

**Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE)**  
**Mission, Values, and Strategic Priorities**

Approved by Membership on August 14, 2009

**SCALE MISSION STATEMENT**

“The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.”

**SCALE CORE VALUES**

**RELATIONSHIPS** – (Building Relationships based on cooperation, trust, and open communication)

**PARTNERING** – (Sharing of resources to effectively and efficiently deliver services)

**INNOVATION** – (Challenging each other to creatively meet ever changing community needs)

**EDUCATION** – (Growing and learning together to understand and meet the needs of today and tomorrow)

**INFLUENCE** – (Affecting positive change within our community, region, state, and federal governments)

**LEADERSHIP** – (Developing and inspiring leadership and a community service culture)

**SCALE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**QUALITY OF LIFE** – (Establish coordinated policies and programs that improve the quality of life within our communities)

- Adopt, by September 2009, a Social Host Ordinance
- Develop, by January 2010, a realistic goal and implementation plan for energy conservation and sustainable development.
- Create, by January 2010, a collective approach/response to the emerald ash borer infestation

**COMMUNITY CULTURE** – (Develop leaders within SCALE member entities that understand, embrace, and embody SCALE’s Mission and Core Values)

- Improve SCALE communications capability, by September 2009, through:
  - Initiation of a quarterly E-newsletter to all elected and appointed officials
  - Updating the SCALE Website
  - Develop and submit quarterly cable presentations and publications to local, regional or statewide media
- Develop, by February 2010, a managerial and leadership training curriculum for staff and elected officials that incorporates the SCALE concepts and core values – SCALE University

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – (Create a supportive business environment that attracts and retains business across all of Scott County)

- Adopt, by December 2009, a charter for the unified transportation plan that is realistic for Scott County and that can be supported by community economic development, land use, and transportation plans.

**TRANSPORTATION** – (Improve transit and transportation infrastructure and services that enhance access and mobility, encourage business development and manage costs)

- Provide, throughout 2009, educational opportunities for all elected and appointed officials designed to develop a better understanding of the relationship between land use, transportation, and economic development and the importance of a long-term plan for developing a cost effective, sustainable community.
- Develop, by December 2009, the work plan to move the Unified Plan forward
- Continue Lobbying Efforts for TH 13 and TH 169 in Washington and locally

**SERVICE DELIVERY** – (Consolidation of services and/or sharing of resources to provide superior services at the lowest total cost to our taxpayers)

- Create, by March of 2010, a framework for the consolidation and/or coordinated contracting of I.T. services among member entities
- Expand, by February 2010, the capabilities and use by the Joint Training Facility to enhance fire and law enforcement training opportunities and to be more inclusive of the public, emergency medical services, and public works.

## **2007-2008 SCALE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Approved by Executive Committee June 2008**

- **SCALE's influence and leadership in the Countywide Transportation and Transit areas.** Through the efforts of many – including federal, state and regional partners – a grand opening for the Southbridge Crossings Transit Station and BlueXpress bus line was held on October 3, 2007. Without the leadership and initiative of SCALE, this would not have taken place. The Transportation Task Force has made significant strides in its work, including: identified critical transportation needs that should be completed within the next 15 years, and created the Trunk Highway 13 Coalition that has been successful in obtaining \$7.0M in funding for an interchange at the intersection of Trunk Highways 101 and 13. In addition, the Shakopee/HWY 41 Bridge Coalition has met to aggressively seek a bridge and roadway alignment that is beneficial to Shakopee and all of Scott County.
- For the fourth year in a row, SCALE adopted a **Legislative Platform** outlining Scott County's legislative priorities. On January 11, 2008 the comprehensive legislative platform – hallmarked by language which was expanded to include the importance of consistent and equitable school funding was approved by the members.
- For the first time in five years a **SCALE Day at the Capitol** was held; the date was March 10, 2008, and seven of the ten legislators met with members of SCALE. The general consensus of the participants was to further refine the schedule and program, but to plan another Day at the Capitol in the 2009 session.
- In the 2008 Legislative Session, in what turned out to be a very positive, yet surprising conclusion, SCALE was successful in receiving the second **\$1.0 million in state capital investment money for the Joint Regional Training Facility**. Members of SCALE testified during legislative hearings, and an intensive lobbying effort took place which helped to secure the money to expand the offerings at the facility. Construction of the facility is nearing completion and is operating on a limited basis. A Joint Powers Board comprised of representatives of all SCALE entities has been established, and planning and operational meetings are underway. Mike Briese has been hired to manage the facility.
- At the request of SCALE members, Governor Pawlenty reopened the process for **appointment of Met Council Representative for Scott and Carver Counties**. Candidates were interviewed by the Executive Committee on October 30, and a recommendation was submitted to the Governor. Met Council Chairman Peter Bell was noted for saying that “as a group” this was as strong a field of candidates as he has seen in his tenure on the Council.

- SCALE began discussions early in the fiscal year on **its long-term future**. The Executive Committee wanted to expand the marketing potential of SCALE. To that end, city and county staff prepared a “White Paper” on the future of SCALE entitled the “Conversation on SCALE”. The document was presented to the membership and served as the launching off point for the planning and scheduling of the Visioning Session with all members.
- SCALE participated in and supported the construction of a **countywide fiber ring**. As part of the shared communication, information technology and infrastructure strategy, the placement of a fiber backbone throughout the county became an integral component of building the 800 MHz radio system. The construction is nearing completion and hooking up all city, school and county facilities is underway. This unique, creative and distinct project has significant benefits to the county and will be the subject of many future discussions and conversations in SCALE.

## **SCALE ACTIVITIES**

### **Legislative Relations**

- Senators Robling, Neuville, and Doll and Representatives Beard and Bly attended meeting on June 8, 2007 to debrief legislative session.
- Senators Robling and Doll and Representatives Beard, Brod, and Buesgens attended the February 8, 2008 meeting to dialogue about the 2008 SCALE Legislative Platform.

### **Regional Influence**

- New Met Council Representative Craig Peterson attended the January and February 2008 general meetings to introduce himself and receive feedback on Scott County priorities.

### **Guest Speakers/Events**

- Presentation by Tom Westerhaus and Staff from Prior Lake-Savage School District on School Financing on July 13, 2007.
- Sheriff Kevin Studnicka presentation: Overview of Sheriff’s Services on July 13, 2007.
- Scott County Planning Manager Brad Davis presented an update on the 2030 Comp Plan on October 12, 2007.
- On October 23, 2007, on behalf of SCALE, Chair Lee Shimek made a presentation regarding the SCALE concept at the open house for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan at the Prior Lake High School.
- On November 9, 2007, Kathleen Klehr, Executive Director of the Scott County Historical Society, presented plans for the Minnesota sesquicentennial celebration from May to October 2008.

- SMSC Emergency Services Director Jim Muelken and SMSC Health Administrator James Lien provided an overview of the services available through the mobile clinic/emergency management vehicle on November 9, 2007.
- On February 28, 2008, Jordan Mayor Ron Jabs presented a brief history, accomplishments, and current projects and activities of SCALE to Carver County elected leaders, who have a strong interest in replicating the SCALE model there.
- On March 27, 2008 Prior Lake Mayor Jack Haugen and County Administrator David Unmacht gave a presentation on SCALE to the “Maximizing Public Resources Task Force”. The Task Force is a joint project between the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota School Board’s Association and the Association of Minnesota Counties. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify opportunities for local intergovernmental cooperation.

### **Transportation/Transit**

- On July 13, 2007, SCALE members voted to encourage the Scott County Board to impose the \$5.00 wheelage tax and dedicate it to right-of-way acquisition.
- On August 10, 2007, Representative Mike Beard and Representative Frank Hornstein, Chair, Transportation and Transit Policy Committee, provided an update on Federal aid available as a result of the collapse of the 35W bridge over the Mississippi River on August 1.
- Updates were provided by Fred Corrigan and Tracy Cervenka of the Transportation Task Force on July 13 and October 12, 2007, and January 11, 2008.
- A contingent including local government and business representatives impacted by the Ports of Savage/Highway 13 visited staff of the Scott County congressional delegation in Washington, DC on February 28, 2008, to make the case for increased funding for this and other roadways of importance to Scott County.
- Chair Lee Shimek presented “Opportunities to Partner – Tracking Today’s Issues” at the Federal Highway, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Transportation Tribes and Transportation Conference on October 9, 2007.

### **Joint Regional Public Safety Training Facility**

- Members of the Senate Bonding Committee visited the facility on November 28, 2007, to view progress made since their last visit with money provided in an earlier legislative session and hear funding needs for future construction.

## **Emergency Management Preparation and Planning**

- On December 14, 2007, Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness staff Rocco Forte and Kristi Rollwagen made a presentation regarding the emergency response to the I35W bridge collapse on August 1, 2007. This meeting was held at the regional training facility, and emergency personnel from all of the participating agencies were invited to attend.

# Shakopee Valley News /

## Editorial

### Cooperation a good thing

By necessity in some cases and at the urging of the state in all, local governments throughout Minnesota are looking at saving money by sharing costs and services and eliminating duplicitous expenses.

The idea has always been a good one, of course, since saving money is a good thing to taxpayers. But the urge to save dollars became more intense in recent months as local governments saw financial aids from state and federal governments thinned by economic problems.

The state of Minnesota is urging communities to find ways to provide needed services and save money at the same time by cooperating with their municipal neighbors.

Scott County and its communities have been doing that for some time, but recently have stepped up the effort.

The Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) recently ended its first year in existence. SCALE was formed in spring 2003 at a time when the state was facing massive budget deficits and calling on its cities and counties to work together. SCALE formalized what Scott County and its cities had been doing all along.

The organization recently decided to seek proposals from architectural firms to study the feasibility of a joint training facility for the county's firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

There's no doubt that a training center is needed by all area communities and the county. But rather than look into the matter separately, it makes more sense to pool resources and build something that all

local government entities could use.

The firm hired will be asked to provide a feasibility report to determine the scope, costs, location and logistical issues associated with this type of facility. The facility would include a fire-training tower, burn house, shooting range, defensive-tactics room and ancillary support space for law enforcement personnel. The organization has made no commitment of funds for the project. If the results appear to be positive, the decision of whether to contribute to the cost of the project would rest with the governing boards of the county and its cities.

Jordan Mayor Ron Jabs' one-year term as chairman of the organization has ended and Prior Lake Mayor Jack Haugen will succeed him. Scott County Commissioner Jon Ulrich of Savage was elected vice chair.

Originally composed of only county elected officials and staff and the mayors and city managers of the county's eight cities, the organization has broadened its scope in recent months. Township representatives began attending the monthly meetings around the first of the year.

Organization leaders agreed to invite representatives of the county's school districts to the April organizational meeting, which will be devoted entirely to long-range planning.

While cooperation among local units of government has always been routine in this area, the more formal structure of SCALE allows for a more concerted effort to cooperate and save money.

## Local people should make