

2017 Legislative Agenda



Advancing Racial Equity

Advancing racial equity is paramount to the wellbeing of our community and long term vitality of the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Minnesota. The City of Minneapolis' goal is to approach all of our policies and programs through the lens of racial equity, and champion intentional state legislative strategies that promote racial equity, and prevent and eliminate disparities in public policy and public investments.

Local Government Finance

The City of Minneapolis supports ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship by maintaining the current Local Government Aid (LGA) formula as modified in 2013, increasing funding for the LGA program, and recognizing the need to fairly redistribute state revenues generated by local government.

The City supports increased funding for homeowner and renter direct property tax relief programs, and methods to increase usage of these programs.

The City supports long-term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments.

Capital Investment

I-35W and Lake Street Transit/Access Project:

\$25.0 million to be equally shared (\$12.5 million for Minneapolis, \$12.5 million for Hennepin County) which will leverage significant federal resources, ensure the timely completion of other related projects, and increase access to jobs and educational opportunities through improved and expanded transit service to currently underserved communities in Minneapolis.

10th Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation:

\$31.875 million to design and construct a major rehabilitation of the 10th Avenue SE Bridge over the Mississippi River between West River Parkway and 2nd Street SE located in the City of Minneapolis. The project will address the ongoing deterioration of concrete on the spandrel columns, floor beams, arches, and bridge deck. It will also restore the historic structure and add a minimum of 40 years to its useful life.

Emergency Operations and Training Facility Enhancement:

\$2.5 million to support the enhancement of the Regional Emergency Operations and Training Facility (EOTF). The EOTF is a multi-agency public safety facility used to train first responders, fire professionals, law enforcement officials, technical rescue and hazardous materials specialists, as well as state and federal incident management personnel. New capabilities of the facility will include rail disaster response training, urban search and rescue, structural collapse, and confined space rescue.

Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Restoration:

\$1.029 million to help complete the \$3.32 million fence restoration project that will help protect the public face of this landmark, significant to the State of Minnesota. Pioneers and Soldiers, originally known as Layman's Cemetery, was established in 1853. It is the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis, the final resting place for over 20,000 individuals, and one of the few surviving features from the city's first period of settlement. This local Minneapolis landmark is also the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

The City of Minneapolis supports significant investment in statewide bridge replacement and rehabilitation.

Transportation

The City of Minneapolis supports new and sustainable funding for multi-modal transit, roads, and bridges, and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transportation systems.

The City supports a comprehensive transportation bill that provides cities throughout Minnesota with the resources necessary to preserve investments and meet the transportation needs of residents, visitors, and business.

The City supports more direct accountability to voters and local government by enhancing the role for cities in the process of determining key transportation investments.

Municipal and Regional Governance

The City of Minneapolis supports efforts to maintain or enhance local governance, and opposes efforts by the legislature to interfere in local government decision making authority.

The City supports a strong, effective Metropolitan Council for regional cooperation and planning around transportation, land use, affordable housing, parks and open space, water resources and environmental protection and for the operation of regional services including transit and wastewater management.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform

The City of Minneapolis supports legislation and policies that build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and all communities and incorporates best practices and procedures. Such efforts include building trust and legitimacy, establishing clear policy and oversight, the implementation of new technologies, emphasis on community policing, and investments in education, training, and officer wellness and safety.

The City supports legislation and policies that reduce the collateral consequences for low level driving offenses, which have disparate impacts on low income residents and people of color. Policies should work to end the cycle of amassing fines, fees and state surcharges for these offenses that push individuals deeper into poverty. Policies should instead provide opportunities for diversion and restitution that give back to communities through service, encourage safe and legal driving, and allow residents continued access to jobs and education.

The City supports making the Driver Diversion Program permanent, expand the program statewide, and modify the eligibility criteria to increase access to the program.

The City supports requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales.

The City supports legislation allowing for a separate criminal contempt of court charge for a willful violation of a geographic restriction.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention

The City of Minneapolis supports investments that promote housing stability, including ongoing and sustainable state funding for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH).

City Livability and Community Wellbeing

The City of Minneapolis supports funding and initiatives that help to build economic security and promote public health.

Jobs and Workforce Development

The City of Minneapolis supports increased funding for youth employment programs, including the Minnesota Youth Program and the Youth Workforce Development Grant Program to ensure that youth, especially low income youth and youth of color, in Minneapolis and across the state have access to vital employment opportunities that create pathways for successful careers.

As amended by the City Council on January 13, 2017.