



2026 Board Priorities

2nd Quarter Update

Dakota County Strategic Plan Goals



A Great Place to Live
(For a lifetime)

Thriving People

Care for
vulnerable
populations

Create Access
to
Opportunities

Community
safety, health
and well-being

Welcoming
and
responsive
service for all
People

Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources

Protect and
maintain
quality
Natural
Resources

Energy
efficiency /
sustainability

Successful Place for Business and Jobs

Prepared,
connected
workforce

Dependable
and Modern
Infrastructure
and systems

Excellence in Public Service

Innovate and
collaborate

Hire and
retain
excellent staff

Dependable
and Modern
Infrastructure
and systems

Community
Engagement

Responsible
taxes and
sound
stewardship of
resources

- Collaborate with other counties to ensure interests are adequately represented

- Design and implement new website

- Confirm current compensation strategy and desired outcomes
- Continue to assess and implement Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Strategies

- Fair, efficient, and accurate 2026 elections
- Pilot existing .5 full-time employee (FTE) social worker stationed at Wentworth Library
- Implement the Library strategic plan
- Advance the Arts Blueprint

Central Operations Division



- Partner well with cities and counties
- Collaborate with Community Development Agency (CDA) and partners on development
- Provide more online/self-service options in our services using Artificial Intelligence
- Create more financial and budget engagement
- Develop five-year financial plan
- Eliminate the structural deficit
- Increase revenues to be within the Office of State Auditor range (35% - 50%)
- Provide reliable funding for service and program priorities of the Board
- Prepare for and implement state and federal funding cuts

Physical Development Division



- Maintain overall facilities rating at fair and plan to return to good based on Facility Condition Index (FCI)
- Complete Byllesby Dam turbines
- Audit current energy and emission processes to determine opportunities
- Implement new Solid Waste Management Plan
- Implement 2050 Parks System Plan
- Update Parks Operational Plans (Natural Systems Plan, Greenways Plan, Parks Visitor Services Plan)
- Deliver 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects on time and in budget

Physical Development Division



- Improve safety at high crash rate locations based on the MN Dept of Transportation (MnDOT) Crash Rate Index
- Improve Safety for pedestrian and bicyclists based on high and medium priority County Highway Pedestrian and Bicycle Gaps
- Review Comprehensive Plan requirements and provide direction on scope and extent of Plan update
- Identify program and services areas with highest disparities for study and potential future action (continue and maintain Americans with Disabilities compliance program and prepare for implementation of the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act)

- Investigate and pursue health care and access for uninsured or under-insured residents
- Develop more youth placement options and alternatives to placement options (with metro collaboration)

- Deliver public assistance benefits within State required timelines
- Complete MNChoices assessments within State required timelines
- Review and refine the Housing Business plan
- Facilitate development of Community Resource Center(s)

- Complete an assessment of healthcare model in the jail

Next Steps



- 2026 Board Priority Reporting at General Government and Policy Committee meetings:
 - April 7, 2026 (Written Update)
 - July 7, 2026 (Presentation)
 - October 6, 2026 (Written Update)
 - January/February 2027 (Presentation)