

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: June 4, 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 member Johnson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:05 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Lilligren.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Lindstrom, to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. B Line Readiness (Frank Alarcon, 612-349-7695)

Frank Alarcon, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Projects Manager with Metro Transit, presented an overview of the B Line, which will operate along the Lake/Marshall/Selby corridor, currently served by bus Route 21. The B Line opening will be June 14, 2025. Additional local bus routes (Routes 27, 38, and 72) will be launched to provide local access to key stretches of the B Line Corridor, all of which provide connections to key destinations that riders connect to today on Route 21. In addition, staff noted that there will be a temporary westbound bus lane between Wilder and Cretin Avenues through the end of 2025 to help alleviate the traffic overflow from the MnDOT-led construction on Highway I-94.

Staff highlighted B Line construction work, including addition of new platforms with shelters, ADA-accessible pedestrian ramps, miles of resurfaced streets, bus lanes and fiber optic cable, and an operator restroom.

To prepare for the B Line opening, staff held regular B Line activation meetings, appointed a dedicated street operations lead person, conducted runtime testing, acquired new buses at the East Metro Garage from which the B Line will operate, and trained bus operators for the B Line.

Cody Olson, Manager of Public Involvement, presented the outreach and marketing work to bring awareness about the B Line launch to the surrounding community, which is largely a Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community. This work included targeted advertising on social media, print advertising, the use of multi-lingual and BIPOC advertising that was mailed to those in the area, as well as multi-lingual signage where people will see it.

Council members asked about Metro Transit's community outreach strategy and with whom they are working to build trust with community. Staff responded that Metro Transit has been working with the Lake Street Council, Minnesota Somali Community Center, and Union Park District Council. Metro Transit ambassadors will be out along the corridor to answer questions about the B Line.

Council members asked what lessons were learned from the construction of this line and community feedback. Key lessons learned were: provide accurate details and timely information; investigate ways to support the community through construction schedule; have dedicated staff to answer questions from community and businesses along the corridor.

2. Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Next Steps (Sarah Nelson, 651-602-1396; Krysten Ryba-Tures, 651-602-1821)

Krysten Ryba-Tures, Research Manager, introduced the presentation topics, which included the end of the Council's 2040 indicator projects, including the 2040 Housing Policy Plan and the Thrive MSP 2040 indicators, 2050 program updates and future action, and the measurement approaches for Imagine 2050.

Sarah Nelson, Senior Researcher, reviewed the 2040 indicators project, which focused on the 2040 Housing Policy Plan and Thrive MSP 2040. Staff noted indicator trends that aligned (or did not align) with the 2040 Regional Policy direction. Some trends were difficult to categorize due to indicator design.

Council members encouraged staff to partner with surrounding municipalities and partners to learn from each other. Using lessons learned from the MSP Thrive 2040 indicators project, staff noted the importance of having a framework approach and reviewed four framework options:

- Option A: Center Imagine 2050's five regional goals.
- Option B: Integrate measures across shared topics in Imagine 2050.
- Option C: Measures for each 2050 system or policy plan.
- Option D: Integrate measures by topics and roles; add region goals.

Council members discussed the four measurement options and encouraged staff to connect with standing committee chairs and to consider the community work that each division can do based on

the performance measure options.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:41 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 June 4, 2025.

Council contact:

Mindy Shipman, Recording Secretary
Mindy.Shipman@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1370

