



ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES

Dear City Official:

On behalf of the Metro Cities Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your membership in the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (Metro Cities).

Metro Cities' primary function is to advocate on statewide and regional issues of significance for metropolitan cities at the executive, legislative and regional levels of government. Metro Cities advocates on policy and funding issues in the areas of local decision making, transportation, housing, state aids, economic development and redevelopment, regional programs, metro inflow and infiltration funding, comprehensive planning requirements, and others.

Association activities include direct lobbying that reflects the shared interests of cities in the region, alerting member cities of impending impactful policies and legislation, and providing a venue for cities to consider and find solutions to shared problems.

Your membership and work with Metro Cities is vital to ensure that the association's advocacy at the State Capitol and Metropolitan Council reflects the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan region. Representation of cities at the Metropolitan Council is a unique role Metro Cities plays among local government associations. In all its work, Metro Cities relies on the input of its member cities regarding issues of municipal concern and importance.

Enclosed are highlights of Metro Cities' recent work at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council. The association recently signed a joint letter with 17 local government associations, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Legislature. The letter outlined several pressing issues and needs of local governments and encouraged a special session of the Legislature this year.



As your President, I will continue to advance Metro Cities' values of stewardship, partnership, quality, integrity, and leadership.

Sincerely,

Matt Stemwedel

City Manager, City of Coon Rapids

2022 HIGHLIGHTS OF METRO CITIES' WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the 2022 session, supplemental tax and budget bills were considered, but the session ended without a budget agreement, resulting in the passage of few bills. Below are highlights of Metro Cities' 2022 advocacy and work at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council. In August, Metro Cities signed onto a letter with 17 local government associations to the Governor and Legislature, to support and encourage a special session to address many legislative issues of significance for local governments.

COVID-19

Metro Cities actively supported federal funding to local governments under the American Rescue Plan Act as well as the **Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)**. Metro Cities is monitoring federal guidance on reporting requirements, eligible uses, and deadlines for COVID-19 funds.

Metro Cities advocated for and supported a Metropolitan Council policy to defer **Sewer Availability Charge (SAC)** for outdoor seating during the pandemic.

LOCAL CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

Metro Cities actively opposed legislation that would harm municipal land use roles and authorities. **Metro Cities also opposed changes to election law** that would have placed undue financial or administrative burden on local governments and **opposed legislation that mandated all cities** allow property owners to install and maintain natural landscapes.

HOUSING

Metro Cities opposed legislation that would interfere with the ability of cities to set local land use and zoning policies, impose **one-size-fits-all development mandates**, and eliminate processes for determining metropolitan densities that are currently set through regional and local processes. Metro Cities also opposed legislation that would **negate a city's ability to plan for developments** and effectually disallow many existing land uses.

Metro Cities **supported state funding to meet local housing needs including** local housing trust funds, affordable housing preservation, a new housing aid, increases to state programs such as the Challenge Program and workforce housing, and state bonds (GO and appropriation bonds).

Metro Cities **supported homeownership funds** as well as homeownership counseling and training to close disparities and help qualified renters access homeownership.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REDEVELOPMENT

Metro Cities **supported supplemental funding for state Redevelopment funding** programs and supported a statutory change to provide **extensions for MN Investment Fund and Job Recipient Fund recipients**.

TAXES

Metro Cities supported **statutory updates to the local government aid (LGA) formula and a funding increase** that were developed and supported by the four primary city associations.

Metro Cities supported legislation to expand state property tax relief programs.

Metro Cities opposed two proposals that would shift the **funding of affordable housing from the state to local property taxpayers**. These included a class rate reduction for the 4d rental classification and proposal to provide a 50 percent market value exclusion.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Metro Cities supported a **\$10 million capital appropriation for metropolitan inflow-infiltration (I/I) mitigation** on local public systems. The topic of I/I received hearings in the House and Senate this year.



2022 METRO CITIES MEMBERSHIP

Andover
Anoka
Apple Valley
Arden Hills
Bayport
Blaine
Bloomington
Brooklyn Center
Brooklyn Park
Burnsville
Carver
Centerville
Chanhassen

Chaska
Circle Pines
Columbia Heights
Coon Rapids
Corcoran
Cottage Grove
Crystal
Dayton
Eagan
Eden Prairie
Edina
Elko New Market
Excelsior
Falcon Heights
Forest Lake
Fridley
Golden Valley
Greenwood
Hanover *

Hastings
Hopkins
Hugo
Independence
Inver Grove Heights
Lake Elmo
Lakeville
Lauderdale
Lilydale
Little Canada
Long Lake
Mahtomedi
Maple Grove

Maple Plain
Maplewood
Marine on St. Croix
Medicine Lake
Mendota Heights
Minneapolis
Minnetonka
Minnetonka Beach
Minnetrissa
Mounds View
New Brighton
New Hope
Newport
Northfield *
North St. Paul
Oak Park Heights
Oakdale
Orono
Osseo
Plymouth

Prior Lake
Richfield
Robbinsdale
Rogers
Rosemount
Roseville
St. Anthony Village
St. Francis
St. Louis Park
St. Paul
St. Paul Park
St. Paul Port Authority *
Savage

Shakopee
Shoreview
Shorewood
South St. Paul
Spring Lake Park
Spring Park
Stillwater
Sunfish Lake
Vadnais Heights
Victoria
Waconia
Watertown
Wayzata
West St. Paul
White Bear Lake
Woodbury

*=Affiliate Member



BOARD AND STAFF

Metro Cities is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors of city officials from across the metropolitan area. Association staff include an Executive Director, two Government Relations Specialists and an Office Manager.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Matt Stemwedel
Coon Rapids, City Manager

Vice President
Jay Stroebel
Brooklyn Park, City Manager

Past President
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Bryan Bear
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City Administrator

Josh Berg
Elko New Market
Councilmember

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City Manager

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Rosemount
Mayor

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St. Anthony Village
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Roseville
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IGR Director

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Bloomington
City Manager

Kris Wilson
Inver Grove Heights
City Administrator

METRO CITIES STAFF

145 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55103-2044
Phone: 651-215-4000
Fax: 651-281-1299
www.MetroCitiesMN.org @
MetroCitiesMN

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director

Vacant Position
(to be filled Fall of 2022)
Government Relations Specialist

Michael Lund
Government Relations Specialist

Jennifer Dorn
Office Manager

2022 HIGHLIGHTS OF METRO CITIES' WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Metro Cities is working with city officials and Metropolitan Council staff to make recommendations on the local **comprehensive plan process and regional requirements** in advance of the next planning cycle.

Metro Cities provided input on **housing goals** required for cities participating in the Livable Communities Program and supported adoption of a formula that is realistic and **based on expected levels of public financing**.

TRANSPORTATION

Metro Cities supported appropriations for Trunk Highway bonds and the Local Road Improvement and Bridge programs.

Metro Cities supported **funding for Municipal State Aid Street cities as well as the Small Cities Assistance Account**. Metro Cities emphasized the importance of funding so that local governments can provide local matches required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Metro Cities supported state and regional funding for **transit providers** including matching dollars for federal grant programs and funding for suburban providers' micro-mobility improvements.

Metro Cities supported changes to transaction fee levels to **ensure that local deputy registrars can sufficiently function** and meet evolving service needs.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

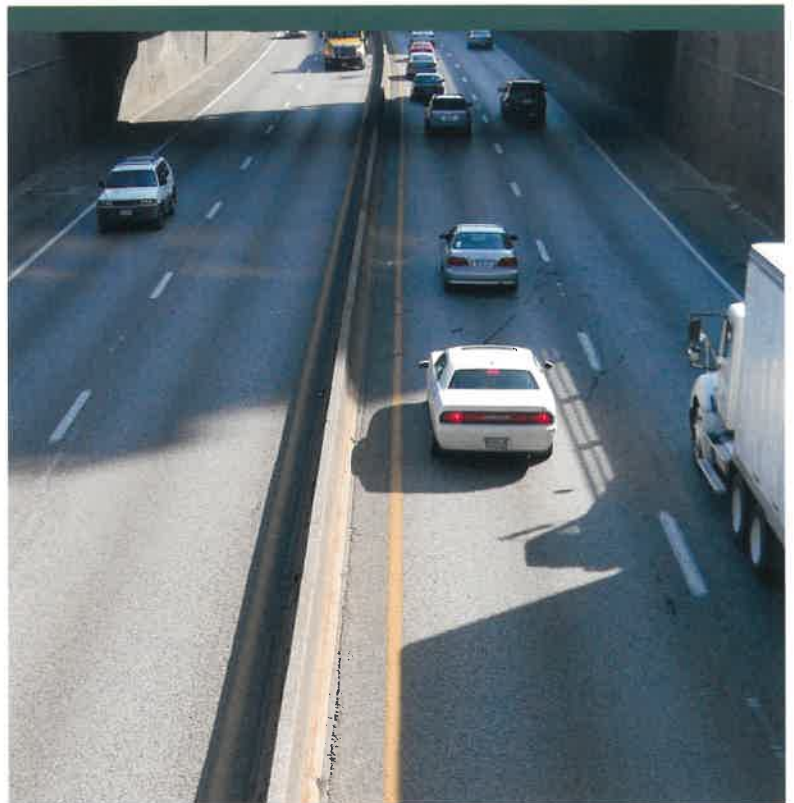
Metro Cities staff represented the association on a MPCA advisory group regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) conveyed to wastewater facilities.

Metro Cities supported **funding for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) mitigation** and funding for the **Lawns to Legumes** program.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Metro Cities supported **funding for local law enforcement**. Proposals heard during 2022 addressed law enforcement retention and recruitment, training, and body cameras.

Metro Cities convened a work group of city officials to consider needs and **responses to the issue of street racing in the region** that resulted in a new legislative policy of support for state funding and resources to address this issue.





HISTORY AND MISSION

Metro Cities is a lobbying association for cities in the seven-county metropolitan region. Established in 1974, the mission of Metro Cities is to represent the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan area at the state and regional levels of government. Metro Cities is unique in its role in representing the shared interests of metropolitan cities at the Metropolitan Council.



LEGISLATIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policies are developed by four standing committees based on input from member city representatives. An important function for Metro Cities is to provide a forum for consensus building that gives city officials and staff opportunities to develop an understanding of other cities' problems, concerns, and points of view.

Policy recommendations are transmitted to the Board of Directors and then to the general membership. The 2023 policy adoption meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 4:00 pm. Watch for details.



COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Metro Cities publishes a regular electronic newsletter and provides legislative alerts and other communications to help keep metropolitan city officials informed on evolving legislative and regional policy and funding activity.

Metro Cities' website includes published newsletters, legislative policies, upcoming meetings and materials, MAMA meetings, and resources on COVID-19 and other issues. See our website at: MetroCitiesMN.org Follow us on Twitter: @MetroCitiesMN



OTHER ASSOCIATION SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Metro Cities provides staff support to the Metropolitan Area Management Association (MAMA).

Metro Cities collaborates with the League of Minnesota Cities and other entities to prepare and manage an annual local salary survey.

Metro Cities holds periodic forums on topics of interest for members.

Metro Cities convenes an annual meeting in April for the election of new Board members and officers and convenes an annual Legislative Policy Adoption Meeting in the fall.