpose in the Environment budget.

*“Cities across Minnesota’s metro area can face challenges in providing essential services such as clean water, well-maintained streets, wastewater infrastructure, and police and fire protection. Meeting the needs of communities requires teamwork and by working jointly with the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, we help ensure the future is bright for cities across our state.”*

– Senator David Senjem (Rochester)



*“Metro Cities works to make sure legislators are informed about the effects of state policy decisions on metro communities. We are fortunate to count on their expertise.”*

– Senator Melissa Franzen (Edina)

## LEGISLATIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Four policy committees meet each summer to review, consider and recommend legislative policies to the Metro Cities Board of Directors and general membership. Policy committee participation is open to elected officials and staff of member cities. Adopted policies serve as the foundation of Metro Cities’ lobbying work at the State Capitol and Metropolitan Council. Check our website for this summer’s policy committee schedule.

This year, the member policy adoption meeting will be held on November 14th, 2019, at the Sheraton Minneapolis West in Minnetonka, in conjunction with LMC’s Metro Regional Meeting. Watch for details in the coming months.



## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

- Metro Cities supported processes for extensions for local comprehensive plan submissions and is currently monitoring the review and comment process for plans by the Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities will have discussions with city officials this summer to determine whether modifications to the organization’s policy on requirements and processes for comprehensive plans should be recommended.
- Legislation to modify the governance of the Metropolitan Council was considered this year but did not pass. Two contrasting bills, one to require the direct approval of Metropolitan Council members by local officials, and a bill to provide staggered terms and additional transparency in the selection process, were considered, the first in the Senate, and the second in the House. Metro Cities supported the bill to provide staggered terms and transparency measures. Neither bill passed this year.
- Metro Cities monitored Metropolitan Council applicant interviews and provided a letter to the Governor outlining organizational priorities as members were appointed. Metro Cities also sent an introductory letter to all new Metropolitan Council members that emphasized the importance of the Council’s collaboration and partnership with metropolitan cities.
- The process for nominating members to the Metropolitan Council was modified by Governor Walz to expand the nominating committee to include a majority of local officials on the committee and to post the nominees before appointment. These process changes are consistent with Metro Cities policies.

## PARTNERSHIPS and COLLABORATION

Metro Cities partners with various entities on shared legislative issues and goals. These partners include the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), Housing Collaborative Institute, Citizens League, local chambers of commerce, Minnesota Brownfields, and other groups and organizations. These partnerships are important in advancing the work of Metro Cities.

Metro Cities works closely with the League of Minnesota Cities on many issues, and highly values our strong partnership with the League Board and staff.



*“Metro Cities understands the needs and interests of metropolitan communities and provides consistently strong and effective advocacy for constituent cities at the Capitol and Metropolitan Council.”*

– Brad Wiersum, Mayor  
City of Minnetonka

## COMMUNICATIONS and MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Metro Cities recently conducted a communications audit with a consultant who conducted interviews and a general member survey. The audit produced high marks for Metro Cities’ communications practices and identified interest in additional opportunities for best practices sharing and member-to-member engagement. Metro Cities communicates regularly with members through a newsletter and legislative/information alerts. Follow us on Twitter @MetroCitiesMN.

Each year, Metro Cities staff visit several metro city officials at local city halls. These visits provide important opportunities for Metro Cities to better understand local issues of importance and to get individual feedback and input from city officials.

Metro Cities will conduct a focus group of city officials this summer to examine and make recommendations regarding the organization’s longstanding License and Permit Fee Survey.

Metro Cities holds periodic regional forums on topics of relevance to metro city officials. Recent forums have addressed water, housing and comprehensive plans. Stay tuned for information on future forums.

## 2019 METRO CITIES MEMBERSHIP

Andover	Elko New Market	Mendota Heights	St. Francis
Anoka	Excelsior	Minneapolis	St. Louis Park
Apple Valley	Falcon Heights	Minnetonka	St. Paul
Arden Hills	Forest Lake	Minnetonka Beach	St. Paul Park
Bayport	Fridley	Minnetrissa	St. Paul Port Authority*
Blaine	Golden Valley	Mounds View	Savage
Bloomington	Hanover*	New Brighton	Shakopee
Brooklyn Center	Hastings	New Hope	Shoreview
Brooklyn Park	Hopkins	Newport	Shorewood
Burnsville	Hugo	North St. Paul	South St. Paul
Carver	Independence	Oak Park Heights	Spring Lake Park
Centerville	Inver Grove Heights	Oakdale	Spring Park
Chanhassen	Lake Elmo	Orono	Stillwater
Chaska	Lakeville	Osseo	Sunfish Lake
Circle Pines	Lauderdale	Plymouth	Vadnais Heights
Columbia Heights	Lilydale	Prior Lake	Victoria
Coon Rapids	Long Lake	Ramsey	Waconia
Corcoran	Mahtomedi	Richfield	Watertown
Cottage Grove	Maple Grove	Robbinsdale	Wayzata
Dayton	Maple Plain	Rogers	West St. Paul
Eagan	Maplewood	Rosemount	White Bear Lake
Eden Prairie	Marine on St. Croix	Roseville	Woodbury
Edina	Medicine Lake	St. Anthony Village	

\*=Affiliate Member

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 2019–June 2020

**President**  
**Mark McNeill**

City Administrator  
Mendota Heights

**Vice President**  
**Myron Bailey**

Mayor  
Cottage Grove

**Past President**  
**Mary Gaasch**

Mayor  
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City Manager  
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**Melanie Mesko Lee**

City Manager  
Burnsville

**Jay Stroebel**

City Manager  
Brooklyn Park

**Steve Fletcher**

Councilmember  
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Mayor  
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**Mitra Jalali Nelson**

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**Mary Hamann-Roland**

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Apple Valley

**Gene Ranieri**

IGR Director  
Minneapolis

**Jan Jensen**

Councilmember  
St. Anthony Village

**William Reynolds**

City Administrator  
Shakopee

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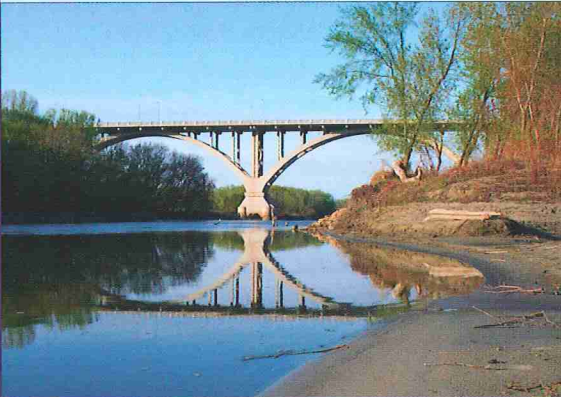
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## HISTORY, ROLE, and MISSION

Metro Cities is a lobbying organization that represents the shared interests of cities in the seven-county metropolitan area. Its mission is to provide effective representation on behalf of metro city interests at the state and regional levels of government.

Metro Cities was established as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities in 1974. It is an affiliate organization of the League of Minnesota Cities, but its mission is distinct, with a focus on the protection and advancement of metropolitan city interests and concerns.

Metro Cities represents the joint interests of metropolitan cities at the Metropolitan Council. In addition, Metro Cities actively monitors policy and decision-making by other regional entities including the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the standing committees of the Metropolitan Council.



*“Metro Cities provides an important metro perspective on local government needs and issues at the State Capitol.”*

– Representative Peter Fischer (Maplewood)

## SERVICES:

### ■ WEBSITE

Check out our redesigned website at [www.MetroCitiesMN.org](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org)

### ■ METRO CITIES NEWS

Metro Cities News is the organization’s primary newsletter. Find it online at [www.MetroCitiesMN.org/Metro-Cities-News](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org/Metro-Cities-News)

### ■ SOCIAL MEDIA

For real time updates follow us on Twitter @MetroCitiesMN

### ■ MN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SALARY & BENEFIT SURVEY

Metro Cities works with LMC and other partners to compile this online extensive survey of salary rates. Members receive access to the survey at no charge.

### ■ MUNICIPAL LICENSE AND PERMIT FEE SURVEY

Metro Cities has conducted a license and permit fee survey for approximately 30 years, and contracts with an outside vendor for the survey. The survey is presently on hold due to a need for major software upgrades. Metro Cities is examining the survey product with a focus group to determine member needs and satisfaction levels, and how the survey should be structured going forward.

### ■ METROPOLITAN AREA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (MAMA)

MAMA provides metro-area city managers and administrators with opportunities to discuss a variety of important local government issues through monthly meetings. MAMA generally meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Go to [www.MetroCitiesMN.org/MAMA](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org/MAMA) for updates.