



# SCALE

Scott County Association  
for Leadership & Efficiency



# 2022 Legislative Priorities

## Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency

GOVERNMENT WITHOUT BORDERS  
Working. Smarter. Together.



### CORE VALUES

- » Relationships
- » Innovation
- » Influence
- » Partnerships
- » Education
- » Leadership
- » Facilitation

The Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) was formed in the spring of 2003 to encourage greater efficiencies and leadership in public service through enhanced communication, collaboration of services, and sharing of resources. Members include elected and appointed officials from the cities, schools, and townships within Scott County, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Scott County. (See membership list on back page.) SCALE members meet monthly to discuss ways in which local governments can continue to maximize the value of taxpayers' money through cooperating in mutual service areas, such as public safety, parks and recreation, transportation, community development, and general government. The mission of SCALE is to explore new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.

SCALE understands that the 2022 Legislative session is a short session, focused primarily on legislative policy and bonding. SCALE has established our priorities based on this understanding, and appreciate the consideration of our legislative delegation in advancing these priorities.

## TOP PRIORITIES IN POLICY

### **The incremental costs of growth to be paid for by development:**

Scott County is the second-fastest growing county in the state of Minnesota. Growth is accompanied by incremental cost(s) to infrastructure (water, sewer, parks, storm water, and roads). To facilitate continued orderly residential growth, it is essential that development fees are collected to ensure infrastructure meets the demand for housing starts without shifting costs to existing residents.

- » **Infrastructure Accountability: Statutory authority for recognized impact fees:** SCALE is seeking legislation to provide cities and townships statutory authority to collect street infrastructure fees to offset the cost for safety and capacity improvements to collector road networks necessitated by new development.
- » **Provide housing options:** SCALE supports increased and sustainable state funding that addresses affordable housing needs across the lifecycle, which includes funding for programs that create pathways to homeownership that also address disparities and mitigate foreclosures; support workforce housing, including preservation of naturally occurring housing; provide housing stability for families with children and seniors as well as transitional and emergency housing for Scott County and the metro region.



Housing Development in Scott County

### **Support the implementation of the Statewide Rail Plan and the repeal of all legislative restrictions on the study and possible creation of the Dan Patch Rail Line:**

The Dan Patch Rail Line is approved as part of the Statewide Rail Plan, and needs to be able to be considered as part of the multi-modal transportation options to the region. A regional 20-year transportation system cannot be fully achieved absent an important piece of the puzzle in the Dan Patch Rail Line which would add capacity and a critical river crossing.

## SCALE SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING POLICY CHANGES

**Support policy change to move “opt-out” transit agencies, including MVTA to MNDOT, from the Met Council and receive direct funding from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA):** SCALE supports evaluating the Metropolitan Council oversight of the transit authorities, which has presented an inherent conflict of interest.

### **Support adequate and flexible increase in the General Education Aid (per-pupil) formula funding:**

The basic per pupil formula, currently at \$6,567 per student, is intended to meet basic educational needs of students. When it falls short of the rate of inflation, the ability to meet basic needs also falls short. A funding increase that meets or exceeds inflation is requested to help districts meet the needs of students. Passing legislation that ties the basic per-pupil formula to inflation would provide much needed assurance this formula will at least keep pace with the rate of inflation in future years.



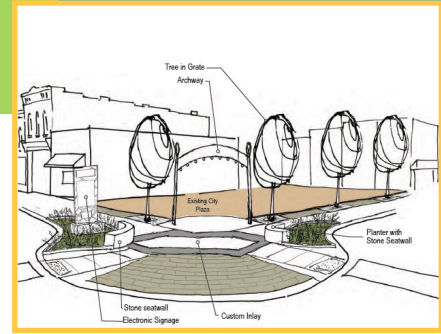
**Provide additional funds for mental health/behavioral support for students:** Across all of K-12, administrators are seeing increased challenges and concerns related to anxiety and depression in students, and at even younger ages. Through a collaboration with the Scott County Mental Health Center, therapists are currently available in all County schools. Called the Connect Program, it is funded through insurance, a state grant received by Scott County, and district contracts. Additional state funds are sought to maintain this successful partnership as student needs increase.

**Allow limited but critical data sharing:** SCALE supports enabling legislation that allows agencies to share certain pieces of information with other agencies to support better coordination of services for our most vulnerable populations. A system that will allow access to certain data for specific purposes only could allow sharing among medical, mental health, public safety, education, and child protection services to provide the right information to the right agency at the right time. Reducing these silos can improve outcomes for our residents.

**Reform the Metropolitan Council governance structure:** Currently, members of the Metropolitan Council are non-elected officials appointed by the Governor to four-year terms that are coterminous with the Governor’s term. SCALE supports changes to legislation which follow the below principles for Metropolitan Council Reform:

- » A majority of Metropolitan Council members shall be elected officials with staggered terms
- » Metropolitan cities and counties shall appoint their own representatives
- » The Council shall represent the entire region, therefore voting shall be based on population and incorporate a system of checks and balances





Belle Plaine Redevelopment



Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization



Merriam Junction Trail

## TOP PRIORITIES FOR CAPITAL BONDING REQUESTS

The following three projects are ready to build and move forward if the state allocates bonds:

**Belle Plaine Downtown Redevelopment Capital Request:** SCALE supports the City of Belle Plaine's Downtown Business District Development, Rehab and Infrastructure Improvement bonding request of \$4.497 million. This \$8.95 million, two-year project is ready to start, pending funding, in 2022 and 2023 and will preserve affordable housing, generate private investment, and job growth within the downtown district as well as decrease the financial impact to the business district as critical infrastructure improvements are completed.

**Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization:** SCALE supports the City of Shakopee's \$11.753 million bonding request for the Minnesota riverbank stabilization project to stop erosion. This multi-agency supported project is ready to begin, and would reduce flooding and erosion risk to critical municipal infrastructure, including and significant cultural resources. The project would preserve and protect many historic sites along the Minnesota River.

**Merriam Junction Trail Capital Request:** SCALE supports Scott County's \$11.5 million bonding request for an accessible pedestrian and bicycle link across the Minnesota River Valley to connect Carver and Scott Counties, linking users to the regional network and ultimately downtown Minneapolis. This project is a collaborative effort with multiple agencies, and is ready to begin in 2022. This project would connect several cultural and outdoor recreation destinations by trail from both sides of the river, including the Minnesota River, historic downtowns Carver and Chaska, the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, Louisville Swamp of the National Wildlife Refuge, MN Renaissance Festival, and Rapids Lake Environmental Education Center.

## OTHER SUPPORTED CAPITAL BONDING PROJECTS

SCALE supports the following additional bonding projects that are in the pipeline for development in the next three to 10 years. SCALE members will continue to make investments in these regional infrastructure projects, but need state assistance. We ask for bonding funds only when the money is ready to be used.

**Trunk Highway (TH) 169/TH 282/CSAH 9 intersection:** This intersection in Jordan is the last remaining stoplight on TH 169 between St. Peter and the north metro. The project improves safety, mobility, freight movement, and economic development on this important interregional corridor. SCALE will be requesting bonding funding for 2025/2026 construction.

**Innovation Center:** The Shakopee Innovation Center project creates a post-secondary institution that is next-generation, highly creative, uniquely flexible, and sustainable, with a focus on driving education, entrepreneurship, and collaboration across the Twin Cities metro area. Driven by partnership among the City of Shakopee, Scott County, and Minnesota State University-Mankato, the facility is expected to serve a diverse group of local participants with a variety of needs, skills, ideas, and backgrounds.

**Trunk HWY 13 and Quentin/Lynn interchange (Ports of Savage):** Based on a recently completed study, mobility and safety improvements are part of the recommendations of these major intersections that access the ports on the north and provide access to downtown Savage and its neighborhoods and industry to the south. Design funds are needed in 2024 for 2027 construction. This is one of the remaining three projects in Scott County on TH13 supporting the Ports of Savage.

**Interstate 35W and County Road 2 interchange development:** Built in 1963, this is one of the last interstate interchanges in the Metro system in need of replacement. The 344 acres of immediately surrounding parcels are guided for industrial and commercial development of approximately 2.6 million square feet of building space, presenting an estimated 1723 new jobs. Significant local investment has been made in design and environmental studies for this project, but regional investment in this interchange is needed to support economic development in this area.

## For more information:

SCALE

**Perry Mulcrone**

Phone: (952) 457-6692

E-mail: [pmulcrone@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:pmulcrone@co.scott.mn.us)

[www.scaleinfo.org](http://www.scaleinfo.org)

### **CITIES**

Belle Plaine	(952) 873-5553
Credit River	(952) 440-5515
Elko New Market	(952) 461-2777
Jordan	(952) 492-2535
New Prague	(952) 758-4401
Prior Lake	(952) 447-9800
Savage	(952) 882-2660
Shakopee	(952) 233-9300

### **TOWNSHIPS**

Belle Plaine	(651) 307-0101
Blakeley	(612) 860-0836
Cedar Lake	(612) 308-0871
Helena	(952) 758-4505
Jackson	(952) 445-6495
Louisville	(952) 445-8715
New Market	(952) 461-1920
St. Lawrence	(952) 492-3284
Sand Creek	(952) 423-8177
Spring Lake	(952) 492-7030

### **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Belle Plaine Public ISD #716	(952) 873-2400
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD# 191	(952) 707-2000
Jordan Public School District #717	(952) 492-6200
New Prague Area ISD #721	(952) 758-1700
Prior Lake-Savage ISD #719	(952) 226-0000
Shakopee Public ISD #720	(952) 496-5000
Shakopee Area Catholic Schools	(952) 445-3387
Southwest Metro Intermediate District	(952) 567-7300

### **TRIBAL COMMUNITY**

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	(952) 445-8900
--------------------------------------	----------------

### **COUNTY ENTITIES**

Scott County	(952) 496-8100
Scott County Community Development Agency	(952) 402-9022
Scott County Township Association	(612) 490-6363

### **REGIONAL ENTITIES**

Metro Cities (AMM)	(651) 215-4000
Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA)	(952) 882-7500
Prior Lake - Spring Lake Watershed District	(952) 440-0067
Scott Soil and Water Conservation District	(952) 492-5425
Three Rivers Park District	(763) 559-9000