

# Metropolitan Council - 2016 Accomplishments

## Council-wide and Regional Administration

### ***Preserving affordable housing and water quality with SAC subsidies***

Equity is one of the five outcomes of *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Metropolitan Council's long-term regional plan. Equity means connecting all the region's residents to opportunity regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, and ability. With *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Council has committed to using equity as a lens to evaluate its operations, planning, and investments.

In 2016, the Council allocated \$250,000 to the Manufactured Home Park Preservation Project. This multi-divisional project involves housing policy, connecting manufactured home parks to the regional wastewater treatment system, and environmental and water quality considerations. The first part of this two-part project involved the creation of a baseline report, which evaluates the current state of the region's manufactured home parks and examines the policy levers that the Council could use to help preserve them. The second part involves a pilot grant program to defray the costs of connecting one manufactured home park to the regional wastewater treatment system by using a 50/50 match structure (up to \$250,000) to cover assessed regional Sewer Availability Charges (SAC).

The report is intended to inform future Council decisions and foster a larger dialogue concerning the importance of manufactured home parks and collective means to preserve them.

Manufactured homes are an important source of unsubsidized affordable housing for low-income residents and residents of color (especially Latino residents) in suburban communities. Surveys and research show that park closures disproportionately displace households of color. Loss of these parks would undermine equity by disconnecting low-income households and residents of color from the unique opportunities offered by suburban communities.

### ***Council ramps up workforce development***

The Council continues to support programs that prepare the future workforce and help employees obtain the skills they need to support a changing customer base.

- To attract a diverse pool of potential Mechanic-Technicians, Metro Transit and partnering organizations led a first-of-its-kind program that combines workforce readiness training, education and a paid internship. In August, 19 job seekers completed the first phase of the inaugural Metro Transit Technician program, moving on to paid internships and a two-year degree program at Hennepin Technical College. A similarly-designed program to prepare job seekers for positions in Rail Maintenance launched in December with 40 participants.
- Metro Transit actively sought operators by hosting a series of testing and application events and encouraging operators to speak about their careers in new venues such as churches and mosques and on community radio. Through late 2016, operator applications had increased 20 percent compared with the same time last year and

around 300 operators were to be hired. Enhanced training and communication efforts supported current employees, including a program that allowed employees to earn supervisory experience by temporarily taking positions in which they'd expressed an interest.

- The Metro Transit Police Department continued its growth, reaching 113 full-time officers and a pool of 71 part-time officers. The force continues to grow more diverse; the 2016 hires included the first Tibetan and Egyptian officers to work for Metro Transit. Today the department staffs 26% officers of color, up from just 5% in 2012.
- The Council's Environmental Services (MCES) division developed a new Associate Construction Inspector job classification with reduced minimum experience requirements and on-the-job training. The division provides six-month on-the-job training for two additional entry-level job classifications, Plant Operator and Interceptor Services Worker. In addition, MCES has greatly increased its outreach to diverse and disadvantaged persons in schools, community organizations and workforce centers. The goal is to generate interest in careers in the water industry and at MCES.
- The Council again sponsored the 12-week Urban Scholars summer internship and leadership-building program, providing critical, real-world experience for college students from diverse backgrounds. In 2016, 17 students participated in the program, working in departments throughout the Council. The Council's regular internship program provided paid internships throughout the Council to 90+ college and graduate students. About 46% of the 2016 interns were persons of color.

### ***Strengthening relationships with communities***

Council Chair Adam Duininck and Council Members spent more time in 2016 being out in communities, with local officials, and with users of the parks, transit, wastewater and housing systems and programs delivered by the Council. Throughout the region, the increase in visits has resulted in stronger relationships, a better understanding of the needs of communities, and better ways to deliver services.

### ***Equity Advisory Committee up and running***

In 2016, the Council recruited and selected members and co-chairs for the new Equity Advisory Committee. The committee was established in late 2015 to provide expertise and advice to the Council regarding equity-related policies. The selection committee invited more than 100 candidates to interview for the 17 committee slots identified for community members. (Four current Metropolitan Council members also serve on the committee.) The Council acted in March and April to appoint the committee members and co-chairs. It began meeting in July. The group has reviewed a number of Council-related policies and activities and established meeting protocols, and will adopt its workplan for 2017 (and beyond) in February.

The group plans to meet at least monthly in 2017.

## Planning and Communities

### ***Grants support local planning activities***

As part of the decennial comprehensive planning process, the Metropolitan Council provides financial support to communities to update their local comprehensive plans. As directed by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, the Council focuses on communities that have a demonstrated need for financial assistance. In 2016, the Council adopted eligibility criteria to define that need, including a community's net tax capacity per capita and the community's forecasted rate of growth. These criteria identified 4 different categories of grantees for a total grant program amount of nearly \$1.9 million:

- 43 sewered communities: \$32,000 maximum award each
- 3 unsewered communities: \$20,000 maximum award each
- 21 small cities: \$10,000 maximum award each
- 3 counties/consortiums, representing 34 townships: \$84,000 maximum award each

As of the end of 2016, the Council was processing applications and will issue the first half of the planning grants in 2017.

### ***PlanIt resources assist local planners***

The Council created a series of educational opportunities, called *PlanIt*, for local planners and consultants involved with local comprehensive plan updates. PlanIt includes webinars, workshops, seminars, and conferences. The Council also expanded the Local Planning Handbook's online resources with a series of online tutorials and expert articles on all things related to comprehensive planning. The 2016 program focused on foundational components and the 2017 program will focus on topics that help communities get more out of their plan.

The series was well attended in 2016 with an average of 40 to 50 attendees at each event, whether in person or by webinar. Feedback regularly solicited from attendees speaks to the high quality of the materials and presentations provided in the series.

### ***LCA grants encourage redevelopment, affordable housing, create jobs***

In the 2016 funding cycle, the Council will have awarded \$20.9 million in Livable Communities Act grants. The grants support revitalization of brownfields for job creation; transit-oriented development; and affordable housing.

Since the Livable Communities program became law in 1995, the Council has awarded nearly 1,000 grants totaling over \$347 million to help build or rehabilitate more than 20,000 affordable housing units; clean nearly 2,300 acres of polluted land, creating or retaining 46,000 jobs; and support development of transit-oriented, connected land uses. The grants have helped leverage billions of dollars in other public and private investments.

## Housing

### ***Metro HRA implements Community Choice Program***

Metro HRA implemented Community Choice, a mobility counseling program designed to assist voucher holders to move to areas of opportunity. As of December 2016, there were 12 low-income families living in new neighborhoods and receiving post-move counseling services through this program. Community Choice promotes equitable outcomes, ensuring rent-assisted families have access to all neighborhoods in the region, particularly those with above-average school performance and low poverty.

### ***Metro HRA receives highest ranking from HUD***

Metro HRA earned the highest possible ranking from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for calendar year 2015. Housing agencies are ranked by HUD on 14 indicators that measure agency performance related to expenditure of funds, use of vouchers, accurate and timely rent calculation, and ensuring assisted units are safe, decent and sanitary housing.

### ***Homeless veterans get housing, support services***

Metro HRA serves 108 homeless, disabled veterans through its Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. VASH combines Metro HRA rent assistance and case management services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program provides safe, stable housing to homeless individuals and families. Metro HRA was recently awarded an additional 10 VASH vouchers to serve additional homeless veterans in the coming months.

### ***New online system creates efficiencies***

Metro HRA implemented a new online system for use by rent assistance participants and landlords in 2016. The new system promotes a paperless environment and increases administrative efficiencies. Rent Assistance participants may complete all paperwork online instead of through in-person appointments or mail transactions. Landlords may review payment and inspection records online immediately. Both provide efficiency in service in a reduced budget environment.

## Regional Parks

### ***Regional parks continue to be a top metro attraction***

Twin Cities metro area residents love their parks. The Regional Parks System includes 54 regional parks and reserves, comprising nearly 55,000 acres; about 350 miles of interconnected trails, and 8 special recreation features, such as Como Zoo and Conservatory. The number of annual visits to regional parks and trails was 47.3 million in 2015 (the latest figure available). For context, the Mall of America receives about 40 million annual visits.

### ***Parks investments protect environment, raise quality of life***

The Council's investment in our regional parks helps protect sensitive environmental areas, expands the acres of regional parkland and miles of trails, expands outdoor and environmental learning, enhances park facilities, and creates jobs.

In 2016, the Council reviewed and approved master plans for the following regional parks and trails:

- Harriet Island-South St. Paul Regional Trail (Saint Paul)
- Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park (Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board)
- Sugar Hills Regional Trail (Anoka County)
- Bunker Hills-Chain of Lakes Regional Trail (Anoka County)

The Council also reviewed and approved amendments to the master plans for Central Anoka County Regional Trail (Anoka County) and Southwest Regional Trail (Carver County).

In 2016, the Council approved grants to 10 regional park implementing agencies distributing nearly \$18.1 in fiscal year 2017 Parks and Trails Legacy funding. By statutory formula, 90 percent of the funds are allocated for construction and improvements of trails, nature centers, parking lots, and other facilities, and to enhance programming. Ten percent of the funds are allocated for parkland acquisition. With acquisition grants, the Council matches every \$3 in state funds with \$2 in Council bond proceeds.

The Council approved \$4.2 million in grants to the park agencies to acquire properties and trail easements within planned park and trail boundaries. Parks acquisition grants are competitive and reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, and guided by the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* acquisition grant rules. The 2016 grants acquired properties within Lake Elmo Park Reserve (Washington County), Rice Creek North Regional Trail (Ramsey County) Above the Falls Regional Park (Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board), and Lake Waconia Regional Park (Carver County).

## **Transportation**

### ***Regional Solicitation set to allocate \$200 million in federal funds***

In July, applicants submitted 145 local projects to the Council for consideration for \$200 million in federal transportation funding during the biannual Regional Solicitation process. The 145 projects totaled \$540 million and sought to leverage an additional \$410 million from local sources. This past summer, the Council allocated an additional \$32.7 million due to several factors including the recent passage of the FAST Act, which provided increased federal funds to Minnesota.

This summer and fall, the Transportation Advisory Board's (TAB) Technical Advisory Committee evaluated each of the 145 projects submitted and will make final recommendations to the full

TAB in January 2017. Projects selected in January will include highway, bridge, transit, bikeway, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School projects in the metro area, the bulk of which are submitted by local governments.

### ***Continuous Improvement leads to ‘System of the Year’ honors***

The American Public Transportation Association named Metro Transit its 2016 System of the Year. Metro Transit was selected from agencies across North America that provide more than 20 million annual passenger trips.

The award came after the successful opening of the METRO Green Line, a decade of ridership growth, and improvements in system safety, reliability, community relations, workforce development, sustainability and financial management, among other areas.

### ***Improved bus service builds urban ridership***

The first of a dozen planned rapid bus lines, the A Line, successfully opened in June. The line brings faster, more frequent service, enhanced stations and specially equipped buses to one of the region’s most-traveled corridors (Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway in Roseville, Falcon Heights and Saint Paul, and 46th Street in Minneapolis).

Ridership on the A Line and the local bus service it largely replaced increased by about one-third through the first four months of operation, with an average of 5,600 passenger boardings per weekday in October 2016. The A Line’s on-time performance also exceeded comparable local bus service during its initial months of service. End-to-end travel times have been reduced by about 22 percent compared to prior local bus service through the use of transit signal priority, off-board fare payments, dual-door boarding and wider spacing between stations.

Planning is well along for the next rapid bus line, the C Line from downtown Minneapolis north to Brooklyn Center. The line will run west along Highway 55 to Penn Ave. N. during construction of the METRO Blue Line Extension along Highway 55. Once LRT service begins on Highway 55, C Line service will move south to Glenwood Avenue before heading north on Penn Avenue. C Line service is expected to open in 2019.

Metro Transit also expanded its High Frequency Network, improving service on all or part of three popular urban routes. The 14 routes in the High Frequency Network operate every 10 to 15 minutes throughout the day, Monday through Saturday. Average weekday ridership on Route 11 grew 10 percent after joining the High Frequency Network in March 2016.

### ***Bus Rapid Transit projects advance***

In 2016, the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project was in the pre-project development phase. The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, in close collaboration with Met Council and MnDOT, refined the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and advanced the Environmental Assessment for the Gateway Corridor (Gold Line BRT). Transition of project sponsorship, or agency lead, from WCRRA to the Met Council is under way as the LPA recommendation process is set to conclude in late December 2016. The refined LPA primarily shifts the terminus of the line from Lake Elmo to Woodbury. The refined LPA is anticipated to be amended into the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* in the first half of 2017.

The METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project cleared environmental review in 2016 and submitted a competitive application for federal funding. The 17-mile Orange Line is a planned BRT line that will connect Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville along I-35W. Opening of service is anticipated in 2019.

### ***Southwest LRT ready for construction in 2017***

The Federal Transit Administration underscored its continued confidence in the Southwest LRT Project (METRO Green Line Extension) by approving the project's entry into engineering in December. This milestone means the federal government has authorized project staff to finalize designs in preparation for the start of construction in 2017. Other 2016 milestones include:

- In May, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Council published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project.
- In July, the FTA determined that the FEIS meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and in August, the Council determined the FEIS is adequate under Minnesota Rules chapter 4410.
- The Council, Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority each approved additional funding commitments to position the project to secure more than \$900 million in federal funds for half the construction costs. The Council voted to authorize the future issuance of Certificates of Participation for \$103.5 million. CTIB and Hennepin County each agreed to contribute an additional \$20.5 million. These contributions will together fill a \$139 million state funding gap plus delay costs due to inaction by the 2016 Legislature.

The METRO Green Line Extension will operate from downtown Minneapolis through the communities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, passing near Edina. At Target Field Station in Minneapolis, Green Line Extension trains will continue through downtown Minneapolis to the University of Minnesota, Midway and State Capitol areas, and downtown Saint Paul.

### ***METRO Blue Line LRT Extension on track***

The METRO Blue Line Extension LRT Project met several milestones in 2016:

- Hennepin County and the five cities along the line granted municipal consent.
- The Council and the Federal Transit Administration issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project.
- The FTA issued a Record of Decision stating that the FEIS satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the Council found the FEIS adequate under Minnesota rules.

The Blue Line Extension Project – often called Bottineau LRT – will expand the existing Blue Line from Target Field in downtown Minneapolis into the northwest suburbs through Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park, adding 13 miles to the line. Once all funding is secured, construction is set to occur from 2018 to 2020. Revenue service would start in 2021.

When completed, the line will offer a one-seat ride from the Target Northern Campus in Brooklyn Park to the Mall of America in Bloomington, with stops throughout Minneapolis and at the MSP International Airport. Passengers will also be able to transfer to the existing Green Line, to access the University of Minnesota, destinations along University Avenue or Downtown Saint Paul as well as to the job-dense Southwest Corridor on the planned Green Line Extension.

### ***Special events lead to record ridership***

Metro Transit saw its highest single-day system ridership in recent memory when fairgoers mixed with commuters and sports fans across the region on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016. People rode nearly 370,000 times system-wide as the Twins, Vikings, Gophers and Saints each hosted home games and service was provided to the Minnesota State Fair. Just a month later, on Monday, Oct. 3, a new single-day light rail ridership record was set when there were a combined 122,529 rides on the METRO Green and Blue lines. About a quarter of Vikings fans took light rail to U.S. Bank Stadium during the team's inaugural season at the new venue.

Metro Transit also provided a record number of express bus and regular route rides to and from the Minnesota State Fair, serving 16 percent of the fair's record 1.9 million visitors. Metro Transit provided just over 632,500 rides to and from the fairgrounds, surpassing the 2015 record ridership by nearly 10 percent.

### ***Metro Transit co-creates better bus stops***

Efforts to improve the waiting experience for bus customers continued in 2016 with the installation of 33 new shelters, including several with heat and light. With these latest installations, Metro Transit is halfway to its goal of installing 150 new shelters since initiating the Better Bus Stops program in late 2014. The improvements are largely being made in areas of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Richfield, Minneapolis and Saint Paul where there is a high concentration of poverty and the majority of residents are people of color.

In addition, Metro Transit partnered with several community-based organizations to gather customer and community input on how to improve the bus stop experience. Information gathered through surveys, at bus stops and other outreach efforts will be used in part to influence the criteria used for prioritizing shelter locations. The partnerships with local organizations may also serve as a model for future project-based community outreach and engagement activities.

Around 7,400 new bus stop signs with route numbers and additional information were also installed by the end of 2016, marking the halfway point of a system-wide replacement effort. Each sign includes a stop number and instructions for accessing real-time departure information by phone; signs at the busier stops also include route maps and information about how frequently buses arrive at that destination. The number of requests for real-time information has risen as more new signs have been installed.

### ***System becomes safer, more secure***

Continued efforts to improve safety and security showed results, with fewer light-rail collisions, a slight decline in bus customer accidents and slight decline in serious reported crimes. Extensive training drove the trends in system safety, including additional instruction at the beginning of an operator's career and in the transition from part- to full-time. Police worked proactively to make



the system more secure by focusing on community-oriented and data-driven policing. Transit Police also launched a new Youth Diversion Program and welcomed 13 new full-time officers, many of whom speak a second language. In early 2016, Metro Transit was recognized with a “Gold Standard” rating for its transit security program by the Transportation Security Administration. The TSA rating is based on a voluntary, comprehensive review focused on security planning, training and outreach.

### ***Preventative maintenance boost fleet performance***

A continued focus on preventative maintenance improved fleet performance in 2016. Through October, buses had traveled an average of roughly 8,000 miles between maintenance road calls, a key measure of reliability that is at a historically high level. Light rail mechanics completed an exterior overhaul of the 27 Bombardier vehicles that have been in service since the Blue Line opened in 2004, and continued to rebuild the vehicle’s trucks, which contain the electric motors and gearboxes that move trains down the tracks. In addition, mechanics installed new alternating flashing headlights designed to improve safety by increasing train visibility.

## **Wastewater Treatment, Water Quality and Water Supply**

### ***Council protects public health and environment***

The Council’s Environmental Services division (MCES) treats approximately 250 million gallons of wastewater from more than two million residents daily. This cleaned water is discharged to our rivers. Six wastewater treatment plants received national awards in 2016 for five years or more of perfect discharge permit compliance through 2015: Hastings (25 years); St. Croix Valley (24 years); Seneca (15 years); Blue Lake (10 years); Eagles Point (10 years); and Empire (8 years). These compliance records are among the highest in the nation.

### ***Sustainability efforts include energy conservation, solar development***

- MCES and Xcel Energy have a five-year memorandum of understanding that establishes goals for MCES energy reduction. If MCES achieves greater reductions than outlined in the goal, it receives a bonus payment from Xcel Energy. In 2016, MCES successfully completed energy conservation projects that resulted in savings greater than the goal.
- At the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant and NEFCO facilities, a combined total of 1.25 megawatts (MW) of solar went operational in 2016. The solar installation is producing an amount equivalent to about 10% of Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant’s total load.
- MCES further advanced solar through subscriptions to Community Solar Gardens on and off Council land. These subscriptions bring many environmental sustainability benefits (air quality, climate change mitigation, no fossil fuel or water use for operations) as well as regional benefits such as jobs and less spending for fossil fuel purchases. MCES signed over 40 subscription agreements to Community Solar Gardens located on and off Council property, representing about 10 MWs in 2016. On Council property, a total of 8 MW of Community Solar Gardens (3 MW at Blue Lake and 5MW at Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant) were constructed and became operational in 2016. MCES will subscribe to 40% of each garden as will Metro Transit. The remaining 20% of each garden will be subscribed to by other local governments served by the Council.

- MCES expects to save over \$4 million in 2016 on avoided fossil-fuel energy purchases for wastewater treatment. (These energy savings are measured relative to 2006 energy costs as a baseline.) Moreover, cumulative (one-time) savings from rebates, grants, tariff optimization, and study dollars secured by the MCES energy program since 2007 equal about \$7 million. The savings result in lower wastewater rates for city and industrial customers, as well as significant environmental benefits.

### ***Systematic rehabilitation program protects wastewater assets***

MCES is investing \$130 million annually to preserve wastewater infrastructure, which has an estimated replacement value of nearly \$7 billion, including \$100 million annually for interceptor pipe rehabilitation and pump station renovation.

### ***MCES receives national recognition for vision and operations***

MCES was designated a 2016 Utility of the Future Today under a new national recognition program developed jointly by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Environmental Federation, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and other leading water organizations. Utilities are selected based on their level of engagement in advancing resource efficiency and recovery, developing proactive relationships with stakeholders, and establishing resilient, sustainable, and livable communities. Organizational culture is also evaluated for its effectiveness in inspiring and embracing positive change and innovation.

### ***SAC Task Force looks at outdoor seating, other issues***

The Council appointed a 17-member task force to discuss and make recommendations on issues related the sewer availability charge (SAC). The group includes 13 city representatives and 2 business representatives. The new task force is looking at:

- SAC charges for outdoor seating at restaurants.
- Options for manufactured home SAC affordability issues.
- Options to simplify the SAC application process for business owners.
- Options to simplify SAC credit issues for communities.

The task force will report on outdoor seating by Jan. 31, 2017 and other recommendations in February.

### ***Managing stormwater, sharing water data, and increasing efficiency***

- The Council awarded \$1,000,000 in grants for multi-benefit projects that address stormwater management and reuse. Several cooperating watershed organizations and communities received funding for using stormwater as a resource to clean fire trucks, water grass at parks and recreational areas, and other innovative investments. These efforts reduce the amount of pollution in our rivers, lakes and streams and reduce pressure on drinking water systems.
- MCES launched an updated Environmental Information Management System, or EIMS, to provide easy access to our high-quality lake, river and stream data for the region. This

update makes it much easier for water quality professionals and interested citizens to find and use information to improve our rivers, lakes and streams. A separate but similar program has been implemented to make near-real-time information available to watershed districts who utilize MCES Laboratory Services. This service provides our partners with information that they can use to tailor water quality improvement goals.

- MCES is refining its river, lake and stream monitoring programs by applying Lean principles (through Kaizen and other advanced continuous improvement methodologies) to increase data accuracy and productivity. Enhancements to date include sustained success meeting 99%+ data accuracy goals and saving over 1,000 hours of effort per year to better meet the future needs of the communities we serve.

### ***Council assists industry to meet permit requirements, save money***

- The Industrial Waste Pollution Prevention department of MCES has implemented a first-in-the-nation EPA-approved electronic reporting system for industrial customers. Industries can now submit required performance reports electronically saving both labor costs and reducing transcription errors.
- MCES made solid progress in 2016 to establish several industrial pretreatment programs. Four of the five applicants are moving forward in the process and are targeting 2017 for system implementation. Through the program, top industrial dischargers build onsite pretreatment facilities with Met Council financing and receive up to a 30% discount on payments. The industrial customer benefits through lower strength charges and lower capital costs; the Council benefits through deferred plant expansion and lower strength processing.
- MCES assisted communities to reduce water use in the region by 140 million gallons a year through implementation of two water efficiency programs. The first is a grant program that provides funding to 19 communities to implement water reduction measures (cost of the program \$250,000 annually). The second is an industrial water conservation program—in collaboration with the University of Minnesota—to help eight industries use water efficiently (cost of the program \$50,000 annually). The source of funding for both programs is the Clean Water Legacy Fund.

### ***Council collaborates with local governments to address water issues***

MCES in 2016 improved collaborative opportunities among cities to ensure successful planning and implementation of projects. The Council created a process to assist the Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) to fulfill its legislative mandate of selecting a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing water suppliers and other stakeholders. The process engaged MAWSAC members and ensured consideration of diversity in selecting new TAC members. MCES also coordinated the establishment of a new water supply work group in the west metro. This increased the number of communities supported by MCES to 65 communities through funding projects and grants totaling \$1.5 million.