

Intergovernmental Relations: Achievements and Advocacy in 2023-2024

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) department focuses on building strong relationships and advocating for the city's needs. This ensures Minneapolis receives the resources it needs, benefiting residents, businesses, and the community, allowing it to thrive and create a more equitable and prosperous future for all. In 2023 and 2024, the IGR department faced important challenges that require strong partnerships. These included affordable housing, the aftermath of the George Floyd incident, and infrastructure improvement. IGR had to carefully plan and collaborate with local leaders, lawmakers, city departments, state, and federal officials to ensure Minneapolis had the resources needed to overcome these challenges and create a better future for all.



The challenge: Addressing complexity

Minneapolis encountered a range of challenges affecting community well-being:



Housing Resources

Rising housing costs were making it increasingly difficult for many residents to find affordable housing, putting pressure on low-income families.



Community Safety

Concerns about safety in neighborhoods required the city to adopt new strategies to help residents feel secure and supported.



Recovery from Unrest

The city needed to rebuild and support communities deeply affected by the aftermath of the George Floyd incident.



Infrastructure Funding *(e.g. roads, buildings, public services)*

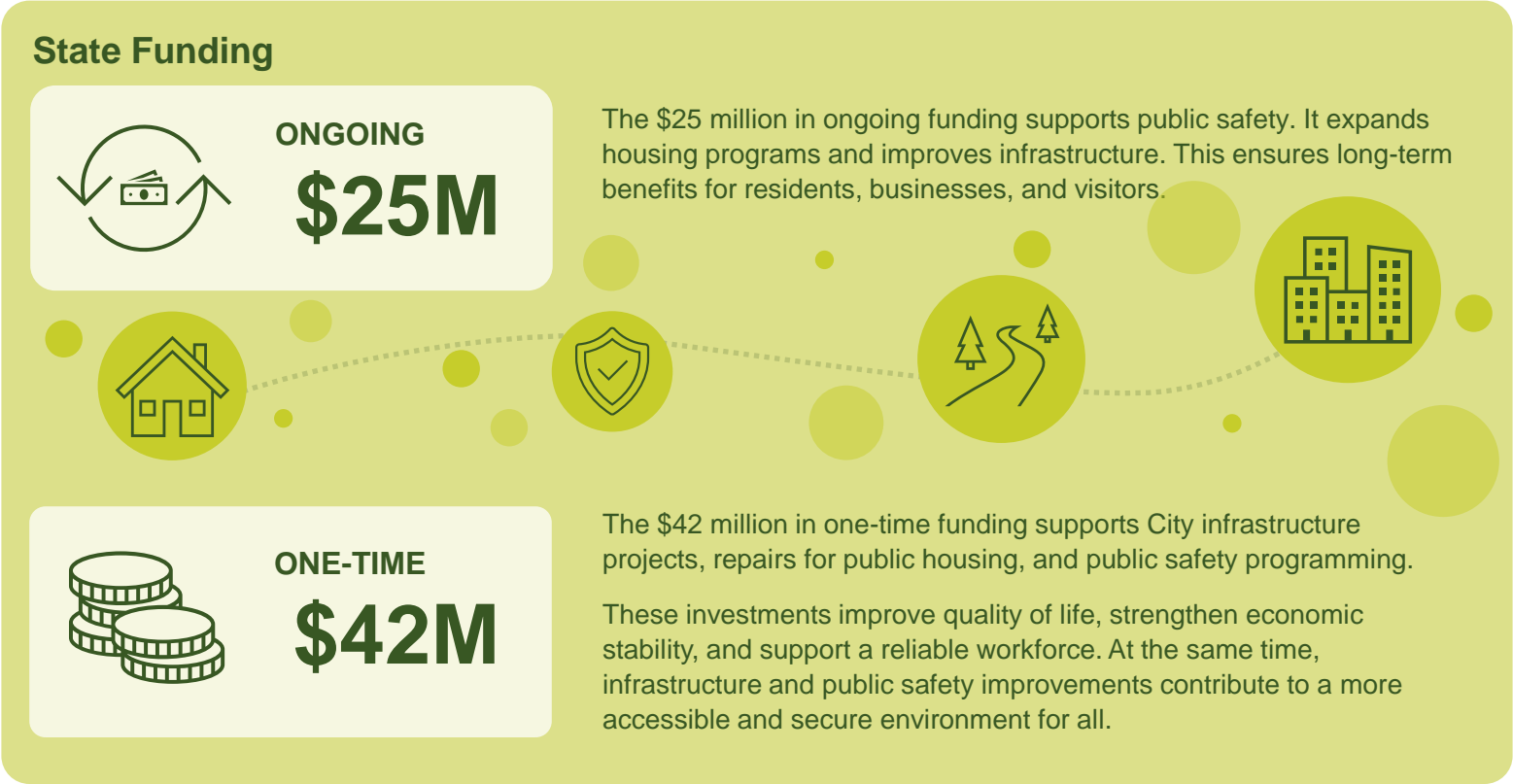
Securing adequate funding for infrastructure improvements was essential for long-term development and maintaining the city's infrastructure.

Solving these problems required a team effort. Different parts of the city needed to work together – city departments, businesses, community groups, and residents – to find solutions that would help Minneapolis thrive.

IGR's impact in action

Through strategic advocacy and relationship-building, IGR achieved key milestones in 2023 and 2024. The funding secured by IGR directly addresses critical challenges identified—housing affordability, public safety reform, workforce development, and infrastructure improvements. These investments not only enhance residents' quality of life but also foster economic growth by supporting businesses and creating a more attractive environment for visitors.

SECURED FUNDING



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ADVOCATED FOR KEY PROJECTS

IGR secured funding for various projects, including the following:

\$1.8M

for the Wadaag Commons Affordable Housing project

Wadaag Commons is a 39-unit, six-story apartment building in Minneapolis' Seward neighborhood. The project is designed to provide affordable housing for low-income families, including larger households and individuals with disabilities. By increasing access to stable housing, Wadaag Commons helps prevent homelessness. It fosters long-term neighborhood stability and strengthens the broader community. The project demonstrates the impact of policy and funding advocacy in supporting residents and ensuring equitable development.



\$2.5M

for the Problem Nature Code (PNC) project

The Problem Nature Code (PNC) project in Minneapolis works to improve how law enforcement and emergency services handle incidents. By analyzing calls-for-service data, the project identifies gaps in current processes and finds ways to improve emergency response times. It also helps better allocate resources and track crime trends more accurately. These changes make public safety more efficient and effective. They lead to quicker, more accurate responses and a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.



\$1.894M

for Minneapolis Pathways Workforce Initiatives

This program provides workforce training to help low-income individuals. It also helps those transitioning from public assistance connect with job opportunities. The program aims to address workforce gaps and align skills with local industry needs. The goal is to reduce economic disparities, improve career mobility, and support economic stability in the city.

\$12M

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding

The funding will improve transportation infrastructure in collaboration with Hennepin County. It will enhance pedestrian pathways, bike lanes, and transit options. These improvements will make it easier for residents to access services. They will also help connect neighborhoods to commercial areas and make the city more accessible for businesses and visitors.

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ADVANCING POLICY CHANGES

IGR played an important role in shaping key legislative policies for Minneapolis:

Public Safety Reform



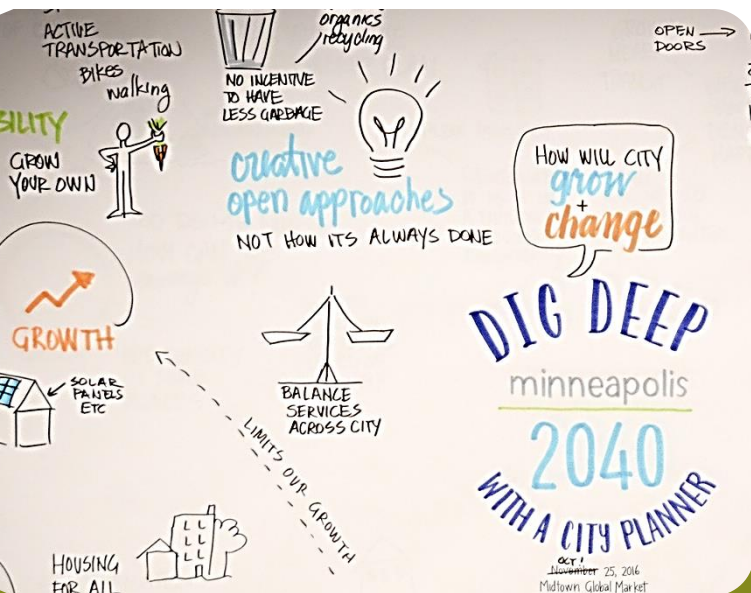
IGR helped advance reforms to improve police recruitment and set regulations for body cameras. These changes aim to build trust between the community and law enforcement, improving safety for everyone.



Affordable Housing Protection



IGR worked to protect the Minneapolis 2040 plan, ensuring the city's long-term goals for affordable housing remain in place. This helps ensure more people have access to affordable housing and supports stable neighborhoods.



minneapolis | 2040

These advocacy efforts translated into direct benefits for the Minneapolis community, residents, and businesses:

Expanded housing resources

New funding and policies support affordable housing initiatives.

Enhanced community safety

Funding obtained supports alternative safety measures and recruitment efforts aiming to strengthen community safety.

Sustained recovery efforts

Resources allocated for recovery from unrest have provided critical support to affected communities.

Infrastructure improvements

Federal and state funding positions the city to upgrade essential public services and transit.

Our approach: Strategic advocacy and collaboration

The IGR team took proactive steps to address these challenges:



Guiding City Policy: IGR Committee

The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee, comprised of 13 City Council members, plays an important role in shaping the city's legislative goals. Working closely with the IGR department, the committee ensures that Minneapolis' policies reflect the needs and concerns of its residents.

Here's how the committee contributes:

- Guiding Legislative Goals:** The committee oversees Minneapolis' federal and state legislative agenda, making sure that policies reflect what is important to the community.
- Hearing from IGR Staff and Intergovernmental Partners:** The Committee receives updates from other intergovernmental partners, such as Minneapolis Public Schools and members of the congressional delegation, which helps the City stay up to date on activities at other levels of government that affect the City.

IGR committee meetings held

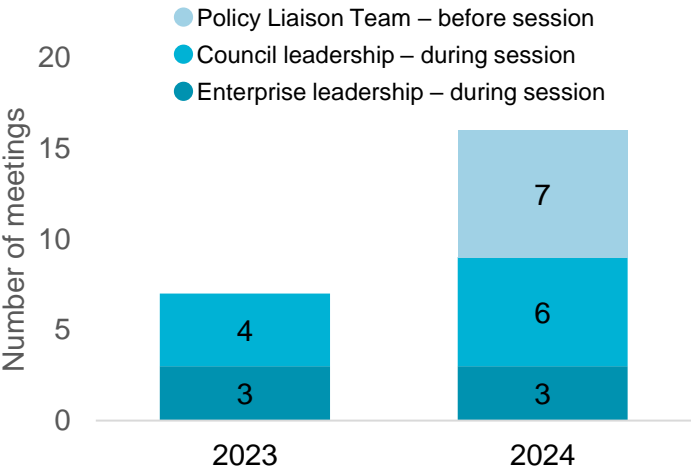
2023	<div></div>	100%
2024	<div></div>	

Target 10 meetings



Collaboration with City Departments

IGR worked with city departments, the Mayor, and the City Council to develop policy updates. This included three formal Policy Liaison Team (PLT) meetings with representatives from departments and held many individual department meetings focused on policy development.



The data shows how often key meetings are held by the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team. These meetings focus on coordinating and sharing legislative priorities. Before the session, Policy Liaison Team meetings focus on preparing for the upcoming session. During the session, meetings with Council and Enterprise leadership provide updates on legislative developments. This allows city leaders to adjust their advocacy efforts as needed.

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Our approach: Strategic advocacy and collaboration (continued)

Advocating for Laws

IGR lobbied for housing resources, public safety initiatives, and funding to support recovery efforts.



Shaping Policies

The team participated in eight policy committees and special workgroups with Metro Cities and the League of Minnesota Cities. These are local government organizations that work to improve policies that benefit our communities.



Supporting Federal Engagement

IGR helped arrange meetings between the Mayor, City Council, and federal representatives to strengthen relationships and advocate for funding.



Minnesota State Capitol

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society



Lessons learned and looking ahead

As IGR reflects on its work, it is important to recognize areas for continued growth:

- **Data-driven approaches:** Enhanced data collection will provide a clearer picture of community needs and policy impact.
- **Strengthening long-term partnerships:** For IGR to be successful, it must prioritize ongoing relationship development with the city's state and federal elected officials, state agency staff, and other intergovernmental partners.

Looking forward, these insights will guide future strategies as Minneapolis addresses evolving challenges. By learning from past experiences, IGR aims to build a stronger, more inclusive city that meets the needs of all its residents.

Learn more and get involved

For those inspired to learn more or get involved in the initiatives happening in Minneapolis, explore the following resources:

- [Intergovernmental Relations Committee Calendar](#) – Stay updated on upcoming meetings and policy discussions.
- City of Minneapolis Legislative Agenda – Review city priorities and policy positions for 2023, 2024, and 2025.
 - [2023 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions](#)
 - [2024 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions](#)
 - [2025 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions](#)
- [Affordable Housing Initiatives](#) – Explore housing programs, including:
 - [Wadaag Commons Affordable Housing Project](#)
 - [Problem Nature Code Project](#)
- [Homelessness Prevention](#) – Learn how the city is working to support residents in need.