



# **AGC of Minnesota 2019 Legislative Program**

The following topics have been approved by the AGC of Minnesota Legislative Committee and Board of Directors. Collectively, they represent the 2019 Associated General Contractors of Minnesota legislative platform.

## **ITEMS OF NOTE:**

- The 2019 session begins January 8th, 2019; adjournment date is May 20, 2019.
- 2019 is a budget session; the preliminary November 2018 budget forecast projects a General Fund surplus of a \$1.54 billion surplus for FY 2020-21.
- Minnesota will be the only state with a divided legislature in the 2019-20 biennium.

## **ADVOCACY**

### **(AGC Sponsored or Endorsed Legislation)**

- **Comprehensive Transportation Funding**

AGC will heavily advocate for funding for transportation infrastructure -roads, bridges, and transit- that provide increased, stable, and dedicated funding to address unmet needs across the state. This year, the legislature and the governor will establish the transportation budget for the next two years. New and current state leaders have voiced their commitment to investing in the state's infrastructure. AGC will work with other transportation groups to amplify our collective voice in support of a transportation package that includes various funding options.

- **Work Zone Safety**

AGC will continue to advocate for a comprehensive approach to address work to promote safety for construction workers and the traveling public in a work zone. AGC will introduce legislation to support hands-free only cell phone use and to allow violators of flagger directives to be ticketed within a certain time-frame after a violation. AGC will also explore options to provide funding options that improve safety, particularly if funds can enhance the use of technology to prevent incidents.

- **P3 Procurement & Project Delivery Authorization**

AGC will introduce language to provide statutory authorization for public private partnerships for all Minnesota construction sectors during the 2019 session.

## **SUPPORTIVE INVOLVEMENT**

**(Initiatives from Other Sources/Organizations)**

- **Building Jobs Coalition (BJC) – Construction Market Stimulus Initiatives**

The central focus of the BJC in 2019 will be to advocate for a comprehensive transportation bill in the first year of the biennium to meet pent-up needs, but also to return to the rhythm of the design and construction cycle the industry has followed in the past. Efforts will continue to increase to emphasize workforce development.

- **General Obligation Bonds for Transportation and Utility Infrastructure Projects**

Although it is not a bonding year for the legislature, AGC supports a significant level of General Obligation bonding for local system bridge construction, the Local Road Improvement Program, and maximum PFA bonding dollars to leverage water infrastructure projects.

- **Permit Streamlining & Environmental Regulations**

AGC will evaluate opportunities to streamline permit processes and reduce regulatory burdens for the utility infrastructure, vertical, and transportation construction sectors.

- **Pilot and Escort Car Safety**

AGC will work with the Department of Public Safety to update pilot and escort car safety standards as needed.

- **Changes to MN Bid Protest Statutes**

AGC supports legislation being proposed by the Construction Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association that seeks to clarify all bid protest actions should initiate at the District Court level.

## **MONITOR & ENGAGE**

### **(Initiatives from Other Sources/Organizations)**

- **Labor Relations Issues/Proposals**

AGC will continue to monitor closely any proposals that may change prevailing wage law, project labor agreements, safety requirements, workplace requirements, etc.

- **4-10s at Straight Time:** AGC will explore opportunities to change state prevailing wage law and provide overtime after 40 hours and allow (4) ten-hour days paid at straight time rates.

- **Contract Procurement Issues**

Initiatives to change public contract procurement processes are perennial at the Capitol. AGC will continue to engage and represent the interests of all contractors with any proposal that changes current public procurement laws.

- **Sales Tax Exemption for Building Materials**

AGC will pursue legislative adjustments or dialog with the MN Department of Revenue regarding the clarification of provisions related to the sales tax exemption for construction materials.

- **Workforce Hiring Goal Changes & State Administrative Procedures Act**

AGC will continue looking for opportunities to enact changes that would require the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to be bound by provisions of the State Administrative Procedures Act when setting workforce participation goals on publically funded projects. Specifically, this would require a public notice,

public hearing and public comment opportunity when changes to the goals are proposed.

- **Duty to Defend**

AGC continues to monitor and engage as necessary to preserve the existing construction contract insurance provision that requires insurance to cover the defense costs of vicarious liability claims against upper tier subcontractors, general contractors, and project owners.

- **Other**

- AGC will monitor and engage in any other items of interest to the industry.