



# Association *of* Minnesota Counties

## **Working with Local Governments and Community Leaders**

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# Let's Talk Counties!

 Association of  
Minnesota 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.**

# Building Relations with All Levels of Government



## 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



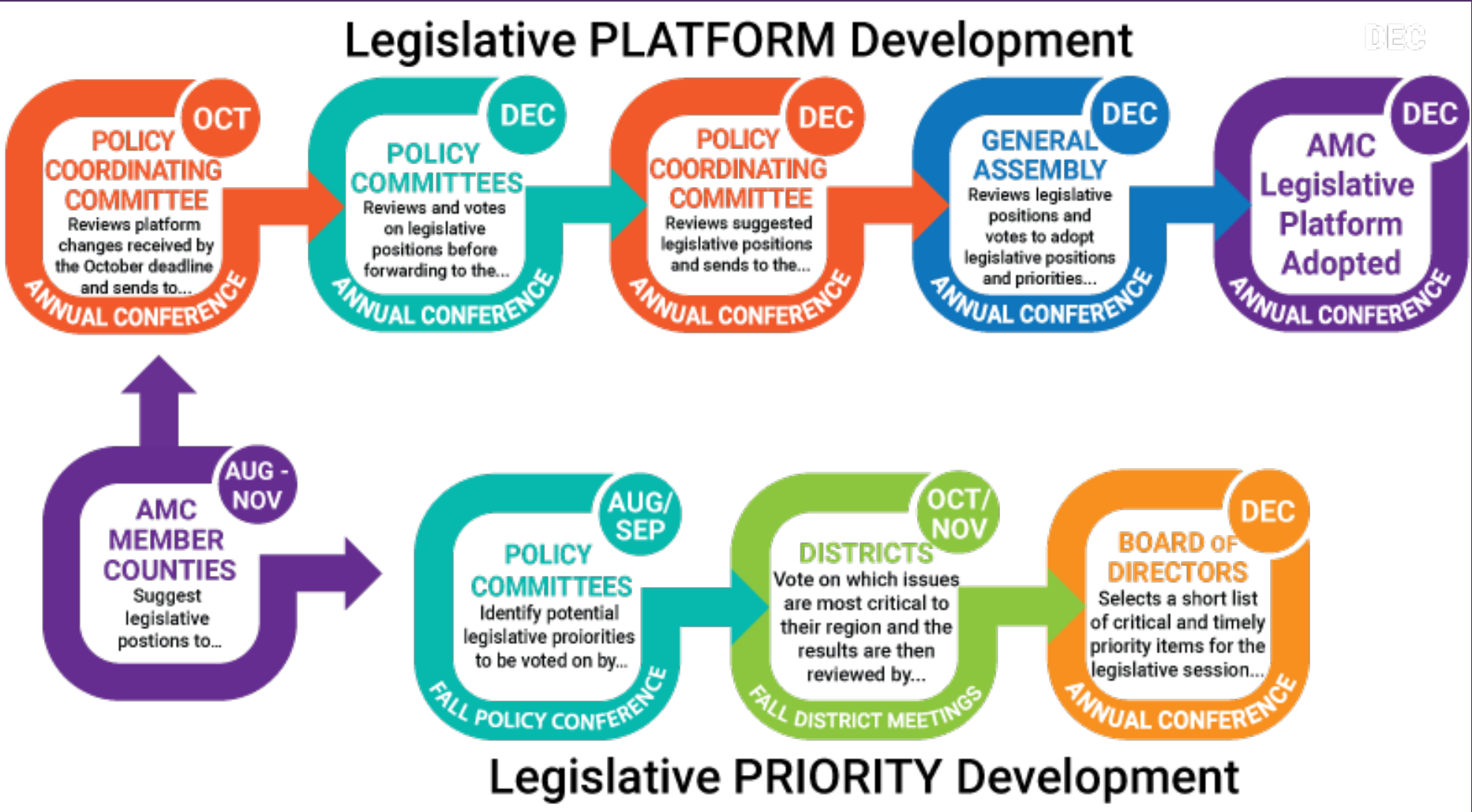
- **Environment & Natural Resources**
- **General Government & Taxes**
- **Health & Human Services**
- **Public Safety & Corrections**
- **Transportation & Infrastructure**

# 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



# 2020 Transportation Priority



*AMC supports continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.*



# Local Options

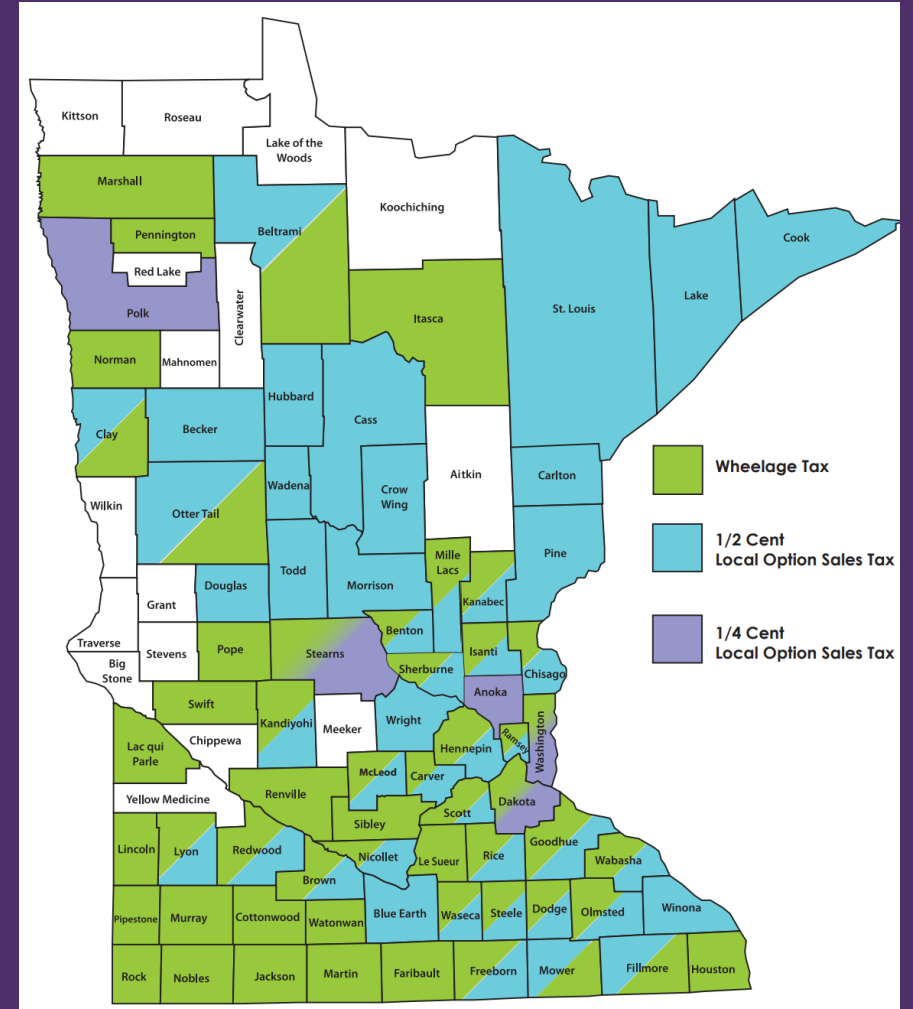


# 1. Wheelage Tax

## 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



# Bridging Divides



## Transportation Funding Exercise

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

# Thank you!



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Questions?  
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