

SEMCOG 2027–2028 Legislative Policy Platform Task Force Meeting Summary

Monday, September 14, 2026

9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Chairperson: Robert McCraight, Mayor, City of Romulus

Vice-Chairperson: Scott Benson, Councilmember, City of Detroit

Note: This task force convened in-person at the SEMCOG office. SEMCOG's Washington lobbyists joined the meeting via Zoom.

A. Welcome and Introductions

Scott Benson, Councilmember, City of Detroit

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order and reviewed housekeeping items related to the room microphones and ensuring that the Zoom attendees were able to participate in the discussion. Mr. Benson introduced himself and then asked task force members, SEMCOG staff, and others present to introduce themselves.

B. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

C. Recap of Task Force Objectives and Timeline

Scott Benson, Councilmember, City of Detroit

Mr. Benson reviewed the charge of the task force, emphasizing that the policies to be discussed and considered by the task force should be within SEMCOG's issue areas of infrastructure management; economic development, education, and workforce; environment; and local operations and finance. Mr. Benson then reviewed the remaining items in the task force's timeline.

• **Review of Proposed Policies**

Mike Spence, Government Affairs and Strategic Coordination Manager, SEMCOG

Nikki Hartley, Government Affairs Specialist II, SEMCOG

Mr. Spence led the task force in a discussion of policies proposed for inclusion in SEMCOG's 2027-2028 Legislative Policy Platform. Discussion included revisions to several policies to emphasize the actions being requested by legislators and regulators, with specific recommendations to improve and clarify policy language. Mr. Spence and Ms. Hartley noted follow-up on policies requiring revision prior to the task force's final meeting on November 9, 2026. Mr. Spence stated that the revised policies will be shared as part of the draft policy platform, in advance of the task force's November 9, 2026, meeting, where the task force

will have an opportunity to provide final recommendations.

- **Review of Proposed Policy Priorities**

Nikki Hartley, Government Affairs Specialist II, SEMCOG

Ms. Hartley presented the proposed policy priorities for 2027 to the task force and asked members for their input.

D. Questions and Next Steps

Scott Benson, Councilmember, City of Detroit

Mr. Benson thanked the task force members for their participation and discussion. Mr. Benson stated that a follow-up mailing would be sent to all task force members and reminded them to register for the November meeting.

Attendance

Below is a list of Legislative Task Force members. Members present at this meeting are indicated by bold typeface:

Chairperson: Robert McCraight, Mayor, City of Romulus

Vice-Chairperson: Scott Benson, Councilmember, City of Detroit

Aaron Martinez, Councilmember, City of Novi

Emily Bauman, Councilmember, City of Westland

Shea Benjamin, Executive Project & Special Events Coordinator, Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Debbie Binder, Clerk, West Bloomfield Township

Quentin Bishop, City Manager, City of Marysville

Erica Briggs, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Ann Arbor

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Supervisor, Canton Township

Abdullah Hammoud, Mayor, City of Dearborn

Lisa Hansknecht, Government Relations and Community Services, Oakland County ISD

Donald Hubler, Macomb ISD

Eunice M. Jeffries, Executive Director, Government and Community Relations, Oakland County Community College

Milanna Jones, Councilmember, City of Pontiac

Jonathan Kinloch, Commissioner, Dist. 2, Wayne County

Laura Kropp, Mayor, City of Mount Clemens

Joe LaRussa, Mayor, City of Farmington

Irv Lowenberg, Treasurer, City of Southfield

Melody Magee, Councilmember, City of Warren

Robert McCann, Executive Director, K-12 Alliance of Michigan

Darwin McClary, Village Manager, Village of Lake Orion

Mike McCready, Supervisor, Bloomfield Township

Douglas McDonough, Township Manager, Northfield Township

Nicole McKee, Director, Government Relations, Macomb Community College

Matt Pfeiffer, Treasurer, Orion Township

Al Prieur, Supervisor, Bedford Township

David Randels, Executive Director, Oakland Schools ISD

Trish Reilly, Supervisor, Pittsfield Township

Nicole Rice, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Saline

Theresa Rich, Mayor, City of Farmington Hills

Larissa Richardson, Director of Regional Partnerships, Mayor's Office, City of Detroit

Erik Rick, Councilmember, City of Mount Clemens

Megan Sellers, Legislative Director, Oakland County

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor, Genoa Township

Mark St. Charles, Township Manager, Green Oak Township

Lori Stone, Mayor, City of Warren

David Swartout, Commissioner, Dist. 7, Monroe County

Andrew Swift, Mayor, City of Riverview

Eric Szor, Councilman, City of Lincoln Park

Ronald Taylor, President & CEO, Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Sheila Tomkowiak, Mayor, City of Grosse Pointe

Erik Tungate, City Manager, City of Oak Park

Frank Viviano, Supervisor, Macomb Township

Kenneth Voigt, Mayor, City of Belleville

Jim Wagner, Trustee, District 7, Wayne County Community College District

Teri Weingarden, Treasurer, West Bloomfield Township

Rachel Witherspoon, Manager, City of Gibraltar

Eric Woody, Government Affairs Director, Wayne County

Jeff Yaroch, Government Affairs Liaison, Village of New Haven

Guest

Donald Dudas, Trustee, Port Huron Township

SEMCOG staff in attendance

Jenya Abramovich, Transportation Planner III, SEMCOG

Noah Bussell, Economic and Community Vitality Planner II, SEMCOG

Michele Fedorowicz, Transportation and Mobility Manager, SEMCOG

Katherine Grantham, Environment and Infrastructure Planner III, SEMCOG

Nikki Hartley, Government Affairs Specialist II, SEMCOG

Kelly Karll, Environment and Infrastructure Manager, SEMCOG

Tyler Klifman, Environment and Infrastructure Planner III, SEMCOG

Trevor Layton, Communications Manager, SEMCOG

Tiffany Sanders, Environment and Infrastructure Planner II, SEMCOG

David Struck, Economic Development Coordinator, SEMCOG

SEMCOG lobbyists in attendance

Andrew Buczek, Government Policy Advisor, Dykema

Mary Beth McGowan, Government Policy Advisor, Dykema

Mike Compangoni, Government Relations, Midwest Strategy Group