



2016 Policy Priorities

The following priorities represent a series of policy issues that are of interest to Greater Mankato Growth's members and our regional marketplace. Each priority is assigned to one of three categories of advocacy that GMG is currently pursuing on that issue as follows:

- **Advocate** – GMG supports the issue and will take a leading and active role in advancing and securing a favorable outcome.
- **Support** – GMG supports the issue and will take action to advance it, such as writing a letter or testifying, but is not actively leading advocacy efforts.
- **Member Education & Engagement** – GMG is providing its members and the community with the information and tools they need to become engaged on issues that are of importance to them.

I. Transportation

Advocate

- a. Advocate for completion of U.S. Highway 14 as a consistent four-lane corridor from Rochester to New Ulm.

Support

- b. Support development of a statewide comprehensive funding solution that meets the future needs of Minnesota's transportation system by securing increased and stable revenue streams, promoting efficiencies, and favoring transportation expansion projects that have an economic development nexus and return on investment. Any transportation bill should include significant and ongoing funding for Corridors of Commerce.
- c. Support the ability of Greater Mankato to efficiently move people and goods into and out of our market by securing the necessary feasibility studies to connect Greater Mankato to the Twin Cities corridor via passenger rail and/or intercity bus service and exploring ways to ease freight rail congestion locally.

II. Business Issues

Support

- a. Support reduction in the Minnesota statewide business property tax.
- b. Support an amendment to the Americans With Disabilities Act and Minnesota Human Rights Act that would require a plaintiff, before they could sue for a disability access violation, to notify the business of the alleged violation and allow for the business to remedy the situation.

Member Education & Engagement

- c. Educate and engage members on business tax issues likely to be raised in the 2016 legislative session.

III. Economic Development

Advocate

- a. Advocate for the development of regional recreation facilities and critical public infrastructure projects by 1) advocating in support of legislation proposed by Mankato and North Mankato to extend their local option sales tax and 2) spearheading a campaign in support of the sales tax extension that will educate the public on the entire package of projects being proposed by both cities and will make a clear and convincing case for why they should cast their votes in favor at a November referendum.

Support

- b. Support the legislative agenda of the Greater Minnesota Partnership.
- c. Support the capital investment request by the City of Mankato for regional water quality improvements.

IV. Education / Workforce Development

Support

- a. Support the proposed capital improvements by South Central College for its North Mankato campus as a critical state investment to secure a workforce well-trained in Healthcare; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Computer Networking; Manufacturing; and Agribusiness.
- b. Support the proposed capital improvements by Minnesota State University, Mankato for Clinical Sciences Phase II renovations.

V. Agriculture

Advocate

- a. Advocate for GMG's Project ABE (Agribusiness Epicenter) by launching an education campaign to inform state leaders about the initiative and the importance of our region to the state's agriculture economy.

Member Education & Engagement

- b. Increase awareness within our organization as well as that of our members of key agriculture issues impacting our region.