



## 2019 Lakeville Chamber Legislative Priorities

1. **Workforce Issues** – Lakeville is a growing and thriving community with businesses increasingly struggling to find workers. Demographic trends only increase this problem into the future. The number one issue will likely be workforce development for several years to come.
  - a. **Workforce Education Funding & Policy** – The state provides substantial incentives for college-readiness programs which are very important. There has not been comparable funding or promotion of certificate-based programs or ready-to-work programs. Recruitment into these positions has suffered as a result. Additionally, state and federal agencies need to reform workplace regulations that unreasonably restrict student workers.
  - b. **Workforce Transportation** – Transportation issues are often one of the strongest barriers to low-income workers. Public transportation must provide options which accommodate shift work schedules and help urban workers access lucrative suburban careers.
  - c. **Housing** – The cost of housing due to regulation continues to rise, driven by both regulations and construction labor shortages. Shortages are particularly hard for entry-level workers and those with a household income of \$40-60,000. While governmental programs often try to subsidize housing, we feel that market-rate housing can more aptly solve the problem if the root causes of housing inflation are addressed.
2. **Federal Tax Conformity** – While it will likely take several years for state tax laws to catch up with the recent federal tax reform, Minnesota needs to press for conformity as quickly as possible. Such changes will better align taxes with economic incentives for businesses and individuals, while decreasing compliance costs.

3. **Relieve Congestion Along I-35 Through Lakeville** – The Interstate provides the backbone of transportation both to and from Lakeville and is vital for on-going developments for the state and the whole of the South Metro.
- a. **Address Capacity Restrictions** – Capacity restrictions at the 35W Minnesota River Bridge, the 35W/35E Split, and between County Roads 50 and 70 hamper development and cause safety issues. USDOT and MNDOT, Dakota County, the Met Council, and local governments need to work to address these issues.
  - b. **County Road 50 Interchange** – City officials have diligently and thoughtfully designed access road improvements and pre-purchased land to facilitate an improvement in this dangerous intersection. Sight lines for Country Road 50 passing under the highway are hazardous. Short acceleration and deceleration lanes/ramps provide merging issues on I-35, and the road cannot be expanded to three lanes in each direction without a new overpass.
  - c. **Transit Expansion** – It is important to support expansion of the Orange Line along with additional space for those park-and-ride facilities nearing maximum capacity. Transit from and to Lakeville is some of the most efficient and economical in the state. We need to fund programs that work, such as these (non-rail) transit options, especially expansion of the Kenrick Avenue Park and Ride.
4. **Labor Law Uniformity** – Workers often cross city borders unaware of local ordinances. Businesses already have substantial compliance costs of working in multiple states or countries. If every city can begin writing their own labor laws, it will become increasingly more complicated to do basic business. State officials need to make clear that statewide rules pre-empt local restrictions.