

# 2015 Legislative Session Review

Metropolitan Council  
May 27, 2015



# 2015 Legislative Session

- \$1.8+ billion surplus
- Over \$1 billion left unspent in 2016-2017 (to date)
- House, Senate and Governor have different priorities
  - Agreed on need for transportation bill; disagreed on funding mechanism
  - E-12 Education Funding
  - Tax bill

# 2015 Legislative Session

- Governor will call a Special Session to handle remaining business
- Special Session is expected to include at least two bills of interest to the Council
  - **Legacy**—passed by the House; Senate ran out of time to pass
  - **Environment Finance**—vetoed by the governor
- Budget bills must be enacted by June 30 to avoid any agency shut downs

# Transportation Finance

- **\$76.6 million** per year in 2016-2017 for transit operations
- **\$29.7 million** re-appropriated from the remaining 2013 SWLRT appropriation of \$37 million
  - \$2 million to Suburban Transit Providers for suburb-to-suburb demonstration project
  - \$200,000 to Transportation Management Organizations
  - Remaining funds go to transit operations, including light rail operations, A-Line operations, and Metro Mobility
- **\$89.82 million** per year base for 2016-2017

# Transportation Policy

## New member added to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

- Added 34<sup>th</sup> member
- Appointed by the Suburban Transit Association
- Must be elected official from a city receiving Suburban Transit Provider service
- Membership change effective the day after enactment

# Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Bill (LCCMR)

- **\$1 million** for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grants
  - Funds go to land acquisition
  - From Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

# Legacy Bill – **Did Not Pass**

## Regional Parks—Parks & Trails Fund

- **\$35.403 million** for regional park system in FY16-17

## Water Supply—Clean Water Fund

- **\$975,000/year** to address emerging drinking water supply threats
- **\$250,000/year** to create a program for municipalities to reduce demand for water

# Legacy Policy – **Did Not Pass**

## Clean Water Council Membership

- Changes the Metropolitan Council and U of M to non-voting members



# Environment Finance – **Vetoed**

## Metropolitan Regional Park System

- **\$8.54 million per year** for operations and maintenance
  - \$2.87 million from general fund
  - \$5.67 million from “Lottery in Lieu” fund
- **Park Interest Earnings**—ends the current dedication of interest to North Mississippi Regional Park
  - Effective January 1, 2018
  - Interest earnings will be shared among all implementing agencies

# Environment Finance – **Vetoed**

## MCES Water Supply

- **\$200,000** per year in FY16-17 for technical and administrative support to Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)
- **Policy Changes**
  - Eliminates requirement that local water supply plans be consistent with the Master Water Supply Plan
  - Creates separate Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee to advise MAWSAC
  - Adds St. Paul Regional Water Services and Minneapolis Water Department to the Policy Advisory Committee
  - Requires reports to the legislature starting in 2017 and every 5 years after

# Confirmations

- Chair and Council Members confirmed by the Senate

# What did **not** happen

- Housing plans and affordable housing allocations require approval by the legislature
- Metropolitan Council governance reform
  - Staggered terms
  - Only local elected officials eligible
  - Local government approval of Members
  - Chair elected by Council
  - “Blue Ribbon Commission” to study structure



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