

# Minutes

Metropolitan Council



**Meeting date:** July 23, 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 4:04 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

## 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 July 9, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

Liam Athas provided public comments regarding his experience using the new METRO B Line bus.

## Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-9)

1. **2025-158:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
  1. Authorize the City of Edina to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Edina's forecasts.
  3. Advise the City of Edina to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Water Resources.
2. **2025-159:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
  1. Authority the City of Minneapolis to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
3. **2025-160:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
  1. Authority the City of Forest Lake to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Minneapolis's forecasts.
4. **2025-162:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  1. Approve a grant of up to \$1,462,502 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Scott County to acquire approximately 123 acres located at 17525 263rd St. W. in Belle Plain, MN, for the Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve.
  2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
5. **2025-163:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  1. Approve a grant of up to \$350,636 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire approximately 5 acres located at 9045 Rebecca Park Trail in Greenfield, MN, for the Lake Rebecca Park Reserve.
  2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
6. **2025-165:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract 20P007 with Venable, LLC for legal services in support of METRO Green Line Extension Project activities in an amount not to exceed \$8,977,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$28,227,000.
7. **2025-166:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with the City of Plymouth, a Replacement Service Provider (Suburban Transit Provider), for local match to the City's \$15 million federal RAISE grant to make infrastructure investments around the City's Transit Station 73.
8. **2025-171:** That the Metropolitan Council establish free (\$0.00) fares on regional regular route services for certified Metro Mobility customers retroactive to June 14, 2025, as directed by the legislature.
9. **2025-172:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P248 with FBG Service Corporation (FBG) to provide janitorial services for the Environmental Services Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$655,000.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lindstrom.

**Motion carried.**



## Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

### *Community Development*

1. No reports.

### *Environment*

1. **2025-157:** That the Metropolitan Council adopts the following wastewater rates and charges to be effective January 1, 2026: Regional Wastewater Charge (total of municipal wastewater charges) of \$314,622,000;
  - Sewer Availability Charge (SAC): \$2,485 (\$3,185 for East Bethel and \$4,685 for Elko/New Market);
  - Temporary SAC: \$1.25 per thousand gallons;
  - Industrial Capacity Charge: \$2.38 per 1,000 gallons (\$3.05 for E. Bethel, \$4.49 for Elko NM)
  - Industrial Strength Charge: \$.359 per excess pound of TSS (total suspended solids);
  - Industrial Strength Charge: \$.180 per excess pound of COD (chemical oxygen demand);
  - Brewery Strength Charge: \$1.13 per barrel;
  - Standard Load Charge: \$67.27 per thousand gallons;
  - Holding Tank Load Charge: \$12.74 per thousand gallons;
  - Portable Toilet Waste Load Charge: \$86.20 per thousand gallons;
  - Collar County Load Charge: \$82.27 per thousand gallons;
  - Strength component of Industrial Load Charge \$.440 per excess pound of TSS;
  - Strength component of Industrial Load Charge \$.220 per excess pound of COD;
  - Out-of-Region Load Charge Component for hauled waste: \$15.00 per thousand gallons;
  - Industrial Permit Fees as shown on Attachment A; and
  - Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Surcharge Exceedance Rate: \$555,000 per million gallons per day (rate of maximum measured flow within an hour over allowed flow rate).

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Toni Carter.

**Motion carried.**

### *Management*

1. **2025-174 SW:** That the Council authorizes bind coverage of its property insurance effective 8/1/25 – 8/1/26, in an amount not to exceed \$4,670,000.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Obisakin.

**Motion carried.**

2. **2025-175 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25M030 with Carahsoft, an authorized software reseller on State of Texas, Department of Information Resources Cooperative Contract DIR-CPO-5131 for Granicus' Legistar software system in an amount not to exceed \$768,000.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Chamblis.

**Motion carried.**

### ***Transportation***

1. **2025-154:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to contract 23P050 with 4RM+ULA Architects for the METRO Blue Line Lake St/Midtown Station Renovation design and construction support services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,245,107.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Chamblis.

**Motion carried.**

2. **2025-155:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P213 with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the METRO Blue Line Franklin Ave Station Renovation design and construction support services, in an amount not to exceed \$ 3,299,839.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Osman.

**Motion carried.**

3. **2025-179:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P010 with Transdev North America for regular route service under the St. Paul and Anoka County contract in an amount not to exceed \$56,200,000.

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

**Motion carried.**

### ***Joint reports***

1. No reports.

### ***Other business***

1. **2025-173:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointment to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB):  
District F – Torin Gustafson

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Lilligren.

**Motion carried.**

### ***Information***

1. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update

Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Planning Manager - Arterial BRT, presented an update to the 2025 Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plan. The goal is to identify the next programmed arterial BRT lines (J, K, L). In April 2025, there were 17 candidate corridors for consideration for arterial BRT.

Based on the four goals and screening criteria, 10 candidate corridors were identified to advance. Now that the 10 corridors were identified, there will be a comment period from July 23 through September 1, 2025. Staff will seek feedback on advanced corridors from partner agency reviews, such as cities and counties, and community outreach and engagement. Outreach and engagement activities include pop-up events and transit centers to meet riders where they are in the community.

Council members thanked staff for their hard work and time planning for the next BRT lines as there are ample opportunities for connectivity throughout the region. Council members hope that this will be an iterative process as goals and criteria shift over time.

Staff noted that Metro Transit planners are already partners with many partner agencies on other projects. Staff encouraged partner agencies to continue to be partners and actively help identify road projects so that their corridors are ready for BRT. Corridors that are not ready for the build-out can be included in future rounds.

## 2. 2024 Population Estimates (Matt Schroeder)

Matt Schroeder presented the 2024 Population Estimates, which were released the previous week. The estimates are not the same as forecasts and the estimates timeline is determined by state law. The data shows complete housing unit counts and housing stocks using permit data. With this data, there is confidence in the estimates of occupancy rates and average household size. Staff walked through where growth is happening based on historical trends as well as where growth is occurring most rapidly.

Council members and staff discussed definitions of how cities are classified, how households are categorized when older residents move south for the winter and factors for migration from other counties and states. In addition, Council members inquired about how Minnesota compares with other Midwestern metropolitan regions. Staff noted that Minnesota has higher birth rates. The Midwest and Northeast have much slower growth than in previous decade. Minnesota has been in the middle of the pack for population growth.

Staff concluded the presentation with a summary of what 2025 estimates may look like, which includes death rates continue to drop; strong increase in multi-family occupancy; ongoing decline in multi-family permitting; immigration restrictions and deportations; as well as possible recession and cooling homeownership market.

## Reports

Chair Zelle applauded staff and crew for the amazing Green Line LRT capital maintenance work. The work finished earlier than planned and this provided mobility for people who attended the Yacht Club Festival.

Council Members remarked on Chair Zelle's retirement news and appreciated Chair Zelle for his leadership during his tenure as Chair.

Regional Administrator echoed Chair Zelle's comments on the Green Line LRT construction and noted the two areas of work done. Work was done to fix heating elements along the rail tracks as well as replaced rail brakes, which had trains running at slower speeds. Since rails are embedded in the ground, this added complexity to maintenance work. The Yacht Club Festival brought thousands of people to downtown Saint Paul. Last year, there were no Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services in downtown Saint Paul. This year, the BRT system carried significantly more people due to who it connected people to the music festival. As the region moves from mode to expectation of services, this is one we can build from in the region.



## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:01 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 23, 2025.

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### Council contact:

Mee Cheng, Recording Secretary

[Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us)

651-602-1842

