

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting Date: December 14, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Deb Barber, District 4
- Molly Cummings, District 5

- John Pacheco, District 6
- Robert Lilligren, District 7
- Abdirahman Muse, District 8
- Raymond Zeran, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Susan Vento, District 11

- Francisco Gonzalez, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Kris Fredson, District 14
- Phillip Sterner, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Council Vice Chair Cummings called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Muse to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2022 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public Invitation

Peter Rickmyer spoke about the concept of an urban auxiliary policy force to increase visibility and improve public safety with relatively little cost.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 1-4)

1. **2022-316:** That the Metropolitan Council re-ratify the Emergency Declaration for Contract 21P387, with Ames Construction (Ames), for repairs to the Currie Maintenance Facility for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project, in an additional amount not to exceed \$19,209.92 for a total amount not to exceed \$239,209.92.
2. **2022-325:** That the Metropolitan Council adopted the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Revise the City's forecasts as shown in Table 1 in the Review Record.
 3. Revise the City's affordable housing need allocation for 2021-2030 to 49 units.
 4. Advise the City:
 - a. That a comprehensive plan amendment is required for any change to the Future Land Use map, when any future redevelopment projects that may require a density bonus are identified.
 - b. To implement additional advisory comments in the Review Record for land use.

3. **2022-326:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City’s forecasts.
 3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for regional parks, wastewater services, natural resources, and forecasts.
4. **2022-330:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Affirm its authorization in Business Item No. 2018-286, which authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and the Chair to execute a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing), to provide a \$1.4 million grant for program support to the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund for the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Impact Fund.
 2. Further clarify that there will be no expectation of repayment of the grant, subject to annual reporting requirements and the use of the grant funds consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Muse.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

Community Development

5. **2022-327:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Award six Livable Communities Demonstration Account grants as shown in Table 1, totaling \$7,195,000 and;
 2. Authorize its Community Development Director to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Table 1. Recommended Grant Projects and Funding Amounts

Applicant	Recommended Project	Award Amount
City of Minneapolis	Emerson Village	\$750,000
City of Brooklyn Center	Opportunity Site – Entrepreneurial Market	\$1,500,000
City of Minneapolis	Upper Harbor Redevelopment – Parcel 6A	\$2,000,000
City of Saint Paul	1351 Arcade Street (30,000 Feet)	\$495,000
City of Minneapolis	2843 Building	\$500,000
City of Saint Paul	Cerenity Senior Care	\$1,950,000

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Chamblis.

Council Member Wulff shared that she will be voting no for this item due to concerns with the scoring process. Council Member Vento and Chablis shared that the Community Development Committee discussed this at great length and will review the scoring process, including the applicant process. Council Member Johnson shared that she will support the item but hopes that they will continue to refine the process. Council Member Barber expressed similar concerns but appreciated the additional review in the future. Council Member Muse thanked



staff for this process.

Motion carried.

6. **2022-328:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Award seven Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit-Oriented Development grants totaling \$7,693,100.
 2. Authorize its Community Development Division Director to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Gonzalez.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. **2022-317 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Emergency Declaration for Additional Pipe Debris Removal in Interceptor 8451.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-325 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopted the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Revise the City's forecasts as shown in Table 1 in the Review Record.
 3. Revise the City's affordable housing need allocation for 2021-2030 to 49 units.
 4. Advise the City:
 - a. That a comprehensive plan amendment is required for any change to the Future Land Use map, when any future redevelopment projects that may require a density bonus are identified.
 - b. To implement additional advisory comments in the Review Record for land use.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Barber.

Motion carried.

Management

1. **2022-324 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to make ongoing maintenance, hosted services and support service payments as Sole Source purchase orders in an amount not to exceed \$12,900,307. This includes installed software and hardware as listed on the attached 2023 and 2024 Information Services Sole Source Vendor list.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2022-307:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to Contract 18P018, Quality Management Services for the Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT) Project, with Braun Intertec Corporation to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$10.4M for a total contract amount not to exceed \$54.2M.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Gonzalez.



Motion carried.

2. **2022-312:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 221046 with Hennepin County to receive approximately \$9,000,000 of funds for County-requested improvements along the METRO B Line corridor and for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the B Line project.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Fredson.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-319:** That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to fund 77 projects selected through the Regional Solicitation process and include these projects in the draft 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Sterner.

Council Member Barber thanked staff and other committees as they moved this item through the process. Council Member Wulff noted that the attachment was not opening on Council iPads. The attachment was available online and a hard copy was available in the room.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-320:** That the Metropolitan Council award 2023-2025 Carbon Reduction Program funds to 14 bicycle/pedestrian projects (see Attachment 1) as part of the 2022 Regional Solicitation and include these projects in the draft 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

5. **2022-321:** That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to fund 38 projects through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation and include the projects in the draft 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Vento.

Motion carried.

6. **2022-332 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract with Genfare to provide Fastfare bus fareboxes and auxiliary equipment with options for future purchases until December 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Gonzalez.

Motion carried.

7. **2022-333 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P325, 22P326 with Cubic for Smart Card Validators for use as offboard fare payments on the Gold and B Bus Rapid Transit Lines in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Gonzalez.

Motion carried.

8. **2022-334 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P333, 22P332 with Flowbird to provide ticket vending machines for offboard fare payments on the Gold and B Bus Rapid Transit Lines in an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Fredson.

Motion carried.



Other Business

9. **2022-336:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Adopt the Climate Action Work Plan.
 2. Direct Council staff to provide annual reports on the implementation of the plan.

Council Member Lindstrom shared remarks about the impact and work of the Climate Action Work Plan. Lisa Barajas, Director of Community Development gave an overview of the Climate Action Work Plan process. The Climate Action Work Plan builds on existing climate work, unifies efforts across the Council, defines commitments, strategies, and actions that will strengthen our ability to deliver services to the region, and moves the Council forward on a pledge made in *Thrive MSP 2040* to be a climate leader. The plan will be implemented in Q1 2023 and on.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Sterner.

Council Member Barber thanked Council Member Lindstrom for his leadership in this process. Council Members Gonzalez and Pacheco expressed an appreciation for the inclusion of equity in the plan.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Green Line Extension Project Update (Nick Thompson, 612-349-7507; Jim Alexander, 612-373-3880)

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, Capital Programs, and Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director, shared an introduction to the Green Line Extension (GLE) Project Update. Michael Krantz, Acting Program Manager, Transit Oriented Development, began with an update on development trends around the Green Line Extension. System-wide, \$13.7 billion of construction have been permitted along high frequency transit since 2009, which is 36% of total regional development value. A total of \$1.85 billion of permitted development has occurred along the GLE, including 4,707 residential units. Planned development value includes 7,262 residential units and a total of \$760,200,000. Alexander then shared an update on GLE construction. GLE will include 16 new light rail transit (LRT) stations, 44 significant structures, 15 at-grade LRT crossings, 131 retaining walls, approximately 182,00 total feet of track, 7.8 miles of shared LRT and freight rail corridor, and trail reconstruction. 3,885 individuals have worked on the project through October 2022, employing workers from 79% of counties statewide. \$195 million (20%) has been billed by Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies for construction activities, exceeding the overall goal of 15%. Alexander then shared photos of current construction and systems work.

Council Member Chamblis shared that she'd be interested to see similar information about Green Line Development. She also commented on the development around Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations. Council Member Sterner asked for a clarification on what constitutes high frequency. Council Member Johnson commented on the results, development, and redevelopment. Council Member Cummings noted that this is not a standalone project, it is part of a robust transit system.

Council Member Lee asked about naming and renaming of stations. Council Members had questions and comments about systems and civil construction work, the project status 24 months from now, and project and system staging.

Jon Thao, Senior Small Business Specialist shared an overview of DBE achievement as of September 30, 2022. He also shared an update on recent activities, including 2022 Construction Inclusion Week and systems workforce activities.

Council Members had questions and comments about the equity and diversity of programs, clarification on the construction workforce ethnicity, and the disparities of ethnicities and



outreach. Council Members also commented on the state residency of workers as well as local hiring, and veteran status. Tao responded that the DBE program does not track veteran status, which is self-identified.

2. Metro Transit Public Art Update (Mark Granlund, 612-349-7499)

Mark Granlund, Public Art Administrator, gave an update on the Metro Transit Public Art Collection. The Metro Transit Public Art Collection includes 76 public art works made of 416 individual pieces. There are five main aspects of the Public Art in Transit Program: permanent collection maintenance, facilities maintenance support, community opportunities, new and upgraded facilities, and interpretive programming. Granlund then shared photos of current work, including mural repair, rust removal, and conservation projects. He also shared examples of anti-graffiti graphics, murals, and bus shelter wraps. Results of the Public Art Program include a better rider experience, easier maintenance, engaged community, and more diverse policy and practices.

Council members thanked Granlund for this work. Council Members also had questions and comments about the lifespan of the work, as well as the placemaking aspect of the work.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Council was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. and will reconvene for the public comment opportunity.

Public Comment on Budget and Levies

At 6:15 p.m. Vice Chair Cummings called the meeting to order for public comment on the Adoption of the Metropolitan Council's 2023 Unified Budget and the 2022, Payable 2023 Tax Levies. Marie Henderson, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on changes to the Unified Budget since adoption of the Public Comment draft.

Vice Chair Cummings opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

1. 2022-287: Adoption of the following Resolutions for the Metropolitan Council's 2023 Unified Budget and the 2022, Payable 2023, Tax Levies:

2022-23: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's 2023 Unified Budget

2022-24: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's 2022 Tax Levy for General Purposes for Certification to the County Auditors

2022-25: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's 2022 Tax Levy for General Purposes for Certification to the Minnesota Commissioner of Revenue

2022-26: Adopting the 2022 Tax Levy for the Livable Communities Demonstration Account in the Metropolitan Livable Communities Fund

2022-27: Adopting the 2022 Tax Levy for the Tax Base Revitalization Account of the Livable Communities Act

2022-28: Certifying the Tax Levy for 2022 for Debt Service on Future Transit Bonds

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Sterner on the following roll call vote.

Motion carried.

Aye	14	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Johnson, Gonzalez, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Pacheco, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	2	Lilligren, Zelle

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 14, 2022.

Approved this 11 day of January 2023.

Council Contact:

Bridget Toskey, Recording Secretary
Bridget.Toskey@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1806

