

# **The Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government**

The Commission was established to oversee the Metropolitan Council's operating and capital budgets, work program, and capital improvement program. Minnesota Statutes 3.8841

## **Regional Governance Framework for Legislative Discussion**

### **PRINCIPLES for Regional Governance**

Bring accountability and transparency to regional government by

- Realigning Metropolitan Council member terms to encourage continuity.
- Positioning city and county elected officials to self-determine development through Met Council advisory guidance and expertise to ensure accountability to the voting public.
- Stipulating more direct state legislative approval of Met Council budgets to promote transparency.

### **4 Key Reforms for Accountable and Transparent Regional Governance**

- 1) Reorganize the Met Council so that the gubernatorial appointees have staggered terms.
- 2) Allow local governments the ability to accept or reject Met Council plans by positioning city and county elected officials to self-determine development through Met Council advisory guidance and expertise to
  - a) Ensure tax levy authority resides with elected officials, and
  - b) Make livable communities criteria and guidelines advisory.
- 3) Position Legislature for direct involvement in budget approval process.
- 4) Strengthen Regional Transportation Governance:
  - a) Transfer metropolitan transit governance, power and operations to the Regional Transportation Governance Board represented by elected officials,
  - b) Open options over a two-year timeframe for replacement service/suburban transit providers,
  - c) Require proportional distribution of Met Council transit reductions,
  - d) Authorize local approval of light rail transit facilities, and
  - e) Establish transition criteria for long-term funding of reorganized transit options.