

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: March 19, 2025

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

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment - Short Statement

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home. Chair Zelle began the meeting by reading the Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Short Statement.

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 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Chair Zelle.

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 February 19, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update (Kyle O'Donnell Burrows 612-349-7749, Katie Roth 612-349-7772)

Kyle O'Donnell Burrows presented the plan for the next programmed arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors and how the candidate corridors will be considered. CM Morales asked about the closure of the North Star line and how the BRT plan relates to the issues with this closure. As they are two separate things, the next steps for serving those who were served by Northstar cannot be identified until the BRT process plays out. Chair Zelle said we are close to sending out an engagement plan to talk to these communities to see how we can serve them and provide better service.

CM Cameron asked how the corridor prioritization differs from that of the past and Kyle explained that the process is similar to what Metro Transit did in 2020 and 2021, only they have improved how the corridors are screened and evaluated. They are able to use both geographical information (population and jobs in the areas), as well as demographics along the route.

CM Chamblis asked about the shorter corridors and how the decision was made to create them. Several things are considered for ending a route in a certain area, such as if there is a transit center or major destination there.

Chair Zelle inquired as to whether the programmed arterial BRT corridors are new corridors, or simply extensions, and it was confirmed that these are new lines, but that extensions are on the table with the future BRT work.

CM Cederberg asked what, if any, outreach has been done along the I-35E corridor in Washington and Eastern Ramsey counties going North towards Lino Lakes. Her concern was how we can plan for future density along this corridor, especially since the express bus for this area has been cancelled and this area is already underserved. CM Barber shared that there are opportunities such as having the Council match funds with other counties.

2. Office of Enterprise Sustainability Action Plan Update (Laura Bretheim, 612-474-1781, Sara Smith, 651-602-8365, Jeff Freeman, 612-349-7527)

Metro Transit staff provided an update on the Council's work as it relates to the state's Office of Enterprise Sustainability's seven sustainability goal areas: Fleet fuel consumption; Water use; Procurement practices; Greenhouse gas emissions; Energy Use; Waste diversion; and Culture of sustainability. Presenters shared the work being done, goals, and plans for how those goals will be met, including: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by swapping out gas vehicles for hybrids and electric vehicles, conserving energy by swapping the lightbulbs at our buildings for LED bulbs, working to reduce our solid waste by expanding 3-bin waste receptacles in our buildings, and reducing water usage by minimizing irrigation.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:33 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 March 19, 2025.

Council contact:

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