



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Agenda

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

9:30 AM

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

(or following County Board)

Special General Government and Policy Committee

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. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

2.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

REGULAR AGENDA

3. County Board/County Administration

3.1 *County Board* - Legislative Update And Adoption Of 2023 Legislative Priorities

4. County Manager's Report

5. Adjournment

5.1 Adjournment

For more information, call 651-438-4417

**Dakota County Board meeting agendas are available online at
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us**



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-1804

Agenda #: 2.1

Meeting Date: 1/24/2023

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-1803

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 1/24/2023

DEPARTMENT: Office of the County Manager

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Legislative Update And Adoption Of 2023 Legislative Priorities

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 adopt 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 and adoption of 2023 legislative priorities. Based on discussion during the January 10, 2023, Special General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole, staff have prepared the revised attachment of proposed 2023 policy priorities.

Staff are recommending the following policy priorities be adopted for 2023:

- Bus Rapid Transit Funding Equity
- Closure of the Freeway Landfill
- Full Funding of Local Costs for or Relaxation of State Mandates
- Protection of Current Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax Distribution
- Support of Mental Health Services

In addition, staff are recommending the following capital projects be adopted as priorities for 2023:

- Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center
- County Facilities Energy Efficiency Upgrades and On-Site Renewable Energy Initiative
- County Road (CR) 46 Reconstruction
- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9/179th Street Reconstruction
- CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension
- CSAH 66/62 Interchange at TH 52
- Future CR 32 from CR 71 to Trunk Highway (TH) 52

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Recycling Facility
- Interstate-35/CSAH 50 Interchange
- Law Enforcement Center Integrated Health Care Unit
- Mendota to Lebanon Greenway TH 55 Crossing
- Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation
- Mississippi River Greenway Completion of the Connecting People to the Mississippi River Plan
- North Creek Greenway Pedestrian Crossings
- River to River Greenway Dodd Road Crossing
- Thompson County Park Master Plan Improvements Design
- TH 13/Nicollet Intersection
- TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52
- TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition
- Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings

In addition, Staff have revised the platform document following committee discussion. An attachment of the Legislative Platform as last adopted by the County Board is included, with recommended changes marked. The third attachment is a draft version of the Legislative Platform as it would appear if all recommended changes were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the proposed 2023 State Legislative Priorities and the amended Legislative Platform as presented.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

There is no direct fiscal impact as the result of adopting the legislative platform and priorities. If certain positions are adopted by the state or federal legislatures, the budget for county activities may be affected. In such cases, budget amendments will be recommended for the Board's approval.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Current budget | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> New FTE(s) requested | |

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature convened its 2023 session on January 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the interests of Dakota County and its citizens will be directly affected by the decisions of the 2023 Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2023, and January 24, 2023, the General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole reviewed items for inclusion in Dakota County's 2023 Legislative Priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following legislative priorities:

Policy Priorities:

- Bus Rapid Transit Funding Equity
- Closure of the Freeway Landfill

- Full Funding of Local Costs for or Relaxation of State Mandates
- Protection of Current Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax Distribution
- Support of Mental Health Services

Capital Priorities:

- Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center
- County Facilities Energy Efficiency Upgrades and On-Site Renewable Energy Initiative
- County Road (CR) 46 Reconstruction
- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9/179th Street Reconstruction
- CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension
- CSAH 66/62 Interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 52
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- TH 50 Safety Improvements East of TH 52
- TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition
- Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the amended 2023 Legislative Platform.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Draft 2023 Policy Priorities

Attachment: Marked Up Platform Document

Attachment: Draft Legislative Platform

BOARD GOALS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live | <input type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inform and Listen | <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss | <input type="checkbox"/> Involve | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|

CONTACT

Department Head: Matt Smith

Author: Nathan Hanson

Dakota County 2023 Legislative Priorities



FULLY FUND LOCAL COSTS FOR STATE MANDATES — OR RELAX THEM

The issue: State-imposed mandates across a variety of county services require funding beyond the state's financial support. This imposes higher costs on local governments and property taxpayers. Examples in Dakota County and elsewhere include:

- The state's Sustainable Buildings 2030 (B3) energy conservation requirements for new buildings and renovations that use state funding can add construction costs that exceed future utility savings. This adds to the local cost of the project and diminishes the net benefit of state funding. In two current Dakota County examples, the additional costs to comply with the B3 requirements add 15-20% to the construction cost and have a simple payback three times longer than the life of the additional equipment investment. The state should fully fund the added costs of B3 or eliminate the requirement where not economically feasible.
- The state saves millions by having a low incarceration rate in the state prison system and instead places offenders in the county probation system. State funding for county probation has not kept up with actual cost and caseload growth, burdening local taxpayers and straining local public safety resources. The state should adopt a modernized formula for county probation services and fully fund it.
- New Department of Human Services requirements for case plans and residential treatment program eligibility can take three times longer to complete. The state should fully fund staffing to meet these requirements or streamline the process.
- When an individual is awaiting a transfer from one state-operated facility, such as a residential treatment center, to another state-operated facility, the state bills the county, even when counties cannot influence the timing of the transfer. The state should not charge a county for days an individual is awaiting transfer.

- Local governments in Minnesota administer statewide elections, including the presidential nominating primary. The state provided funding to support the presidential nominating primary, but it did not cover all of local governments' costs. The state should fully reimburse local governments for the actual cost of administering presidential nominating primary elections.

SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The issue: Communities across Minnesota are facing urgent and unprecedented mental health challenges. Dakota County has responded by developing a continuum of services based on national best practices, but these cannot be sustained without state support.

The solution: Provide \$6.4 million in one-time state investment and \$3.5 million in ongoing funding to support these model mental health services:

- Crisis residential and intensive residential treatment services, including funding for capital costs, so people have a place to go when needed. **Request: \$6.4 million**
- 24/7 phone and mobile crisis response, so people have someone to talk to in a crisis. **Request: \$2.7 million annually**
- Crisis follow-up and stabilization services, including embedded social workers with local law enforcement, to address underlying needs. **Request: \$800,000 annually**

Dakota County also recognizes the need to invest in "upstream" solutions that promote health and wellbeing, reducing future crises. Dakota County supports investments that modernize and transform human services for the future:

- Funding for family resource centers and other community-based alternatives to formal human services programs.
- Streamlined Department of Human Services program rules and reporting requirements.

Continued

PROTECT CURRENT MOTOR VEHICLE LEASE SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION

The issue: The Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax (MVLST) is a critical funding source to address highway needs in growing suburban areas, including Dakota County. Transit in Dakota County depends on local roads as well as county and state highways, furthering the need to invest in highway infrastructure.

Even with the current MVLST distribution, Dakota County highway needs are so significant that the county — and other suburban counties — use a portion their self-enacted Transportation Sales and Use Tax for both county and trunk highway projects. The MVLST helps reduce funding needs that cannot be addressed with typical sources such as the County State Aid Highway distribution.

The solution: Support the current MVLST distribution:

- 38% to greater Minnesota transit
- 38% to suburban counties
- 13% to local bridges
- 11% to the highway user tax distribution fund

ADOPT A PLAN TO CREATE EQUITY FOR BUS RAPID TRANSIT FUNDING

The issue: The Metropolitan Council operates bus rapid transit (BRT) lines throughout the metropolitan region. The council controls operational budgets and allocates funding accordingly. The council receives 50 percent of the funding subsidies for highway-based BRT lines from county resources while BRT lines that are not highway-based are funded solely by the council with state subsidies. This arrangement is unfair to the counties responsible for subsidies.

The solution: Treat all BRT services consistently and fairly through fares and state subsidies as determined by the Legislature and Governor without relying on county taxpayer support for the services.

CLOSE FREEWAY LANDFILL TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The issue: The Freeway Landfill in Burnsville is listed as a federal Superfund site and threatens surrounding surface and groundwater supplies with pollution. Dakota County supports state efforts to remediate the environmental effects of this landfill.

The solution: Support legislation or actions that provide state funding to properly close the Freeway Landfill in a manner acceptable to Dakota County, to protect health and the environment and benefit the local community.

DRAFT FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Legislative Platform



CAPITAL INVESTMENT

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 funding, 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~~58,199,000
 - ~~TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition - \$45,000,000~~
 - ~~County Road 46 Reconstruction - \$34,240,000~~41,420,000
 - ~~TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52 - \$28,800,000~~
 - ~~CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension - \$24,000,000~~30,000,000
 - ~~CSAH 66/62 Interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 52 - \$24,000,000~~30,000,000
 - ~~Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings - \$13,000,000~~
 - ~~CSAH 9/179th Street Reconstruction - \$9,806,000~~12,258,000
 - ~~County Road 32 Extension from County Road 71 to Highway 52 - \$8,000,000~~
 - ~~Law Enforcement Center Integrated Health Care Unit - \$7,500,000~~15,000,000
 - ~~Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center - \$6,371,000~~10,041,000
 - ~~Mississippi River Greenway: Complete the Connecting People to the Mississippi River Plan - \$4,000,000~~
 - ~~Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation - \$3,950,000~~5,450,000
 - ~~Thompson County Park Master Plan Improvements Design - \$3,000,000~~
 - ~~Mendota to Lebanon Greenway TH 55 Crossing - \$2,322,500~~3,300,000
 - ~~River to River Greenway Dodd Road Crossing - \$1,620,000~~4,380,000
 - ~~North Creek Greenway Pedestrian Crossings - \$1,500,000~~5,400,000
 - ~~County Facilities Energy Efficiency Upgrades and On-Site Renewable Energy Initiative - \$20,000,000~~
- ~~State funding for projects within Dakota County:~~
 - ~~TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition - \$42,548,000~~
 - ~~TH 13/Nicollet Intersection - \$44,500,000~~
 - ~~TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52 - \$29,400,000~~
 - ~~Future County Road 32 from County Road 71 to Highway 52 - \$12,000,000~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~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

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

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Use of State ARP funds and/or budget surplus to develop a flexible benefits financing model and policy waivers in support of the Pathways to Prosperity and Well-being Pilot.
- The full funding of mental health crisis services, including:
 - 24/7 phone and mobile crisis response
 - Crisis residential and intensive residential treatment services (IRTS), including funding for capital costs to develop/modernize facilities
 - Crisis follow up and stabilization services, including embedded social workers with local law enforcement.
- ~~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 resulting service delivery impacts in disability services 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.~~
- Stabilizing home and community-based services staffing through increased wages and other strategies (i.e. educational incentives, etc.)
- Maximizing flexibility in self-directed programs to increase options for people.
- Simplifying paperwork and administrative requirements where they don't add value
- Increasing availability of assistive technology to supplement paid caregivers
- Grants to promote inclusive communities and lessen demand on formal services.
- ~~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

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Ensuring the county receives its fair share of ARP and other state housing funding to:
 - Fully fund emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness
 - Enhance and expand state rental assistance programs and other homelessness prevention resources.
 - ~~Enhance and expand eviction prevention resources.~~ Enhance and expand dependable streams of funding to support services that 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

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

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

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

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

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.
- Full funding of local costs for or relaxation of state mandates.

TRANSPORTATION

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 200th 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.

Federal

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.

Legislative Platform



CAPITAL INVESTMENT

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- State funding for priority Dakota County projects:
 - Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center - \$10,041,000
 - County Facilities Energy Efficiency Upgrades and On-Site Renewable Energy Initiative - \$20,000,000
 - County Road 46 Reconstruction - \$41,420,000
 - CSAH 9/179th Street Reconstruction - \$12,258,000
 - CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension - \$30,000,000
 - CSAH 66/62 Interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 52 - \$30,000,000
 - Interstate-35/CSAH 50 Interchange - \$58,199,000
 - Law Enforcement Center Integrated Health Care Unit - \$15,000,000
 - Mendota to Lebanon Greenway TH 55 Crossing - \$3,300,000
 - Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation - \$5,450,000
 - Mississippi River Greenway: Complete the Connecting People to the Mississippi River Plan - \$4,000,000
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 - Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings - \$13,000,000
- State funding for projects within Dakota County:
 - Future County Road 32 from County Road 71 to Highway 52 - \$12,000,000
 - TH 13/Nicollet Intersection - \$44,500,000
 - TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52 - \$29,400,000
 - TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition - \$42,548,000
- 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.
- The Metropolitan Council's request of for capital improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park system.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Use of State ARP funds and/or budget surplus to develop a flexible benefits financing model and policy waivers in support of the Pathways to Prosperity and Well-being Pilot.
- The full funding of mental health crisis services, including:
 - 24/7 phone and mobile crisis response
 - Crisis residential and intensive residential treatment services (IRTS), including funding for capital costs to develop/modernize facilities
 - Crisis follow up and stabilization services, including embedded social workers with local law enforcement.
- 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 resulting impacts in disability services including:
 - Stabilizing home and community-based services staffing through increased wages and other strategies (i.e. educational incentives, etc.)
 - Maximizing flexibility in self-directed programs to increase options for people.
 - Simplifying paperwork and administrative requirements where they don't add value
 - Increasing availability of assistive technology to supplement paid caregivers
 - Grants to promote inclusive communities and lessen demand on formal services.
- 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.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Ensuring the county receives its fair share of ARP and other state housing funding to:
 - Fully fund emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness
 - Enhance and expand state rental assistance programs and other homelessness prevention resources.
 - Enhance and expand dependable streams of funding to support services that 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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- 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

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

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

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

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.
- Full funding of local costs for or relaxation of state mandates.

TRANSPORTATION

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 200th 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.

Federal

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.

DRAFT FOR BOARD DISCUSSION



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-1805

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 1/24/2023

Adjournment