

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** October 4, 2023

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Deb Barber, District 4
- John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- Robert Lilligren, District 6
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Gail Cederberg, District 11

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:03 p.m.

## Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Osman approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

## Information

### 1. Network Now Update

Sophia Ginis, Director of Community Affairs, Metro Transit, and Cyndi Harper, Manager, Route Planning, shared an overview of the Network Now project. The foundation of Network Now is built upon reviewing and considering three main areas: 1. Reviewing the performance of today's network; 2. as well as the various Council and MT policies, guidelines and standards that apply; and 3. understanding what is important to our riders and stakeholders. The five principles of Network Now are: 1. adapt service to changes in transit markets and travel patterns; 2. prepare for new METRO and high-frequency routes; 3. maintain the reliability of scheduled service consistently over time; 4. build upon success to grow ridership, adding service where people use transit the most; and 5. provide access to opportunities and services with a focus on advancing equity and reducing regional disparities. Ginis then shared results of engagement efforts around Network Now.

Council Members had questions and comments regarding existing gaps in service delivery, labor issues and hiring, service levels and commuter and express routes, demographics of respondents by location, predictability and technology, and outreach and engagement with local cities and communities.

## 2. Metro Area Transportation Sales and Use Tax

Ed Petrie, Director of Finance, Metro Transit, began with an overview of the Metro Area Transportation Sales Tax. This is a new form of sustainable revenue for regional transportation. It is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent sales tax that went into effect on October 1, 2023, and is estimated to bring in approximately \$400 million in FY2024 for Council transit activities. A 3% growth rate will be assumed in the budget forecast, and the growth rate will be reviewed annually. Petrie also shared thirteen legislative requirements with the sales tax including improvements, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), other investments, and other impacts. Petrie then shared the 30-year sales tax forecast, \$21.2 billion. Marie Henderson, Acting Chief Financial Officer, shared information about Council budget development. Charles Carlson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services, shared information about increased services and new initiatives, including information about the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan process. Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, Metro Transit, shared information about Metro Transit vision and strategic planning.

Council members had questions and comments regarding the development of the 30-year sales tax forecast, cashflow and timing, and short-term cash flow planning.

### Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

### Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of October 4, 2023.

Approved this 18th day of October, 2023.

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#### Council contact:

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