

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** May 29, 2024

**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, E = excused

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the Special meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:02 p.m.

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Lilligren to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2024, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Transitway Advancement Policy (Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, Metro Transit, Executive Office, 612-349-7513; Charles Carlson, Executive Director, MTS, 651-602-1761; Nick Thompson, Deputy GM Capital Program, 612-349-7507)

Carlson gave an overview of the existing policy, adopted on 11/30/2023, and discussed the application of the policy at project phase agreements. He discussed how the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan reflects advancement of the policy as well as travel and transit trends.

Thompson discussed recent changes, upcoming decisions beginning with 2022 project issues and risks. He also discussed major changes since the policy adoption outline in the presentation provided. Next, Thompson reviewed the Blue Line extension, the Purple Line, and the Metro G-Line and the related amendments that will be necessary. He also reviewed Riverview, which is run by Ramsey County.

Kandaras reviewed information for transitway deliberation based on what they've heard thus far as well as topics to consider when transitway decisions are considered. She discussed ridership trends and a study being done by the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. She discussed the Council workforce, noting that there has been an increase in applications. Kandaras reviewed public safety concerns raised and what is being done. She noted that there is a deficit in the Metro Transit Police force.

Council members discussed the importance of this work and noted that all are welcome to attend the Transportation Committee meetings and/or view online to capture the information as well as the discussion.

Ryan O'Connor discussed sustainability and important underlying principles and noted that the map shared doesn't frame the entirety of the system.

Concerns with how we're viewed by the public and how the process works were discussed as well as confusion over role of counties, cities, and the Council. A suggestion to have a 'fact sheet' available to share at our meetings may be helpful that discusses how the process works, who's in charge, etc.

Council members discussed economic development but also economic loss and displacement.

Supplemental security was discussed and the need for that to continue. Also, discussed the importance of increasing our workforce to support all these projects including police, maintenance workers, IS and human resources.

Lee asked about micro transit and where we are with that. O'Connor discussed overlapping components of what we are doing that doesn't show up on the map but will continue to be discussed over the summer. It was noted that the pilot that started in Minneapolis will be expanding to Roseville and Woodbury this winter.

Council members discussed the sequence of information and how it comes before us and the ability to take a 'time out' if/when needed. Council members were encouraged to ask if they have questions.

Further discussion of the future workforce and how we are reaching out to young people to show what opportunities are available. Discussed working with schools and fostering partnerships and offering possible incentives.

Lilligren discussed transparency of decision making and developing further what the process is – showing pros and cons to decisions. He also discussed the impacts of our planning processes and would like to see more on this. He questioned what benefits do you want presented? The council members discussed risk and risk mitigation and the benefits to the region.

Dr. Carter asked for insight on anti-displacement on the Blue Line and decarbonization of the transit system. Thompson discussed efforts and strategies to prevent anti-displacement and stated there will be more information on this over the summer months. In regard to decarbonization, more information can be brought back at a future meeting.

Carlson discussed electric compulsion. Zelle noted that carbon per passenger from a diesel bus is significantly less than if those passengers were each driving their own vehicle.

Further discussion on our workforce and ways to partner with schools, programs and opportunities continued. Chair Zelle stated that the Council does robust outreach and stated it may be good to bring that information to this group. Dr. Carter discussed putting 'seeds' out and suggested a task force to work on ways to do this.

Barber gave closing thoughts and thanked everyone for their feedback. She noted that the goal of this policy is to provide a framework to make good decisions. She asked Council members to continue to be engaged and ask questions.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Special Committee of the Whole meeting of May 29, 2024.



Approved this 5th day of June 2024.

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