

Fredrikson and Byron Legislative Update



MAT/MATIT STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 7, 2021

Hope everyone enjoyed the Super Bowl. Now it's back to business at the State Capitol for MAT!

Just as a reminder of key legislative deadlines and dates:

- 1st Deadline: Friday, March 12, 2021 (Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin)
- 2nd Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021 (Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house)
- 3rd Deadline: Friday, April 9, 2021 (Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills)
- Passover/Easter Break: March 29 – April 5
- Final day of session: May 17, 2021.

The first and second committee deadlines are five and six weeks away. For MAT to get one of its main priorities passed – **annexation reform** – legislation must be passed out of the House and Senate Local Government Committees. The only way for this to happen **depends on township officials all contacting their legislators immediately** and asking them to support legislation that will create a more balanced approach on annexation between cities and towns. Specifically, town officials need to convince the chairs of both committees – Sen. Jasinski and Rep. Masin – that this is a priority.

Here are some additional MAT highlights from last week:

- MAT's Steve Fenske testified before the House Local Government Committee on annexation issues.
- MAT met with various legislators and key staff
 - Rep. Hornstein on MAT transportation priorities (Gary Burdorf joined us for this call);
 - Sen. Bigham on MAT transportation, elections and annexation issues (she's agreed to co-author our annexation bill);
 - Sen. Jasinski – along with opponents to MAT's priorities on annexation;
 - Senate Republican Caucus Legislative Director Brian Paro on MAT priorities.

On key MAT priorities:

- Transportation – Positive meeting with Rep. Hornstein about ways to increase funding for township roads/bridges.
- Broadband – Various funding proposals from key legislators have been heard in the House and await action in the Senate. The Governor has recommended funding for broadband. This will come into focus as we get closer to the Third Committee Deadline.
- Annexation – In addition to the detail above, Steve Fenske and I believe that the annexation bill should be expanded to include the elimination of other city annexation powers. The bill will be introduced soon by Sen. Anderson and a House chief author (to be determined soon).
- Open Meeting Law/Mandated Public Comments – MAT continues to work in coalition with other state/local government which have concerns about this legislation.
- Local Govt. Street Assessment Group – MAT's Karl-Christian Johannessen is testifying in favor of Rep. Masin's legislation this week.

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- Culvert Replacement Cost Shift – MAT’s Gary Burdorf is reaching out to BWSR (Board of Water & Soil Resources) to assess whether legislation is necessary.
- Decommissioning Wind Turbines/Solar Panels – MAT’s Jane Youngkrantz is representing MAT to a stakeholder group including the MN Pollution Control Agency, the counties, and planning/zoning administrators. The goal is to draw consensus for legislation in 2022.
- Elections – HF9 (the primary House DFL Elections Bill) is heading to the Judiciary Committee for a hearing. Challenges for township voting were altered in partnership between MAT and the chief author. Sen. Newman’s Voter ID bill is moving through the Senate committee process and is headed for the Finance Committee next. Both of these bills are headed for a collision and may cancel each other out in end of the legislative session negotiations.

For the week ahead, MAT is prepared for the following activities:

- Meetings with Sen. Goggin on transportation issues, City of Rochester staff on annexation, Sen. Anderson on annexation, Rep. Youakim on annexation and property tax issues. Additional meetings are being set up with various legislators on MAT priorities.
- Committee Hearings – MAT’s Karl-Christian will testify on Wednesday at the House Local Govt. Committee in support of the local government street assessment bill.

Bill Watch

Fredrikson & Byron is trying a new Bill Watch format. Attached are MAT and MATIT bills of interest that F&B lobbyists are tracking for you. If you have specific questions about the bills included or if there is legislation that is not on this list that you have questions about, please let Steve Fenske or me know. If there’s no indication of interest on these bills, they will be removed from this list as I expect a master watch list of bills to grow to close to 100. Already, this list is at 39 bills long and we still have 13+ weeks of more bill introductions.