

**Proposed Resolution
of the
City of Minneapolis**

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Identifying joint legislative interests of the Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Whereas, the core cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (“the Cities”) are each unique in nature but share many common interests, concerns and issues; and

Whereas, Minneapolis and Saint Paul serve as a vital part of the state’s economy and share inextricably linked industries, workforce, infrastructure and education systems; and

Whereas, both cities strive to provide the highest quality of life and opportunities, while maintaining essential city services and structurally balancing budgets; and

Whereas, a combination of state aid reductions and changes to property tax law has shifted the burden to the local level resulting in substantial property tax increases for homeowners, reduced level of essential services and a growing disparity between the Cities’ tax rates and those of the surrounding communities; and

Whereas, the core cities have a history of strong local leadership and highly prize their ability to make independent decisions on service levels, local land use and local tax policy, yet also strive to build regional cohesion that moves the cities forward to ensure a competitive future for all of Minnesota;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis, in a cooperative effort with the City of St. Paul, jointly support as their highest regional priority the funding for Light Rail along the Central Corridor, which serves as critical infrastructure for the economic hub of the State and provides opportunity for long-term economic vitality.

Be It Further Resolved that the Cities also jointly endorse the following legislative initiatives:

- Property Tax Relief/ Funding Services – support property tax and local government aid reforms to address adequacy, equity of distribution, predictability of appropriations, and the appropriate roles served by the core cities for the benefit of the state.

- Transportation – support for a comprehensive metro (or regional) transportation package with dedicated funding for long-term planning and an organized, fully-funded operations system that does not increase the escalating financial burdens of local governments. This multimodal package includes transit and transportation capital and operating costs, with enhanced bus service and funding for Central Corridor.
- Public Safety – support permanent, stable funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, and criminal justice personnel; crime prevention and detection technology; youth outreach; and crime prevention programs.
- Housing & Redevelopment – support adequate economic development, housing and infrastructure funding to address rapidly growing challenges in mortgage foreclosures and abandoned properties; increased state funding for affordable and low-income housing programs at levels significant enough to impact permanent, supportive, assisted, and transitional housing needs; and increased funding to DEED Redevelopment Account under its original intention to fund redevelopment projects.
- Telecommunications – support municipal franchising authority over anyone providing video services in our right of way, continued support of the Public Education Government (PEG) program and support for fair competition while opposing any economic, racial or other redlining.