



Government Without Borders: Working Together to Strengthen Each Other
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On Friday, April 13, SCALE Chair **LuAnne Lemke** (Louisville Township) convened her first official SCALE meeting as Chair. In so doing, she followed tradition by presenting past Chair Mike Myser (Prior Lake) with a plaque in appreciation of his service to the organization. “You’ve demonstrated incredible leadership and commitment to SCALE,” Chair Lemke stated, “You’ve just done an amazing job. And in starting a new tradition today, Mayor Myser and I will now switch cars,” she added, in a not-so-veiled reference to Myser’s well-known sports car.

The primary agenda item for the morning, however, was a discussion with Metropolitan Council Chair **Susan Haigh**, who was accompanied by a number of Council officials and staff. In walking through her prepared presentation, Chair Haigh reviewed the essential history of the Metropolitan Council, its mission (“To foster a prosperous, livable metropolitan region”), its governing structure, and its areas of planning or coordinating responsibility (local comprehensive plans; transportation, aviation, regional parks, and regional sewer systems) as well as operations (regional transit, regional wastewater, and metropolitan housing and redevelopment).

Chair Haigh then summarized a number of efforts and initiatives in which the Scott County communities have partnered well with the Council, more notably in the areas of regional park planning and acquisition, park and ride transit planning, and federal funding for transportation projects. Chair Haigh then emphasized that she and her colleagues have “... heard the concerns that many of you have been expressing,” particularly as they relate to the 169 corridor, the proposed 101 river crossing, transit, and general agency-to-agency relationship issues. “Honestly, it is difficult to work together as a region,” she noted. “There are a lot of natural tensions that arise when we’re dealing with limited resources. We need to put our focus on prioritization and partnerships.” *To view the Metropolitan Council presentation in its entirety, [click here](#).*

After Chair Haigh’s remarks, Savage Mayor **Janet Williams** echoed many of Haigh’s comments about regional successes. SCALE Chair Lemke then opened up the floor for a question-and-answer session, which ranged from issues about the 101 bridge (asked by Shakopee Mayor **Brad Tabke**) to transit funding and governance issues (Commissioner **Jon Ulrich**). At the end of the session, Chair Lemke summed up by asking, “How do we move forward from here? How can we work with each other and not just simply *deal* with each other? It’s my intention to have some kind of follow-up to this meeting within 30 days, with meeting participants and topics to be decided in the next few days.” Chair Haigh and the SCALE members present agreed with Lemke’s approach.

Yet before the meeting officially concluded, Senator **Claire Robling** stunned the crowd by announcing her decision to not run for re-election this fall. In an emotional message, she stated that she “... Wanted all of you to be the first to know; I have been truly honored to represent this community for the last 16 years. But after a lot of thought, I decided that this was the time for me to step aside.” After her remarks, Senator Robling was given a standing ovation by all those present.

The next SCALE meeting will be held on **Friday, May 11, at 7:30 a.m.** at the Prior Lake City Hall.

“The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.”

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