



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 2018 Administrator report

From: Linda Loomis, Administrator

To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, work continues on the following District projects and issues:

### **TPT - Sinking Cities**

TPT has been showing a series called *Sinking Cities*. I happened to catch the episode on London, which was very interesting and related to climate change causing increased rainfall. If you are interested in catching the episode you can watch it on-line at <https://www.tpt.org/sinking-cities/video/sinking-cities-london-jzgg22/>

### **Freshwater Society**

Steve Woods recently announced he will step down as the leader at the Freshwater Society. I don't want to put words in Steve's mouth, so you can read the [announcement](#) for yourself.

### **Metro-area Watershed Based Funding**

The Met Council is facilitating discussion among the water resource stakeholders in the Metro to determine the best way to allocate Clean Water Funds. To better facilitate discussion groups were invited to participate based on the organizational structure: watershed districts, water management organizations, counties, and cities. Meetings were held so that each group could provide input into how the funds were allocated this year and how allocation might work better.

Two representatives were appointed from each group to form a working group and develop proposals for allocating funds in the future. Watershed Districts are planning Monday, December 17th to meet to discuss work done so far.

### **2018 Financial Audit**

Planning has begun for the 2018 financial audit. The audit is scheduled to begin the week of March 25th, 2019.

### **Orange Line**

The Federal Transit Administration announced it will fully fund the Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit. I have attached a project update with more information.

### **Upcoming meetings/events**

- USACE River Resource Forum - January 22, 2019 & January 23, 2019, 180 E. Fifth Street E., St. Paul, MN
- Upper Mississippi River Waterway Association - Thursday, December 20, 2018, 11:30am Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club
- [18th Annual Road Salt Symposium](#) - February 7, 2019, 8:30am to 2:45pm Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth MN

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- Moos Family Lecture Series: Dr. David Montgomery - A New Case for Agriculture, April 16, 2019, Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth MN, public reception 5:30pm, Lecture 7:00pm
- Ice Out/Loon In - Freshwater Annual Gala, May 4, 2019, Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

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## METRO Orange Line Newsletter: December 2018

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Fri, Dec 14, 2018 at 5:40 PM

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PROJECT  
UPDATE

### METRO Orange Line milestone: FTA announces Full Federal Funding!

On Nov. 28, the Federal Transit Administration announced it will fully fund the federal share of \$74.1 million for the METRO Orange Line BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project. The announcement means the \$150.7 million project has now secured all funding and can now move into the final stages of construction, including construction of the Knox Avenue Transitway and station construction in Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville.

**“This is great news! The Orange Line BRT project is a critical part of building a 21st Century transportation system in Minnesota,”** said Governor Mark Dayton. **“This bus rapid transit route will provide better, faster transit services for more than 115,000 area residents, reduce congestion and support continued economic growth throughout the region.”**

Under a partnership with MnDOT, early construction of Orange Line elements begun in 2018 through the [35W@94](#) project in Minneapolis.

Stay tuned for information on upcoming community events to celebrate full funding and the kickoff of Orange Line construction in Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville.

### 2018 year in review

- **Construction in full swing.** MnDOT began building two major components of the Orange Line through its [35W@94 project](#): a transit-only ramp at 12th Street and the [I-35W & Lake Street Station](#). The 12th Street Ramp will provide the Orange Line and other I-35W express routes with exclusive downtown access, improving speed and reliability, and avoiding congestion. The two-story Lake Street station, providing connections to the Midtown Greenway, Route 21 and future [B Line](#), is under construction as part of MnDOT's I-35W@94 project. This station will greatly improve pedestrian experiences in the surrounding area and improve accessibility for bicyclists and transit customers.

- **All stations shovel ready.** [Orange Line station](#) design was completed and approved by the cities of Minneapolis, Bloomington, Burnsville and Richfield, and MnDOT.
- **Express routes skirt congestion.** Express routes, which were diverted to local streets from June through October due to construction closures, are now back on I-35W, improving their speed and reliability. Transit has an advantage exiting downtown through an exclusive access ramp to southbound I-35W.

## Construction update



*Looking east, bridge piers rise at the future I-35W & Lake Street Station*

Watch the 35W@94 project take shape before your eyes through a [drone video](#) of the corridor. The progress of Orange Line's 12th Street Transit ramp and I-35W & Lake Street Station bridge abutments walls can be seen from a bird's-eye view. Work continues to progress through the winter.

## Station area plan recommendations for I-35W & 98th Street

In October, the City of Bloomington hosted an open house to share Station Area Plans of the neighborhood around South Bloomington Transit Center, the future home of the Orange Line's I-35W & 98th Street Station. See the [recommended plan draft here](#).

If you have questions or comments about the station area plan, please contact city planner Michael Palermo at [MPalermo@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:MPalermo@BloomingtonMN.gov).

The METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will connect Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville with fast, frequent and reliable all-day transit service along I-35W.

For details, visit [metrotransit.org/OrangeLine](https://metrotransit.org/OrangeLine) or contact Project Manager Christina Morrison at [christina.morrison@metrotransit.org](mailto:christina.morrison@metrotransit.org) or 612-349-7690.

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