

# C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: March 19, 2007

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	March 12, 2007
<b>Subject:</b>	2007 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes Section 473.25
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Guy Peterson, Director, Community Development Division Jan Gustafson, Manager, Livable Communities Program
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development/Livable Communities

## Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve the *2007 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan*.

## Issue(s)

- Review and approve the 2007 funding amounts, calendars and funding criteria for the three Livable Communities Fund Accounts.
- Review preliminary plans for the Council's review of the Livable Communities Demonstration Account program.

## Overview and Funding

The attached Draft *2007 Annual LCA Fund Distribution Plan* establishes the amount of funding that will be available for grant awards from each of the LCA Fund accounts during 2007, sets the calendar for the grants making processes, and sets forth the criteria upon which grant awards will be based. (The LCDA base amount assumes passage of legislation the Council proposed during the 2007 session of the Minnesota Legislature that would authorize a one-time allocation of \$1 million from the Livable Communities Demonstration Account to the Council's local government comprehensive planning grant and loan program. If the legislation does not pass, the amount available for LCDA grants would be increased by \$1 million.)

The Council also requested changes to Minnesota Statutes section 473.253, beginning in 2007, to allow the transfer of up to \$3 million from the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) to the Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) for distribution to applicants eligible for TBRA funding if there are an insufficient number of applications meeting LCDA funding criteria and program guidelines. Similarly, if there are an insufficient number of applications meeting funding criteria and program guidelines for the Tax Base Revitalization Account, any funds unused for an application cycle may be transferred to the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) for distribution to eligible LCDA applicants. If the legislation is enacted it may be necessary to revise the fund distribution plan to include procedures and calendar changes to implement these changes to the law.

Council Chair Peter Bell has indicated his intent to conduct a comprehensive examination of the Livable Communities Demonstration Account program during 2007. This examination will be conducted concurrently with the implementation of the 2007 plan with the intent to develop options for making significant changes to the program for 2008.