

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: October 22, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Deb Barber
- ☒ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☐ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☐ Vacant, 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, E = excused

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 Barber 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 Osman.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Tyronne Carter to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Add any notes of conversation here.

Other business

2025-239: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Comment Draft of the 2026 Unified Budget.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Cederberg.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	12	Johnson, Dr. Carter, Pacheco, Lilligren, Osman, Morales, Lindstrom, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Toni Carter, Wulff, Barber
Nay	0	
Absent	2	Chamblis and Lee

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-11)

1. **2025-242:** That the Metropolitan Council approve a grant of up to \$332,408 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 1.59-acre parcel located at 16560 Dayton River Road in Dayton, MN, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail.
2. **2025-243:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve a grant of up to \$1,368,375 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Carver County to acquire in easement approximately 7.7 acres of a former Carver County Regional Railroad Authority corridor located in Chaska, MN, for the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail.
 2. Authorize the Executive Director of the Community Development Division to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
3. **2025-247:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 25I038 ("Agreement") with the City of Saint Paul relating to construction of the METRO G Line project.
4. **2025-248:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 25I048 ("Agreement") with the City of Little Canada relating to construction of the METRO G Line project.
5. **2025-249:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 25I049 ("Agreement") with Ramsey County related to construction of the METRO G Line project.
6. **2025-250:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 25I050 ("Agreement") with Dakota County related to construction of the METRO G Line project.
7. **2025-251:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 25I066 ("Agreement") with the City of West Saint Paul related to construction of the METRO G Line project.
8. **2025-254:** 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 improvements at the Northwest Greenway Park and Ride in the amount of \$1,121,386.
9. **2025-255:** The Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P267 with Waste Management Inc. to provide solid waste and recycling services in the amount of \$1,100,000.
10. **2025-265:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and

execute contract 25P004 with Border States Industries, Inc. to provide programmable logic controller components for Environmental Services Water Resource Recovery Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$1,024,667.89.

11. **2025-266:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P064 with Schlomka's Vac Truck Services, Inc. for hauling high strength waste from Kemps LLC to either the Empire or the Metropolitan Water Resource Recovery Facility in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

It was moved by Johnson seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2025-267:** After extensive analysis and discussion throughout 2025, the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and the Community Development Committee (CDC) forward these recommendations to the Metropolitan Council for their consideration:

1. To be eligible for the new 2050 Small Communities Planning Program, a community must meet one of the following three criteria:

a. Current population (2024) is under 500 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 175% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

OR

b. Current population (2024) is between 500 to 999 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 150% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

OR

c. Current population (2024) is between 1,000 and 2,500 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 125% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

2. To be eligible for the 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program, a community must meet one of the following three criteria:

a. Current population (2024) is between 2,500 to 14,999 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 125% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

OR

b. Current population (2024) is between 15,000 to 35,000 AND adjusted net tax capacity (2024) per capita is less than or equal to 100% of metro median net tax capacity per capita.

c. County with land use planning authority for townships within their jurisdiction OR a consortium of 5 or more Dakota County communities in the Rural Service Area working collaboratively on their comprehensive plan updates.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Tyronne Carter.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2025-126 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District 82 ALF-CIO effective for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2028.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-263 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached updated version of the following policy:

- OEE0 5-1 Promoting Small Business Programs and Addressing Discrimination

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Jenkins.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-252 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached version of the following policy:

- FM 14-1 Procurement Policy

Changes to FM 14-1 Procurement Policy are driven by recent legislative updates that expanded procurement flexibilities related to small business programs and construction/maintenance contracts. These legislative updates allow certain thresholds (for “micro purchases” and “small purchases”) to be increased. These thresholds affect whether competitive quotes/proposals/bids are needed in order to purchase goods and services for the Council, as well as whether public solicitation is required. Additionally, language pertaining to small and disadvantaged businesses has been reworded.

The proposed changes to procurement-related thresholds are as follows:

- Increase the micro purchase limit from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for locally funded projects (non-MCUB)
- Increase the micro purchase limit for locally funded MCUB purchases from \$25,000 to \$100,000
- Increase the small purchase threshold for construction and maintenance projects from \$175,000 to \$250,000

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2025-246:** That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2025-23 declaring the METRO G Line Project as a public purpose, authorizing acquisition of all real estate interests necessary for the Project, and authorizing staff to initiate condemnation proceedings on behalf of the Council for parcels that cannot be acquired by negotiation.

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Lindstrom.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-256:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract number 251100 a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Council to operate commuter express bus service between Big Lake, Elk River, and downtown Minneapolis at no net cost to the Council.

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. **2025-274:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Release the draft amendment to Imagine 2050 on the Outcomes Measurement Program for public comment.
 2. Authorize a public comment period from Thursday, October 23, 2025, to Monday, December 22, 2025.
 3. Conduct a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Morales.

Staff provided a recap of the program work and highlighted the changes heard from community partners and Council Members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Indicators Presentation

Greater MSP staff, Nathan Arnosti, Director of Research & Intelligence, and Julia Silvis, Managing Director of Research & Intelligence, gave a presentation of the 2025 Regional Indicators Dashboard. Julia provided an overview of the regional indicators dashboard, what its intent is and the regional partners that Greater MSP works with. The dashboard is designed to provide a holistic picture of how the Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP) region is doing with aspirational benchmarks with 11 peer regions. Nathan walked through four headlines that were shared at the Compete event in August 2025:

- a) Promising signals on racial inclusion but inequities remain. Data points that support this headline include employment gap, wage gap and poverty rate.
- b) Housing and infrastructure are assets for livability. Data points that support this headline include housing is more affordable than peer regions,
- c) The MSP region is still a good place for workers. Data points that support this headline include the MSP region ranked #2 in jobs paying a family-sustaining wage, and its labor-force participation rate is ranked #3 compared with its 11 peer regions.
- d) Regional economic growth and innovation are slowing. Gross regional product growth and job growth rates have slowed. Peer regions are pulling ahead on key entrepreneurship and innovation metrics, such as venture-capital growth rates, small business loans and patent rates.

Presenters and Council Members acknowledged that while data show promise, inequities remain when the data is disaggregated. Regional Administrator noted the intersections of the regional indicators dashboard with the Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies plan. In addition, discussion included the need for collaboration around place-based investments and continued partnerships to create civic leadership tables to focus on regional challenges identified in the data and how to move the regional forward.

Reports

Chair Barber shared that the Council has developed an implementation plan to come into compliance with the interim final rule regarding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program. Regional Administrator added that this work is in coordination with state partners. Chair Barber thanked staff for their hard work with the implementation plan. In addition, Chair Barber shared she did a bonding tour with Minnesota Management and Budget and Dakota County staff at Spring Lake Park Reserve in Rosemount. This is an opportunity to showcase the regional parks and what the Council is looking for in bonding and how the Council works with its regional partners.

Council Member Lilligren encouraged all Council Members to watch the October 20, 2025, Community Development committee meeting regarding the its discussion of 2026 payment standards for Metro Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Rent Assistance Program.

Council Member Pacheco announced that he will be presenting an award to Lieutenant Beverly Rodriguez's family at the Metro Transit Police Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 31, 2025.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 22, 2025.

Council contact:

Mee Cheng, Recording Secretary
Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1222

