

**City of Minneapolis  
2008 Legislative Agenda  
As Amended April 9, 2008**

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## Local Government Finance

### The priority issue for Minneapolis:

The 2003 Minnesota legislature adopted legislation amending the local government aid (LGA) program. LGA is the state program that provides cities with annual financial assistance. The 2003 legislation not only changed the statutory formula to distribute the funds, but also the legislature, in response to a budget deficit reduced the amount of the annual appropriation.

As a result of the legislation the 2004 and subsequent year appropriations were set at \$436.0 million, or \$150.0 million--25% below the previous year's certified amount. The 2005 legislature increased the appropriation to \$485.0 million. The formula change included new factors such as the amount of household size and traffic accidents. The legislation also increased the amount of LGA that was subject to the formula and conversely reduced the amount appropriated based on the previous year LGA amount (grandfathered) and special provisions. For example, in 2003 approximately \$367.0 million or 63% of the LGA appropriation was grandfathered but in 2004 the grandfathered amount was \$26.5 million or 6%. With more cities having its LGA based on the formula, fewer cities are receiving LGA than prior to the legislative changes. The legislation also eliminated the annual inflation increase which was added to the appropriation.

The city's LGA amounts from 2003 to 2008 follow:

YEAR	AMOUNT
2003 Certified	\$117,571,000
2003 Actual	91,822,000
2004	82,514,601
2005	80,338,989
2006	93,948,100
2007	83,980,640
2008	82,230,891

The city's future year's LGA amount is dependent upon not only changes in its own factors but also those of the other participating cities. For example, a decline in traffic accidents or an increase in taxable value could influence the city's LGA amount. The current formula however does not include a factor that measures the impact of a city's employment level and business activity.

Unlike other state aid programs that require the proceeds to be used for a specified purpose, LGA does not specify expenditure requirements. City councils determine how the funds should be used. In most instances the funds are appropriated to the general fund and in effect help reduce the proposed property tax levy.

## Priority issue for Minneapolis:

For the biennium beginning in 2007, the City of Minneapolis recommends that:

- Local Government Aid (LGA) be funded, at a minimum, amount equal to the 2003 certified amount adjusted for inflation.
- The appropriation include an annual inflation factor.
- The program continue to be flexible and not include spending requirements by type of expenditure.
- The formula be amended to reflect measures of a city's service level, needs and demands.
- The formula be modified to limit the wide variations in annual payments to cities.
- The City is aware that the MoA adds to the region's economy by attracting patrons from other parts of the state and country and that it is a major employer of both construction and retail service workers. However, the City must oppose legislation relating to the expansion of the MoA unless the following conditions are met:
  - a) the public improvements are paid from non-regional sources and not fiscal disparities which provides property tax relief for many cities;
  - b) the parking structure, in part, is self funded either through fees or leases entered into by MoA tenants;
  - c) the proposed theater will not upon completion or by a later modification provide performances that could compete with publicly funded theaters in the region. Theater configurations which will be assumed to be competitive include theaters configured as a dinner theater with tables on the main floor and a seating capacity which exceeds 1,500 seats, or a theater configured in the traditional auditorium style with "fly space" and a seating capacity which exceeds 500 seats; and
  - d) the MoA's conference center will not compete with regional convention centers located in the metro area and greater Minnesota.

### **Minneapolis supports:**

The Limited Market Value program should be continued. If the Limited Market Value program for the residential properties is phased out, the legislature should provide property tax relief to those residential properties that will have significant tax increases due to the elimination of the program. The Department of Revenue should be directed to increase its public information efforts regarding the property tax relief program. Such efforts can include but not be limited to public service announcements, web pages, printed materials and presentations at public meetings and on public education/government programming.

- Diversifying revenue sources for municipalities, including but not limited to street use utility, sales tax, and other user fees including infrastructure maintenance assessments.
- Repealing the state sales tax on local government purchases.

The City and Minneapolis Park Board were authorized by special law to impose a park dedication fee. Minnesota cities are permitted by general law to impose a dedication fee. In comparing the general and special laws, the special law does not include some provisions of general law such as extending the fee to non-residential property and funding trails. The city supports:

- An amendment to Laws of Minnesota 2006, Chapter 269, Section 2 which would expand the authority to impose a park dedication fee to include commercial and industrial property.
- An amendment to Laws of Minnesota 2006, Chapter 269, Section 2 which would conform the legal uses for park dedication fees in Minneapolis to uses set forth in M.S. 462.358 and would specifically allow the use of park dedication fees for trails in addition to the existing authority granted by the Special Law. It is understood that some of the permissible expenditures would not fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the MPRB.
- Legislation to extend the pre-1979 tax increment financing districts in the Minneapolis Common Project.

### **Minneapolis opposes:**

- Legislation including constitutional and statutory amendments that would limit government revenues and authority.
- Unfunded mandated services or procedures imposed by the legislature on local governments.

## Capital Bonding

During the second year of the legislative session, the legislature usually adopts a capital investment budget. To prepare for the capital budget, Minnesota Statute requires the Governor to submit a recommended capital budget to the legislature by January 15. The recommendations are based on proposals submitted by state agencies and local governments to the Minnesota Department of Finance. The requests total approximately \$3.25 billion. Of the total, \$2.04 billion is from state agencies and \$1.21 billion is from local governments.

The Governor and legislature have adopted a policy regarding debt capacity that limits debt service to 3% of general fund expenditures. For 2008, the city has submitted the following projects to the Department of Finance.

1. Target Center Debt Reduction	\$ 62.0M
2. Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Lighting Renovation	\$ 2.0M
3. Grand Rounds Scenic Byway (bridge replacement)	\$ 3.1M
4. Southeast Minneapolis Industrial University Research Park (SEMI)	\$ 6.85M
5. Training and Emergency Operations Center	\$ 8.0M
6. Hiawatha LRT Corridor Development	\$ 6.5M
7. Minneapolis Police Department – Forensic Laboratory	\$ 2.7M

In addition the City of Minneapolis is willing to be the political subdivision required by Minnesota Statutes 16A.86 for Orchestra Hall, should that organization obtain state bonding process.

## Public Safety

Keeping residents and visitors safe is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis.

### Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation and the courts and victim services. Providing public safety, a core responsibility of local government, is threatened by insufficient funding. Prioritize new criminal justice funding to address rising violent crime.
- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses and should require the county of commitment to bear financial responsibility for released offenders.
- Legislative authority for the “Stop on Red” initiative.
- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of stolen firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.
- Legislation to make it a gross misdemeanor to enter a perimeter established by police, fire, or incident commanders at the scene of a natural disaster or mass casualty without the permission from the agency controlling the perimeter and when the perimeter is marked by crime scene tape and or no trespassing signs and the intent of the perimeter includes one or more of the following; (1) protect evidence from loss, theft or destruction, (2) protect the chain of custody for evidentiary items, and (3) prevent unauthorized photographing or videotaping of the scene. “Natural disasters” and “mass casualty” need to be further defined for purposes of legislation.
- Opposing legislative efforts to reduce the effective use of the Automated Pawn System (APS) to promote cooperation between law enforcement and the pawn industry to enhance the ability to identify illegal activity and recover stolen property.
- Legislation defining “chronic offender” and providing for gross misdemeanor penalties or enhanced penalties for chronic offenders.

## **Minneapolis Supports:**

- The creation of a state disaster victim compensation fund.
- Continued funding for re-entry programs enacted last session and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities.
- Mandatory statewide regulation of massage therapists.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and immigrant populations to foster greater community public safety. The ability of local governments to ensure greater public safety should not be hampered by state efforts to impose unfunded mandates or dictate traditional federal government responsibility to the local level.
- On a state-wide basis, imposing a per-drink surcharge on alcoholic beverages and using the proceeds for public safety, crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.
- Amending the victims' rights statute to allow prosecutors to obtain victims' input on potential terms of plea agreements prior to attendance in court, so that court proceedings are not delayed.
- Initiatives to address livability crimes, including continued and increased state funding for restorative justice programs.
- The Lost or Stolen Firearm Reporting Act and Universal Background Check Act.
- The City fully supports exploring the combinations of the Crime Lab functions of the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

## **Domestic Abuse/Orders for Protection**

- Strengthening the criminal code, and other appropriate statutes by including in the domestic abuse statutes, ex-boyfriends and girlfriends, and convictions on domestic assault-related offenses; amending the definition of a "qualified domestic violence related offense"; enhancing certain offenses; improving the processes to access court records, obtain victims' input, authorize when arrests may be made without a warrant for probable cause for domestic abuse, violations of orders for protection, and violation of a domestic abuse no contact order; permit prosecutors to show that the respondent to an order for protection either knew, or had reason to know, of the existence of the order; clarifying the scope of domestic abuse no contact orders to apply throughout the state; and expanded prohibition for owning or possessing a handgun.

## **Traffic and Driving Offenses**

- Strengthening proof of insurance law to include hit and run situations when the driver is unidentified.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver, including THC.
- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality.
- Increasing the probation period for criminal vehicular homicide and injury.
- Prohibiting the use of hand held cell phones for phone calling or text messaging by all drivers.
- Amending the driving while impaired statute to change to .16, the level at which a person's alcohol concentration becomes an aggravating factor, allowing prosecutors to charge such an offense at a higher level.

- Amending the reckless or careless driving statute to address aggressive driving perpetrated with malicious intent.

### **Fire Safety**

- Mandated fire sprinklers in certain facilities – large homes, nursing homes, high rises.
- Required inspections by the State Fire Marshall to include private schools, assisted living facilities and resorts.

### **Vulnerable Adults**

- Making indecent exposure in the presence of a vulnerable adult a gross misdemeanor.
- Expanding the vulnerable adult statutes to prescribe felony level punishment for neglect.

### **Prostitution and Human Trafficking**

- Efforts to reduce prostitution and domestic human trafficking.
- Amending the prostitution in a public place statute to make a second violation of this section a gross misdemeanor by enhancement.
- Streamlining statutes in order to more effectively prosecute prostitution-related offenses.
- Legislation designating funding for treatment and creation of transitional housing programs to support women leaving behind a life of prostitution.

### **Miscellaneous Changes to Criminal Code**

- Amending the tampering with a motor vehicle statute to prohibit the act of manipulating, damaging or interfering with any levers, starting devices, brakes, or machinery located in or about the motor vehicle without the owner's permission.
- Amending the hitchhiking-solicitation of business statutes to include the use of the median to conduct such activities.
- Legislation that would prohibit the solicitation of business at the scene of a mass casualty or disaster.
- Amending the rifles and shotguns in public places statute to apply to the outdoor areas, such as the front and back yards, of the private lands owned by persons other than the possessors of the weapons.
- Allowing for a misdemeanor offense for restricting access to a telephone for the purpose of emergency calls in a place of business.
- Amending the burglary statues to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Legislation creating tougher penalties for offenders convicted of tagging, which includes the suspending of drivers licenses for up to one year; and also support a statewide age limit on the purchase of spray paint.
- Allowing “any equivalent crime in another state” to be added to the increased penalty for certain misdemeanors statute and clarifying when prosecutors may charge offenders.
- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.

**Minneapolis Opposes:**

- Expansion of legalized fireworks.

## Pension Sustainability

### The Plan for Sustainable Pensions:

#### Funding and Securing the Police and Fire Relief Associations.

In 1980, the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) pension fund and the Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Association (MFRA) pension fund were "closed" to new members. City employees who would have been eligible for enrollment in those plans were enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERA) from that point on.

The MPRA and MFRA pension plans need to achieve full funding and secure pension benefits without undue burden to Minneapolis taxpayers. It is time that the City and the Legislature work to address the following problems:

- 1. Minneapolis taxpayers have an unlimited financial obligation under current law to fund the growing costs of the closed pension funds, and the City has very limited authority to manage or control these costs.** From 2008 to 2010, the anticipated City contribution to the closed funds will grow by 203% to \$14.2 million, not including debt service. This substantial increase from 2010 forward is mostly due to a change in the mortality assumptions calculation for MPRA. In addition to recurring annual costs, debt service payments on the closed pension funds will cost the City \$36.5 million through 2015. The combined City obligation to the closed funds with debt service is \$255.8 million over the next 20 years if no action is taken. Also, it should be noted that the associations which govern the funds are both considering proposals that would further increase the City's costs beyond these projections. *Costs could quickly balloon beyond current projections in this document unless something is done.*
- 2. The City funds the pension plans, but has limited influence in the governance of the plans.** In 2008, the City's contribution to MPRA from the tax levy is \$3.6 million with an additional \$2.8 million required for debt service. The City's 2008 contribution to MFRA from the tax levy is \$3.4 million, with an additional \$829,000 in debt service payments. These costs have increased over time under the auspices of the associations which govern the plans and compute the benefit calculations.
- 3. The plans are not fully funded.** MFRA was fully funded from 1998-2001; however, poor market performance has produced a negative return on investments, increasing the burden on Minneapolis taxpayers responsible for covering the shortfall. MPRA has never been fully funded. When decisions made by the associations result in losses, the City must fund these losses.
- 4. Benefit calculations are determined by the associations and are not linked to cost of living adjustments commonly used by other funds.** The associations are administered by the members receiving the benefits. No external party validates the calculations, and the associations are the sole arbitrators of any disputes short of legal action. In effect, the association members have exercised great latitude in setting their own benefit amounts by changing the "unit value" calculations in

violation of the 1995 Agreement between the City and the associations, as identified by the State Auditor.

The annual cost of living adjustment for each of these funds is unpredictable, has no limit on the annual adjustment like other public pension plans in Minnesota, and is tied to the pay of a small number of current employees, which can vary widely from year to year.

The City's sustainability plan includes the following objectives:

1. Assure the continuation of retiree base benefits.
2. Balance retiree and taxpayer interests.
3. Simplify and link the annual cost of living adjustments in a manner consistent with other governmental pension plans.
4. Establish a schedule of City contributions to fully fund the plans by 2020.

While there may be a number of ways to reach these objectives, the City's sustainability plan includes the following actions that require legislative approval followed by City Council approval:

- 1. Ensure that retirees receive consistent cost of living adjustments.** This could be achieved by replacing the annual change in unit value with a cost of living adjustment equal to or comparable with what other police and fire retirees in Minnesota receive.
- 2. Change the structure of governance for the closed funds.** To achieve this, the current administrative structure should be replaced with the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) and all of the funds' assets should be managed by the State Board of Investment (SBI).
- 3. Commit the City to a fixed annual contribution that fully funds each plan no later than 2020.** The City's funding commitment will begin when the sustainability plan is approved by the legislature, agreement is reached on actuarial assumptions, the change in administration of the plans occurs, cost of living adjustments are linked to the COLA changes for similar Minnesota pension plans, and City Council approval is made.

**Minneapolis opposes:**

- Legislation increasing benefits to MRFA members until such time that a sustainable solution to ensure the long-term health of the funds can be jointly reached by MFRA and the City.

## **Transportation**

The City supports increased funding for transit and highways and supports a transportation funding package that includes stable and secure financial resources to meet the needs of the expanding regional and statewide transportation systems.

Minneapolis supports transportation funding that is 1) predictable – annually anticipated so proper planning and programming can take place, 2) time sensitive – implemented in the 2008 calendar year and not subject to voter approval, 3) adequate – large enough to make significant progress toward the state’s transportation needs, 4) geographically balanced – considering regional and local distribution and needs, and 5) program balanced – available for both transit and highways, used for capital projects as well as operating and maintenance.

### **Priority issues for Minneapolis:**

- Funding to continue development of the Central Corridor LRT line.
- Funding for the other Tier I and Tier II corridors as identified by the Metropolitan Council including state matching funds for the Urban Partnership Agreement improvements within the 35W transit corridor.
- Dedicated funding for transit.
- Adequate funding package for the state’s transportation needs.
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements. These could include local authority to create and make use of a transportation utility and authority for more extensive use of special assessments.

## **Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention**

Providing all residents with safe, decent, and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. As fewer resources are available, Minneapolis can achieve this goal by partnering with statewide housing advocates and agencies, including HousingMinnesota and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA).

Other affordable housing priorities in Minneapolis include safeguarding the current MHFA programs that serve low-income residents.

### **Priority issues for Minneapolis:**

- Policies that prevent mortgage foreclosures and vacant and abandoned properties. Such policies can include but not be limited to improved notices of foreclosures, modifications of mortgage terms, increased availability of counseling services, permitting continued occupancy of foreclosed property during the redemption period and modifying the foreclosure process to provide additional time prior to the sale.
- Appropriations for MHFA at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on shelters as well as permanent, supportive, assisted and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs throughout the state. The Legislature should also continue the homeless prevention programs, including the pilot outreach project, initiate a state supported land trust project and provide additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs.

**Minneapolis supports:**

- Continued review of the property tax code to encourage affordable housing production and preservation.
- State income tax credits for both affordable housing and historic buildings.
- Initiation of a state supported land trust project.
- The initiatives proposed by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless to prevent homelessness by improving transitions from corrections, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project in up to five Minnesota counties.
- Repeal of the \$50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- Legislative action to eliminate tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property.
- Funding, both capital and program, for the continued implementation of Heading Home Hennepin including capital funding for the equal opportunity center.
- Prospective repeal of the relative homestead property tax classification.

## **Municipal Governance**

Minneapolis' ability to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner is frequently regulated by state law.

### **Priority issues for Minneapolis:**

- Legislation repealing the numerous special laws that had been enacted between 1960 and 2002 establishing specific unclassified appointed positions in the City of Minneapolis. In 2003, the City passed a special law that allowed the City to determine which positions should be in the appointed unclassified service.
- Supports a state law allowing the Civilian Review Authority (CRA) to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records and other physical evidence to improve the quality of CRA staff investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the City organization.
- Amend state law to allow organic waste to be mixed with yard waste for municipal collection.
- Legislation restricting the authority of the City to license and regulate the pawnshop industry; efforts to limit the authority of cities to set licensing and transaction fees that enable the city to recover their full regulatory and enforcement expenses.
- Legislation authorizing cities to conduct alternative voting methods including instant runoff voting and legislation that adopts rules to implement instant runoff voting or authorize the Secretary of State or cities to promulgate the rules.
- Supports legislation relating to extending on and off-sale liquor sales during the RNC, and supports the local approval clause in order to maintain the capacity to restrict liquor sales, geographically, within the City of Minneapolis, and/or to restrict the timelines.

## Minneapolis supports:

- Legislation to assist the city in dealing with abandoned vehicles that are not claimed by their owners, including:
  - authority like that granted to private lot operator to bring deficiency claims against owner of abandoned vehicles for the cost of towing and storage of their car;
  - the creating of a statewide fund to assist impound lot operators in covering the costs of unpaid towing and storage fees not covered by the sale of abandoned vehicles;
  - other measures to reduce the costs associated with abandoned vehicles and the costs of operating one of only two public impound lots in the State of Minnesota.
- Legislation that provides election judges with the ability to choose to be unaffiliated with a political party.
- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the web to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Legislation that would allow cities to enact policies allowing dogs in sidewalk cafes.
- Support the examination of the governance of the Metropolitan Council to ensure that the council members are chosen via a process that includes an opportunity for local governments and other stakeholders to provide meaningful input, including consideration for an elected Met Council. Any future changes to the governance structure should be reflective of the true geography of the metropolitan region and a regional understanding of the Metropolitan Council's future direction and goals.
- Legislation (SF 121) that would authorize state regulation of dog and cat breeders.
- Legislation allowing local units of government to define "dependent" for purposes of group benefits for local government officers and employees.
- Legislation that would permit qualifying animal welfare organizations to provide subsidized spay and neuter services to animals belonging to low income persons. A qualifying organization is one that is a 501(c) 3 organization, as defined by the federal tax code. In addition, the organization would need to meet or exceed minimum practice standards, employ a licensed veterinarian, register with the Board of Veterinary Medicine, file an annual financial statement, and guarantee veterinarians have exclusive authority over medical decisions.

## **City Livability**

The City works to keep Minneapolis a desirable place to live, work, conduct business and play.

### **Priority issues for Minneapolis:**

- Legislation authorizing the development of a statewide aviation policy to diversify air traffic throughout the state.
- Investment in youth development activities. Funding such as tobacco settlement funding can be allocated to programs to reduce youth risk taking behavior.
- The city is developing a policy regarding the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program after 2009, an initial draft of which is contained in the document "Framework for the Future." Upon adoption of a framework, the City will sponsor legislation needed to implement the framework.
- The City requests legislative authorization to establish a new nonprofit to support & coordinate continued riverfront revitalization, subject to similar Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board action/support.
- The City is developing a policy regarding the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program after 2009, an initial draft of which is contained in the document Framework for the Future. Upon adoption of a framework, the City will sponsor legislation needed to implement the framework.

### **Minneapolis supports:**

- Expanding health care access and protecting funding for health and human services, safety net programs including child and adolescent mental health services, and oppose efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.
- Sustaining the minor consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for reproductive, mental health and chemical dependency issues without informing a parent or guardian.
- Lead prevention policies that include continued effort to promote universal health screening for children and financial incentives to remove or mitigate lead hazards from residences, including window replacements.
- Strengthen physical and health education curriculum in schools to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Ensuring efficient public health emergency preparedness and response.
- Restoring and maintaining the funding for early childhood programs.
- Continued funding and retention of the formula to distribute state health funds.
- Maintain the Eliminating Health Disparities Grants.
- Continued and expanded funding to support urban family planning programs.
- Legislation to increase funding for public library operations and to exempt county sales tax proceeds from maintenance of effort requirements.
- Statewide comprehensive health promotion plan to prevent chronic disease and substance abuse.
- Increased funding for youth development programs including after-school programs and reinstatement of the youth-at-risk behavior program.
- The City supports the concept of a Park Dedication Fee and directing staff to work with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on an ordinance consistent with the Statement of Principles.
- The City supports and approves the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB)'s Legislative Agenda.

### **Minneapolis opposes:**

- Legislation allowing the purchase of wine in grocery stores or other changes making it easier for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- Opposes any portion of legislation that addresses governance issues of a future neighborhood revitalization program until completion of the community feedback process about the Framework for the Future including a final decision by the City Council.

## **Environment**

Minneapolis supports strong environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives.

### **Minneapolis supports:**

#### **Cap, Trade, and Auction**

- Legislation establishing a regional cap, trade, and auction system will (1) ensure cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases to at least the reduction levels set forth in 2007 Minnesota statute (30 percent by 2025), (2) maximize public benefits while minimizing the potential for manipulation by private entities, (3) induce innovation in the energy efficiency and sustainable energy technologies with the greatest long-term promise to reduce greenhouse gases, (4) avoid inequitable impacts on low-income communities, and (5) maximize the likelihood of trading with other state-based cap-and-trade systems.

#### **Clean Cars**

- The goal is to pass legislation that adopts California's auto emissions standards (including greenhouse gas standards). The federal Clean Air Act allows states to adopt the California vehicle emission standards, which require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions of 30 percent by 2016 in new passenger vehicles.

#### **Transportation**

- Provide funding to dramatically expand the availability of public transit and facilities for bicycling and walking in Minnesota. (See the Transportation section of the Legislative Agenda for further details).

#### **Energy Efficiency Informational Hearing**

- This session we will seek an informational hearing that will highlight the lack of state, federal, and utility resources focused on energy efficiency for low-income housing. The goal will be to create awareness and help direct existing or new resources towards helping to reduce and conserve energy usage in low-income communities.

#### **Biofuel Incentives and Policy**

- Support \$43 million in bonding to fund the Reinvest in Minnesota–Clean Energy (RIM-CE) program, a working lands bioenergy program in which farmers get stepped incentives based on the public benefits achieved from their energy crop production practices. Initiate a legislative study of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard as an innovative way to promote environmentally smart biofuels.

### **Stormwater Management**

- Minneapolis supports increased state funding of stormwater management costs to local governments. This includes funds to help cities promote best management practices for stormwater, costs associated with stormwater projects brought by impairments to water bodies through Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL studies, and the costs associated with surcharges for excess inflow and infiltration into the sanitary system.

### **Financial Incentives**

- Support legislation that would provide local governments the same tax and financial incentives provided to private individuals and businesses for global warming initiatives. This could include, but not be limited to consultants, fleets, fuels, renewable energy, capital projects, appliances and equipment purchases.

### **Health Safety**

- The City of Minneapolis strongly urges the Minnesota State Legislature to vote to enact HF 2100 and SF 1858, to phase out bisphenol-A and phthalates in products intended for use by young children, including but not limited to, toys, pacifiers, baby bottles, and teethers.

## **Jobs & Economic Development**

### **Priority Issue for Minneapolis:**

Minneapolis supports state financial assistance for redevelopment and related infrastructure improvements for cities throughout the state. Therefore the 2008 Minnesota Legislature should amend the redevelopment fund statute to permit funding for projects located in the metropolitan area, and to allow related infrastructure improvements. In addition the legislature should increase the appropriation for the fund as well as the brownfields clean-up program.

The City of Minneapolis also supports state funding for employment initiatives, including, but not limited to, summer youth job training, "Step Up" and "Close the Gap" employment initiatives.

**Minneapolis supports:**

- Statewide Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation for (1) redevelopment districts that will facilitate the clean-up and redevelopment of property, (2) transit- oriented development, and (3) scattered site housing districts.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of contamination tax to the clean-up grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increase funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's Local Preservation Grant Program.
- Establishing a state income tax credit program to facilitate the preservation of historic property.