Working with Local Governments and Community Leaders

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Let’s Talk Counties!
Counties by the Numbers

87 counties

447 county commissioners

- 81 boards have five county commissioners.
- 6 boards have seven county commissioners.
What is AMC?

- A Voluntary Association of Minnesota’s 87 Counties Since 1909
- The Voice of County Government in Minnesota
- An Education, Training, & Research Resource for Counties and County Officials
Our Mission

AMC unites Minnesota’s counties to achieve public service excellence.
Our Vision

Minnesota counties are trusted partners in strengthening communities.
Good governance requires relationships

- **Local level** – between counties, cities, townships, school boards, and special districts

- **State level** – with legislators and statewide elected leaders

- **Federal level** – with the White House, federal agencies and departments, House and Senate elected leaders and their staffs
Ways to Engage Counties

- Individual County Boards
  - Commissioners
  - County Staff
    - County Engineers
- AMC
  - Policy committees
  - AMC Staff
Policy Committees

• Environment & Natural Resources
• General Government & Taxes
• Health & Human Services
• Public Safety & Corrections
• Transportation & Infrastructure
Policy Committees

- Policy committees typically meet three times/year
- This is when we hear presentations from groups on relevant policy issues
- When policy committees meet in September, members discuss preliminary platform changes and vote on committee priorities for the next session
- AMC members vote on all committee priorities at our fall district meetings
- AMC board approves priorities in December
- AMC Membership approves platform in December
Legislative Development Process

Legislative PLATFORM Development

1. **OCT**
   - POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
     - Reviews platform changes received by the October deadline and sends to...

2. **DEC**
   - POLICY COMMITTEES
     - Reviews and votes on legislative positions before forwarding to the...

3. **DEC**
   - POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
     - Reviews suggested legislative positions and sends to the...

4. **DEC**
   - GENERAL ASSEMBLY
     - Reviews legislative positions and votes to adopt legislative positions and priorities...

5. **DEC**
   - AMC Legislative Platform Adopted

AMC Legislative Platform Adopted

Legislative PRIORITY Development

1. **AUG - NOV**
   - AMC MEMBER COUNTIES
     - Suggest legislative positions to...

2. **AUG/SEP**
   - POLICY COMMITTEES
     - Identify potential legislative priorities to be voted on by...

3. **OCT/NOV**
   - DISTRICTS
     - Vote on which issues are most critical to their region and the results are then reviewed by...

4. **DEC**
   - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
     - Selects a short list of critical and timely priority items for the legislative session...
AMC supports continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.
Local Options

1. Wheelage Tax

2. Local Option Sales Tax

The tax may only be used for the following purposes:

• Payment of the capital cost of a specific transportation project or improvement;

• Payment of the costs, which may include both capital and operating costs, of a specific transit project or improvement;

• Payment of the capital costs of a safe routes to school program under section 174.40; or

• Payment of transit operating costs
The Bridging Divides initiative aimed to provide members tools to address contentious/divisive issues in a professional manner while also trying to find areas where there may be consensus.
Bridging Divides

• 2019 focused on road + bridge funding
• 2020 focus on transit funding
• 2021 focus on transit funding (continuation)
  • Due to COVID-19 we had to put the Bridging Divides work on pause, will resume in the future
  • COVID-19 only heightened need to discuss transit
  • NOW more than ever we need to hear from you on the impact of COVID-19 on transit systems
Questions?
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