

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: July 9, 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

- ☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☒ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ Toni Carter, District 14
- ☒ Victor Obisakin, 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 to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Swearing-In

The following Council Members completed the Oath of Office administered by Chair Zelle:

Mark Jenkins	District 12
Victor Obisakin	District 15

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comment.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items x-x)

1. **2025-153:** That the Metropolitan Council approve releasing the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1, changing the alignment and funding for the Blue Line Extension transitway and adding the Gold Line Extension transitway to the fiscally constrained plan, for public comment.

It was moved by Dr. Tyronne Carter, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2025-161 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council accept the Regional Parks and Trails System state fiscal year 2026 Operations and Maintenance Report, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. State Fiscal Year 2026 O&M Distribution

Agency	Reported Actual 2024 O&M Expenses	Estimated Distribution Amount
Anoka County	\$9,309,883.98	\$980,207
Bloomington Parks	\$863,310.91	\$94,087
Carver County	\$1,760,919.36	\$248,300
Dakota County	\$9,913,013.13	\$768,058
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB)	\$28,912,771.00	\$2,897,284
Ramsey County	\$8,673,636.24	\$1,063,855
Saint Paul Parks	\$24,753,617.35	\$1,504,758
Scott County	\$2,496,588.41	\$214,842
Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) - Hennepin & Scott	\$51,206,536.95	\$3,468,186
Washington County	\$5,811,365.63	\$500,423
TOTAL	\$143,701,642.96	\$11,740,000

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2025-128 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P123 with Insight Public Sector, an authorized software reseller on State of Minnesota's Contract Release S-1079(5), for Fluxx Labs Incorporated's Grants Management Platform software system in an amount not to exceed \$1,390,000.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lilligren.

CM Toni Carter noted that this tool will help support the Council's external partnership with the community.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2025-143:** That the Metropolitan Council ("the Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise bus purchase options utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract 06719-01 with Gillig LLC to purchase (128) 40-foot buses for the Council's regular route services in an amount not to exceed \$122,085,767.45.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Barber.

Motion carried

2. **2025-145:** That the Metropolitan Council take the following actions related to the METRO Green Line Extension Project:
 - Approve the purchase of Non-Revenue vehicles and equipment at a cost of up to \$10,000,000 using funds already contained in the Green Line Extension project budget.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Barber.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. **2025-59:** 1. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective on Thursday, July 10, 2025, the following standing committee assignments recommended by the Chair, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.

Community Development	Environment	Management	Transportation
Lilligren, Chair	Cederberg, Chair	Johnson, Chair	Barber, Chair
Carter, Toni, Vice Chair	Wulff, Vice Chair	Pacheco, Vice Chair	Chamblis, Vice Chair
Cameron	Carter, Tyronne	Barber	Carter, Toni
Chamblis	Lee	Cederberg	Carter, Tyronne
Lee	Lindstrom	Lilligren	Cameron
Lindstrom	Morales	Osman	Johnson
Morales	Jenkins	Jenkins	Osman
Wulff			Pacheco
Obisakin			Obisakin



2. That the Metropolitan Council approve Reva Chamblis as Vice Chair of the Council, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article I.
3. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective on, Thursday, July 10, 2025, the following special and advisory committees, commissions, and boards assignments, as recommended by the Chair and pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.
 1. Age-Friendly Minnesota Council: Cameron
 2. Audit: Lee (Chair), Barber (Vice Chair), Jenkins, Obisakin
 3. Clean Water Council: Cederberg
 4. Environmental Quality Board: Lindstrom, Tyronne Carter (Alternate)
 5. Equity Advisory Committee: Pacheco (Chair), Toni Carter, Tyronne Carter, Osman
 6. Hennepin County Community Works Bottineau Steering Committee: Chamblis, Osman (Alternate)
 7. Investment Review Committee: Morales (Chair), Lee
 8. Land Use Advisory Committee: Morales (Chair)
 9. METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee: Zelle (Chair), Chamblis, Cameron, Osman (Alternate)
 10. METRO Blue Line Extension Project Development Board: Zelle (Chair), Chamblis, Cameron (Alternate)
 11. METRO Green Line Extension Corridor Management Committee: Zelle (Chair), Tyronne Carter, Lilligren, Cameron (Alternate)
 12. METRO Green Line Extension Executive Change Control Board: Zelle, Barber, Lilligren (Alternate)
 13. METRO Gold Line Executive Change Control Board: Zelle (Chair), Lee, Jenkins (Alternate)
 14. METRO Purple Line Corridor Management Committee: Zelle (Chair), Lee, Lindstrom (Alternate), Cederberg (Alternate)
 15. Metropolitan Airports Commission: Cameron, Morales (Alternate)
 16. Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee: Wulff (Chair)
 17. Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: Wulff
 18. Minnesota Council on Disability: Wulff
 19. Olmstead Sub-Cabinet: Wulff
 20. Regional Council of Mayors: Lindstrom, Johnson (Alternate)
 21. Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee: Toni Carter, Lee (Alternate)
 22. Southwest LRT PLACES: Cameron
 23. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee: Cameron
 24. Transportation Advisory Board: Barber, Chamblis (Alternate)

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2025 Disparity Study (Keen Independent Research, Ashanti Payne and Jody Jacoby)

Keen Independent Research staff, David Keen and Blanca Monter, presented the 2025 Disparity Study research team, study overview, Met Council's utilization data and results, recommendations and timeline. Disparity studies help organizations understand equity in procurement for locally funded contracts. Federally contracted programs are excluded from the 2025 Disparity Study.

Utilization data from July 2016 – June 2023 includes prime and sub-prime contracts during this period. Based on contract data, the share of minority-owned businesses (MBE) and white woman-owned businesses (WBE) increased (9%) since the last disparity study (6% for 2011-2016). In this period, 62.5% of contract dollars went to small businesses based on categorizations set by Small Business Administration standards. Data results showed 4% of contract dollars were spent with vendors from the Met Council Underutilized Business program. Based on utilization and weighted availability data, the study found there were disparities within the Professional Services and Goods industries. In addition, presenters walked through data how the Council compared to the other entities participating in the 2025 Disparity Study.

Presenters shared themes from anecdotal data collection from interviews with community vendors. Themes included challenges with access to capital and securing bonding; closed networks; finding opportunities to bid; and business taxation in Minnesota. The presentation concluded with recommendations for the Council's consideration.

Council members discussed the challenges they hear from their constituents, which align with themes from the study; and thanked staff and presenters for their work with the 2025 Disparity Study.

In connection to the 2025 Disparity Study, Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director of OEEO, presented five Small Business Program recommendations from the Small Business Equity Assessment:

- Approval and implementation of the Small Business Spend Plan Policy.
- Development and implementation of Metropolitan Council Small Business Program.
- Council bid board and direct solicitation to small businesses for Council opportunities.
- Dedicated funding for continued administration of the Support Services for certified small businesses.
- Strengthen the Council's prompt payment monitoring and compliance; and Change Order process.

Council members voiced their support to improve contracting opportunities for small businesses and thanked staff for their work on this important topic.

Reports

Chair Zelle thanked staff for their work with the 2025 Disparity Study.

CM Jenkins and CM Obisakin provided remarks and thanked their families, colleagues and current Council members who have helped them along the way to being a Council member.

CM Lilligren highlighted the Council's work and influence in the region through a recent Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis roundtable with local metro Indian leadership. The topic focused on how to do Native development in the urban core. CM Lilligren shared the Council's Dakota Land, Water and People acknowledgment work with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and its regional partners.

CM Barber thanked Council members who attended the June 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole event in Chaska. The elected officials appreciated meeting Council members and hosting the event in their region.



General Counsel acknowledged the complexity of small business work and thanked staff from the Office of General Counsel and Procurement for their expertise, time and dedication to the Disparity Study.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 9, 2025.

Council contact:

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