The July 9 SCALE meeting opened with introductions. **Peter Herlofsky**, City of Farmington Administrator and Co-chair of High Performance Partnerships (HiPP) the Dakota County version of SCALE, came to learn more about SCALE, its mission, and how the two groups can work together and collaborate.

Before the presentation by **Scott County Administrator Gary Shelton** on Intelligent Communities (continued from the June meeting) there was discussion on the Met Council's posting of an opinion piece by **Rep. Alice Hausman** on the Met Council's homepage. The editorial was regarding suburban transit providers and Metro Transit titled, "Transit should be efficient, equitable and accountable throughout the region." **Met Council Representative Craig Peterson** said he would look into the posting and report back next month. There was also a short discussion on how the gas tax money is divided, a portion of which is diverted to trails and other purposes including the State Highway Patrol.

Prior Lake City Manager Frank Boyles mentioned that the Quality of Life Subcommittee will meet Monday, July 19 at 7:45 a.m. and invited SCALE members to join the group. They will discuss community green ordinances. To be a volunteer or for more information about the Quality of Life Subcommittee, contact Frank Boyles at **fboyles@cityofpriorlake.com**.

During the last SCALE meeting in June, Shelton gave a presentation about Intelligent Communities, pointing out that all our communities have, as a part of their Comprehensive Plans, a goal to increase the number of jobs in the County. At that time, Shelton emphasized the new broadband economy as simply another technology-based industrial revolution and that SCALE could help the region become an Intelligent Community in support of economic growth and job creation.

This month, Shelton continued his presentation stating that Scott County and the metro region is not doing very well regarding employment growth when compared to the national average. He said formerly our region was well above the national average, but since 2003, we have fallen behind. Shelton also presented information about the factors that impact business location decisions such as access to freeways, proximity to homes, ready-to-use land, local wages, business incentives and access to affordable broadband. He also showed multiple slides and maps regarding current tech-business-friendly conditions in the county and the current fiber-optic backbone that boasts redundant connections to important hubs around the nation. Shelton concluded by saying that the vision for making Scott County a marketable, Intelligent Community lies with SCALE. He asked if members are interested in focusing on supporting a knowledge-based workforce, implementing e-government applications and technology policies and establishing the County as a top area for broadband deployment.

SCALE members then broke into four groups to answer a few basic questions such as: Are the members of SCALE interested in making Scott County an Intelligent Community? If so, how can it focus on supporting technology in schools, embracing a regional approach, finding ways to lower costs, making Scott County more attractive to innovative businesses and finding ways to attract national attention? The four small-groups will report back to the group on their discussions at the August SCALE meeting.

The next SCALE meeting is on Friday, Aug. 13, at 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.