

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 2, 2017

Subject: Requests for Extensions to the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Deadline

District(s), Member(s): ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stats. §§ 473.864 and 473.869

Staff Prepared/Presented: LisaBeth Barajas, Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1895)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

No official action at this time. Staff seeks the Committee's policy direction in designing a process for requests to extend the 2018 comprehensive plan deadline.

Background

Minnesota Statutes section 473.864 requires all local governments in the seven-county metropolitan area to review and update their local comprehensive plans, and submit those plans to the Metropolitan Council for review and comment by December 31, 2018. Section 473.864 further authorizes the Metropolitan Council to grant extension to local governments if they need additional time to complete their plan updates.

Specifically, the Statute indicates that any extensions granted by the Council "must include a timetable and plan for completion of the review and amendment." The Statute also requires the Council to establish guidelines and procedures to which local governments must conform when preparing, adopting, and submitting their plans.

In the 2008 planning cycle, the Council offered an extension process in which 70 communities requested extensions to the plan deadline. The majority of the communities requested extensions of up to 6 months, with just a handful of communities requesting between 6 months and a year.

Parameters for Consideration

Staff seek policy direction from the Committee on the parameters for considering requests for extensions to the comprehensive plan update deadline of December 31, 2018. Potential parameters for consideration include:

- How much additional time to allow extensions of the plan deadline. In the last cycle, the Council allowed:
 - Extensions of up to 6 months to be approved by staff administratively
 - Extensions beyond 6 months required approval by the Council's governing body
- Whether the process is administrative or requires formal Council action, or some combination of the two
- Whether the Council would consider extension requests from communities who have received Planning Assistance Grants
- Submittal requirements for requests for deadline extensions. Statute requires a resolution of local governments to request the extension a description of completed activities, and an explanation justifying the extension request. Other items might include:
 - Completed application form
 - Formal letter of request

- Detailed work plan with timelines
- The time period in which the Council will consider extension requests