

JOINT MEETING: REGIONAL COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND MINNESOTA MAYORS TOGETHER

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

[INTRODUCTION: MAYOR JIM HOVLAND, CITY OF EDINA](#)

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INTRODUCTION

[LINK TO MINNESOTA MAYORS TOGETHER OVERVIEW](#)

Minnesota Mayors Together Next Steps: Mayors are welcome to attend the upcoming MMT meeting in Owatonna, March 7-8, 2019.

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

Jennifer Ford Reedy, CEO and President, Bush Foundation

[LINK TO PRESENTATION](#)

- Minnesota Mayors Together is an inspiring and exciting initiative in our state.
- Social change happens because lots of people decide to believe and act as if something is possible.
- Real change is about hearts and minds; it is consciousness raising.
- The unit of social change is a person. People are both the changers and the changees. No matter how big the change comes to be, it happens through personal interactions. Even when we are talking about big institutions, we are talking about people.
- If you want to inspire people to believe and act differently, you must understand why people currently act and believe as they do. You must understand how to connect with them, what they want, and what they believe in. It's not about what should motivate people when trying to change minds, it's about what *does* motivate them and what *will* change their minds. Successful campaigns include people.
- To get lots of people to believe and act differently, it takes many tactics and different angles.
- Policy change is not a goal, though with the way our media and politics work, it's easy to think it's all about the laws. If you see the end goal as policy change you may alienate as many as 49.9% of the voters. Policy change is

a means toward a goal of culture change. The policy can't go beyond what people believe; culture change has to sustain it. Care about policy, but care beyond policy.

- Resistance is a short-term effort, usually around policy. Long term, if you want to see change, you have to be *for* something.
- Real change is hard, especially for people who are most impacted and most often out making the change. It can take decades and generations. There is a productive amount of stress required for change to happen. We need to think about how to make people feel stronger and celebrate what they've already accomplished in ways that encourage them to move forward when the community is able to take on more.
- Culture wars are about winning. Culture change is about winning *over*.
- Change may be good or bad, and either way change is stressful, but our capacity for change is what allows us to get better and see new possibilities for ourselves and communities. We are a diverse region, and to make any sustainable change across the state requires leaders who are great at working across differences of all kinds. This requires understanding and questioning our own assumptions, really listening to understand others, communicating to bridge differences, and building connections.
- There is reason for optimism. Change is always possible, it just takes people like us.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher

- MnDOT is interested in having a stronger multi-modal transportation system, with more bus rapid transit.
- Preservation has been the number one focus in the last couple years, but it's time to pay attention to new ways for people to connect and move, whether it's for work, play, or products.
- In the Twin Cities metro, there's 5,000 miles of trunk highway system and over 14,000 bridges. More than half of the pavement in the entire system of the state is over 50 years old, and 20% of that pavement has only 2-3 years left. It's MnDOT's goal to make significant improvements to this infrastructure.
- The [Corridors of Commerce](#) project has been great. For example, adding more MN pass lanes has been really important, along with building the first phase of the new interchange between 494 and 35W.
- General fund dollars in the transportation budget is not a long-term solution for growth and sustainability.
- Included in the proposed new budget: transportation should be sustainable, multimodal, have capacity for growth, bring better access and more safety, especially pedestrian safety, and be efficient.
- MnDOT is focused on equity, making sure the transportation package is benefitting everyone, including towns with populations under 5,000.

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[LINK TO 2019 MN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS BENCHMARKS](#)

Doug Loon, President and CEO

- Partnership is one of the most important pieces of economic growth. We see one economy statewide, with small and large economic centers.
- The MN Chamber of Commerce will do a research project (still in the design phase) on the interconnectedness of the state's economy; including services and supply chains back and forth between urban and rural areas.
- The Chamber believes in, and focuses on, the fundamentals of a free market system. Right now, they are not reaching our full economic potential. When an economic decline occurs again nationally, it's important to ensure our private sector is the strongest it can be.

- Minnesota has an amazing workforce and education system from early childhood to higher-ed/technical schools. The challenge is that Minnesota also has an aging population, and decreasing workforce availability.
- Minnesota is innovative, and has created amazing companies and products. How can Minnesota protect this advantage and become even more competitive? Minnesota tends to be a great place for building business, but not a great place for established businesses to move to.
- Minnesota is becoming less affordable in comparison to other states, as defined by housing and childcare. The MN Chamber's policy priorities include tax competitiveness, healthcare, transportation, and workforce development, though they caution against local mandates on workplace rules.

AFFORDABILITY: NEXT STEPS

[LINK TO LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MN TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION FUND](#)

Mike Maguire, Mayor, City of Eagan

- Housing stock is vital to economic development and vibrant communities, we need more units built in Minnesota despite the limited resources.
- TIF and Tax Credit Financing from federal sources are the best tools available now. The goal is to create a similar tool at the state level and make the use of that resource a real partnership between public and private interests.
- Mayors can take action to support a tax fund credit contribution fund at the state level, by signing onto [this letter](#), and contacting legislators to let them know your cities support it. Mayors can contact Cathy.Bennet@ULI.org for help setting up meetings with legislators.

ATTENDEES

MAYORS

James Hovland	City of Edina (co-chair)
Molly Cummings	City of Hopkins (co-chair)
Doug Anderson	City of Lakeville
Kirt Briggs	City of Prior Lake
Anne Burt	City of Woodbury
Marv Calvin	City of Willmar
Sean Dowse	City of Red Wing
Mike Elliott	City of Brooklyn Center
Kathi Hemken	City of New Hope
Courtney Johnson	City of Carver
Chris Lund	City of Hamburg
Dan Lund	City of Newport
Mike Maguire	City of Eagan
Sandy Martin	City of Shoreview
Tim McNeil	City of Dayton
Rhonda Pownell	City of Northfield
Maria Regan Gonzalez	City of Richfield
Ben Schierer	City of Fergus Falls
Jake Spano	City of St. Louis Park
Brad Wiersum	City of Minnetonka
Ken Willcox	City of Wayzata
Janet Williams	City of Savage
Gene Winstead	City of Bloomington
Jeff Wosje	City of Plymouth
Scott Zerby	City of Shorewood

GUESTS

Nick Andersen, Dominion; Cecile Bedor, CommonBond Communities; Julie Esch, Mortenson; Kevin Frazell, LMC; Sara Gassman, ULI Headquarters; Warren Hanson, Greater MN Housing Fund; Pahoua Hoffman, Citizens League; Andrea Inouye, Minneapolis Mayor Frey's Office; Jean Kane, Colliers; Nick Koch, HGA; Sandra Krebsbach, American Technical Education Association; Matt Lewis, Greater MSP; Mike Mornson, City of Hopkins; Burke Murphy, Red Wing Ignite; Diane Norman, RSP Architects; Tammy Omdal, Northland Public Finance; Ron Orlando, Comcast; Allie Polsfuss, City of Savage; Michael Plante, City of Prior Lake; Dave Unmacht, LMC; Ellen Sahli, Family Housing Fund; Libby Starling; Metropolitan Council

ULI MINNESOTA

Aubrey Albrecht, Cathy Bennett, Caren Dewar, Gordon Hughes, Rachel Lieberman

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 11th, 2019
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Seattle Room at Dorsey & Whitney, 50 South 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN