

NEWSBRIEF



Date: August 22, 2014

To: Council & Senior Staff

Turn the page for a list of what's included in this packet.

(Items are alphabetized)

1. AMM Metro Cities
2. AMM Metro Cities dated August 18, 2014
3. Crystal Planning Commission Agenda for 9.8.14
4. Crystal Planning Commission Minutes for 8.11.14
5. Ewald at the Capitol: 8.21.14
6. Finance & Commerce: Consultants tapped for second phase of Bottineau station planning
7. Housing For All Bus Tour 9.16.14
8. Met Council: Joint Transportation and Housing policy plan workshops scheduled
9. Recreation Department Update 8.22.14
10. Star Tribune: Power surge in Minnesota's solar industry
11. Sun Post: Serenading the city at the inaugural #BuskBecker

METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

Dear City Official:

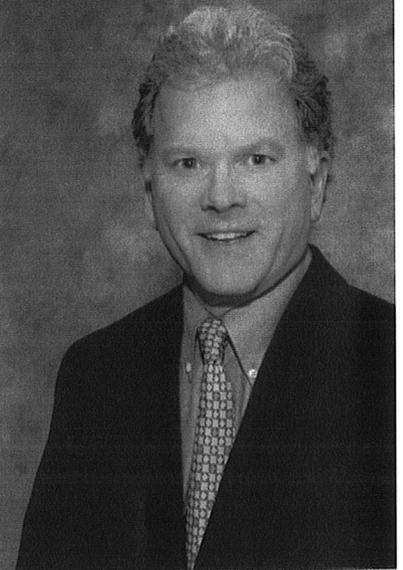
On behalf of the Metro Cities Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your membership and participation in Metro Cities.

Your membership in Metro Cities keeps the organization well-positioned to effectively represent metropolitan city interests at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. The organization serves a key and unique role in local government advocacy in its representation of city interests at the Metropolitan Council. As new and updated policy plans and systems statements are developed under the new regional development guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, this representation will be critical in making sure that the perspectives, interests and needs of metro area cities are taken into account in Council policymaking over the next several years.

Metro Cities' mission is to advance the joint interests of all metropolitan communities, and we work to bring together city officials to problem solve, share ideas and solutions, and to work together to assure successful policy outcomes that benefit all metropolitan cities.

Your continued membership and participation in the work of Metro Cities is very important and greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you on the issues, challenges and opportunities of metro area cities and the region as a whole.

Brad Wiersum, Metro Cities President
City Councilmember, City of Minnetonka

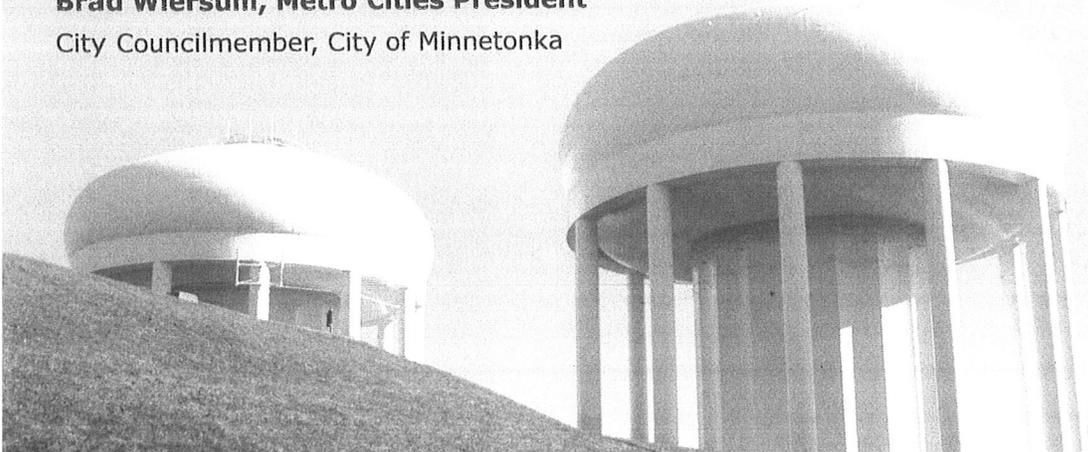


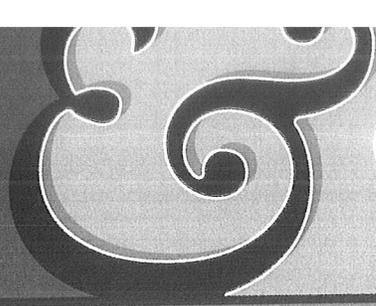
Upcoming Events:

- *Policy Committees*
- *Policy Adoption Meeting*
- *Watch for Upcoming Regional Forums*

"Metro Cities provides important advocacy for metro cities at the Capitol and Met Council on many policy and funding issues that are significant to local communities and keeps its members well informed on state and regional issues."

**—Jerry Faust, Mayor,
City of Saint Anthony**

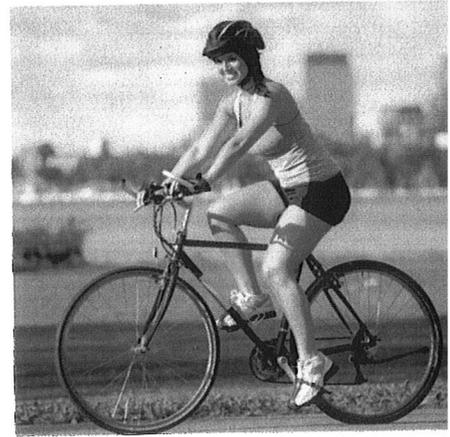




Metro Cities was created as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities in 1974, to represent the joint interests of metropolitan area communities at the Metropolitan Council, State Legislature, and the Executive Branch. The vision of the organization, as defined by its members, is that of a strong, economically vibrant region that promotes successful local communities. The organization works to provide proactive advocacy so that the interests of metropolitan area cities are accounted for in policy and fiscal decision-making at the state and regional levels of government.



Metro Cities serves a unique role in the local government advocacy community as the entity representing city interests at the Metropolitan Council. Our work at the Metropolitan Council is especially critical with the recent passage of the new regional development guide and emerging regional policy plans, systems statements and comprehensive planning requirements. Our responses to the Council's work will be consistent with policies established by our membership. Metro area cities are a key partner in the work of the Metropolitan Council and will have significant responsibilities around the implementation of regional level policies and systems plans. As such, the input of metro communities is highly important as policies and plans are developed.



In addition to legislative advocacy, Metro Cities works to foster communication among local, state and regional policymakers. The organization also provides regular, up-to-date information on legislative and regional policy activities to member cities via an online newsletter.



Metro Cities is committed to the core values of leadership, integrity, quality, stewardship and partnership, as defined in our long-term strategic plan.



"Metro Cities provides an important voice for metro interests at the Legislature and has effectively advocated for tools and funding to assist cities with economic development and redevelopment efforts that benefit communities and the region as a whole."

—State Representative Steve Simon

2014 Legislature/Metropolitan Council

- Metro Cities secured a \$2 million legislative bonding appropriation for inflow and infiltration (I/I) mitigation, to be administered as grants through the Met Council.
- Metro Cities held a regional forum on the topic of water in January, featuring 16 presenters, with a focus on emerging issues and trends, state agencies' responses to water issues and what city officials are doing to address water concerns.
- Metro Cities advocated for an extension of the tax increment financing (TIF) five year rule for redevelopment districts. Newly enacted legislation extends the rule to 8 years for districts certified between April 20, 2009 and June 30, 2012.
- Metro Cities initiated legislation to increase local official participation in the nominating committee for selecting Met Council membership, and supported legislation to establish four-year staggered terms for Met Council members. These bills did not pass in 2014.
- Legislation to adjust several issues around the local government sales tax exemption were supported by Metro Cities. These adjustments were enacted into law this year.
- Metro Cities advocated for legislation to allow mixed-use buildings to be included in special service districts. The provision did not pass the Legislature this year.
- Metro Cities supported the \$7.8 million increase to the LGA appropriation this session.
- Metro Cities initiated legislation supporting city notification if utility service is disconnected at any point of the year and will continue to advance this legislation.
- Metro Cities joined a coalition of local government, transportation, transit, labor and health advocates named Move MN, to work toward passage of a transportation funding package.
- Metro Cities has advocated for the passage of street improvement districts (SID). Metro Cities will work proactively to include SID authorization in any comprehensive transportation funding package in the 2015 session.
- Metro Cities participated in the Met Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* comment period and will continue to monitor and respond to policies and systems plans in the coming months.
- Metro Cities participated in a SAC (Sewer Availability Charge) group with city officials and Met Council members that recommended principles along transparency, equity and administrative simplicity for SAC.
- Metro Cities is participating with several city officials on Met Council-convened work groups, including the development of a Housing Policy Plan and to evaluate how equity and Housing Performance Scores fit into the regional solicitation process for transportation funds.

2014 Membership

Andover
Anoka
Apple Valley
Arden Hills
Bayport
Blaine
Bloomington
Brooklyn Center
Brooklyn Park
Burnsville
Carver
Centerville
Champlin
Chanhassen
Chaska
Circle Pines
Coon Rapids
Corcoran
Cottage Grove
Crystal
Dayton
Eagan
Edina

Elko New Market
Excelsior
Falcon Heights
Forest Lake
Fridley
Golden Valley
Hanover *
Hastings
Hopkins
Hugo
Independence
Inver Grove Heights
Jordan
Lake Elmo
Lake St. Croix Beach
Lauderdale
Lilydale
Long Lake
Mahtomedi
Maple Grove
Maple Plain
Maplewood
Marine on St. Croix

Medicine Lake
Mendota
Mendota Heights
Minneapolis
Minnetonka
Minnetonka Beach
Minnetrista
Mounds View
New Brighton
Newport
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. Michael *
St. Paul
St. Paul Park
St. Paul Port Authority *
Savage
Shakopee
Shoreview
Shorewood
South St. Paul
Spring Park
Stillwater
Sunfish Lake
Vadnais Heights
Victoria
Waconia
Wayzata
West St. Paul
White Bear Lake
Woodbury

*=Affiliated Member

Staff Contacts

Metro Cities

Association of
Metropolitan Municipalities

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

Patricia Nauman Executive Director

651-215-4002
Patricia@MetroCitiesMN.org

Todd Olson Government Relations Specialist

651-215-4003
Todd@MetroCitiesMN.org

Charlie Vander Aarde Government Relations Specialist

651-215-4001
Charlie@MetroCitiesMN.org

Laurie Jennings Office Manager

651-215-4004
Laurie@MetroCitiesMN.org

In addition to our core activity of lobbying on behalf of our members at the Legislature and the Metropolitan Council, Metro Cities provides the following services:

- **Metro Cities News**—Metro Cities News is the organization's primary newsletter.
- **Website**—Check us out at www.MetroCitiesMN.org
- **Social Media**—For real time updates follow us on Twitter @MetroCitiesMN
- **MN Local Government Salary & Benefit Survey**—Metro Cities works with the LMC and other partners to compile this online extensive survey of salary rates. Members receive access to the survey at no charge.
- **Biennial Municipal License and Permit Fee Survey**—It contains the dollar amount of a variety of different city licenses, permits and fees. Member cities receive access online at no charge.
- **Metropolitan Area Management Association (MAMA)**—MAMA provides metro-area city managers with an informal setting to discuss a variety of important local government issues. MAMA meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

"As a consistent and resourceful presence at the State Capitol, Metro Cities ensures that metro city interests are represented in the legislative process."

—Senator Kari Dziedzic

METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

Board of Directors

Brad Wiersum

President
Councilmember, Minnetonka

Mark Casey

Vice-President
City Manager, St. Anthony Village

Susan Arntz

Past-President
City Administrator, Waconia

Bryan Bear

City Administrator, Hugo

Lisa Bender

Councilmember, Minneapolis

Mark Bernhardson

City Manager, Bloomington

Frank Boyles

City Manager, Prior Lake

Amy Brendmoen

Councilmember, St. Paul

J.D. Burton

Government Relations Rep.,
St. Paul

Mary Gaasch

Councilmember, Lauderdale

Gary Hansen

Councilmember, Eagan

Mike Knight

Councilmember, Andover

Melissa Lesch

Government Relations Rep., Minneapolis

Anne Mavity

Councilmember, St. Louis Park

Molly Park

Mayor, Sunfish Lake

Candy Petersen

Councilmember, North St. Paul

Steve Schmidt

Councilmember, Anoka

George Tourville

Mayor, Inver Grove Heights

Ady Wickstrom

Councilmember, Shoreview

**July 2014 –
July 2015**



Search

- [About Us](#)
- [Metro Cities Members](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Legislature](#)
- [Met Council](#)
- [Metro Cities Task Force Report on Metropolitan Governance](#)
- [Press and Publications](#)
- [2014 Legislative Policies](#)
- [Policy Committees and Members](#)
- [Current/Archived Newsletters](#)
- [Metropolitan Area Management Association](#)

Links

Have you heard the latest?

Check us out on Facebook



And follow us on Twitter



Metro Cities News

August 18, 2014

Reminder: Met Council Forum for Elected Officials on Water Supply

The Met Council is hosting two forums for local elected officials, to discuss water supply planning and an update of the regional Master Water Supply Plan. The Council is statutorily authorized to carry out planning activities to address water supply needs for the metro area, including the master plan. An updated master plan will be released later this year and is scheduled to be approved by the Council in June, 2015. The first of the forums was held last Thursday evening at Minnetonka's City Hall. The second will be held this Thursday evening (details below).

At the forums, Met Council staff are laying out plans for continued work in the area of water supply, including various options and approaches being considered around water use in the metropolitan area. The discussion at the first forum was interactive, with staff soliciting feedback from city officials on challenges, concerns and opportunities with identified approaches around managing the region's water supply (including conservation, water re-use, and use of surface water where feasible, et al.) Cities were also asked about local water supply management issues facing communities, how cities are coordinating across their borders with other cities to manage water supplies, and how agencies can help cities perform their roles in achieving reliable water supply and enhance collaboration. The Council will summarize and disseminate the discussions/feedback from the two forums. Details on this Thursday' forum:

Thursday, August 21, 2014

6:00 – 8:00 pm
 Maplewood Community Center
 2100 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood

For more information about the forums, contact Linda Henning at the Met Council at linda.henning@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1279. RSVPs can be sent to public.info@metc.state.mn.us

Questions,
Comments or
Suggestions

Staff

In
Current/Archived
Newsletters:

Archives

In addition, Metro Cities' Transportation and General Government Policy Committee heard an update today on water supply planning, and the feasibility assessment of approaches to water sustainability in the northeast metro from Met Council staff. The power point from that presentation and the executive summary of the report can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

The policy committee is in the process of discussing a draft of a comprehensive water policy for the organization. Stay tuned for additional information.

Transportation Policy Plan Released for Public Comment

The Transportation Policy Plan Draft (TPP) was released for public comment by the Metropolitan Council last Wednesday, and the comment period will be open through October 1st. Prior to this action by the Council, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and the TAB, reviewed and approved the release of the draft for public comment in July. The TPP must also be reviewed by the Met Council Transportation committee prior to consideration of the draft by the Council.

The TPP is central to the regional transportation planning process and is updated every four years. The update this year carries particular significance as it derives guidance from the new regional development guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*.

The update to the TPP began in January 2013, and is scheduled for adoption by the Council in December. Council staff have been working with stakeholder groups, including policymakers and partner agencies, in the creation of the draft. The plan is required by federal law, and must use a current revenue scenario when planning for future projects. The inclusion of a vision for increased revenues is also included to provide a blueprint for what could be accomplished for roads and transit with a more robust funding stream. There are federal requirements that the plan must have performance based measures and assess the impacts on environmental justice and air quality. The plan also fulfills state requirements under the land planning act and provides guidance around requirements in local comprehensive plans.

TPPs are updated officially every four years, but are regularly amended as conditions require. There have been several updates this year alone, including making the necessary policy changes to allow for adding an additional lane on 494.

The key changes in this update include incorporating major studies that have occurred over the past several years, including the Statewide Multimodal Plan and Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP), minor arterial system evaluation, performance-based planning study, regional bicycle system study, highway transit way corridor study, regional solicitation evaluation and new census data.

The new TPP also incorporates the *Thrive MSP 2040* policy direction and MAP21 Federal changes including updated revenue estimates, and performance based planning, goals, objectives and strategies. This will be the first TPP to measure progress toward transit ridership and maintenance levels to determine if adjustments need to be made.

National goals under MAP-21 mandate a streamlined and performance-based process for transportation planning, implementation, and assessment that shows how it will meet national transportation goals which include:

- increasing safety
- maintaining infrastructure in a state of good repair
- reducing congestion

- improving efficiency and reliability
- creating environmental sustainability, and
- reducing project delays

The TPP addresses these requirements through the following goals:

- Sustainable investments in the transportation system are protected by strategically preserving, maintaining, and operating system assets.
- The regional transportation system is safe and secure for all users.
- People and businesses prosper by using a reliable, affordable, and efficient multimodal transportation system that connects them to destinations throughout the region and beyond.
- The regional transportation system supports the economic competitiveness, vitality, and prosperity of the region and state.
- The regional transportation system advances equity and contributes to communities' livability and sustainability while protecting the natural, cultural, and developed environments.
- The region leverages transportation investments to guide land use and development patterns that advance the regional vision of stewardship, prosperity, livability, equity, and sustainability.

The draft TPP emphasizes options by expanding transit service, expanding MnPASS lane availability and encouraging biking and walking. The plan also ties transportation more directly to land use with a chapter dedicated to land use and how development has occurred in the region based on the evolution of our transportation system. While acknowledging growth will continue in the suburban and exurban areas, the draft TPP states "The existing regional growth pattern does not make it possible to expand the highway system in a sustainable way to address such issues as congestion, climate change, equity, and livability." The plan focuses most of the highway investments on maintenance with investments in improvements to mobility being secondary with projects primarily limited to new technology, new MnPASS lanes and low cost / high return investments made to increase access to areas of significant employment, commerce, education and cultural activity.

Under the current revenue scenario in the TPP there is an expected \$84 billion for the region from 2015-2040 with \$42 billion dedicated to local transportation, \$11 billion for state highways and \$31 billion for transit. The enhanced revenue projections could add up to an additional \$1 billion for highway maintenance, \$2- 2.5 billion for rebuilding the highway system, \$600 million for safety highway related bicycle and pedestrian improvements, \$5 - 6 billion for regional mobility improvements, \$2-3 billion for service and \$5-6 billion for transitway investments.

The TPP incorporates the outcomes of Thrive MSP 2040 -- stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability and sustainability -- along with the document's identified principles of integration, collaboration and accountability, to pursue more healthy and livable communities and climate change mitigation through transportation investment and land use strategies. Much of the data collected that is being used to explain a generational shift in how people live and move was collected during the recession, and information over the next few years will likely provide more clarity on transportation and land use trends going forward.

The Met Council is planning a series of 10 upcoming workshops between August 26 and September 25th for policy makers

to learn about and comment on the TPP. At each workshop, a very brief presentation will give an overview of the plan. Then, participants can engage with planners on a variety of topics. Metro Cities strongly encourages city officials to participate in these meetings.

RAMSEY COUNTY

Tuesday, August 26, 5 – 7 pm
Roseville Library
Community Program Room
2180 North Hamline Ave
Roseville, MN 55113

CARVER COUNTY

Wednesday, August 27, 5 – 7 pm
Chanhassen Library
Wilder Room
7711 Kerber Blvd.
Chanhassen, MN 55317

SCOTT COUNTY

Wednesday, September 3, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Marschall Road Transit Station
1615 Weston Court
Shakopee, MN 55379

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Thursday, September 4, 12 – 2 pm
Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, 55401

ANOKA COUNTY

Tuesday, September , 5 – 7 pm
Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Community Room
13301 Hanson Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Wednesday, September 10, 5 – 7 pm
Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy
Brooklyn Center, 55430

RAMSEY COUNTY

Thursday, September 11, 12 – 2 pm
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Auditorium A
451 Lexington Parkway North

CRYSTAL PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA SUMMARY

Monday, September 8, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Crystal City Hall – Council Chambers
4141 Douglas Dr N

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 11, 2014 regular meeting *

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Consider Application 2014-7 for the plat of Gaulke Pond Homes on property located at 3924 and 3908 Douglas Drive North *

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider Application 2014-6 for a conditional use permit for U-Haul (2740 Douglas Drive North) to store and display one vehicle in the Lamplighter Square parking lot *
(continued from August 11, 2014 meeting)

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. City Council actions on previous Planning Commission items
 - August 19: Approved a sign setback variance for 5120 56th Ave N (Liquor Liquidator)
2. Staff preview of likely agenda items for Monday, October 13, 2014 meeting

F. OPEN FORUM

G. ADJOURNMENT

** Items for which supporting materials will be included in the meeting packet*

CITY OF CRYSTAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**LAND USE APPLICATION 2014-7
GAULKE POND HOMES
3924 & 3908 DOUGLAS DRIVE NORTH**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Crystal will meet on **Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at **Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive North**, in said City, to consider the following land use application:

LAND USE APPLICATION 2014-7:

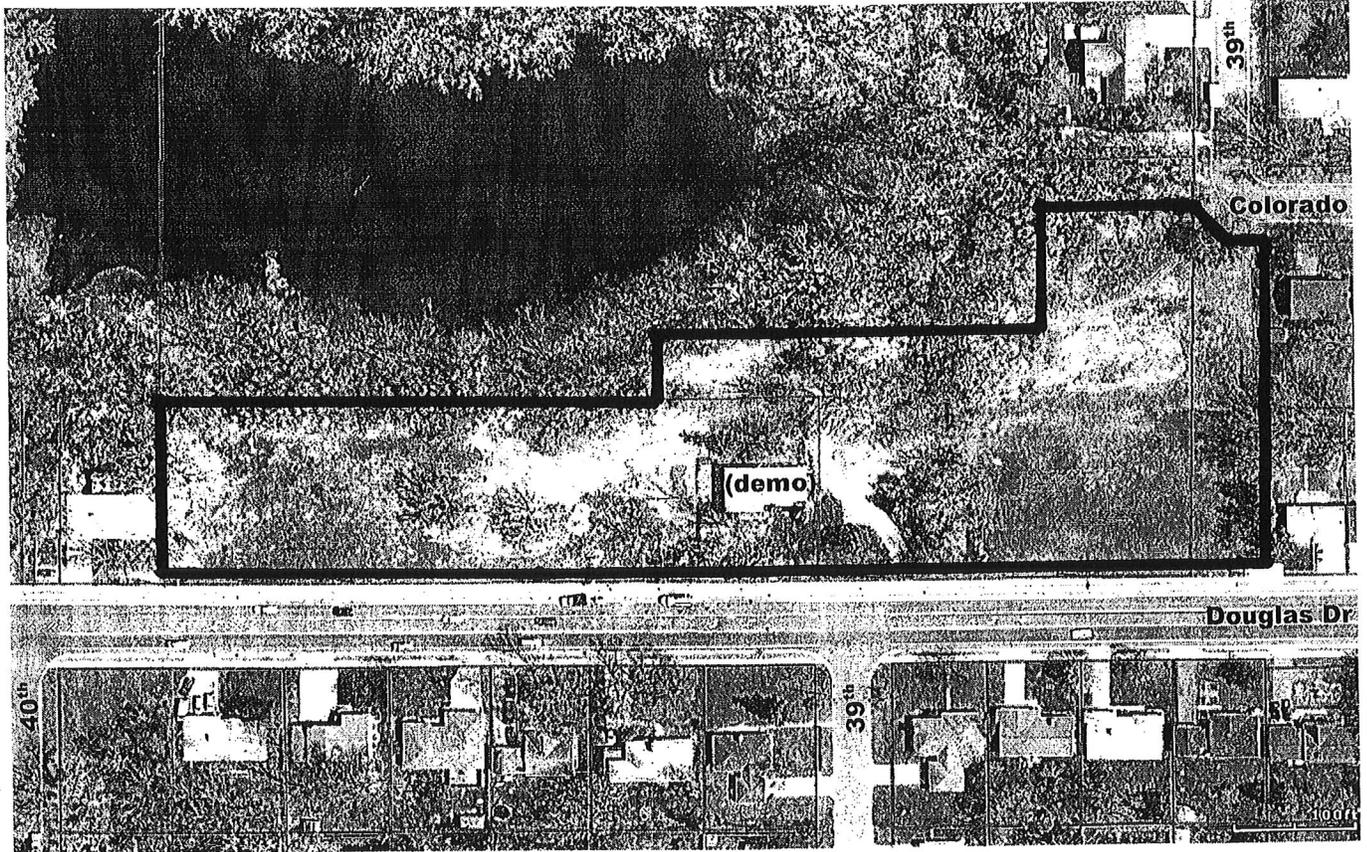
- Title: Plat of Gaulke Pond Homes
- Applicant: Ryan Excelsior Properties, LLC
- Property Owner: Gaulke Family Limited Partnership, F W Gaulke Et Al Trust
- Property: 4 acre site comprised of the following:
 - 3924 Douglas Drive North (P.I.D 16-118-21-32-0003) containing 1.8 acres
 - 3908 Douglas Drive North (P.I.D 16-118-21-32-0004) containing 1.8 acres
 - To-be-vacated 39th Avenue street easement from Douglas Drive to Colorado Avenue containing .4 acres
- Zoning: The property is zoned R-1 Low Density Residential.
- Description: The applicant and owner propose to demolish the existing house, vacate the adjacent 39th Avenue street easement, and subdivide the site into 15 lots for construction of new single family houses. 13 lots would be accessed from Douglas Drive. 2 lots would be accessed from the intersection of 39th and Colorado Avenues.

On or about August 20, 2014 a copy of this application will be available for review on the Planning & Zoning page of the city website, www.crystalmn.gov, and also at Crystal City Hall during normal business hours. The city staff report will be similarly available on or about September 4, 2014. If you have questions please contact Patrick Peters at patrick.peters@crystalmn.gov or 763.531.1130.

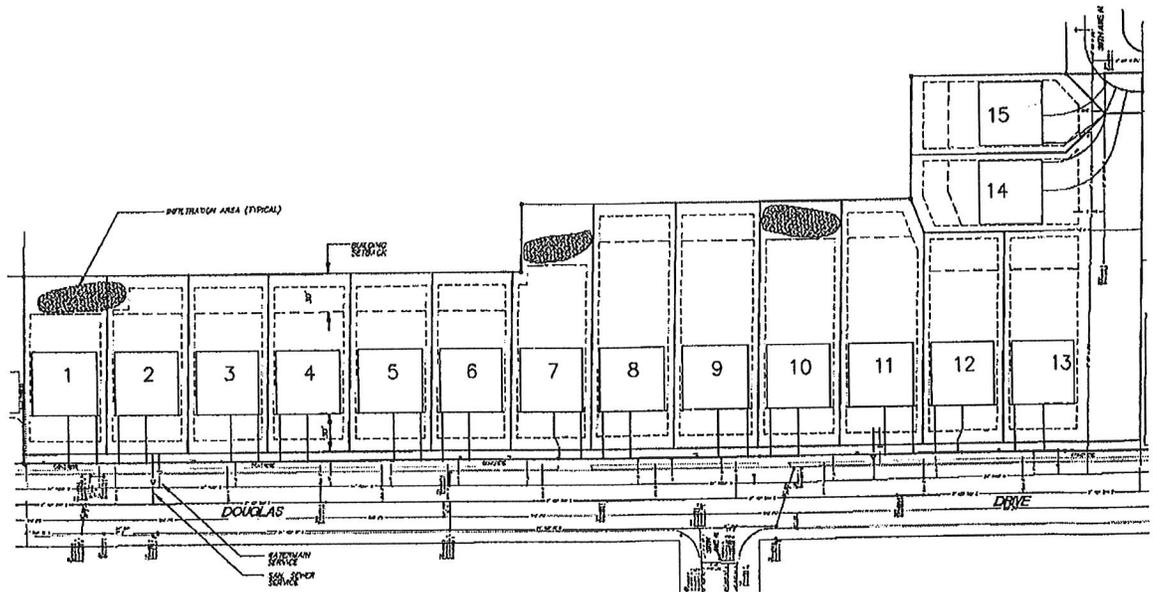
Persons desiring to be heard on this matter are invited and encouraged to attend the public hearing. Persons unable to attend may submit written comments prior to the date of the hearing to: Community Development Department, City of Crystal, 4141 Douglas Dr N, Crystal MN 55422. Auxiliary aids are available for public meetings upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the City Clerk at 763-531-1145 to make arrangements. Deaf and hard of hearing callers should contact the MN Relay Service at 711 or 1.800.627.3529 V/TTY.

TIM BUCK, SECRETARY, PLANNING COMMISSION

Current conditions (2012 aerial photo)



Proposed development



CRYSTAL PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, August 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room A, Crystal City Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Crystal Planning Commission convened at 7 p.m. with the following members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 1) Sears [Vice Chair]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 2) Kolb	<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 4) [vacant]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 1) Heigel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 3) VonRueden [Chair]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 4) Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 2) Erickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Ward 3) Buck [Secretary]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (At- Large) Strand (7:04 p.m.)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Kolb and seconded by Commissioner Heigel to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2014 regular meeting with the no exceptions.

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Consider Application 2014-5 for a variance for Liquor Liquidator (5120 56th Avenue North) to allow a freestanding sign to be one foot from the lot line along 56th instead of 10 feet.

City Planner John Sutter said the applicant is requesting this variance because currently the only available reasonable location to place the sign is in the drive aisle. This variance would allow them to place the sign in the landscaped area between the parking lot and the curb.

Mr. Sutter explained that this would be a pole sign and the setback would apply to all parts of the sign, not just the pole. He also said the sign would likely not be centered on the pole but be offset so it overhangs the parking lot but not the public sidewalk or road.

Given the sign's proximity to the road and more it being visible than normal, staff recommends that as a condition as granting the variance the maximum height should be limited to 16 feet like the sign at 5600 56th and a minimum distance of 8 feet from the bottom of the sign to the parking lot.

Commissioner Kolb questioned whether the sign would go in the rocks and Mr. Sutter said yes, it would be located within a foot or two of the parking lot in the rock area. He also mentioned that the previous sign was located in the parking lot's drive aisle just north of the variance's proposed sign location.

Commissioner Heigel asked if it was going to be an electronic sign and Mr. Sutter said they had the option to do that, but the city has not received any plans as of yet.

The following were heard:

No one spoke before the commission.

Commissioner Johnson asked if letters were sent out to the neighbors and Mr. Sutter indicated there had, but that there was only one call received and they had no opposition to the sign.

Moved by Commissioner Kolb and seconded by Commissioner Buck to recommend approval of Application 2014-5 for a variance for Liquor Liquidator (5120 56th Avenue North) to allow a freestanding sign to be one foot from the lot line along 56th instead of 10 feet, subject to the findings of fact in the staff report.

Motion carried.

2. Consider Application 2014-6 for a conditional use permit for U-Haul (2740 Douglas Drive North) to store and display one vehicle in the Lamplighter Square parking lot.

Mr. Sutter stated that motor vehicle sales and rental is not allowed in this location, however the ordinance does allow very limited outdoor storage display and rental, which is distinct from motor vehicle sales. It is limited by square footage of whatever building space the principal use is.

The applicant is opening an office and retail store which would include a satellite U-haul office, cell phone sales, and possibly the sale of shipping supplies. Office and retail sales are a permitted use in this area but the applicant would also like to locate one vehicle in the parking lot for rental and advertisement. One vehicle is the maximum that they would be allowed based on the square footage they are renting.

Mr. Sutter requested the applicant provide a franchise agreement letter with U-Haul showing it matches what is allowed under the CUP, but has not received anything from them yet. However, regardless of the agreement, if the city received reports that more vehicles are parked there than allowed, city ordinance would trump whatever the agreement says.

Commissioner Strand questioned whether the applicant was an LLC, Mr. Sutter stated it was an individual, and didn't think there was an LLC listed on the application. Commissioner Strand said she didn't think it made sense to have

only one vehicle available and questioned whether he was hooked up with another location. Planner Sutter indicated he didn't know, that was why he wanted to see the franchise agreement to see how it was structured. He also said that the property owner has been copied on all the communication so is aware of what is going on.

Commissioner Heigel asked if it was only going to be for non-motorized vehicles. Mr. Sutter stated that it could be either a trailer or a truck. Commissioner Heigel said that a larger vehicle could take up more than one parking spot. Mr. Sutter agreed that was a good point, and they should probably define the square footage as well.

Mr. Sutter said that if the applicant wanted additional vehicles, he has the option to have a bigger store and have two vehicles.

Commissioner Kolb said he thought it was important to keep an eye on the property, since it's not a full-fledged rental facility he could see it getting out of hand very quickly.

Commissioner Erickson stated that even though she would like to support the applicant, he's been asked twice to provide the franchise agreement and has not and she feels it's important. Mr. Sutter also said in addition to not supplying the franchise agreement, he also has not supplied a narrative.

Commissioner Strand stated that she didn't think it was the right place for this use.

The following were heard:

No one spoke before the commission.

Moved by Commissioner Heigel and seconded by Commissioner Buck to continue consideration of Application 2014-6 for a conditional use permit for U-Haul (2740 Douglas Drive North) to store and display one vehicle in the Lamplighter Square parking lot until the applicant provides a narrative and the franchise agreement.

Motion carried.

D. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. City Council actions on previous Planning Commission items:
 - June 17: Approved the following applications:
 - CUP for Milton's (3545 Douglas Dr) for expanded hours of operation
 - CUP for MD Liquors (7200 56th) to stay open until 10:00 instead of 9:00 p.m.
 - Variance for a monument sign at St. Raphael's (7301 56th)
 - Site and building plan review, CUP and variances for a new public works facility at 5001 West Broadway

2. Commission opening (Ward 4) – Commissioner Richter resigned from the Planning Commission on July 21 and the opening will be listed in the newsletter coming out in the next couple weeks.
3. Staff preview of likely agenda items for Monday, September 8, 2014 meeting – Mr. Sutter said they expect an application to divide the Gaulke property on Douglas Drive into approximately 15 single family lots.
4. Other:
 - Commissioner Kolb asked if it was known when the sign at St. Raphael's was going up. Mr. Sutter said that the sign permit was issued last week and indicated he thought it may be up within the next month.
 - Commissioner Von Rueden questioned whether lots were selling well. Mr. Sutter said that they've slowed down a little bit, builders costs are going up. 9 lots are currently available and the ones that are left are less desirable.
 - Commissioner Kolb asked about the lots on Zane, and Mr. Sutter indicated they would be going to the EDA next week. MT Builders is purchasing both lots which are the last two of the six EDA lots on that block.
 - Commissioner Heigel asked if there was anything new on the Public Works building. Mr. Sutter said the bid opening is on August 19, and depending on how the bids come in, the Council would consider awarding the contract September 2.
 - Commissioner Erickson asked if we knew what businesses were going into the new building by Buffalo Wild Wings. Mr. Sutter said Noodles and Company would be on the east end of the building, Starbucks on the west end and a smaller tenant in between. It possibly may be a hair salon but the city has not received a building permit yet for that space.

E. OPEN FORUM

No one spoke before the commission.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Heigel to adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

ewaldatthecapitol

August 21, 2014

Statewide Primary Election: Tuesday, August 12

This week, the state canvassing board met to certify the results from this month's primary election. With the results now official, even though there were no recounts or contested results, candidates can now set their focus on the November general election.

The Secretary of State reported that 401,878 voters cast a ballot in the primary, a turnout rate of 10.37 percent based on Minnesota's eligible voter number of 3,876,752. Turnout was slightly better than in 2012, but below 2010 (when the state had a competitive DFL gubernatorial primary).

This year, the top primary battle was a five-way race among Republicans for their governor nomination. Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson won his party's primary and will now face Gov. Mark Dayton this fall. Mike McFadden won the U.S. Senate Republican primary race, where he'll run against Sen. Al Franken.

State Auditor Rebecca Otto handily beat challenger Matt Entenza in the biggest race on the ticket for DFLers.

This election was the first time that voters were able to submit absentee ballots without a valid excuse for being gone on Election

Day. The Secretary of State's office said that about 33,000 people voted by in-person absentee or by mail ballot.

Opinion Polls, Curds and Ice Buckets

Once again, it is time for the Great Minnesota Get-Together, the Minnesota State Fair. As is the case every year and more so during election years, the grounds become a hotbed for candidates and the political parties — alongside all the deep-fried food on a stick that you can imagine. In Fair tradition, visitors can take part in the public information opinion surveys that the House and Senate facilitate. These surveys are used to help gather input from around the state on issues such as gas taxes, medical marijuana and public subsidies to host the Super Bowl.

Click below to view a list of the legislators who will be at the fair this year:

House
Senate

Fairgoers will also have the opportunity to see Gov. Mark Dayton take part in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Gov. Dayton, who was challenged last week, announced that he would accept the challenge this week at the fair. Gov. Dayton planned to take the challenge today, live on radio, for the opening day of the fair.

They said it:

"The opportunity to learn from experts in any number of fields... is good learning experience for legislators. Because you're not focused on particular legislation but on broader policy issues, that brings a different spin to it."

- Minnesota Speaker of the House Paul Thissen, discussing the NCSL conference.

Ewald Government
Relations Team

Feel free to contact any
member of our team:

David Ewald
651-290-6276
davide@ewald.com

Nick de Julio
651-290-6286
nickd@ewald.com

Valerie Dosland
651-265-7857
valeried@ewald.com

Eric Ewald
651-290-6266
erice@ewald.com

Patrick Lobejko
651-290-7473
patrickl@ewald.com

Jess Myers
651-290-7465
jessm@ewald.com

Becca Pryse
651-265-7858
beccap@ewald.com

Michael Wilhelmi
651-214-8075
michaelw@ewald.com

Katie Wilkerson
651-288-3427
katiew@ewald.com

Key Legislative
Contact Info
House Information Office
651-296-2146

Senate Information Office
651-296-0504

State Legislature Website
www.leg.mn

Ewald  Consulting

1000 Westgate Drive, Ste. 252 • St. Paul, MN 55114 • 651-290-6260 • Fax: 651-290-2266 • ewald@ewald.com • www.ewald.com

Copyright © 2014. All rights reserved.

Show Me the Money: Political Action Committees – An Effective Tool in Building Relationships with Decision Makers

With candidates now entering the last three months of the campaign trail, the final push is on to fundraise. This month's Ewald Legislative Toolbox looks at the role Political Action Committees (PACs) play and some of the guidelines around them. As PACs play a larger role and get more involved with candidate donations, this edition of the toolbox is a great primer to help understand what a PAC is.

[View the Toolbox article.](#)

Currently, the program's staff members are seeking out manufacturers to grow the marijuana and develop the medicine. They hope to have the program up and running by July 1, 2015.

National Conference of State Legislators visits Minnesota

Minneapolis has been buzzing this week as lawmakers from all around the country have gathered for the 40th annual National Conference of State Legislatures. The gathering allows for the sharing of thoughts and ideas surrounding policy and politics by legislators and legislative staff from around the country.

Throughout the four-day Legislative Summit, hundreds of sessions are taking place covering a wide range of topics including energy, climate, taxation, agriculture and human trafficking, to name a few. Well-known Minnesota legislators are hosting meetings and events for both parties.

The summit kicked off on Tuesday and concludes Friday.

FINANCE & COMMERCE

By September the second phase of station area planning for the 13-mile extension of the Blue Line to Brooklyn Park, also known as the Bottineau Transitway, will be underway.

Consultants tapped for second phase of Bottineau station planning

By: Cali Owings August 12, 2014 4:07 pm 0

By September the second phase of station area planning for the 13-mile extension of the Blue Line to Brooklyn Park, also known as the Bottineau Transitway, will be underway.

Station area planning for the Blue Line extension is divided into two parts. The first phase, which includes two stations in Minneapolis and two alternative station locations in Golden Valley, began at the end of 2013. The Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority voted Tuesday to approve a contract for Perkins+Will to conduct station area planning for the remaining portion of the Bottineau line through March 2016.

The contract, not to exceed \$576,000, would authorize the firm to begin station area planning for seven stations – one each in Robbinsdale and Crystal and five in Brooklyn Park.

The station area plans help cities coordinate supportive land-use policies and development around transit stations.

A selection committee identified Perkins+Will as the preferred consultant for the plans based on “the team’s experience with transit oriented development, knowledge of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts Program, and approach to community engagement,” according to a staff report.

SRF Consulting is under contract through January 2015 for the first phase of station area plans.

Planners for the transitway expect to enter the New Starts project development phase later this year. The \$1 billion Bottineau project would be the region’s fourth light rail line after Southwest, a 16-mile extension of the Green Line to Eden Prairie.

Tagged with:

BLUE LINE	BOTTINEAU	BOTTINEAU LRT	BROOKLYN PARK	CRYSTAL	GOLDEN VALLEY	HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
PERKINS+WILL	ROBBINSDALE					

11 twin cities **TENANT**

The Twin Cities Guide for Companies on the Move
Call 612.333.4244 for Advertising Info

FINANCE & COMMERCE
COSTAR GROUP



Housing For All Bus Tour!



“At that time, I will bring you home.” Zephaniah 3:20

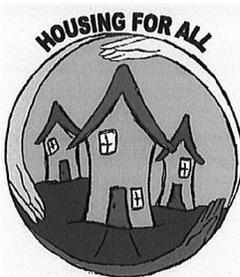
Join us!

An opportunity to tour affordable housing in our community and dialogue about why it's important.

Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 PM

Bus leaves at 5:45 PM | Light dinner provided

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
7180 Hemlock Lane N, Maple Grove, MN 55369



*The **Housing For All Bus Tour** will take participants on a tour of the **Bottineau Ridge** affordable housing apartment community in Maple Grove. Participants will also have an opportunity to talk with Avenues for Youth at the **new youth shelter** in Brooklyn Park. Ground breaking is set for August of 2014. To RSVP, go to Housing for All's Facebook page and click on events (www.facebook.com/events/1483130265263858/). Or email Caprice at ca@mymobileagents.com.*

Housing for All advocates for stable housing for people of moderate and low incomes in the northwest suburbs of Hennepin County.

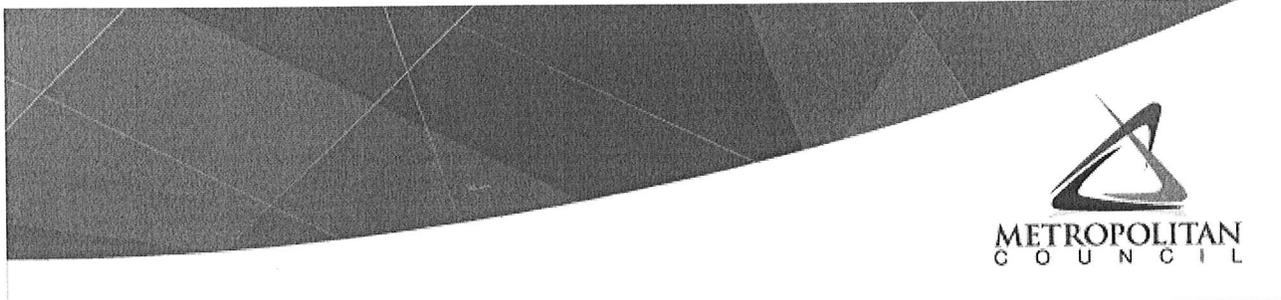
0

Receive Updates 

Joint Transportation and Housing policy plan workshops scheduled

Metropolitan Council sent this bulletin at 08/20/2014 02:00 PM CDT

Having trouble viewing this email? [Having trouble viewing this email? View it as a Web page.](#)



Joint Transportation and Housing policy plan workshops scheduled

The Metropolitan Council needs your feedback and input on the public comment drafts for the 2040 Regional Transportation Policy Plan and the 2040 Housing Policy Plan. The transportation plan emphasizes transportation options by expanding and improving transit service, expanding the MnPASS lane system, and encouraging biking and walking. The housing plan identifies local and regional needs and priorities for housing, and connects housing to other Council system plans, including transportation.

Meet the planners, learn about the plans

City and county planners, officials, and residents are encouraged to attend one of the many meetings taking place around the region starting Tuesday, August 26 in Roseville. After a brief presentation on the transportation plan, attendees can visit six stations to learn more about specific modes and the draft housing plan. Met Council staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the draft plans and any possible implications for local comprehensive plan updates.

Comment forms for both plans will be available and can be filled out at a meeting or mailed in. The Council is accepting comments on the housing plan until September 26 and the transportation plan until October 1.

Once comments are received, the plans are revised to address comments and a final plan is presented to the Council for approval. Adoption of the housing plan is anticipated in November, and the transportation plan in December of this year.

Workshop information

Tuesday, August 26

5 – 7 p.m.

Roseville Library

Community Program Room
2180 North Hamline Ave
Roseville, MN 55113

Wednesday, August 27

5 – 7 p.m.
Chanhassen Library
Wilder Room
7711 Kerber Blvd.
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Wednesday, September 3

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Marschall Road Transit Station
1615 Weston Court
Shakopee, MN 55379

Thursday, September 4

12 – 2 p.m.
Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, 55401

Tuesday, September 9

5 – 7 p.m.
Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Community Room
13301 Hanson Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Wednesday, September 10

5 – 7 p.m.
Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy
Brooklyn Center, 55430

Thursday, September 11

12 – 2 p.m.
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Auditorium A
451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Tuesday, September 16

5 – 7 p.m.
Eagan Community Center
1501 Central Pkwy
Eagan, MN 55121

Thursday, September 18

5 – 7 p.m.
Washington County Government Center
Room LL13-14
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Thursday, September 25

5 – 7 p.m.

Sherburne County Board Room
Government Center
13880 Business Center Dr.
Elk River, MN 55330

Other ways to comment

If you can't make it to a workshop, there are many other ways to comment on the policy plans:

- Call the Public Information line at 651-602-1500 and leave a voicemail
- Email public.info@metc.state.mn.us

You can also testify at a public hearing:

Housing Policy Plan

Monday, September 15
5 p.m.
Metropolitan Council Chambers
390 Robert St. N., St. Paul

Transportation Policy Plan

Wednesday, September 17
5 p.m.
Metropolitan Council Chambers
390 Robert St. N., St. Paul

metro council.org

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Metropolitan Council](#).

Powered by **GOVDELIVERY** 

Recreation Department Update

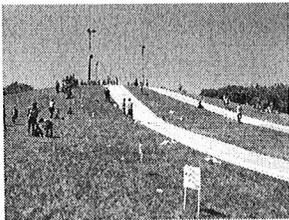
August 22, 2014

Antique Car Run

The annual Antique Car Run was held on Saturday, August 9, with approximately 50 antique cars driving from New London to New Brighton. This is patterned after an event from London to Brighton, England. It was a beautiful day for the community to come to the Crystal Community Center and observe the cars for the afternoon. The Crystal Community Center is the last stop before they arrive at their final destination.



Wet & Wild Fun Day



WET & WILD
WATER FUN DAY



Over 425 people enjoyed this splish-splashing event on Friday, August 2. This event featured 3 giant water slides down the sliding hill at Lions Valley Park, a kiddie slide and a giant sprinkler provided by the West Metro Fire aerial fire truck. This event was sponsored by cities of Crystal, New Hope and Robbinsdale along with the West Metro Fire District.

#BuskBecker

We held our first busking event on August 14 up at Becker Park. Busking is another word for street performing and we had a handful of performers up at Becker to show off their talents. The stage was occupied by the local rock band FTFE, where they rocked out with their own original hits. Food was provided by the food truck Slider Squad. Although the event was lightly attended, it was a beautiful night and those in attendance enjoyed themselves.

Star Tribune
8-18-14



Power surge in Minnesota's solar industry

Article by: David Shaffer
Star Tribune
August 17, 2014 - 5:55 PM

Minnesota's solar power industry is in a growth spurt that's about to accelerate.

The industry, once focused largely on installing solar photovoltaic panels for homes, businesses and government, now is seeing a surge in investment by electric utilities.

Cooperative power companies, especially Great River Energy in Maple Grove, are building more than 20 solar projects this year and next, including the state's largest community solar garden in Ramsey, Minn.

Xcel Energy, the state's largest utility, also is increasing solar investment, likely spurring statewide growth in new solar capacity that far outpaces last year's 55 percent gain.

"The potential for growth is many multiples higher," said Paul Spencer, founder and CEO of Clean Energy Collective, a Boulder, Colo.-based for-profit company that is the largest U.S. developer of community solar projects, including the first one in Minnesota.

Sparking the surge is a 2013 state law requiring investor-owned utilities to get 1.5 percent of their electricity from solar by 2020.

At TruNorth Solar, Marty Morud said his business expanded fivefold in the past year, thanks largely to co-op projects. He now has two crews installing solar panels.

"People are asking, 'Why are you so happy?' It's because I am installing solar — for a utility," said Morud, president of the Edina-based company.

Bigger solar

Solar arrays also are getting bigger.

The year-old solar array in Slayton, Minn., the size of eight football fields, could soon lose its mantle as Minnesota's largest. Its output is 2 megawatts, or 2 million watts.

Now, projects five times that size are planned. One project proposed by Geronimo Energy in Chisago County is rated at 50 megawatts, enough to power about 6,000 homes and an output equivalent to a small natural gas power plant.

Minneapolis-based Xcel is considering several "utility-scale" projects whose size offers economies of scale.

"The prices appear to be competitive," said Dave Sparby, Xcel's chief executive for the Minnesota region.

Overall, Xcel is considering 200 megawatts of utility scale projects, half of it from Geronimo Energy's plan to place large solar arrays at 20 locations across the state. State regulators still must sign off on these large projects.

Betsy Engelking, vice president for development at Edina-based Geronimo, said Minnesota also changed how it rewards large commercial and industrial customers for rooftop solar arrays.

"You are going to see an explosion of corporate and industrial customers," she said in an interview.

Solar boom at co-ops

Electric co-ops are part of the solar expansion, often because customers want it.

At least three Minnesota cooperatives are offering solar options to customers who want rooftop solar, but can't install it because of too much shade, condo restrictions or other reasons. Customers like Dave Willard of Forest Lake have been eager to invest in large, centrally located projects called community solar gardens, whose output is credited to their bills.

"What I like about it is that they are not hanging any hardware on my house," said Willard, one the first 50 customers to buy a panel on Connexus Energy's football field-sized solar array at its headquarters in Ramsey, Minn.

Connexus, the state's largest retail electric co-op with 128,000 customers, is marketing its solar garden as a hedge against future rate increases. Co-ops, which are heavily reliant on coal-generated electricity, lobbied successfully to be exempt from the state's solar mandate. Yet co-ops say many of their customer-owners support solar.

"Community solar fits the cooperative model," said Ken Bradley, a Twin Cities solar business consultant. "It's a cooperative structure, and its voluntary."

Great River Energy, a wholesale power cooperative based in Maple Grove, added a large solar array this year at its headquarters and is building 18 smaller ones across the state, the most recent in Farmington. Three cooperatives recently completed a large solar array in Oronoco, Minn.

At TenKsolar, a solar panel manufacturer in Bloomington, CEO Joel Cannon said the company expects a threefold increase in sales this year, including orders for 15 arrays from co-ops. "Electric co-ops have been very aggressively putting in solar," Cannon said in an interview.

Next phase — Xcel's territory



Dave Willard of Forest Lake is a Connexus Energy customer who invested \$950 to purchase the output of one solar panel on the cooperative utility's recently completed community solar array at its headquarters in Ramsey, Minn. He said his house is too shaded for rooftop solar panels.

DAVID BREWSTER • dbrewster@startribune.com



Foreman James Drummond, left, and installer Anthony Acosta of TruNorth Solar lifted a solar panel into place at a Dakota Electric Association solar array constructed in Farmington. The project is one of more than 20 solar arrays being built across the state.

Joe Miller • Dakota Electric

The next surge in solar will happen at Xcel, which has 1.2 million Minnesota customers.

Sparby, the chief executive for the Minnesota division, said he expects to see about 5 to 15 megawatts of generation from solar gardens added in 2015. A megawatt is 1 million watts. By comparison, the state's total solar additions in 2013 were 6.2 megawatts, bringing total solar generation in Minnesota to 15 megawatts, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Solar industry officials hoped for a boom in Xcel territory this year. Instead, Xcel customers who signed up for solar gardens landed on waiting lists as regulators reworked the pricing, which eventually will be based on a "Value of Solar" rate.

"It has been kind of a slow crawl on the regulatory side," said Eric Pasi, vice president of business development for Innovative Power Systems, a St. Paul-based solar developer whose plans include a community solar garden at Eichten's, a cheese and bison meat producer in Center City, Minn.

Another 16 solar projects also are delayed. Those projects, proposed in St. Paul, Minneapolis and other locations, won grants from Xcel's ratepayer-funded Renewable Development Fund. But an unsuccessful applicant challenged the selection process, leaving it unclear when \$17 million in grants will be handed out.

Xcel this month relaunched its Solar Rewards program, which awards \$5 million annually for rooftop solar at homes and businesses. The Minnesota Commerce Department used a lottery to select \$15 million in ratepayer-funded grants to solar projects using Minnesota-made panels.

Industry officials expect Minnesota's solar surge to last through 2016, after which a federal investment tax credit falls from 30 percent to 10 percent. That will force the solar industry to adapt to lower subsidies.

"You will see a slight contraction for a year, and then things will be business as usual," said Spencer of Clean Energy Collective. "The reason is that the cost of solar keeps coming down."

David Shaffer • 612-673-7090 • @ShafferStrib

© 2014 Star Tribune

Sun Post 8-21-14

Serenading the city at the inaugural #BuskBecker

By Joe Bowen

Street performers of all types were invited to Crystal's inaugural Busk Becker event, held at Becker Park on Aug. 14. The event was organized by Crystal City Councilmember Casey Peak and Recreation Supervisor Scott Berggren, among others.

Performers played guitars, danced, and sang as part of Crystal's Busk Becker event, which encouraged street performers of all types to travel to Becker Park to play, dance, sing, or otherwise show off their performance talents. The event used the hashtag #BuskBecker whenever possible for promotion. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



Crystal's Cody Burge danced in a number of styles, including tap, at the first Busk Becker event, held in Becker Park on Aug. 14. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



Guitarists and singers serenaded Crystal residents throughout the evening. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



FTFE headlined the event, playing at Becker Park's main stage to a crowd of residents, including Mayor Jim Adams and Councilmember Julie Deshler. (Submitted image courtesy of Casey Peak)

