

# NEWSBRIEF



**Date:** September 5, 2014

**To:** Council & Senior Staff

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

**(Items are alphabetized)**

1. Invitation to ribbon cutting ceremony for new Hennepin County Sheriff's Office  
911 Emergency Communications Facility (10/3/2014 @ 10:30 a.m.)
2. Letter from Mike Opat and Linda Higgins dated 8/26/2014, regarding Bottineau  
LRT
3. MarketCommentary dated 9/3/2014, *A Tale of Two Recoveries*
4. Met Council's *2015 Preliminary Budget in Brief*
5. MN Secretary of State's bulletin dated 9/2/2014, regarding September 2014 Open  
Appointments Vacancy Update
6. NW Community TV *Spotlight*
7. Police Dept Arrest Report for 8/27/14 – 9/3/14
8. Police Dept Media Report Case Activity for 8/27/14 – 9/3/2014
9. StarTribune article dated 9/2/2014, *St. Anthony bans e-cig use indoors*
10. Sun Post articles dated 9/4/2014:
  - *Bottineau Line planning moves ahead*
  - *Crystal, New Hope set to save separately for WMFRD purchases*

**Anne Norris**

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**From:** Sheriff Stanek [Sheriff.Stanek@hennepin.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 3:25 PM  
**Subject:** SAVE THE DATE: Ribbon cutting Oct. 3 Hennepin County Sheriff's Office 911 Emergency Communications Facility

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



Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Hennepin County Sheriff's Office 911 Emergency Communications Facility. The ceremony takes place on Friday, October 3 at 10:30 a.m.

The new facility is located at [1245 Shenandoah Lane, Plymouth, MN](#) (adjacent to the Hennepin County Adult Corrections Facility in Plymouth).

More information will be sent to closer to the date.



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## BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55487-0240

August 26, 2014

Dear Bottineau LRT Stakeholders:

It has been a while since the last update from Hennepin County about Bottineau light rail transit (LRT), but we are excited to share the latest project news with you: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has just given approval for the project, now called the METRO Blue Line Extension, to enter into its New Starts project development phase! (Approval received on August 22, 2014)

During this phase, preliminary engineering work begins and environmental review comes to a close with publication of the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Blue Line Extension joins an exclusive list of 12 transitway projects across the country that are part of the FTA New Starts program, all of which have the same goal of securing federal funding. In order to make the Blue Line Extension a reality, the Metropolitan Council must move forward with engineering while continuing to engage stakeholders, obtain municipal approvals, and secure our local and state funding. As the project moves into this next phase, the Metropolitan Council will become the lead local agency for engineering and construction of the Blue Line Extension, and you can find information on this aspect of the project at the Metropolitan Council's website, [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org).

Hennepin County will remain active in the project, leading station area planning efforts in close collaboration with our city partners. In preparing communities for a major transitway investment like the Blue Line Extension, station area planning fosters a dialogue with cities, neighborhoods and residents along the route about their needs, desires and concerns for how the station will fit into their community. Station area plans also identify the investments needed to integrate the line into neighborhoods by opening day. This process is underway as part of the county's Bottineau Corridor Community Works program and will be completed by April 2016. For more information and updates on station area planning, please visit the county's website, [hennepin.us/bottineau](http://hennepin.us/bottineau).

August 26, 2014  
Page 2

We hope you continue to engage in the Blue Line Extension project. We will share our Hennepin County project email list with the Metropolitan Council so that you continue to receive project updates – as well as details on community engagement activities and other ways to offer your input – from both agencies. In addition, look for a county email about subscribing to email updates for specific station areas.

Thank you for your continued interest in the METRO Blue Line Extension!

Sincerely,



Mike Opat, Chair  
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
District 1



Linda Higgins  
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
District 2

## A Tale of Two Recoveries

The news about the U.S. economy has been mixed for several years. That trend continued last week, when two seemingly contradictory articles appeared on one financial web site in the same day.

The first article, by CNBC's John W. Schoen (posted on the Yahoo Finance site on August 28) was titled "*By the Numbers – US Recovery Finally Taking Hold.*" It cited the Commerce Department's report released that same day which revealed that U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at a 4.2% annualized rate in the second quarter. It also mentioned the continuation of steady job growth, improving consumer confidence, decreasing personal debt, and increased savings. The author concluded "there are signs that the deep slide has finally given way to what economists call a "virtuous cycle" – where improvement in one part of the economy feeds into the others, creating a self-sustaining expansion."

The second article, by Eric Pianin of the Fiscal Times (posted on the same web site on the same day) was titled "*Why We're So Down in the Dumps About the Economy.*" This article reported on a study released that day by Rutgers University<sup>1</sup>. Among the study's key findings:

- Most Americans don't believe the economy has actually improved since the official end of the recession in June 2009.
- 70% of survey respondents believe the economy has undergone permanent changes for the worse since the recession.
- Many people "have little or no confidence that the federal government will make progress on the nation's most important problems over the next year."
- Over two-thirds of respondents said that American workers are "not secure in their jobs" and "highly stressed."
- Just 1 in 3 respondents believe that the average American worker is "better than workers in other countries."

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<sup>1</sup> *Unhappy, Worried, and Pessimistic: Americans in the Aftermath of the Great Recession*, by Cliff Zukin, Ph. D., Carl Van Horn, Ph.D., and Allison Kopicki, John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, August 2014

# Market Commentary

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These mixed sentiments are symptomatic of some of the underlying data on the U.S. economy. For example, the official U.S. unemployment rate has declined significantly, from 10.0% in October 2009 to 6.2% in July of 2014. But many discouraged workers have stopped looking for work, leading to relatively low labor force participation rates. Wage growth has been lackluster, and many workers who would like full-time work have only been able to find part-time jobs. And as the Rutgers study clearly points out, many Americans are still pessimistic about the financial prospects for both the country and themselves.

Perhaps these mixed signals help explain some of the trends in the financial markets in the last year. Most of the major U.S. stock indices have reached new record highs in recent months. But at the same time, bond yields have defied predictions and declined significantly since the first of the year.

## Bond Markets

Bond yields stayed in a fairly narrow range over the last two weeks. The yield on the 10 year U.S. Treasury note closed last Thursday at 2.33%, the lowest since June of 2013, before rising on August 29 and September 2 to about 2.45%.

Municipal bond (muni) yields fared even better, as shown in the table below. Munis have generally “outperformed” treasuries since the first of the year (i.e., muni yields have declined more than treasury yields). Many market participants cite the relatively low supply of new bonds as the primary reason for this trend. Year to date, the net new supply of munis is more than 15% lower than over the same period in 2013, although the *Bond Buyer* recently reported that August issuance exceeded the same month last year by 7%. Low supply will continue in the current holiday-shortened week, with only \$2.27 in new munis scheduled to be sold, down from \$4.48 billion last week. (*The Bond Buyer*, August 31).

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# MarketCommentary

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## Trends in Municipal Bond Yields August 15 to August 29, 2014

	August 15, 2014	August 29, 2014	Change
AAA Yields*			
5 Years	1.12%	1.08%	-0.04%
10 Years	2.09%	2.07%	-0.02%
20 Years	2.85%	2.79%	-0.06%
30 Years	3.10%	3.03%	-0.07%
Bond Buyer 20 Bond Index**	4.24%	4.17%	-0.07%

Source:

\* Thomson Reuters Municipal Market Data

\*\* The Bond Buyer. Average yield on a portfolio of municipal bonds maturing in 20 years, with an average rating of AA/Aa2.

Several commentators have suggested in recent weeks that supply/demand conditions in the muni market are likely to remain favorable for issuers in the foreseeable future, helping to keep muni yields low. But many other factors could affect the market.

One of the latest developments to cause concern for the muni market is a proposed change in bank liquidity rules being considered by the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Bloomberg News reported on August 28 that the proposed rules may exclude munis from the assets banks can use to meet liquidity requirements. If this happened, it could reduce banks' appetites for purchasing munis, leading to a general drop in demand and upward pressure on yields. Bloomberg News reports that banks currently own about 12 percent of municipal bonds, which percentage has doubled since four years earlier.

### Congratulations to Ehlers President Steve Apfelbacher

On August 6, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) announced the appointment of new officers and board members. Ehlers President Steve Apfelbacher was appointed to a three year term on the Board, beginning October 1. Since the Dodd-Frank act was approved in 2010, Steve has spent a great deal of time on regulatory issues on behalf of Ehlers, our clients, and the National Association of Independent Public

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# Market Commentary

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Financial Advisors (NAIPFA), of which Ehlers is a charter member. There were over 100 individuals who applied for board positions, but only six new members were selected. Steve's selection to the Board is a sign that his judgment and knowledge are highly respected by federal officials and other market participants. He is the first member of NAIPFA to be appointed to the Board. His membership on the Board will give us improved insight into – as well as input on – federal regulatory activities.

## Investment Trends – Ehlers Investment Partners

A strong worldwide appetite for US Government securities has tempered the recent uptick in shorter term fixed income investments. The 5 year US Treasury Note is at 1.63%. The 5 year German Bund is currently at 0.17%. Foreign investors will certainly flock to the relatively higher rates which will increase demand yet reduce yield. A systematic approach to investing based on cash flows will maximize earnings and provide necessary liquidity.

### Trends in Investment Returns

August 29, 2014

	1 Year Ago	1 Month Ago	Today
1 Yr Certificate of Deposit	0.3500%	0.4500%	0.4000%
3 Yr Certificate of Deposit	1.0500%	1.2500%	1.1500%
5 Yr US Agency Note	2.0000%	1.6500%	1.6700%
Money Market Funds	0.01% - 0.20%	0.01% - 0.20%	0.01% - 0.20%

#### No Investment Advice or Offers

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# 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET IN BRIEF



For nearly 50 years the Metropolitan Council has played a key role in coordinating regional growth and planning - providing essential services such as transportation and wastewater treatment, and convening partners to accomplish ambitious goals unrealistic for a single community but possible as a region.

In 1967, the Minnesota Legislature gave us our regional jurisdiction and responsibility. Today, the Twin Cities metropolitan area is a thriving region of nearly three million people living in 186 communities across the seven counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington. The region has emerged as a world-class metropolitan area - a great place to live, work, and do business.

The metro area is home to 17 Fortune 500 companies and several of the largest private companies in U.S. While our metro area population makes up 1% of the U.S. total, it accounts for 1.35% of the nation's gross domestic product.

Our governing board has 17 members who are appointed by the governor. Sixteen members represent geographic districts of roughly equal population across the region. The Council chair, the 17th member, serves at large.

Thrive MSP 2040 is the Council's strategic vision for growth and development for the Twin Cities metro area over the next decades and identifies five key outcomes:

## **Stewardship**

Responsibly manage our region's natural and financial resources

## **Prosperity**

Invest in infrastructure and amenities that enhance our region's economic competitiveness

## **Equity**

Connect all our residents to opportunity and create viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities

## **Livability**

Focus on the quality of our residents' lives and experiences

## **Sustainability**

Protect our regional vitality for generations to come

The Council prepared the proposed 2015 Unified Operating Budget and Property Tax Levy with these outcomes as guidance.

## **Budget Process**

### **Reviewing and Developing the Budget**

#### *January - June*

- The Regional Administrator meets with division managers to build a proposed budget that meets guidance from the Council.
- A "big picture" budget overview is presented to the Council (June).

#### *July - August*

- The Council's standing committees review and refine the divisions' budget proposals, priorities, and funding options.
- The Council is required to adopt a preliminary operating budget and property tax levy by September 1 of each calendar year.

#### *August - October*

- The Council's standing committees review the proposed capital improvement program. The capital improvement program is a six-year plan and includes projects such as replacement of fleet vehicles (buses and trains), park improvements and land acquisition, and wastewater system infrastructure.
- The Council approves a Unified Operating and Capital Budget for public comment.

## Receiving Public Comment

November - December

- The Council is open to receive public comments on its proposed budget until final adoption at the Council meeting on December 10, 2014.

“Truth in Taxation” notices are mailed by metro area counties to property owners showing the proposed amount of property tax that they will be required to pay during the coming year from all taxing jurisdictions. These notices also indicate the date the Council will hold its public meeting to consider and adopt its final budget and levies.

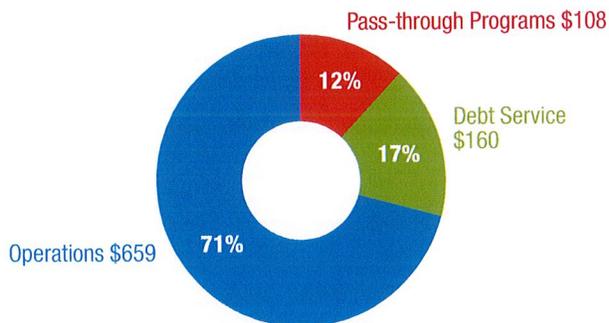
## Adopting the Budget

At its meeting on December 10, 2014, the Council will adopt a final budget that reflects any changes made to the public comment draft budget. The property tax levy adopted with the preliminary operating budget in August may be lowered, but not increased, when the final budget is adopted.

## 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

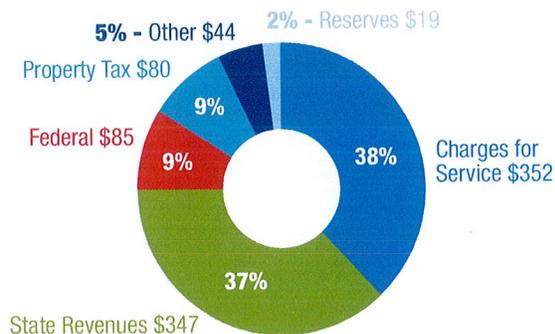
The Metropolitan Council is proposing to spend \$927 million in 2015 for operations, pass-through programs, and debt service (loan repayments).

2015 Preliminary Budget - Uses by Function: \$927 Million



## How the Council is Funded

2015 Preliminary Budget – Sources of Funds: \$927 Million



## Charges for Services

More than one-third of our funding comes from services that customers pay for. Our primary “paying” customers are transit riders and local municipalities.

**Transit.** Regional transit ridership is projected to top 100 million rides and travel over 50 million miles in 2015. For transit, the ratio of fare revenue to cost varies across types of service. For example, light rail transit fares pay for 35-40% of operating costs; regular-route bus service fares pay for 28-33%, and ADA services (Metro Mobility) fares pay for a much smaller percentage, at 10-12% of costs. The Council may consider budget-neutral changes to its fare policy.

**Wastewater Services to Communities.** Every day our Environmental Services Division collects 250 million gallons of wastewater through 600 miles of large sewer pipe from the homes and businesses in the region. The wastewater is cleaned by one of eight regional treatment plants and returned to our rivers and groundwater. The treated water is cleaner than existing water in the river. Our wastewater treatment plants are among the highest performing in the nation and annually receive recognition from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

The preliminary budget includes an adopted increase in the metropolitan wastewater charge of 3.5%. With this increase, the average metro household will pay approximately \$21 a month in retail sewer charges, which include the Council’s wastewater charges and sewer charges from local units of government. The sewer availability charge imposed on development will not increase for 2015.

**State Revenues.** The Council receives revenue from the State of Minnesota, primarily from motor vehicle sales taxes (MVST - \$255 million) and from state general fund appropriations for transit (\$78 million) and parks operations (\$9 million).

Thirty-six percent of MVST revenues are constitutionally dedicated to metropolitan area transit. The budget includes pass-through funds of \$25 million MVST revenues to Suburban Transit Providers.

The Council’s procedure for allocating regional transit revenues draws from and replenishes operating reserves to established target balances. Applying the procedure results in a planned use of Transportation reserves of \$16 million for 2015.

**Federal Revenues.** Our Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides affordable housing to 6,800 low-income households in the region. The 2015 budget for the HRA is \$60 million. Federal revenues totaling \$53 million are passed through as rental assistance payments directly to landlords.

**Property Taxes.** Metro area property taxes are split among several different governmental organizations. Three organizations that receive the greatest portion of metro area property taxes are counties, cities, and school districts. The Council typically receives about 2% of the revenue from property taxes paid by metro area residents.

Where your property tax dollar goes

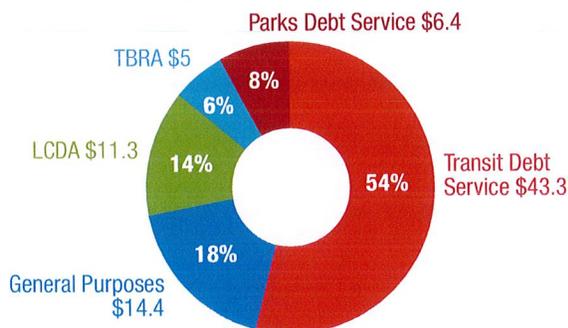


Source: MN Department of Revenue, Certified Payable 2013 Property Tax Levies

### PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

The 2015 budget proposes property tax levies, payable in 2015, of \$80.4 million. Property taxes are primarily used to pay debt service on bonds issued to support the Transit and Parks capital improvement programs and to provide pass-through grants to local communities under the Livable Communities Act.

2015 Preliminary Property Tax Levies: \$80.4 Million



### Livable Communities Fund

This fund consists of three active accounts: the Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA), the Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA), and the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA). Together, they support community investments that revitalize economies, create affordable housing, and connect land uses and transportation.

The LCDA and TBRA also fund a category of transit-oriented development (TOD) grant awards for high-density, mixed-use projects located along transit corridors.

### Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund

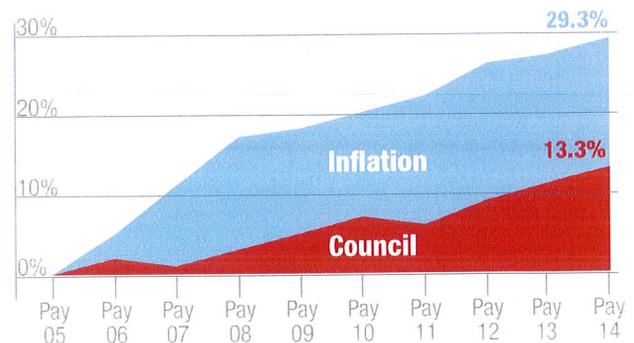
The proposed levy does not include an amount for the Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF). It has sufficient funds available to meet program needs for 2015. The RALF program provides zero-interest loans to local governments to acquire right-of-way along highway corridors in advance of development.

### Proposed Levy

The proposed payable 2015 levy of \$80.4 million represents a 0.5% increase over the amount payable in 2014. Under the proposed levy, a metro area home with an estimated value of \$250,000 will pay a Council-related property tax of approximately \$68 inside the transit taxing communities and \$29 outside the transit taxing communities.

From 2005 to 2014, the inflation factor for state and local governments increased by 29.2%, while Council levies have increased by only 13.3%.

Metro Council Levies Compared with Inflation Factor, 2005-2014



The Council's statutory limit for general purposes and other non-debt service levies is \$34.5 million for taxes payable in 2015, compared to the proposed levy of \$30.8 million (about 11% below the levy cap).

Levies for debt service are not directly limited, but the levies for Parks and Transit are essentially restricted to bonding authority (that is the dollar amount of bonds we can issue) as defined in statute.

**Debt Service and Bonds**

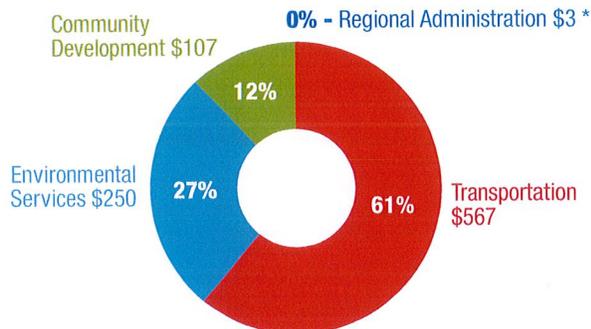
Nearly 62% of the total preliminary property tax levies is dedicated to paying debt service on bonds issued to support preserving and investing in capital assets for Transit and Parks.

The Council's total general obligation debt outstanding as of December 31, 2013, is \$1.4 billion. General obligation debt is backed by the full faith and taxing authority of the Metropolitan Council. Approximately 85% (\$1.2 billion) of this debt is for wastewater assets and is paid for by fees collected from wastewater services.

The Council's bonds receive the highest possible ratings from Moody's and Standard and Poor's credit ratings agencies. The Council's top ratings reflect the sound financial management of the Council and allow us to borrow money at the lowest market interest rates.

**PROPOSED SPENDING BY DIVISION**

2015 Preliminary Budget - Uses by Division: \$927 Million



\* \$49 million prior to interdivisional allocation

**Council Fund Accounting**

Revenue collected by the Council is directed into different funds. These funds allow the Council to manage spending by directing the revenue dedicated to specific activities or objectives to a group of related accounts.

By maintaining separate funds, the Council is able to comply with laws that require funds be spent for a specific purpose. For example, the Council may not raise transit fares to pay for wastewater services.

About 98% (\$910 million) of the Council's revenue is dedicated for a specific use and is directed to a corresponding fund.

The General Fund is used to account for administration functions of the Council's Regional Administration and Community Development Divisions. The Council has the most discretion in the use of General Fund dollars. The General Fund comprises about 6% of the Council budget and is primarily funded by the general purpose property tax levy and interdivisional allocations.

**Stewardship, Accountability and Efficiency:**

*Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)*

Paying post-employment benefits, like health care and life insurance premiums, is a significant budget concern for many governments and businesses across the country. The Council took early action to sunset benefits for new hires and adopted a funding plan to address its obligation to future retirees.

Our Environmental Services and Regional Administration Divisions are now "fully funded." This means enough money has been set aside to pay for future retiree benefits. In 2015, \$4 million will be drawn from OPEB assets rather than expensed in division budgets. Metro Transit is expected to be fully funded in 2018.

*Self-Funding Health and Dental Care*

Self-funding our health and dental care benefits saves money for the Council and our employees. Total premiums are flat for 2015.

*Energy Initiatives*

Energy initiatives in Environmental Services generated annual energy savings of \$4 million since 2007 by reducing energy needed for continuing operations by about 20%. The division is well on its way toward its 2015 energy reduction goal of 25%.

*Metro Mobility Technology Implementation*

Metro Mobility reduced 800Mhz radio air-time usage by over 60% with the implementation of automatic vehicle location and mobile data computers. Despite ridership increases of over 10%, our on-time performance also improved by nearly 2%. Our new communication technology sends ride reminders the night before and imminent arrival messages on the day of service.



**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
UNIFIED BUDGET  
OPERATIONS, PASSTHROUGHS AND DEBT SERVICE  
2013, 2014 and 2015**

**TABLE 1**

(\$ in 000s)

	2013 Actual	2014 Adopted Budget	2015 Preliminary Budget	Change
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
Certified Property Tax Levy	78,473	80,041	80,431	0.5%
Less: Uncollectable	(553)	(679)	(376)	-44.6%
Net Property Taxes Paid by Taxpayers	77,920	79,362	80,055	0.9%
Federal Revenues	67,091	88,674	85,051	-4.1%
State Revenues	274,177	313,942	330,260	5.2%
Local Revenues	21,330	25,372	31,885	25.7%
Municipal Wastewater Charges	178,819	184,188	190,710	3.5%
Industrial Wastewater Charges	13,056	14,020	14,266	1.8%
Passenger Fares, Contract & Special Event	105,520	107,116	111,262	3.9%
Investment Earnings	(754)	3,586	3,324	-7.3%
Other Revenues	4,508	4,648	3,421	-26.4%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>741,667</b>	<b>820,908</b>	<b>850,234</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b><u>Other Sources</u></b>				
MVST Transfers In	24,110	15,471	16,465	6.4%
OPEB Transfers In	-	-	3,621	100.0%
SAC Transfers In	29,495	35,662	36,068	1.1%
Other Sources	-	1,254	2,413	92.4%
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	<b>53,605</b>	<b>52,387</b>	<b>58,567</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Total Revenues and Other Sources</b>	<b>795,272</b>	<b>873,295</b>	<b>908,801</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Salary & Benefits	327,650	367,484	390,984	6.4%
Consulting/Contractual Services	32,046	44,591	46,876	5.1%
Materials & Supplies	55,964	66,229	69,297	4.6%
Chemicals	7,304	8,231	7,270	-11.7%
Rent & Utilities	27,995	30,540	33,761	10.5%
Printing	619	753	830	10.2%
Travel	1,072	1,480	1,712	15.7%
Insurance	4,605	6,317	7,100	12.4%
Transit Programs	62,149	73,754	74,722	1.3%
Operating Capital	3,251	4,096	4,273	4.3%
Governmental Grants	2,466	4,884	5,967	22.2%
Other Expenses	15,851	9,347	9,507	1.7%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>540,972</b>	<b>617,706</b>	<b>652,299</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b><u>Other Uses</u></b>				
Passthrough Grants & Loans	101,325	115,306	108,045	-6.3%
Debt Service Obligations	149,013	154,597	159,734	3.3%
Transfers Out/Other Uses	2,042	2,654	7,356	177.2%
<b>Total Other Uses</b>	<b>252,380</b>	<b>272,557</b>	<b>275,135</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Total Expenses and Other Uses</b>	<b>793,352</b>	<b>890,263</b>	<b>927,434</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>(16,968)</b>	<b>(18,633)</b>	

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*Mark Ritchie*

## September 2014 Open Appointments Vacancy Update

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State sent this bulletin at 09/02/2014 08:40 AM CDT

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

 SHARE

You are subscribed to Open Appointments for monthly vacancy notification. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**Mark Ritchie**

### Notice of Vacancies in State Boards, Councils and Committees

September 2, 2014 — The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State today released the September notice of vacancies for various state boards, councils and committees that are accepting applications, due September 23, 2014. Minnesotans are encouraged to apply and serve in demonstration of public service. The full list of vacancies is listed below and online.

Application forms are available online and must be submitted by September 23, 2014, to assured of full consideration by the appointing authority. Appointing authorities may choose to review applications received by the Secretary of State after September 23.

See HOW TO APPLY at the end of the message.

### CURRENT VACANCIES

Below are brief descriptions of vacancies.  
 Please visit our website for complete descriptions.

#### **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Vacancies: One Non-Municipal Water Supply System Operator

#### **AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION ADVISORY BOARD**

Vacancies:  
 Four Law Enforcement Representatives  
 One Public Member  
 One Automobile Insurer Representative  
 One Prosecuting Agency or Automobile Insurer Representative

**CONSTRUCTION CODES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: One Licensed Residential Building Industry Representative

**HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: One Public Member

**MINNESOTA e-HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Vacancies: Representative of Health Plans (B) with an interest and expertise in health information technology

**MN BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

Vacancies: Licensed Independent Social Worker

**NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Vacancies: Consumer from an organization representing cued speech communication options

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONERS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: Occupational Therapy Assistant Representative

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND AUDIOLOGIST ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: Public Member receiving services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, or family member.

**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

Vacancies:

- Two Industry, Business and Labor Representatives
- One Disability Advocate Group Representative
- One Former Vocational Rehabilitation Participant Representative
- One Department of Education Representative

**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND**

Vacancies:

- Two Business, Industry or Labor Representatives
- One Parent Representative
- One Governor's Workforce Development Council Representative
- One Deaf-Blind Community Representative
- One Vocational Rehabilitation Services Recipient Representative
- One United Blind of Minnesota Representative
- One American Council for the Blind Representative

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

Vacancies:

- One Public Member
- One Parent Member

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

Vacancies:

- One Parent of Children with Emotional Disturbances Representative
- One Member knowledgeable about the needs of emotionally disturbed children of minority races and cultures.

**HOW TO APPLY**

### Submit an Application

Complete the application form.

Applicants should include the following documents:

- Open Appointments Application Form (completed, signed and dated)
- Letter of Interest
- Resume or Biography

Applications may be submitted online, by email to [Open.Appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:Open.Appointments@state.mn.us), or by mail or in person to:

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State  
180 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1299

The monthly Notice of Vacancies is posted on the first Monday of every month and is provided by email to those who subscribe for the notice.

In accordance with the Minnesota Open Appointments Law, the Secretary of State acts as an administrator in publishing vacancies, receiving applications and recording appointments. Applications will be reviewed and appointments made by the appointing authorities; questions about specific vacancies and appointments should be directed to the appointing authority. Applications are kept on file for a one-year period.

The 2013 Open Appointments Annual Report is available online and includes a complete listing of state boards and councils that follow the Open Appointments process, descriptions of these agencies and membership, and statistical information about appointments and vacancies during the 2013 fiscal year. A print version of the report is available at the Minnesota Bookstore, (651) 297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757.

## OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

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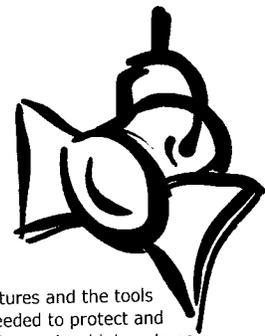


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## From the desk of the Executive Director

### FRANCHISE RENEWAL AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP UPDATE

The Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission (NWSCCC) is scheduled to vote on a 10 year Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast at its September meeting. As I write this, final details are still being worked out. The renewal process started over 3½ years ago and we are looking forward to working under a new agreement. As I have pointed out in the past, it is important to be aware that any cable company that purchases the Northwest Suburbs Cable System will be bound by the contractual obligations of the franchise agreement over the 10 year agreement.

The other item that the NWSCCC will be voting on is the proposed Transfer of Ownership between Comcast and Midwest Cable. This transfer is fully contingent upon an approved merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. Federal regulators are currently in the merger review process and it may take until the end of the year or well into the first quarter of 2015 before the issue is voted on at the federal level.

### FCC CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER TO KEYNOTE NATOA CONFERENCE IN ST. PAUL

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) an-

nounced that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler will keynote NATOA's 2014 Annual Conference taking place September 29–October 2 in St. Paul, MN. The Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission is a member of NATOA.

Chairman Wheeler, appointed by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate, became the FCC's 31st Chairman in November 2013.

This year's Annual Conference focuses on the rapid changes in the communications industry, the ability of local communities to control their digital

futures and the tools needed to protect and advance local interests as we migrate to an IP world.

As part of the National Conference taking place in Minnesota this year, I am coordinating a tour of four community television stations throughout the metro area on Thursday, October 2. NWCT will be one of the stops on the tour and we look forward to showing other people from around the country our community programming facilities.

**MIKE JOHNSON**

## Filing deadline for Board of Directors October 31

Would you be interested in representing your fellow Northwest Community Television volunteers on the NWCT Board of Directors? We're holding an election November 10-23 to fill one two-year board seat. Volunteer **Jesse Stinski's** term will end this coming February—the newly elected board member's term would begin February 19, 2015.



Board members meet quarterly to set policies, adopt a budget, and oversee the overall operation of NWCT. Two seats on our fourteen person board are reserved for volunteers. NWCT members **Donald Jackson** and **Zipporah Mesesi** (appointed by Cable Commission) also represent volunteers on the Board.



To become a candidate for the Board of Directors you must:

1. Be a resident of one of the nine communities served by NWCT.
2. Be a member of NWCT.
3. Be at least 18 years old by November 1, 2014.
4. File as a candidate by providing a candidate's profile to Northwest Community Television no later than Friday, October 31, 2014.

Call Barb at 763.533.8196 ext. 288 for more information. **BNC**

## Are you a new member?

A new segment for Channel 18 begins production Thursday, October 2, 5pm-9:30pm. The exciting part of this new studio endeavor is that it will be crewed by brand new NWCT members. The segments will feature short interviews with experienced NWCT producers and crew members. While veteran members share their experiences with viewers, new members will get valuable hands-on studio production practice. I (Javie) will be producing and hosting the in-studio project—if you'd like to be a guest or crew person, contact me at [jcdillo@nwct.org](mailto:jcdillo@nwct.org). **JC**

## Volunteer Gala November 17

Reserve the date Monday, November 17, for the 2014 Volunteer Gala. Watch your mailbox and email inbox for invitations late October/early November.

### CREW FOR COINS SPECIAL INCENTIVE

Have you heard the rumors? There has been mention here in the halls of NWCT that volunteers will be able to exchange "Crew Coins" for more tickets in the prize drawings at the Gala. I'm here to tell you that rumor is true.



If you haven't attended a Gala in the past, everyone who attends automatically receives one ticket each for the general and grand prize drawings. That stays the same; what is different is you can exchange 10 coins for another ticket to be put in the general drawing and 20 coins for the grand prize drawing, therefore, increasing your chances to be drawn. You are not limited to how many extra tickets you receive in exchange (except by the number of coins!), but if one of your tickets is drawn, your other tickets are null for that drawing. If, at the end of the night, your tickets are not drawn, they cannot be changed back into Crew Coins.

There is still a lot of time to get here and volunteer for those Crew Coins before the Gala! New to NWCT? All producers using crew and their crew members receive one "coin" for every half hour of programming produced. Crew Coins can be exchanged at any time for a number of different items. Now, the other rumor about Javie treating people to ice cream after the Gala I (Nikki) can neither confirm nor deny. I might have overheard that giving him a high five and saying the secret word "Mogi" (mow-gee) will surely get you two scoops and a waffle cone. **NJ**

## Dates to remember

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>SEP 1</b> Closed for Labor Day   | <b>OCT 2</b> NATOA tours NWCT 5:00pm-9:30pm<br>New studio show for Channel 18 |
| <b>SEP 6</b> 9:00am-4:30pm<br>Volunteer Conference<br>Pre-registration required   | <b>OCT 31</b> Deadline for candidate filing for Board of Directors            |
| <b>SEP 18</b> 7:30am NWCT Board Meeting<br>NWSCCC votes on Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast, proposed Transfer of Ownership between Comcast and Midwest Cable | <b>NOV 10</b> Voting begins for NWCT Board of Directors                       |
|   | <b>NOV 17</b> 2014 Volunteer Gala   |

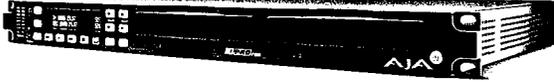
## Studio notes

### NEW EQUIPMENT: KIPRO AND ZOOM

The control room has a new backup digital recorder. We purchased an **AJA KiPro Rack** to serve as a backup to our current Pipeline file recorder. The KiPro is a tapeless video recording and playback device that records files onto removable hard drives.

Operation is easy—the unit has record, stop, fast forward and rewind functions. Once a program is recorded, staff can remove the KiPro's hard drive and transfer your file to your external hard drive or FibreManager workspace on our network. The unit also gives you the ability to play back a file in the control room.

Another nice feature of the KiPro is it can perform real time up-converting to HD 720p or HD 1080i during recording or playback. Give it a try on your next studio production! **BNC**



The **Zoom H4n** is a digital recording device used for on location shooting or any music productions. This model has two built-in condenser mics arranged in X/Y stereo position and two XLR microphone inputs that double as 1/4" jacks for musical instruments. Place the recorder around your subject and let it run, then sync the audio to video later in post-production.

#### STEPS FOR GETTING STARTED

- Ⓞ Power on
- Ⓞ Decide if you want to record Stereo or Mono
- Ⓞ Check the audio for good quality on Standby
- Ⓞ Adjust audio input level
- Ⓞ RECORD
- Ⓞ Stop recording when done
- Ⓞ Done!



To check out the Zoom H4n for your studio or portable production, mention that you'd like to use it when you make your booking. **JC**

### NWCT WEB SITE CHANGES

We've been making some changes to the NWCT web site. There is now a rotating set of pictures on the home page along with links to Liking our facebook page and Livestream. The most exciting feature is Livestream. You can now watch Channels 19 and 20 no matter where you are on the planet. Get out the word to your viewers to go to [www.nwct.org/livestream!](http://www.nwct.org/livestream!) **TT**

### CONGRATULATIONS, NEW MEMBERS!

We have a few new members we've welcomed to the NWCT family over the summer. Greet these new producers the next time you're in the studio: **Sharon Ales, Valerie Caple, Joe Cherra, Janie Fleming, Neil Grant, Troy Hallstrom, Solon Mirville, Abdullahi Mohamed, Robert Nelson, Greg Nesbitt, Tori Ricks, Dwayne Robinson, Tony Rubasch, Brenda Smith, Wendy Stanley, Phenda Varnie, Fredrich Washington and Teóna Washington!** **TT**



## ACM Conference highlights

I (Tamisha) had the privilege of attending the national Alliance for Community Media (ACM) conference August 6-8 in Philadelphia, PA. This year's conference was the first-ever joint national conference held by the ACM and NAMAC (National Alliance for Media Arts + Culture), bringing together the media arts and community-based media fields.

I attended A LOT of workshops over the three days—HD Transitions (two workshops on technical and workflow aspects and "channel" marketing), Measuring Impact, New Media Arts Standards, Making Access More Inclusive, New Business Paradigms, Multiple Platform Social Media Strategies, and Citizen Journalism. If you're interested in seeing notes on any of these, please let me know.

The Making Media Making Change tour of Philly CAM was the highlight of the week for me (see their building front in the picture to the right). Because Philly CAM didn't come into existence until 2008, they were able to step directly into HD.

Recent advances in technology have dissolved many of the traditional boundaries between media arts (them) and community media (us). While NWCT Channel 12 is not the only public access/local origination nonprofit business model out there, that model is not the only available model anymore. Regardless of business structure, there are many centers facing the same issues we are what with transitioning from SD to HD and cable company refranchising. **TT**



**The Hometown Awards ceremony was held at WHYYY, Greater Philadelphia's leading public media provider. There were winners from Minnesota—too bad they weren't from NWCT!**



MINNEAPOLIS  
MN 554  
30 AUNT 114  
PM 2 1

Northwest Community Television  
6900 Winneka Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park MN 55428



# Crystal Arrest Report

Date Range: 08/27/2014 06:00:00 AM - 09/03/2014 06:00:00 AM

<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR14-020091	N	HOLLRAH	AVERY	CARL	M	35	08/29/2014 4:20 PM
Address: 609-2242-1-2 ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT-MISD							
CYAR14-020091	N	HOLLRAH	AVERY	CARL	M	35	08/29/2014 4:20 PM
Address: 609-72-1 DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT							
CYAR14-020180	N	STAI	DARLA	KAYE	F	52	08/30/2014 10:44 PM
Address: 4757 DECATUR AV N NEW HOPE MN 55428							
Statute: 169-09-2 TRAF-ACC-HIT AND RUN-DRIVER FAIL TO STOP-NO INJURY							
CYAR14-020257	N	ZAMORANO-LOPEZ	HECTOR	NOE	M	32	08/31/2014 10:00 PM
Address: 2242 NEVADA AV S 3 ST LOUIS PARK 55426							
Statute: 609-506-1 GOVT-FALSE NAME TO POLICE OFFICER-MISD							
CYAR14-020257	N	ZAMORANO-LOPEZ	HECTOR	NOE	M	32	08/31/2014 10:00 PM
Address: 2242 NEVADA AV S 3 ST LOUIS PARK 55426							
Statute: 171-02-1 TRAF-DL-NO MN DL/WRONG CLASS/MORE THAN ONE VALID							
CYAR14-020257	N	ZAMORANO-LOPEZ	HECTOR	NOE	M	32	08/31/2014 10:00 PM
Address: 2242 NEVADA AV S 3 ST LOUIS PARK 55426							
Statute: 171-24-2 TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION							
CYAR14-020257	N	ZAMORANO-LOPEZ	HECTOR	NOE	M	32	08/31/2014 10:00 PM
Address: 2242 NEVADA AV S 3 ST LOUIS PARK 55426							
Statute: MISWA MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST							
CYAR14-020273	N	MCKEE	SETH	MICHAEL	M	35	09/01/2014 2:28 AM
Address: 3721 YATES AV N CRYSTAL MN 55422							
Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE							
CYAR14-020273	N	MCKEE	SETH	MICHAEL	M	35	09/01/2014 2:28 AM
Address: 3721 YATES AV N CRYSTAL MN 55422							
Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS							

End of Report



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA REPORT  
CASE ACTIVITY: Previous 7 Days prior to

09/03/2014 6:03 AM

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-020091	45 DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT			08/29/2014 16:10
CY14-020009	32 DOUGLAS DR N	BURGLARY-NO FORCED-RES-NIGHT	130	1 WOMAN'S SCHWINN 26 INCH	08/28/2014 7:17
CY14-020091	45 DOUGLAS DR N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			08/29/2014 16:10
CY14-020257	60 HAMPSHIRE AV N	GOVT-FALSE NAME TO POLICE			08/31/2014 21:44
CY14-020393	37 HUBBARD AV N	MISC			09/02/2014 16:24
CY14-020257	60 HAMPSHIRE AV N	MISC			08/31/2014 21:44
CY14-020161	59 38 AV N	ORD-DISORDERLY			08/30/2014 18:12
CY14-020161	59 38 AV N	ORD-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			08/30/2014 18:12
CY14-019988	55 WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	400	1 BLK TOSHIBA SATELLITE	08/27/2014 20:00
CY14-020026	60 LAKELAND AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	300	1 SPELER 32 INCH FLAT	08/28/2014 11:45
CY14-020042	55 WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	92	\$91.95 IN MERCHANDISE	08/28/2014 19:25
CY14-020147	55 DOUGLAS DR N	THEFT-THEFT OF SERVICE		TAXI CAB FARE	08/30/2014 12:58
CY14-020180	52 WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-ACC-HIT AND RUN			08/30/2014 22:44
CY14-020257	60 HAMPSHIRE AV N	TRAF-DL-NO MN DL/WRONG			08/31/2014 21:44
CY14-020257	60 HAMPSHIRE AV N	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			08/31/2014 21:44
CY14-020273	59 AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			09/01/2014 2:12
CY14-020273	59 AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE			09/01/2014 2:12
CY14-020125	36 1/2 Douglas Dr	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			08/30/2014 2:35

End of Report

Star Tribune  
9-3-14



## St. Anthony bans e-cig use indoors

Article by: Shannon Prather  
Star Tribune  
September 2, 2014 - 3:00 PM

### WHAT ARE E-CIGARETTES?

E-cigarettes are battery-operated products that heat liquid nicotine, along with flavors and other chemicals, into a vapor that the user inhales. They don't smell or create smoke like conventional cigarettes, and users can control the amount of nicotine involved.

E-cigarettes will be treated the same as conventional ones in the city of St. Anthony.

That means no puffing on e-cigs — also known as vaping — in restaurants, bars or anywhere conventional cigarettes are prohibited.

The City Council recently passed an ordinance that regulates electronic cigarettes under the Minnesota Clean Air Act, which bans smoking in public places.

Like many cities, St. Anthony has wrestled with how to handle this new way of smoking.

Last fall, many city councils passed moratoriums on e-cig shops, then waited for the Legislature to act. Legislators did ban e-cigarette use in some public places, including government buildings, public schools, licensed day cares and most health care facilities, but stopped short of treating them like conventional cigarettes.

Now city councils are again taking up the issue. St. Anthony city staffers recommended that e-cigs be treated the same as conventional cigarettes to preserve public health, protect young people and prevent enforcement confusion.

"It keeps it simple for all of us," Mayor Jerry Faust said before the 4-0 vote.

The health implications of vaping e-cigs are still unknown but "better to be safe than sorry," Faust said.

In August, the Edina City Council also passed an ordinance treating e-cigs the same as conventional cigarettes.

Any enforcement of the ordinance is done on a complaint basis, said Edina Community Health Administrator Jeff Brown.

Duluth and Mankato were two of the first Minnesota cities to ban e-cig use in public places. Some businesses, including the Mall of America and Target Field, have also prohibited the use of e-cigarettes.

### A global controversy

E-cigarette use has been linked to future conventional cigarette use, according to a 2013 study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

More than 250,000 young people who had never smoked a cigarette used electronic cigarettes in 2013, according to the CDC study. That is up from about 79,000 in 2011. Among nonsmoking youth who had ever used e-cigarettes, 43.9 percent said they intended to smoke conventional cigarettes within the next year, compared with 21.5 percent of those who had never used e-cigarettes.

Proponents of vaping say it's cleaner, safer and less intrusive than conventional smoking and can be used to help people quit smoking conventional cigarettes. Others say much more needs to be learned about their health effects.

Last week, the World Health Organization urged governments to pass tougher rules for electronic cigarettes — banning their indoor use and keeping them out of the hands of children and teens — until more evidence can be gathered about their risks.

Shannon Prather • 612-673-4804

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Sun Post  
9-4-14

## Bottineau Line planning moves ahead

By Sun Post Editor

The Federal Transit Administration has approved the next planning steps for the Bottineau Light Rail Transitway, which is now called the Metro Blue Line Extension.

The project will continue under the New Starts project development phase, which the FTA approved on Aug. 22.

Preliminary engineering for the transitway will begin and the environmental review will conclude during the phase as the Metropolitan Council becomes the lead agency for the project, taking the wheel from Hennepin County. Project leaders will continue to work with community members, receive final votes from cities along the route and seek state, county and local funding for the project.

“Securing the state funding is going to be a real key thing to advance this project,” said Joe Gladke, the Hennepin County Manager of Engineering and Transit planning. Currently, the project is expected to cost \$1 billion, and under long-term budget assumptions for the project, the state will pay \$100 million of it. The federal government could be paying for half of the project if it continues. The transitway project is one of 12 on the FTA’s New Starts program, according to the county, and each project is seeking federal funding.

With the FTA approval, the Met Council will take the engineering reins while Hennepin County works on plans for the areas surrounding the light rail stations that are currently planned along the 13-mile route.

Gladke said the county has split the station-area planning into two architectural contracts, one for Golden Valley and North Minneapolis stations, and another for Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park stations.

The planning work will consist of feedback sessions where residents can share input about individual train stations that are planned for the light rail line, giving residents a chance to address the main issues that would need examined in the station-area planning – such as safety, lighting or other environmental concerns.

The Blue Line Extension would connect with the Blue Line in Minneapolis and run through Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park.

Residents can sign up for updates about planning for specific stations on the county’s project website, [hennepin.us/bottineau](http://hennepin.us/bottineau). Information can also be found on the Metropolitan Council website, [bluelineext.org](http://bluelineext.org).

–Compiled by Paul Groessel

### Sidebar:

The Metropolitan Council will be responsible for the preliminary engineering portion of the Bottineau Light Rail Transitway (or Blue Line Extension) project planning. The Sun Post asked what those engineering plans would entail and what members of the public can expect for communicating with the Metropolitan Council during the plan’s development.

**Q. What is the Met Council's role at this point, as it takes over engineering responsibilities for the Blue Line Extension?**

A. The Met Council's engineers, along with consulting engineers to be hired, are responsible for designing the physical design components:

- LRT track location
- Station location and layout
- Roadway features (turn lanes, lane widths, traffic signals)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossings
- System elements

In later stages, they are responsible for:

- Advancing the detailed design including LRT track features, roadway details, bridges and tunnels if necessary, system elements, station design, public art, streetscape and utility relocation.
- Completing the environmental documentation including the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.
- Issuing the construction contracts and overseeing construction.

**Q. What can community members who live along the line expect for opportunities to get involved with preliminary engineering, if there are such opportunities?**

A. Many opportunities exist for public involvement. The project office will create a Business Advisory Committee made up of business representatives on the corridor as well as a Community Advisory Committee made up of corridor residents and community organizations. These groups meet once a month with project engineers and other staffers to receive updates on project progress and provide feedback about the details above. The project office also holds periodic open houses to update the general public on design before decisions are made so the engineers can address public concerns.

Info: [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org) or contact Sam O'Connell, Public Involvement Manager, at 612-373-3815 or [sam.oconnell@metrotransit.org](mailto:sam.oconnell@metrotransit.org).

## Crystal, New Hope set to save separately for WMFRD purchases

By Joe Bowen

The West Metro Fire-Rescue District board is set to change the way the department saves for its major purchases.

At a joint August meeting between the New Hope and Crystal city councils, the general agreement was that the department's Major Apparatus Fund would be dissolved, the balance of that fund would be transferred to the department's Capital Equipment Fund, and that each city will save for future major purchases – like fire trucks – on their own.

The board, which is comprised of members from each council, is expected to make the decision official at an October meeting.

"The whole way that we looked at it was, by merging the Major Apparatus Fund into the Capital Fund, the city's contribution is lowered over the future years," said New Hope City Manager Kirk McDonald. "By using the capital fund for all major equipment purchases, the city's contribution stays fairly level or increases at a lower rate."

The decision was prompted by a change in the way the district plans to fight fires in Crystal and New Hope. Chief Sarah Larson has retooled the department to have several smaller, cheaper rescue vehicles that are already paid for via the Capital Equipment Fund. Only larger rescue vehicles, like traditional fire trucks and "aerials" – fire trucks with a ladder apparatus for accessing multi-story buildings – are paid for with Major Apparatus money.

The department, along with city leadership, decided that the needs of the member cities could be best met with the smaller vehicles, said Crystal City Manager Anne Norris.

"Previously, we had been budgeting \$450,000 for rescue vehicles," Norris explained. "Now we're buying them for about a \$100,000, so it was more logical to use the Capital Fund instead of Major Apparatus."

The board, Norris said, thought that the department therefore didn't need to put money into both funds because Major Apparatus money only went towards the purchase and replacement of a total of five vehicles, which are replaced every 15-20 years, and because both cities believed they were able to save for those purchases on their own.

Crystal, for its part, saves money in a Fire Equipment Replacement Fund, which was created in 2007 with a \$192,000 transfer from the city's General Fund and was funded further until 2011.

The fund's current balance is \$638,000 and no transfers are scheduled for the next two years, Norris said, because the fire department won't need to make any major apparatus purchases for several years – 2022 or 2024.

While no funding plan for the replacement fund is set in stone, Norris said the city will take a closer look in a year or two. Money for the replacement fund could come from the General Fund, yearly surpluses or from other smaller funds the city no longer needs or wants to keep.

New Hope plans to start a similar fund in the coming months, and hopes to stash \$100,000 to \$200,000 there annually until it is built up to a "reasonable level," McDonald said, adding that he plans to meet with Larson and other fire department leaders to determine what that level might be. Each city would contribute an equal share of the final cost of any fire truck or aerial purchase.

"If it's \$2 million, then our goal will be half of that," McDonald said in reference to the cost of a replacement vehicle. "We'll try to budget accordingly each year."

New Hope's presumptive savings plan is similar to Crystal's: annual surpluses, money left over after unnecessary funds are closed elsewhere in the budget and, potentially, money from the city's General Fund.

*Contact Joe Bowen at [joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com](mailto:joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com)*