



# **Dakota County**

## **General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole**

### **Agenda**

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**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings (or following County  
Board)**

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**(or following Regional Railroad)**

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)  
Emails must be received by 7:30am on the day of the meeting.  
Instructions on how to participate will be sent to anyone interested.

**1. Call To Order And Roll Call**

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

**2. Audience**

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.

**3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

**3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on December 13, 2022**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**5. County Board/County Administration**

**5.1 County Board - Legislative Update**

**6. County Manager's Report**

**7. Adjournment**

**7.1 Adjournment**

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**<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>**  
**Public Comment can be sent to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)**



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-1755

**Agenda #:** 3.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/3/2023

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Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-1756

**Agenda #:** 4.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/3/2023

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Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on December 13, 2022



# **Dakota County**

## **General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole**

### **Minutes**

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**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

**Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings,**

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**(or following Regional Railroad)**

#### **1. Call To Order And Roll Call**

##### **Present**

Commissioner Joe Atkins  
Commissioner Liz Workman  
Commissioner Mike Slavik  
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg  
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland  
Commissioner Laurie Halverson  
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord

Also in attendance were Matt Smith, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording from this meeting is available upon request.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holberg at 11:17 a.m.

#### **2. Audience**

Chair Holberg noted that all public comments can be sent to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us). No comments were received for this agenda.

#### **3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

##### **3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Workman, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 7

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Halverson, the consent agenda was approved as follows:

#### **4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1** Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on November 1, 2022, Special Meeting Held on November 15, 2022 and Special Meeting Held on November 29, 2022

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

**5. County Board/County Administration**

- 5.1** Authorization To Amend Contract With McDowell Agency, Inc. For Employee Background Check Services

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Laurie Halverson

WHEREAS, the County fills more than 300 full time, part time and temporary positions annually; and.

WHEREAS, all new employees require a background check before beginning employment with the County; and

WHEREAS, the County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on September 8, 2017 to assess background check vendors and select a background check vendor; and

WHEREAS, the County selected the McDowell Agency, Inc. to provide background check services; and

WHEREAS, the McDowell Agency, Inc. provides competitive pricing and flexibility in process that best meets the County's needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Employee Relations Director to amend a contract with the McDowell Agency, Inc. to provide background check services through the end of 2023 at a total cost not to exceed \$65,000, substantially as presented on December 13, 2022, and subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/3/2023.

Ayes: 7

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. County Board/County Administration**

- 6.1** Legislative Update

County Manager Matt Smith briefed this item and responded to questions. Discussion was held regarding proposed legislative platform items for 2023. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No action was requested.

Information only; no action requested.

**7. County Manager's Report**

County Manager Matt Smith gave an update on the Dakota Broadband Board Working Group. Those representing Dakota County will be Dan Cater, David McKnight and Lisa Alfson.

**8. Adjournment**

**9.1 Adjournment**

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Kathleen A. Gaylord

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Gaylord, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeni Reynolds  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-1723

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 1/3/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of the County Manager

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Information

### TITLE

**Legislative Update**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Provide an update on the 2023 State legislative session, State and Federal legislative affairs, and the status of County legislative priorities and discuss 2023 legislative priorities.

### SUMMARY

The Legislative Advisory Workgroup (LAW) and staff will provide updates on federal and state legislative affairs and activities, Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), National Association of Counties (NACo) activities, related County activities and other legislative topics of interest to Dakota County.

In addition, this item will provide an opportunity for a discussion of 2023 legislative priorities. See attachment of draft version of the Dakota County Legislative Platform as presented during the January 3, 2023 Dakota County Board of Commissioners meeting. The 2023 Association of Minnesota Counties Policy Priorities and the 2023 Minnesota Inter-County Association Legislative Priorities are also included as attachments.

### RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

### EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- ☒ None ☐ Current budget ☐ Other  
☐ Amendment Requested ☐ New FTE(s) requested

### RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

### PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: None.

### BOARD GOALS

- ☐ A Great Place to Live ☐ A Healthy Environment



☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs☒ Excellence in Public Service**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL**☐ Inform and Listen☐ Discuss☐ Involve☒ N/A**CONTACT**

Department Head: Matt Smith

Author: Nathan Hanson

# Legislative Platform



## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's request for state bonding for the construction of a regional household hazardous waste collection and recycling facility in Dakota County.
- Use of State bonding funds, the State's share of federal American Rescue Plan Act and Investment and Jobs Act funds, and/or funds from the State budget surplus, for priority Dakota County projects:
  - Interstate-35/CSAH 50 Interchange - \$50,000,000
  - TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition - \$45,000,000
  - County Road 46 Reconstruction - \$34,240,000
  - TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52 - \$28,800,000
  - CSAH 66/62 Interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 52 - \$24,000,000
  - CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension - \$24,000,000
  - Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings - \$13,000,000
  - County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9/179<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction - \$9,806,000
  - County Road 32 Extension from County Road 71 to Highway 52 - \$8,000,000
  - Law Enforcement Center Integrated Health Care Unit - \$7,500,000
  - Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center - \$6,371,000
  - Mississippi River Greenway - \$4,000,000
  - Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation - \$3,950,000
  - Thompson County Park Master Plan Improvements Design - \$3,000,000
  - Mendota to Lebanon Greenway TH 55 Crossing - \$2,322,500
  - River to River Greenway Dodd Road Crossing - \$1,620,000
  - North Creek Greenway Pedestrian Crossings - \$1,500,000
- The Metropolitan Council's request of \$30 million, matched with \$10 million of Metropolitan Council funds, for capital improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park system.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Efforts to actively address groundwater contamination due to nitrates.
- Increased SCORE funding to metropolitan counties to offset costly state mandates.
- Adequate state resources for the long-term care of existing landfills, including the return of diverted MLCAT and CLIF funds.
- The authorization of metro-area counties to acquire land for conservation and/or environmental purposes.
- The use of state bonding to support solid waste management projects as a match to the funds counties invest in infrastructure for solid waste management activities mandated by the state.

- The establishment of a state program to assist public and private drinking water well owners with the treatment of contaminated well water that exceeds safe drinking water levels.
- The re-distribution of the collected State Waste Management Tax that is currently distributed to the State General Fund to counties for state-mandated landfill abatement programs.
- Practical State and Federal product stewardship and extended producer responsibility laws with an emphasis on products that pose a public health or safety risk.
- State and federal funding for local water infrastructure improvement projects.
- Efforts to ensure regional capacity to dispose of large quantities of wood waste as a result of Emerald Ash Borer infestation.
- Coordinated efforts among state agencies to develop updated state rules and guidelines for the standardized implementation and oversight of wastewater, graywater, and combined rainwater/stormwater reuse systems.
- Legislation and/or MPCA actions that provide funding to properly close the Freeway Landfill in accordance with existing State Rules to protect public health and the environment and benefit the local community.
- A comprehensive plan by the legislature, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Appropriations to cover the cost of required electric vehicle charging stations at County buildings or other locations.
- State and federal funding opportunities that will assist the county in investing in energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, clean energy production and fleet electrification, and set the county on a path to achieving net-zero status.
- The appropriation of necessary funds to counties that have more than one landfill within its borders for the establishment of natural areas and greenways in the nearby communities, funding economic development and county programs that result in waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and for maintaining surrounding county infrastructure.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Use of State ARP funds to develop a flexible benefits financing model and policy waivers in support of the Pathways to Prosperity and Well-being Pilot.
- Ensuring sustainable ongoing funding for mental health crisis response continuum.
- Approval of a six- to 12-month pilot program allowing Minnesota counties to complete the Department of Human Services (DHS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training at the county-level.
- Interventions that address workforce challenges and service delivery impacts including:
  - increased service rates and wages for people providing direct service delivery within the Health and Human Services system;
  - incentives, including education, to attract new workers and providers to direct service delivery;
  - grants to pilot family and community-based prevention strategies that empower consumer choice and lower burden on county case-loads; and
  - multi-year assessment and action by policy makers to address systemic root causes.
- Reimbursement increases for home and community-based workers.
- Investments in modernizing technology solutions for Department of Human Services programs.
- Simplification of Department of Human Services program rules and reporting requirements.
- Investments in local public health, family resource centers, co-located services, and community-based supports.
- The full funding of mental health crisis services.

## HOUSING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Ensuring the county receives its fair share of ARP and other state housing funding to:
  - Enhance and expand state rental assistance programs.
  - Enhance and expand eviction prevention resources. Enhance and expand dependable streams of funding to support services to help people find and maintain housing.
  - Increase the number of affordable, accessible and available rental units throughout Dakota County.
- Funding to expand the Housing Demonstration program.

## JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Equitable distribution of Broadband Grant program funds to include unserved and underserved areas in metro-area counties.
- Updates to policies within the Office of Broadband to expand eligible program costs to take advantage of advances in broadband technology.
- Investments to maintain and expand the Dakota County Workforce Mobility Program, creating better job opportunities in critical occupations.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Maintained or increased appropriations for programs to enhance library services.
- The Minnesota Deputy Registrar Association and the Minnesota Association of County Officers request for a fee increase for license transactions.
- Increasing State funding to a 40% share for Metropolitan Parks O&M for SFY 22 and SFY 23.
- Revising eminent domain statutes to ensure equitable processes for determining landowner compensation and attorney fees.
- Increasing the Park and Trail Legacy funding share to the Metropolitan Regional Park System from 40% to 50% for SFY 22 and SFY 23.
- The amendment of Minn. Stat. § 216G.05 to require that the permitting state agency, rather than county boards, be required to hold a public meeting regarding the construction or operation of a pipeline.
- Efforts to adjust the Homestead Market Value Exclusion formula to support homeowner property tax relief by increasing the market value threshold and including an index to adjust annually with changing residential market values.

### DAKOTA COUNTY OPPOSES:

- Measures that would interfere with the ability of local governments to manage their budgets.

## NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP AND PARKS

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- The Metropolitan Council's request of \$1,000,000 from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund to acquire private inholdings within regional parks and greenways.
- Increasing or maintaining the current allocations and funding distribution of Lottery in Lieu funding.

## PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Sustainable funding levels for community supervision of people in the corrections system.
- Re-evaluation of the allocation of community supervision funding to ensure equitable funding for all entities providing supervision.
- A transparent and equitable funding model for all three delivery systems.
- The efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

## STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Elimination of the metropolitan county exclusion to allow mail balloting for all townships and cities with less than 400 registered voters.
- Reformation of the Metropolitan Council governance structure to increase accountability to their regional constituency.
- Legislation granting counties the authority to fill mid-term vacancies in County Sheriff or County Attorney positions either through a special election or by appointing a replacement until the next regular election.

## TRANSPORTATION

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### DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

#### Highways and Bridges

- Maintaining the current distribution of the Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax.
- Increasing long-term sustainable funding for highway and bridge purposes.
- Issuance of general obligation bonds for the Local Road Improvement, Local Bridge Replacement Bonding, and Local Road Wetland Replacement programs.
- Issuance of trunk highway bonds contingent upon increased long-term funding.
- The creation of a memorial of Dakota County Deputy Sheriff Luther Klug in the vicinity of Highway 316 and 200<sup>th</sup> Street E.

#### Rail

- Efforts to encourage railroads to work with local governments on opportunities to improve safe crossings near and along rail corridors.
- State and local acquisition of rail corridors that are currently under- or un-utilized to improve non-motorized transportation systems.

#### Transit

- State funding of county highway bus rapid transit subsidies.

## DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Federal funding to support creation of the Veterans Memorial Greenway.
- Federal funding to support improvement of the Interstate 35/County Road 50 interchange.
- Ensuring federal approval as necessary of human services administrative waivers passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2021.
- Efforts to encourage railroads to work with local governments on opportunities to improve safe crossings near and along rail corridors.
- Efforts to support state and local acquisition of rail corridors that are currently under- or un-utilized to improve non-motorized transportation systems.
- The amendment of the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy in the Social Security Act, allowing pre-trial detainees to access Medicaid services while awaiting trial and in the month prior to release from incarceration. Doing so will support appropriate supports for mental health and substance use disorder treatment that will increase health and decrease recidivism

As Recommended to the Board on 1/31/2023



Association of  
Minnesota Counties

# Legislative Policy Priorities

Adopted by AMC Board of Directors 12/4/22

# 2023

## **General Government**

### **County Program Aid/Property Tax Relief**

Minnesota counties administer a variety of funded, partially funded, and unfunded mandates on behalf of the state. Over time, these duties have only expanded, adding additional work and complexity for counties while also increasing the costs of services on property taxpayers—who ultimately pay for unfunded mandates via levy and property tax interactions. In addition, Minnesota has witnessed historical increases in residential market value adjustments, mirroring nationwide sales trends that drove residential prices to historic highs and shifted a greater property tax burden on residential properties. Together these effects represent increased burdens on Minnesota households already dealing with the adverse effects of inflation. AMC requests that the Legislature acts to recognize counties' role in administering state mandates and the disproportionate impact on county levies and property taxes by providing a significant infusion of new County Program Aid funds to address historic funding shortages, keep pace with inflationary costs, and strengthen the state-county partnership. This priority also supports bolstering additional property tax relief mechanisms such as the homestead market value exclusion, general property tax refund, and targeted property tax refund to assist in alleviating property tax pressures for residents.

**AMC supports legislative action to provide comprehensive property tax relief through an increase in County Program Aid along with expanded benefits in the state's homestead exclusion, property tax refund, and targeted property tax refund programs.**

## **Public Health & Human Services/Public Safety**

### **Mental Health**

State funding and regional investments are needed to address gaps in Minnesota's mental health infrastructure to ensure that appropriate and culturally competent services are available for children and adults with high needs in all communities. Minnesota's mental and behavioral health infrastructure must include crisis stabilization and rehabilitation services, along with ongoing community support services to ensure placements in jails and emergency rooms are limited.

The State of Minnesota must develop a sufficient state-operated safety net of mental and behavioral health facilities because vulnerable members of our communities are disproportionately impacted when our current providers are not able to meet their needs for care or medically appropriate placements. Necessary facilities and services with an appropriate level of care include Minnesota State-Operated Community Services (MSOCS), Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Hospitals (CABHH), crisis beds, high acuity – or more involved and labor-intensive services for those with complex needs – placements, integrated developmental disability and mental health homes, and both secure and non-secure therapeutic treatment options for adults and children involved with the criminal justice system.

Bonding dollars should be leveraged to support local government when developing, building, or remodeling facilities, in addition to adequate programming dollars to ensure facilities are appropriately staffed in the current workforce shortage.

**AMC supports developing Minnesota's mental health and developmental disabilities continuum of care so that it appropriately serves high needs and hard to serve individuals in communities throughout the state by investing in prevention, community-based services, placements for individuals with complex needs, and services for justice involved adults and children.**



## **Public Safety**

### **Community Supervision**

Minnesota's county-based probation systems are chronically underfunded by the current funding formulas. The current method is ineffective, unsustainable, and inequitable for counties because it requires the three delivery systems to fight for the same funding without a cohesive voice. All three delivery systems (County Probation Officers, Community Corrections Act, and Department of Corrections) have embarked on an initiative to create one formula that applies to every county while retaining the ability to choose their delivery system. It will ensure that all counties can provide core probation services regardless of their tax capacity or delivery system. AMC is an instrumental voice in this change process at the Legislature in both creating broad legislative support and ensuring that changes support county needs. AMC supports system changes that meet the criteria above and include a significant increase in funding for county community supervision.

## **General Government**

### **Housing Investments**

Minnesota has a serious housing issue, including a lack of affordable, workforce, and senior housing that has implications for counties all over the state, affecting both the quality of life in communities and economic growth. Minnesota has a number of programs and initiatives aimed at addressing its inadequate housing supply and this priority would seek to add more investments in these as well as continued investments in Housing Infrastructure Bonds, the largest state source of capital for housing development. Increasingly, homelessness is becoming a pressing issue in both the metro area and Greater Minnesota, requiring further investments in emergency and transitional housing supports to help our most vulnerable populations.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

### **Transportation Funding (Dedicated Funding and Bonding)**

AMC supports a statewide, integrated, multi-modal transportation system that keeps Minnesota competitive in a global marketplace with long-term, sustainable funding to ensure safe systems that efficiently move people and goods. With over 90% of Minnesota's road mileage under the local jurisdiction and about 80% of bridges on the local system, the gap between projected funding and the amount needed to adequately maintain and improve local roads and bridges is significant. A sustainable investment option from the Legislature would help counties plan for future projects and address the growing need at the local level. Bonding for these four transportation programs is equally important to counties and is a key piece in the transportation funding puzzle. Counties are grateful for the significant investment in these programs in the 2020 bonding bill, but there is still a considerable need for additional funding for these programs statewide. Counties have identified over five hundred bridges on the master bridge replacement priority list. Additionally, the most recent solicitation for the Local Road Improvement Program received 425 applications totaling \$344 million in requests.

## **Environment & Natural Resources**

### **SCORE/SWMT**

The Solid Waste Management Tax was created in 1997 by merging two former solid waste fees. The tax was intended to help state and local governments address waste management. Currently, 30% of the taxes collected are diverted to the general fund for other purposes. In addition, although revenues have continued to grow, the level of funding sent back to counties has remained mostly stagnant. AMC seeks to redirect the SWMT revenues currently going to the general fund to counties' waste management efforts through SCORE Grants.

AMC supports changes to the community supervision funding model so that state fund allocations are transparent, needs-based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers. Counties need a substantial increase in community supervision funding to achieve this model.

AMC supports additional state investments across the housing spectrum, including but not limited to: workforce and affordable housing, senior housing, and emergency and transitional housing supports.

AMC supports equity in transportation infrastructure through continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit and a bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs (Local Road Improvement Program, Local Bridge Replacement Program, Local Road Wetland Replacement Program, Busway Capital Improvement Program).

AMC supports allocating 100% of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.



AMC supports state investment in local public health to increase capacity to ensure all people in Minnesota can expect a baseline of core services, such as public health emergency preparedness and response.

AMC supports long term, sustainable, and equitable funding directed to support whole family behavioral health and wellbeing particularly in the area of Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation and in the development of Family Resource Centers.

AMC supports equity and access to affordable broadband service and infrastructure in Minnesota, including legislation that would provide adequate and continuous funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.

AMC supports strengthening Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding programs to address regional inequalities and guarantee full property tax loss replacement.

## **Public Health & Human Services**

### **Local Public Health Funding**

Foundational public health capabilities are skills that need to be available in health departments so the public health system can work as a whole. Currently, the capacity of Minnesota's local health departments varies widely across the state. All Minnesotans should have access to good quality public health services, regardless of where they live. Local health departments should have a baseline of organizational competencies such as assessment and surveillance of health threats, emergency preparedness and response, infectious disease prevention and control, communications, development of community partnerships, administrative competencies, and expert staff they can leverage to protect and promote public health. Investing in prevention pays off by saving health care and other public program costs, such as those from corrections and child protection.

## **Public Health & Human Services**

### **Family First and Family Resource Centers**

As a result of historically inadequate funding, an over reliance on local governments to financially support state and federal mandates and workforce challenges, counties consistently experience difficulty accessing and providing data driven supports and services that are known to strengthen and protect families from experiencing negative outcomes associated with involvement in deeper end services such as child protection and justice involvement. Counties support the state of Minnesota funding programs and services that meet the needs of Minnesota in the following areas – community and peer supports, substance use disorder, mental health, parenting skills and kinship navigation programming, cultural and lived experience initiatives, and initiatives such as Family Resource Centers (FRC's) that center community in decision making and the delivery of services. With investment by the state and the intentional development of an equitable and accessible service array across all 87 counties, Minnesota will be positioned to deliver services to individuals, youth, and families while also leveraging available federal funds.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

### **Broadband**

Last session, the Legislature appropriated \$50 million from the general fund and an additional \$60 million from the state's ARP Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to fund the state Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program (\$70 million from CPF was appropriated in the 2021 session). This investment in the grant program will go a long way in achieving border to border broadband in Minnesota. However, DEED's Office of Broadband Development (OBD) estimated a total need of \$1.3 billion to connect the rest of the state. Additional federal dollars will come to the state through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), but recent developments indicate the IIJA funding, although significant, could be delayed until 2024 while the FCC develops new broadband service maps. There could still be a strong push for additional state investment in broadband next session. AMC also acknowledges the need to address affordability, an issue that is impacting Minnesotan's access to broadband service in both the metro and Greater Minnesota.

## **General Government**

### **PILT Sustainability**

PILT is a vital resource for counties with large amounts of state/federally owned land. While a certain subset of PILT payments have received increases in funding, two important PILT categories (DNR-administered and county-administered) have remained stagnant, not keeping up with inflation or properly reimbursing local governments for lost tax base. In addition, a recently mandated reassessment of acquired acres land values has caused dramatic swings in PILT appropriations. Counties are asking for both increased and consistent funding to ensure that payments adequately compensate local communities for land displacement.

## Public Health & Human Services

### Systems Modernization

Counties rely on the state for technology infrastructure in health and human services, with too many of our current statewide systems operating on antiquated technology platforms that are inefficient and burdensome for county staff. These technological shortcomings, plus cumbersome and inefficient administrative rules and requirements, prolong administrative work and create roadblocks for county workers. Minnesota needs to prioritize modernization projects that improve user experience and reduce the administrative burden for case workers and the people they serve. Counties need our systems to be flexible, nimble, and responsive to our community's needs; significant investment and improvement in the modernization process at the state is needed. Counties need a stronger voice in modernization decisions by the state, starting with utilizing a county impact assessment in investment decision-making. Counties need access to their data in real time and they must have the ability to disaggregate data (break it up by county) to analyze their local performance. The state must allocate a portion of state transformation funds and enhanced federal funding to counties for local innovation efforts and to offset the county cost of implementation of new state-provided technologies. The health and human services system should be built as a state-county enterprise. Appropriate investments can automate tasks and save time so staff can focus on supporting individuals and families and contribute to mitigating the impact of the workforce shortages counties are facing.

### General Government

### Changing Trends in Duty Disability Departures

AMC worked closely with the League of Minnesota Cities last session to move forward a legislative proposal that sought to address a historic increase in the amount of duty disability departures related to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) among public safety officers. While 2020 marked a height in duty disability departures, the trend of public safety officers leaving their profession due to mental health stress and related trauma remains high. In fact, as of this summer, PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association) has estimated that if trends continue, the Police and Fire Pension Plan will no longer be on a path towards funding sufficiency. Outside health impacts, the extreme number of departures are disrupting recruitment capabilities and having negative effects on public safety workforces across the state. Minnesota should urgently implement new strategies in the workers compensation system to prioritize mental health treatments that have proven success at returning colleagues back to their profession and provide local governments with full reimbursement for state-mandated health insurance benefits.

### General Government/Public Health & Human Services/Public Safety Response to Cannabis Legislation

As the Legislature weighs potential action to legalize adult-use recreational cannabis use, counties join other local governments in highlighting impacts and effects across county operations and in our communities. Local governments should be consulted in any legalization legislation and will be requesting clear zoning and local control authority accompanied by a strong state regulatory framework that will ensure safe and legal operations. In addition, local governments should be considered in any new revenue discussions to support increased needs in the areas of zoning, public safety/enforcement, public health, family services, solid waste management, and more.

**AMC supports major state investment in systems transformation and modernization – which must include appropriate county collaboration, oversight, and guidance – to achieve efficient service delivery in health and human services.**

**AMC supports legislative efforts to address increased duty disability departures in a way that promotes mental well-being and job retention and provides increased financial sustainability to local government employers and pension plans.**

**AMC supports the Legislature revising recently passed THC/edible legislation to address challenges in implementation and enforcement and ensure a strong regulatory framework. If general adult-use cannabis legalization legislation is considered, local government concerns and priorities should be incorporated in any legislation, particularly as those concerns relate to zoning/local control, regulatory framework, and local revenue sharing.**

#### AMC Government Relations Staff

##### MANAGER & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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##### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

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Association of  
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#### PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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# MINNESOTA INTER-COUNTY ASSOCIATION

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



BENTON • BLUE EARTH • CARVER • CHISAGO • CROW WING • DAKOTA • OLMTED • OTTER TAIL • RICE • SCOTT • SHERBURNE • STEARNS • ST. LOUIS • WASHINGTON • WINONA

## MISSION ★ VISION ★ VALUES

### *Mission*

MICA supports County success through state policy advocacy, research, and analysis.

### *Vision*

MICA is a source of innovative and cost-effective policy solutions that enhance equity and improve outcomes for Minnesotans.

### *Values*

- ★ Integrity
- ★ Inclusiveness
- ★ Stewardship
- ★ Evidenced-based decision-making



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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## TAX AND FISCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

*MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Increase County Program Aid (CPA) and Payment-In-Lieu of Tax Payments (PILT), and Index both to Inflation.**
- **Set Driver's License Agent Fees to Fully Cover the Issuance Costs for REAL-ID-Compliant Driver's Licenses and Related Costs.**
- **Ensure Sufficient Annual State Funding to Complete Border-to-Border Broadband.**
- **Enact a Refund Exemption for All Sales Tax Paid on Construction Materials for Use by Local Governments.**



- Exempt counties from the sales tax on motor vehicles used for road maintenance, similar to the treatment of townships under current tax law.
- Reform payment in lieu of tax aid (PILT) for acquired natural resource lands.
- Adjust the Homestead Market Value Exclusion levels to support homeowner property tax relief.
- Maintain local control over property tax levy decisions and enhance transparency by streamlining public notice and state requirements to:
  - *allow counties to align preliminary tax statement and truth in taxation notification requirements with taxpayer preferences, including allowing for optional notification by mail.*
  - *not mandate additional, overly prescriptive financial or budget reporting requirements, or at least not without relieving counties of existing, multiple budget reporting requirements and/or eliminating expensive budget and financial statement publication requirements, especially when web publication better serves the information needs for the vast majority of the public.*
  - *prohibit time-wasting data practices requests from out of state "Finders" firms to counties and other local governments for lists of uncashed checks and their recipients before those checks are turned over to the state.*
  - *not reimpose levy limits, and not enact property tax freezes or reverse referendums on proposed property tax increases.*
  - *bring consistency to the determination of net tax capacity for property classes with two class rates.*

Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.



## TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

### *MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Fund federal IJIA Match Requirements that are then Sustained by Comprehensive Funding from Constitutionally Dedicated Revenues for Roads & Bridges and Dedicated Transit Funding.**
- **Appropriate \$200 Million in Bonds for the Bridge Replacement Program and \$250 Million in Bonds for the Local Road Improvement Program and Grants.**
- **Establish Base Funding for the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program.**
- **Retain the Distribution of Proceeds from the Sales Tax on Leased Vehicles Established in 2017.**
- Transfer 100% of funds from Sales Tax on auto parts from the General Fund to the Highway Users' Tax Distribution Fund.
- Improve the eminent domain appraisal process for property owners.
- Maintain current law related to setting speed limits on county roads.
- Provide transit funding.
- Provide state support for funding of turnback roads.
- Assure the integrity of the highway user tax distribution fund and oppose efforts to divert revenues dedicated to transportation.
- Require state water and wetland permitting agencies to implement recommendations to streamline the water and wetland permitting process.
- Make unprotected railroad crossings safer.
- Impose no additional increase in truck weights in 2023.
- Keep local decision-making authority on seasonal road restrictions.
- Maintain local decision-making authority on road right-of-way matters.



Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.



## PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

*MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Strengthen the Local Public Health System to Protect the Health and Safety of All Minnesotans:**
  - **Provide Reliable Funding to the Local Public Health Grant.**
  - **Provide Reliable Funding and Increase Capacity for Local Public Health Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response.**
  - **Provide Reliable Funding for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control.**
- **Allocate Stable Funding for Family Home Visiting.**
- **Invest in Mental Health and Adopt Mental Health and Well-Being Framework that Supports a More Comprehensive Approach.**
- Continue Health and Human Services waivers and flexibilities.
- Streamline Minnesota's food safety system.
- Support advancement of technology to achieve efficiencies in provision and coordination of care.
- Ensure flexibility in use of funding for chronic disease prevention.
- Support opioid prevention/Settlement Fund.
- Expand reimbursable services for front-line health care workers.
- Prevent youth tobacco use addiction and vaping.
- Support evidence based public health approaches for the regulation of cannabinoid products if legalized.



Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

## HUMAN SERVICES PRIORITIES

*MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Evolve Health and Human Services Waivers into Ongoing Administrative Efficiency.**
  - **Dedicate State Surplus Funds to Modernize and Streamline HHS Programs and Technology.**
  - **Modify Human Services Financing:**
    - **Eliminate/Reduce County Cost Shares.**
    - **Eliminate/Modify Maintenance of Effort.**
  - **Modify Housing and Housing Support:**
    - **Increase Affordable Housing Stock.**
    - **Expand Metro-Wide Housing Support for the Homeless.**
  - **Increase State Investment to Address Workforce Shortages.**
  - **Ensure Strong investment Needed in State's Mental Health System:**
    - **Provide Bonding for Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) Facilities.**
    - **Sustain the Mental Health Infrastructure by Increasing Funding for the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) Grants.**
    - **Provide Medical Assistance Benefit for Children's Mental Health Services.**
    - **Address Eligibility Gap Between Elderly Waivers and Disability Waivers for Older Adults with Significant Mental Health Needs.**
- 
- A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, wearing an orange shirt, seen from the back. The child is blowing a stream of bubbles that float in the air. The background is a soft-focus green field.
- **Provide adequate funding for Child Protection Services.**
  - **Change educational neglect response from child protection to child welfare.**
  - **Allow virtual supervised visitation for Families Receiving Child Protection Services.**
  - **Align Minnesota's health records act with HIPAA.**
  - **Include county input in potential restructuring of Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).**
  - **Increase access and targeted funding for the Basic Sliding Fee Childcare Program.**
  - **Ensure a Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door for sexually exploited youth.**
  - **Support and fund for implementation of the Minnesota Olmstead Plan.**
  - **Support the closure of unused foster care beds.**
  - **Protect counties from unintentional DHS financial errors.**

Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

## CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES

### *MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Adopt A New State Funding Model for Probation Services and Increase State Appropriations to the Level Needed to Ensure Effective, Equitable Probation Services Statewide.**
- **Provide State Funding to Help Address the Mental Health Crisis in County Jails and Juvenile Facilities.**
- Ensure any bail reforms address programmatic impacts on county community supervision.
- Provide adequate state funding to counties and local governments for locally administered addiction response efforts.
- Provide base funding to all counties for emergency management planning and preparedness activities.

## PENSIONS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

### *MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Maintain and Strengthen Funding Stability for PERA Pension Plans and provide full state funding for any benefits expansion.**
- **Fully Fund the Public Safety Officer Benefit Account under Minn. Stats. §299A.465 and Strengthen State Support for Treating Work Related Trauma Illnesses.**
- **Do Not Expand the Current Law Presumption that PTSD Workers Compensation Claims Are Employment-Related.**
- Ensure a pragmatic, phased, and universal approach to any state requirement for employers to provide paid family and medical leave.
- Reform the Metropolitan Council.
- Repeal the local government compensation limit (Minn. Stats. §43A.17, subd. 9).
- Support local control by eliminating or moderating state requirements that limit the ability of county boards to make certain compensation and benefits decisions.
- Amend state law to allow special elections to fill mid-term vacancies for County Attorney or County Sheriff.
- Amend open meetings law to appropriately accommodate elected officials experiencing medical conditions to meet remotely and/or from a non-public location up to three times per year.
- Maintain the current definition of disabled veterans and the preference points awarded to disabled veterans in recognition of their service to our Country.

Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

## ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES

### *MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:*

- **Reform the Solid Waste Management Tax and Allocate 100% of Revenues to Solid Waste Management Activities.**
  - **Increase State Funding for Solid Waste Management Infrastructure.**
  - **Maintain Waste-to-Energy (WTE) as an Eligible Energy Technology.**
  - **Strengthen Product Stewardship Requirements.**
  - **Increase State Aid for Aquatic Invasive Species and Establish Base Funding for Terrestrial Invasive Species Management.**
- 
- Ensure state resources are available for the long-term care of existing landfills.
  - Expand strategies to limit nitrates in groundwater.
  - Increase funding for the AgBMP (Agriculture Best Management Practices) administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).
  - Take state action to slow and mitigate the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) including managing the resulting volume of wood waste.
  - Increased funding for implementation of the best practices identified in Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) developed under Minnesota Statutes 114D.26.



Go to [WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG) for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

**To learn more about The Minnesota Inter-County Association,  
our 2023 Legislative Priorities, or our member counties, go to:**

**[WWW.MICA.ORG](http://WWW.MICA.ORG)**



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# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-1757

**Agenda #:** 7.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/3/2023

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Adjournment