

Legislative Highlights 2013-2016

Annual legislative visits to each city in SD33

I have made it a priority to visit each of the 20 cities I represent on an annual basis. I missed one (Deephaven) in 2015, otherwise I have successfully maintained this goal. Each city has its own priorities and need for assistance at the State level. Some of the work items that came out of these meetings were:

- Meeting with Canadian Pacific, asking for vigilance on blocking crossing access in Greenfield
- Working with Xcel Energy to deal with brown-out/transformer issues in Medina
- Wayzata TIF legislation, to help with parking issues
- Pursuit of state assistance for Commons Park in Excelsior
- Mound TIF extension legislation
- Numerous legislative and statute questions from a variety of cities

Legislative successes

While being in the minority means you generally do not carry a lot of legislation, I am proud of the items that I have been able to push through:

- SF476: Digital Assets Act. Provides legal ability for you to bequeath stored digital assets to your heirs.
- SF1244: Colton's Law. If electronics are not ready for home detention, you stay in custody.
- SF1681/HF1291: Providing statutory language that allows townships to actually get their fee monies.

Unfinished business

Unfortunately, quite a bit of legislation that I proposed was not moved. The list is long, and I will keep advocating for them:

- SF12: Excelsior Commons funding. This park is a regional asset, not just another city park.
- SF58: Sunday Sales. It's time to retire blue laws from the last century.
- SF95: Repeal of the nuclear power plant moratorium. Our reactor licenses are ending in 15 years.
- SF71/SF166/SF835/SF2069/SF3004: Met Council reform. Change is needed and overdue.
- SF1509: Motorcycle anti-profiling. Your neighbors and friends are being harassed for no reason.
- SF3024: Medina/Loretto rail crossings. Improving safety and creating quiet crossings.

Highway 12 safety funding

The Highway 12 Safety Coalition worked very hard with me to bring this dangerous stretch of road to the forefront of the Legislature. EVERY bonding bill has had that safety funding included. Unfortunately, the DFL Senators essentially torpedoed a strongly bipartisan and negotiated deal in the last minutes of the 2016 session.

The good news is that, because of our efforts, MnDOT has taken steps and found partial funding. The "Jersey walls" for the Super2 Bypass (Wayzata to Co Road 6), should be done by Thanksgiving 2016. I will continue to pursue legislative support for the remaining two safety upgrades at Co Rd 90 and Co Rd 92.