

# Minutes

Metropolitan Council



**Meeting date:** September 10, 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 4:02 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Obisakin to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

No public comments were made.

## Regional Leadership Awards (Presented by Chair Zelle)

Chair Zelle presented the Metropolitan Council's Regional Leadership Awards to Senator Scott Dibble and Representative Frank Hornstein for their legislative leadership and championing for a transit system that connects people to opportunities.

## Other business

1. **2025-194:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2025 Unified Budget as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

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

### Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	15	Johnson, Chamblis, Dr. Carter, Barber, Pacheco, Lilligren, Osman, Cameron, Morales, Jenkins, Lee, Toni Carter, Obisakin, Wulff, Zelle
Nay	0	
Absent	2	Lindstrom and Dr. Cederberg

2. **2025-170:** That the Metropolitan Council (1) adopt the attached FM 12-3 transit funding allocation policy and (2) direct staff to develop procedures to implement this policy.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Johnson.

### Motion carried.

## Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-12)

1. **2025-195:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  1. Approve a grant of up to \$546,445 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to reimburse for the acquisition of a 2.17-acre parcel located at 17020 Dayton River Road in Dayton, MN, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail.
  2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
2. **2025-196:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  1. Approve a grant of up to \$405,155 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 1.14-acre parcel located at 17060 Dayton River Road in Dayton, MN, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail.
  2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
3. **2025-201:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 21P364 with HDR, Inc. that will increase the contract value by \$1,292,869 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$12,034,714.
4. **2025-202:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25I067 with the State of Minnesota Information Technology Services (MNIT) to provide data center co-location hosting services in an amount not to exceed \$4,948,734.
5. **2025-203:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 20P022 with Independent Emergency Services for maintenance and support that will increase the contract value by \$190,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$552,958.
6. **2025-205:** That the Metropolitan Council recommend the City of Anoka's Highway 47/BNSF Railway Crossing Project to MnDOT for scoring consideration in the Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement Solicitation.

7. **2025-207:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P074 with Landsculpt Inc. to provide site maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$687,284.
8. **2025-209:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy).
9. **2025-210:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts 24P275A-D for technical consultant services that will support Environmental Services Water Sustainability program in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 as follows:

Contractor	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Barr Engineering	24P275A	\$1,100,000
Kimley-Horn & Associates	24P275B	\$1,100,000
HDR Engineering	24P275C	\$1,100,000
Carollo Engineers	24P275D	\$700,000

10. **2025-217:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P043 with Cady Business Technologies to provide unified communications maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$2,078,500.
11. **2025-218:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P254 with Paragon Development Systems (PDS) to provide vehicle network equipment, licensing, maintenance, and technical services for an amount not to exceed \$8,800,000.
12. **2025-219:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes binding rail liability insurance, related to the Green Line Extension, in an amount not to exceed \$4,600,000.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Osman.

**Motion carried.**

## Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

### *Community Development*

1. **2025-221:** City of Bayport ISD 834 School Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 22164-2 (Emma Dvorak 651-602-1399)

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Toni Carter.

**Motion carried.**

2. **2025-223:** Funding Recommendations for 2025 Livable Communities Act Pre-Development and Policy Grants (Marcus Martin 651-602-1054, Olivia Boerschinger 651-602-1327)

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Chamblis.

**Motion carried.**

### *Environment*

1. No reports.

### *Management*

1. No reports.

## Transportation

1. **2025-137:** That the Metropolitan Council (Council) determine the adequacy of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for the METRO Blue Line Extension (Project) and authorize its Chair to sign the SFEIS Adequacy Determination on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Lilligren.

### Motion carried.

2. **2025-216:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  1. Adopt the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
  2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
    - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
    - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
    - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
    - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
    - e. Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
    - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
    - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
    - h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
    - i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and;
    - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
  3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
  4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
  5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable executive orders and federal requirements.
  6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
  7. Transmit the 2026-2029 TIP along with public comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Obisakin.

### Motion carried.

## Information

1. No reports.

## Reports

Chair Zelle announced that Governor Walz has appointed Council Member Deb Barber as the interim Chair of the Met Council. Chair Zelle thanked Council Member Barber for accepting the Governor's appointment to provide continued leadership to the Met Council in the interim. Chair Zelle provided outgoing remarks on his time at the Council and acknowledged the leadership of the Council Members and expertise of Council staff.

Council Members, Regional Administrator and General Counsel thanked Chair Zelle for his public and private sector leadership and contributions to the Council.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 10, 2025.

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### Council contact:

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