

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee Meeting Date: October 22, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: October 22, 2025

Business Item: 2025-239

Adopting the Metropolitan Council's Public Comment Draft of the 2026 Unified Budget

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes Section 275.065, Section 473.121, 473.249, and Section 473.13.
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer (651) 602-1162
Division/Department:	All

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Comment Draft of the 2026 Unified Budget.

Background

Adoption of the public comment draft establishes the basis for gathering public input. The public comment draft combines the Council's proposed operating budget and proposed capital program into a consolidated budget document. The public comment draft is consistent with the budget presentations to the Council and Policy Committees and is consistent with the preliminary budget adopted on August 27, 2025. Changes to the operating budget, capital program, and/or reductions to levies may occur prior to final adoption on December 3, 2025.

The Metropolitan Council will accept public comments on the 2026 Unified Budget at 6:00 PM on December 3, 2025.

Comments may also be submitted for the official record via phone, mail, or email through 5:00 PM on December 3, 2025.

Rationale

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 275.065, the Metropolitan Council shall solicit public comment on the proposed 2026 Unified Budget.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This budget supports the Thrive outcome of stewardship by assessing the future needs, responsible planning, and responsible management of resources for the Metropolitan Council.

Funding

As included in the attached 2026 Public Comment Budget.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with this action.