



ST. LOUIS PARK CITY HALL

**#it of St. Louis Park**  
**Legislative Priorities**

## Strategic Priorities

The St. Louis Park City Council adopted the following strategic priorities in 2018. These priorities guide long-range planning as well as daily decisions and activities.

### St. Louis Park is committed to:

Being a leader in racial equity and inclusion in order to create a more just and inclusive community for all.

Continue to lead in environmental stewardship.

Providing a broad range of housing and neighborhood-oriented development.

Providing a variety of options for people to make their way around the city comfortably, safely and reliably.

Creating opportunities to build social capital through community engagement.

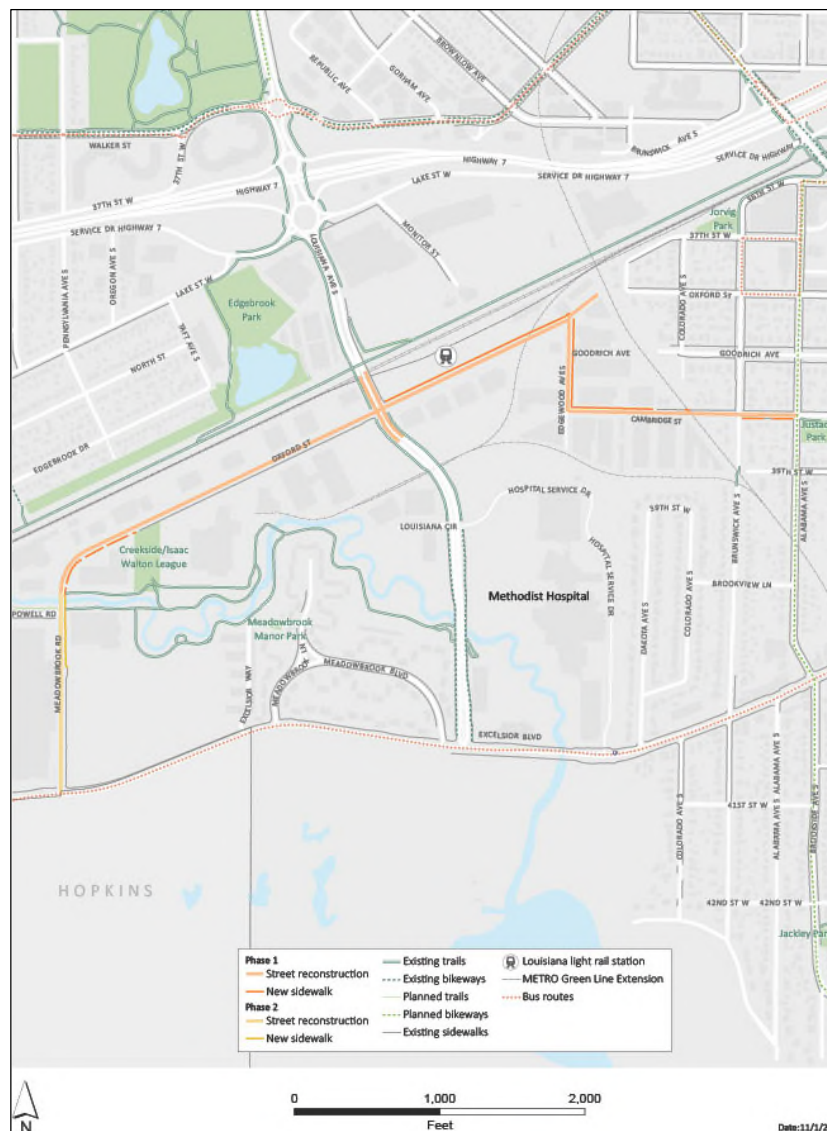
## Capital Investment Projects

*Increase access, replace aging infrastructure, promote climate preparedness and enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.*

### a) Oxford/Louisiana Area Infrastructure Investment

The planned public improvements for the Oxford/Louisiana area include construction and repair of aging sidewalks; critical repairs to water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer facilities; general improvements or upgrades related to traffic and pedestrian safety, including replacement of streetlights, striping, and signs; replacement or repair of pavement and curb; roundabout construction; stormwater quality improvements and flood storage.

This investment creates connections for all users to affordable housing, job centers, transit, and healthcare.



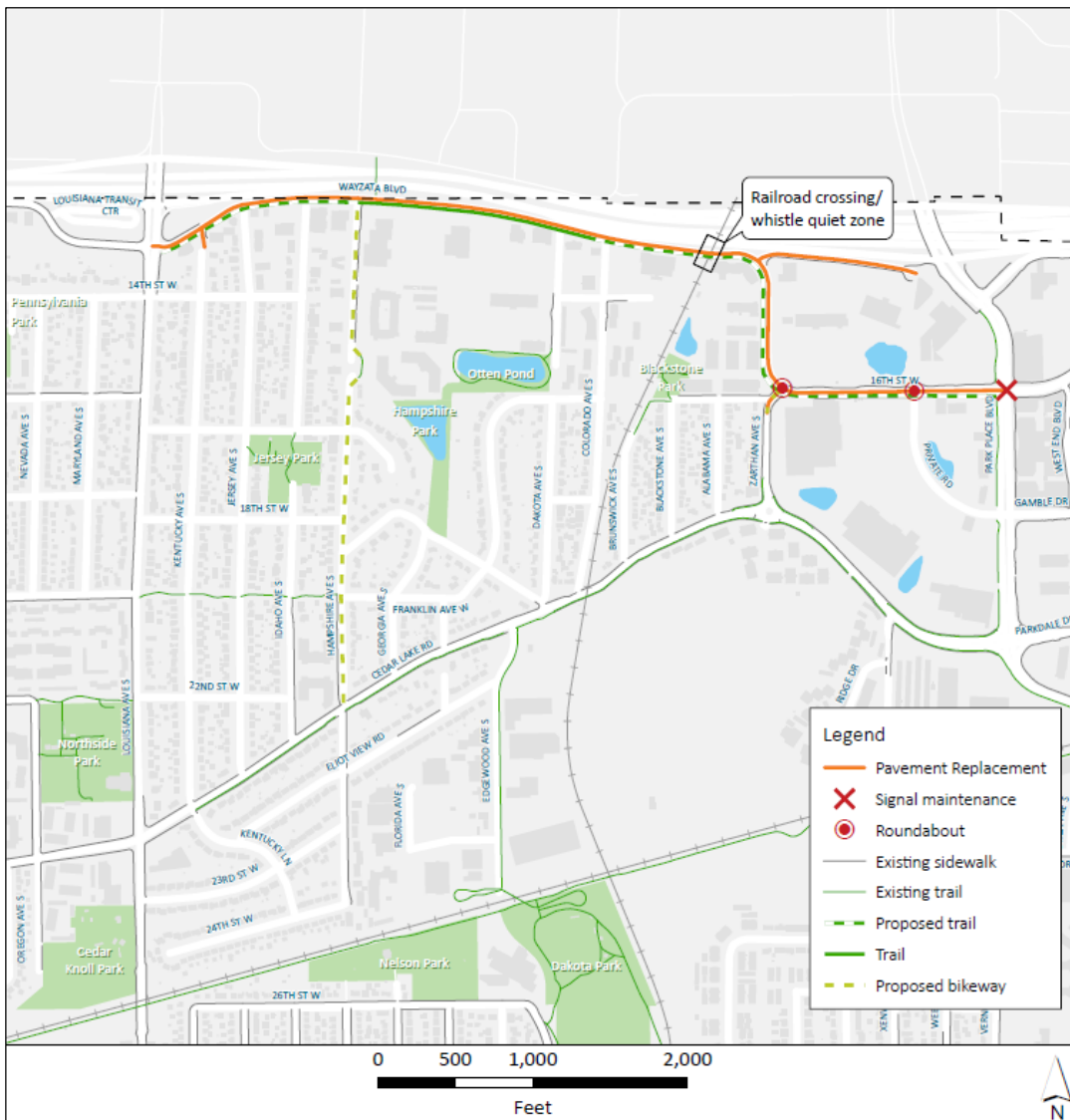
\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

### b) Wayzata Boulevard/ Zarthan Avenue/ 16th Street corridor project

The planned public improvements for this project include replacement or repair of pavement, curb, and sidewalks; critical repairs to water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer facilities; installation of a multi-use trail; general improvements or upgrades related to traffic and pedestrian safety; intersection upgrades including roundabout construction and signal replacement; stormwater quality improvements.

This project improves connections for all users to affordable housing, commercial land uses, and job centers.



\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## St. Louis Park Priority Positions

A small subset of positions is selected each year to be the St. Louis Park specific legislative priorities for that session.

### Assessing services\*‡

Support a legislative proposal that provides cities which offer their own assessing services the ability to either 1) recoup assessment costs from the county, for the work performed by those cities or 2) not be levied by the county for those specific services

### Emergency medical services‡

Support a solution for EMS services that balances the needs of residents and providers statewide. Support allowing local units of government to designate which licensed provider may serve their communities and to determine the appropriate level of service.

Current regulations do not require ambulance services to disclose important data points that would ensure a community is receiving quality services.

### Group home licensing and registration‡

Support a repeal of the legislation passed in 2024 that prohibited all cities from subjecting state licensed group assisted living facilities licensed under Minn. Stat. § 144G and Minn. Stat. § 245D.02 with six or fewer residents from any city-imposed life safety rental licensing requirements.

The Legislature should recognize the importance of city rental licensing requirements that ensure minimum life safety standards and hold providers accountable and protect residents.

### Housing policy‡

Support legislation that expands housing opportunities (“missing middle” housing) across the state that helps to ensure all communities are planning for and able to accommodate a variety of housing types by supporting policies that allow local leadership on zoning and land use changes that are sensitive to individual community needs and housing goals including incentive-based approaches and options that can be tailored to each individual community.

Any proposed state framework addressing local zoning and land use authority must allow cities to retain local decision-making authority over how they apply a framework to their own communities.

Additionally, a framework must tie policy to overall production while also requiring affordability and provide scalability and options that recognize regional differences. The legislature should oppose policies that seek to impose one-size-fits-all rigid zoning and land use framework on cities.

### Housing TIF District Modifications‡

Support expanding authority for all cities to transfer unobligated pooled increment from a TIF district to support a local housing trust fund for any eligible expenditure under Minn. Stat. § 462C.16 and expand TIF flexibility to allow for housing TIF districts to include income averaging and allow for rental and homeownership units for

\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

incomes higher than the existing 20-50 and 40-60 income limitations.

### Light rail and public safety

Support legislation allocating funding to local jurisdictions for staffing and equipment to support public safety measures related to the light rail.

### Minnesota Paid Leave<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation that would:

- a) With respect to ESST, amend Minn. Stat. § 181.9445, subd. 5 to incorporate a well-defined “public employee” definition, not to include unique positions in which there is not a formal employer-employee relationship such as paid appointed advisory, committee, or commission members, election judges, or other non-traditional positions.
- b) Minimize legal mandates to incentivize employers to establish and/or continue to provide more generous paid leave benefits to employees. Specifically, eliminate the expansion of mandated benefits to paid leave previously negotiated in good faith and/or adopted in personnel policies in excess of what is legally required.
- c) Provide funding that pays the full costs of any mandated employment-related expenditures.
- d) Avoid and eliminate expensive and time-consuming duplicative legal protections and processes for public employees, including those that preclude promotional probationary periods.
- e) Eliminate contradictory existing laws regarding public employment.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## Climate, Energy, and Buildings

The City of St. Louis Park supports innovative strategies in the pursuit of a more sustainable climate worldwide, including the adoption of near-term emission reduction targets as described in the city's Climate Action Plan.

### Amend state health code

Support legislation that reduces barriers for businesses to use refillable containers for food and beverages to reduce single-use packaging waste.

### Building performance standards<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation to enact Building Performance Standards (BPS) for large existing buildings.

BPS will establish required energy and/or carbon targets as well as a timeline to meet targets and resources to help building owners comply.

### Compost use

Support the adoption of a food waste compost requirement in MNDOT specs.

Legislation would support markets for compost use by providing a uniform standard to be used in city, county and state projects and close the circle between food waste collection, composting and compost use.

### Construction codes<sup>‡</sup>

Oppose legislation that would reduce current minimum building code and energy code standards or limit future adoptions of improved energy conservation standards.

### Construction and demolition debris diversion

Support legislation that would include a diversion/recycling incentive and funding mechanism for materials coming from buildings being demolished or reconstructed. Increase fees on construction and demolition waste disposal to fund reuse and recycling of building materials.

### Corporate climate accountability\*

Support measures to hold corporations responsible for climate impacts, including waste and emission reductions.

### Environment and sustainability<sup>‡</sup>

Support the adoption of ambitious policies and the creation of innovative programs to reach the goals of the state's Climate Action Framework and the St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan.

### E-bike rebate program<sup>‡</sup>

Support funding for a future e-bike rebate program and creating an additional program with greater rebates for cargo e-bikes, which are more suitable for replacing vehicle trips that require hauling.

The 2023 legislative session created a new e-bike rebate program which expired in 2025.

### Fee-for-service programs<sup>‡</sup>

Oppose legislation that would eliminate local government ability to establish the

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

amount of fee-for-service permitting, licensing, and inspection service delivery

### Plug-in solar\*

Support changes to building code, solar and interconnection permitting, and other regulations to allow the use of plug-in (balcony style) solar photovoltaic systems.

### Reallocate solid waste management tax

Support legislation that would eliminate the diversion of solid waste management tax revenue to the general fund for other purposes and provide to local government for recycling programs as originally intended, through increasing SCORE recycling grants.

### Residential fire sprinklers

Oppose legislation that prohibits future adoption of residential fire sprinkler codes.

Previous unsuccessful legislative efforts have attempted to prevent the state building code from requiring residential fire sprinkler systems, which poses safety risk.

### Right to cooling

Support legislation to ensure renters have a right to cooling.

Pairing this legislation with additional funding for the state's energy assistance program, as well as funds to ensure installed cooling systems are as energy

efficient as possible, is needed to ensure this legislation does not have adverse consequences.

### Smart salting‡

Support the creation of incentives for private salt applicators to reduce the volume of salt they apply to improve the effectiveness of salt application while reducing chloride pollution in waterways.

### Truth in labeling‡

Support legislation that would reduce the amount of misinformation on product labels and disclosure through city collection system.

### Undergrounding power funding

Support funding for undergrounding power lines to harden against effects of climate change, including both more frequent and intense rainstorms and warmer winters icing lines.

### Urban forest management‡

Support establishing ongoing funding for the ReLEAF program (Statute 88.82) with at least \$15 million per year that is usable for urban forest management on public and private property and wood waste utilization.

Urban forests are facing numerous threats from Dutch elm disease, oak wilt, drought, storms and emerald ash borer. Related costs put pressure on city budgets.

\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## Economic Development

The City of St. Louis Park supports a thriving local economy of small and large businesses and strives to create a place where people can live, work, and play.

### Cashless Businesses

Support legislation that requires businesses to accept cash as a payment method.

Individuals without bank accounts (unbanked) and those who do not utilize their bank accounts (underbanked) often rely on using cash to make purchases. Businesses that do not accept cash “cashless businesses” limit the ability of unbanked individuals to make purchases, leading to the unintended consequence of their exclusion from the local marketplace and further marginalization. Payment access for unbanked and underbanked populations is a racial equity and inclusion issue as it disproportionately impacts people of color, immigrants and other marginalized communities.

### DEED program funding<sup>‡</sup>

Support the continued annual funding of DEED programs at stable, sustainable or increased levels, as well as tools to invest in underserved areas of the state that would allow all regions to better prosper.

### Equal Access to Broadband Act<sup>‡</sup>

Support the Equal Access to Broadband Act (HF 974 and SF 2046) which aims to modernize local franchising laws. The bills would allow local franchising authorities to franchise broadband, helping to ensure more equitable broadband deployment across the state.

By granting cities broadband franchising authority, the legislation would:

- Require broadband providers to meet buildout requirements in underserved areas.
- Ensure cities receive reasonable compensation for the use of public rights-of-way.
- Support community media efforts, similar to the authority cities already have under the Minnesota Cable Act.
- Improve city control over public rights-of-way and help fund access television.

### Support public, educational, and governmental programming\*

HF 1740 would provide funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to support public, educational, and governmental programming (PEG) in cities.

Under HF 1740, funding would be allocated to a key League of Minnesota Cities partner, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) to support PEG programming, and community and civic engagement efforts.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## General Government

The City of St. Louis Park supports good governance in the form of legal authority to help residents to thrive.

### Adult use cannabis<sup>‡</sup>

Support a regulatory framework that maintains or expands local control and removing the fee-cap for local service. Also support solutions to protecting the Minnesota hemp-derived cannabinoid industry after federal changes implemented a cap on THC levels.

- a) Any legislation considered should be responsive to the needs of cities as they arise from the implementation of this industry.
- b) Legislation should restore the Local Government Cannabis Aid fund to ensure adequate funding for local governments to implement the law and respond to challenges resulting from the cannabis industry. Cities should be able to recover costs from assisting businesses and implementing the law through fees or other revenue sources.
- c) Legislation should increase, and at a minimum maintain, any discretion and local control granted to cities in current legislation.
- d) The city opposes any proposals to diminish local control related to the cannabis industry.

### Aircraft Noise<sup>‡</sup>

Support evaluating the effects of consolidated flight tracks because of RNAV on departures.

### Assessing services\*<sup>‡</sup>

Support a legislative proposal that provides cities which offer their own assessing services the ability to either 1) recoup assessment costs from the county, for the work performed by those cities or 2) not be levied by the county for those specific services

### Cable franchising authority<sup>‡</sup>

Support local franchising authority.

Municipal cable franchising is key to providing uniform quality, access and pricing to city residents.

### Earned sick and safe time<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislative clarification on the application of these rules for unique and limited city positions including seasonal employees.

The 2023 legislature enacted a law requiring all employers to provide employees one hour of sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked.

### Employer mandates<sup>‡</sup>

Oppose any employer mandates that diminish the inherent managerial rights as they pertain to collective bargaining.

Limiting public employers from determining the number of personnel hired could hinder the city's crisis response and subjects cities to risk if they are unable to meet bargained terms due to external challenges such as a competitive labor market.

### Healthcare for all<sup>‡</sup>

Support the Minnesota Health Plan which calls for a universal, single-payer health care system that would reduce costs, expand

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

coverage, and guarantee health care for all Minnesotans.

Further, support legislation that improves healthcare outcomes and reduces costs by authorizing direct payments to providers.

### Levy limits<sup>‡</sup>

Oppose levy limits or other proposed restrictions for local government budgets.

Many local factors impact the annual decision-making around the property tax levy, including other non-tax revenue forecasts, infrastructure needs and changes to the local tax base and tax increment financing districts. Local control over the tax levy is a key tool in the city's toolbox for achieving long-term financial stability.

### Local control<sup>‡</sup>

Support local control as a principle that applies to many issues.

Local governments must have sufficient authority and flexibility to meet the challenges of governing and providing residents with public services.

### Minnesota Paid Leave<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation that would:

- a) With respect to ESST, amend Minn. Stat. § 181.9445, subd. 5 to incorporate a well-defined “public employee” definition, not to include unique positions in which there is not a formal employer-employee relationship such as paid appointed advisory, committee, or commission members, election judges, or other non-traditional positions.

- b) Minimize legal mandates to incentivize employers to establish and/or continue to provide more generous paid leave benefits to employees. Specifically, eliminate the expansion of mandated benefits to paid leave previously negotiated in good faith and/or adopted in personnel policies in excess of what is legally required.
- c) Provide funding that pays the full costs of any mandated employment-related expenditures.
- d) Avoid and eliminate expensive and time-consuming duplicative legal protections and processes for public employees, including those that preclude promotional probationary periods.
- e) Eliminate contradictory existing laws regarding public employment.

### Safeguard public code employees<sup>‡</sup>

Support League of Minnesota Cities’ policy related to assaults on code compliance officials and inspectors.

Because of the nature of their job, code enforcement officials can be subjected to verbal assaults, threats and physical violence. Under current law, an assault on a code enforcement official not enumerated in Minn. Stat. § 609.2231, subd. 6, while performing official business can only be charged as fifth degree assault, a misdemeanor, unless it results in substantial bodily harm. All code enforcement officials should be afforded the same protections under Minnesota Statutes, and the legislature should amend the statute to

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

expand the employees covered by the statute

### State funding of essential resident services\*

Support state funding of essential residential services to lessen or mitigate the impacts of federal policies

### Wireless Provider Franchising Authority<sup>‡</sup>

Support the exercise of local franchising authority.

Municipal wireless provider franchising is key to providing uniform quality, access and pricing to city residents.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## Housing

The City of St. Louis Park supports housing for all residents in the city including policies that build and maintain housing and aid in associated costs.

### Community land trust 4d tax classification<sup>‡</sup>

Support the current .75 class-rate reduction for community land trust properties and support efforts by the Minnesota Community Land Trust Coalition and other housing preservation stakeholders to develop property tax valuation modifications to lower property taxes for qualifying low-income sales-price-restricted properties enrolled in CLT.

### Corporate ownership of single-family homes<sup>‡</sup>

Support additional research on the impacts of home ownership by corporate entities and tools to address and limit impacts from corporate ownership of single-family houses and encourage increased access to homeownership through programs and resources for Minnesota families to build equity and wealth that allows cities to ensure a balanced housing stock between rental and ownership opportunities.

### Group home licensing and registration<sup>‡</sup>

Support a repeal of the legislation passed in 2024 that prohibited all cities from subjecting state licensed group assisted living facilities licensed under Minn. Stat. § 144G and Minn. Stat. § 245D.02 with six or fewer residents from any city-imposed life safety rental licensing requirements.

The Legislature should recognize the importance of city rental licensing requirements that ensure minimum life

safety standards and hold providers accountable and protect residents.

### Housing policy<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation that expands housing opportunities (“missing middle” housing) across the state that helps to ensure all communities are planning for and able to accommodate a variety of housing types by supporting policies that allow local leadership on zoning and land use changes that are sensitive to individual community needs and housing goals including incentive-based approaches and options that can be tailored to each individual community.

Any proposed state framework addressing local zoning and land use authority must allow cities to retain local decision-making authority over how they apply a framework to their own communities.

Additionally, a framework must tie policy to overall production while also requiring affordability and provide scalability and options that recognize regional differences. The legislature should oppose policies that seek to impose one-size-fits-all rigid zoning and land use framework on cities.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

### Housing TIF District Modifications<sup>‡</sup>

Support expanding authority for all cities to transfer unobligated pooled increment from a TIF district to support a local housing trust fund for any eligible expenditure under Minn. Stat. § 462C.16 and expand TIF flexibility to allow for housing TIF districts to include income averaging and allow for rental and homeownership units for incomes higher than the existing 20-50 and 40-60 income limitations.

### Property tax rebate program revisions<sup>\*‡</sup>

Support providing additional direct property tax relief through an expansion of the Homestead Credit Refund program, the renter's income tax credit, the targeting program or other programs that provide property tax relief directly from the state to taxpayers.

The city also supports the conversion of the renters' credit to an income tax credit using adjusted gross income and would also support similar changes to the homestead credit refund and targeting program.

### Prohibition on discrimination

Support legislation that prohibits discrimination against source of income for renters receiving rental assistance.

Currently, rental property owners can legally refuse to rent to people based solely on the source of income to pay their rent, leaving many households that receive various types of rental assistance unable to find housing.

### Rental rehab loan program<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation making resources and methods available to maintain and improve existing affordable homes, including publicly subsidized deeply affordable, and housing stock that is aging such as naturally occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing.

### Support voucher acceptance<sup>‡</sup>

Support additional funding for the housing choice voucher programs and other rental assistance programs and financial, tax and/or other incentives for rental property owners to participate in these programs.

### TOD Housing fund<sup>‡</sup>

Support legislation to increase the ability of traditional economic development tools, including tax increment financing, tax abatement, and special service districts, to address the needs of transit-oriented development.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## Public Safety

The City of St. Louis Park supports public safety policies and rules that help our front-line workers and ensure equitable and safe outcomes for residents.

### Clean Slate Act revisions\*‡

The City of St. Louis Park supports the intent of the Clean Slate Act and strives to maintain trust and transparency with the community. The City of St. Louis Park supports the review of the initial implementation of the Act and the legislature making changes as necessary to balance the benefit to individuals in providing automatic expungements, and the interests of the public and public safety, and use of law enforcement resources.

The MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) should provide additional training and resources to law enforcement agencies to ensure a streamlined implementation across the state. The BCA should solicit feedback from local law enforcement agencies and use responses to evaluate the efficacy of their systems and procedures.

### Criminal background checks

Support preventing individuals who are not legally able to purchase a gun from doing so without background checks at gun shows, online, or in private transactions.

### Emergency medical services‡

Support a solution for EMS services that balances the needs of residents and providers statewide. Support allowing local units of government to designate which licensed provider may serve their communities and to determine the appropriate level of service.

Current regulations do not require ambulance services to disclose important data points that would ensure a community is receiving quality services.

### Expansion of legal fireworks‡

Oppose legislation that expands fireworks in Minnesota.

Fireworks can cause serious injuries and fires. The legal sale of consumer fireworks undermines fire prevention efforts, and their sale and use increase local public safety enforcement, emergency response and fire-suppression costs.

### Fire mutual aid‡

Support passage of a statute to provide uniform provisions when fire departments assist each other.

These provisions should include statutory definitions and clarifications for:

- a) Who is in command of the mutual aid scene.
- b) Who will cover the firefighters for worker's compensation.
- c) How liability and property claims will be handled.
- d) Who will pay for expendable supplies such as foam.
- e) When fire departments will charge each other for these services.
- f) The ability for fire departments to opt out by having a separate written agreement.

\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

### Gun safety\*‡

Support the lifting of the statewide preemption ban to allow cities to pass comprehensive firearm safety policies such as:

- Ban the public possession of assault weapons, large-capacity magazines, and binary triggers within city limits.
- Prohibit untraceable “ghost guns” by requiring all firearms to have serial numbers.
- Prohibit firearms in city-owned buildings, facilities, and parks.

### Gun violence protective orders

Support allowing law enforcement in certain cases to temporarily remove any guns in an individual's possession and to prohibit new gun purchases for the duration of the order.

### Health insurance coverage for disabled public safety officers‡

Support this mandate being fully funded by the state in perpetuity.

In 2023, a bill passed reinstating full funding to reimburse employers for the cost of continued health insurance for duty disabled peace officers and firefighters, but this is one-time funding that is expected to run out in approximately three years.

### Light rail and public safety

Support legislation allocating funding to local jurisdictions for staffing and equipment to support public safety measures related to the light rail.

### Mandated law enforcement training‡

Support continuing the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board training reimbursement allocation to local agencies. Current funding sunset in 2024.

### National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards‡

Support permanent and ongoing state funding to assist fire departments statewide to improve emergency response and work toward industry standards. Opposes any attempt to mandate standards for minimum staffing levels of fire, specialized or EMS vehicles controlled by units of local government. Also opposes any attempt to adopt a standard dictating or affecting the response time of any fire, specialized or EMS vehicle.

If mandated, the NFPA standards would force local governments to shift dollars from fire prevention programs to fire suppression activities, potentially increasing the risk of fire and the danger to local firefighters.

### Public safety aid‡

Support legislation that increases aid for public safety.

### Race data collected on Minnesota Driver's licenses and state identification‡

Support the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to require individuals self-identify their race when applying for a driver's license or state identification.

This anonymized, aggregated data would be shared with the Office of Traffic Safety for research, analysis and reporting to monitor traffic stop disparities.

\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

### Road safety\*

Support measures to reduce road accidents and fatalities caused by speeding, including expanding legislation passed in 2024 addressing the Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), or other pilot programs to experiment with different technologies

\*New position in 2026

‡League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position

## Transportation and Infrastructure

The City of St. Louis Park supports providing a variety of options for people to make their way around the city comfortably, safely, and reliably.

### Metro Green Line extension

Support the continued work and completion of the Metro Green Line Extension Project to provide businesses, residents and visitors with multiple transportation options.

### Railway safety<sup>‡</sup>

Support accountability, safety and funding of accident prevention, as well as new rules around railway safety.

Railways connect local and regional economies to the global marketplace and generate billions of dollars in economic activity. Recent high-profile freight train derailments, however, have highlighted safety concerns in an industry that travels through thousands of communities, including St. Louis Park.

### State and county cost participation policies<sup>\*‡</sup>

The state and county should have responsibility for the installation, replacement, and ongoing maintenance for infrastructure within their right-of-way including multimodal facilities such as trails and sidewalks.

### Transit financing<sup>‡</sup>

Support stable and growing revenue sources to fund the operating budget for all regional transit providers now and into the future.

### Transportation funding<sup>‡</sup>

Support sufficient and stable statewide transportation funding, for all modes of travel and local control to serve long-term needs.

A comprehensive transportation system is a vital component for meeting the physical, social and economic needs of our state and metropolitan region.

### Underground infrastructure funding<sup>‡</sup>

Support creating funding for underground infrastructure replacement.

\*New position in 2026

<sup>‡</sup>League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) position