

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** May 7, 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
- ☐ Vacant, District 15
- ☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16
- ☒ = present

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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.

## 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 Council Member Dr. Tyronne Carter.

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Morales, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Q1 2025 Safety and Security Action Plan (General Manager of Metro Transit;

Lesley Kandaras, 612-349-7513; Interim Chief Joseph Dotseth, 612-349-7269; Captain Salah Ahmed, Sergeant Kadra Mohamed, Rachael Jones, 612-349-7471)

Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, introduced the presentation highlighting ridership trends for the first quarter of 2025 and reported that Metro Transit continues to dive into data to better understand trends, ridership needs and expectations. The Q1 Safety and Security Action Plan update focused on operator and customer survey results as well as Metro Transit Police Department updates.

Rachael Jones, Senior Researcher with Metro Transit, presented the operator and customer survey results. The operator survey results showed notable differences between staff roles (operations management versus operators, rail versus bus), gender, and years of experience. The customer survey results showed that two out of three riders are satisfied or very satisfied. In addition, a greater share of riders felt safe compared to last year. Most customers found buses, trains, stops, and stations equally safe or safer than six months ago.

Council members asked what safety and security goals Metro Transit is striving for, and which routes operators and customers felt safe and/or unsafe, and how customer satisfaction compared with pre-COVID results.

Joseph Dotseth, Interim Chief, Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD), highlighted the MTPD workforce and community partnerships. A full-time dedicated Human Resource recruiter, was added to support MTPD leadership with recruitment efforts. In addition to recruitment, MTPD leadership uses analytical data to benchmark staffing to meet business needs.

MTPD is recruiting a new cohort for the Community Service Officer Pathways Program. Through this program, MTPD is partnering with North Hennepin Community College to recruit a younger population as well as individuals who are looking to make career changes.

MTPD continues to strengthen its community partnerships with the Saint Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, and Ramsey County Public Health on initiatives such as Safe & Strong University Avenue. In addition to partnerships, MTPD continues to establish beat models for patrolling.

Council members commended MTPD staff for their proactive work along the Blue and Green Line Light Rail Train lines.

## 2. Update on the Council's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (Peter Wilfahrt, 651-602-1066; Gillian Greenberg, 651-602-1726)

Peter Wilfahrt and Gillian Greenberg, Community Development Division staff, presented an update on the Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) identifies Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies and estimated effects.

Staff provided an overview of the community engagement efforts including the CPRG steering committee, workforce work-group, and the Community Climate Collaboration. These efforts include representatives from various organizations including local government entities, community non-profits, and other public and private sector organizations involved in clean energy and workforce issues.

The Council has adopted the Imagine 2050 community engagement model and applied it to this climate action planning work.

Council members inquired about funding sources. Staff noted that the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funding continues, and staff are monitoring federal updates. In addition, Council staff is collaborating with local communities and MPCA to collaborate and reduce redundancies in efforts.



## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:45 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 May 7, 2025.

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### Council contact:

Mindy Shipman, Recording Secretary

[Mindy.Shipman@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Mindy.Shipman@metc.state.mn.us)

651-602-1370

