



TwinWest Legislative Priorities & Positions

TwinWest supports regional multi-modal transportation system and long-range workforce housing planning

Move toward a truly regional multi-modal transportation system

- The long-term health of our state's economy and businesses' opportunity to grow jobs depends on our ability to efficiently transport workers to offices, goods to stores, and students to schools.
- Minnesota's roads, bridges, and transit systems are in need of upgrades and repairs. Commuters and freight are consistently slowed by congested traffic.
- Growth and future demand drive the need for wise transportation system investments.
- TwinWest supports these transportation solutions:
 1. *Move Toward a Truly Regional Multi-modal Transportation System*
 - A strong transportation blueprint is an essential component of a first-class region.
 - The Twin Cities' regional transit system needs to be planned and executed as a system, not as individual lines.
 - Priority within the system should focus resources on those components with the highest cost/benefit ratio and ability to leverage federal funds.
 - TwinWest strongly supports the Southwest Light Rail project.
 - TwinWest recognizes the need for sound regional planning as it relates to transportation and other critical infrastructure systems without impairing local transportation systems.
 - TwinWest recognizes the need for a stable, dedicated funding source for transit capital and operations.
 - Tax Increment Financing, within a reasonable scope, along transit lines where substantial redevelopment and increased economic development occurs.
 - MN PASS fees should only be utilized as a system-wide tool to mitigate congestion.
 2. *Establish Local Priorities*
 3. *Bring Accountability and Efficiency to Transportation Spending*
 - When contracting for projects the state should consider contracts that best protect taxpayer resources and promote high quality outcomes.

Workforce housing remains is important to businesses

- Finding adequate and affordable housing for the workforce of Minnesota is a continuing and long-term concern.
- 692,000 Minnesota households pay more than 30 percent of their income each month for housing, with one in three homeowners paying above what the federal government quantifies as too much.
- TwinWest supports these guidelines relative to providing workforce housing:
 1. *The creation of a long term, widely supported, quantifiable statewide plan of action addressing housing needs and goals.*
 2. *Examination of the regulatory requirements for builders and developers interested in creation of necessary workforce housing and incentives to eliminate those costs that are counter-productive.*
 3. *Alignment of transportation and housing.*
 4. *Incentives to local communities to enact comprehensive plans that include mixed-use housing.*
 5. *The leveraging and expansion of private sector housing investments to serve those with the greatest need.*
 6. *A "triaging" of public services to address housing and the multiplicity of other needs for those most at risk.*
 7. *The creation of public-private community land trusts to ease costs and promote permanently affordable housing.*
 8. *Incentives to aid in the preservation and repair of existing housing stock.*
 9. *The creation of incentives for employers who provide assistance to employees regarding housing issues.*

About TwinWest

TwinWest is an advocate for business. We are the voice of business in government and provide our members opportunities to grow their businesses and improve their communities. The TwinWest area — encompassing 10 western Twin Cities communities — has over 10,000 employers and includes some of Minnesota's most dynamic businesses.

Policy Priorities

Following study by TwinWest's Government Affairs Committee, the Board of Directors adopted 2012 policies in the following areas:

- State taxes, spending, and government reform
- Transportation
- Health Care
- E-12 and Lifelong Learning
- Local and regional government
- Energy

Minnesota Chamber Federation

TwinWest supports the statewide policy priorities established by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce through its Minnesota Chamber Federation program in these areas:

- Budget reform
- Education
- Energy
- Environmental permitting
- Health care
- Tax reform

View full policy documents at www.twinwest.com/businessagenda.

