

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: November 12, 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

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 4:03 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Toni Carter approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Kevin Kummer of North Saint Paul provided public comments regarding his Metro Transit ride where he experienced an assault. Mr. Kummer commended MTPD and Metro Transit for their

prompt response. He encouraged Metro Transit to be stern in its enforcement so that our regional transit system is safe for everyone who rely on public transit.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-16)

1. **2025-211:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an interagency agreement #25I084 for a cooperative construction project with the city of Rosemount for an amount not to exceed \$700,000.
2. **2025-240:** That the Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P240 with Professional Data Analysts to support research services like large public and employee sentiment surveys and focus groups to inform outreach, marketing and program evaluation activities, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.
3. **2025-245:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve the Cleary Lake Regional Park Long-Range Plan.
 2. Advise Scott County to consider implementing the recommendations for solar resources and population forecasts in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.
4. **2025-257:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P078 with Mohagen Hansen Architecture for the material management warehouse facility design and construction support services, in an amount not to exceed \$892,665.
5. **2025-258:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P058 with USI Insurance Services to provide benefits consulting services in the amount not to exceed \$1,225,000.
6. **2025-260:** That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA") # 25I102 with the City of Brooklyn Center.
7. **2025-264:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P310 with United Bus Sales utilizing the State of Minnesota contract #B-347(5) for four (4) replacement small buses for Transit Link Scott County in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.
8. **2025-268:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Lakeville to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Wastewater Service.
9. **2025-269:** That the Metropolitan Council approve a grant of up to \$365,356 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 1.58-acre parcel located at 6801 County Road 15 in Minnetrista, MN, for Gale Woods Farm Special Feature.
10. **2025-270:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to contract 19P142 with Origami Risk, LLC that will add up to \$919,908.34 for software maintenance and support for a total contract amount not to exceed \$ 4,735,539.17.
11. **2025-271:** That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a pass-through Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) 24I050 with the City of Minneapolis for the \$700,000 FTA Pilot Program for a TOD Planning grant award.
12. **2025-272:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25M098 with Securian Financial Group, for an 11-year lease which includes base rent, common area maintenance expenses, furniture, and tenant improvement allowance in the amount not to exceed \$9,200,000.
13. **2025-275:** That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add Reconnect Rondo's Reconnecting



Communities Pilot Program planning grant.

14. **2025-276:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 20P099 with Transdev, North America, for transit services that will add \$6,000,000, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$38,415,460.
15. **2025-283:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the revisions to the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan as described in this report and attachments.
16. **2025-287:** That the Metropolitan Council approve payment standards as shown in Table 2 for the Housing Choice Voucher and other rent assistance programs effective January 1, 2026.

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Chamblis. Council Member Jenkins abstained from voting on the Consent Agenda due to a conflict of interest with one of the business items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2025-288:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Award 15 Livable Communities Demonstration Account and Transit Oriented Development grants as shown in Table 1, and;
 2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Applicant	Recommended Project	Account	Award Amount
City of Apple Valley	Valley Station Apartments	LCDA-TOD	\$808,000
City of Bloomington	Blooming Meadows South	LCDA	\$2,000,000
City of Brooklyn Center	2025 ACER Shingle Creek Center Redevelopment	LCDA	\$900,000
City of Columbia Heights	Lincoln Avenue Communities Phased Redevelopment	LCDA	\$1,500,000
City of Cottage Grove	Hadley Ridge Apartments	LCDA	\$785,000
City of Falcon Heights	Larpenteur Avenue Senior	LCDA	\$432,500
City of Hopkins	501 Main Street	LCDA-TOD	\$892,000
City of Little Canada	99 County Road B - Affordable Senior Housing Development	LCDA	\$432,500
City of Minneapolis	Epic + R	LCDA-TOD	\$500,000
City of Minneapolis	2116 Nicollet	LCDA-TOD	\$1,500,000
City of Minneapolis	Zaria	LCDA	\$1,600,000
City of Minneapolis	1345 Central	LCDA	\$600,000
Saint Paul Port Authority	Arts & Amenities at The Heights	LCDA	\$1,800,000
City of Saint Paul	1170 Arcade (Face to Face)	LCDA-TOD	\$1,250,000
City of Saint Paul	680-694 Minnehaha Ave. E. (Historic Hamm's Brewery Rehabilitation of West End Complex)	LCDA-TOD	\$750,000
		Total	\$15,750,000

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Wulff.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2025-261 SW (Amended):** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached version of the following policy:
 - FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services and Real Estate Policy

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-262 SW (Amended):** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached version of the following policy:
 - FM 15-1 Income/Grants Policy

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Jenkins.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2025-187:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 22P103A with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., to increase the contract value by \$42,900,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$139,275,448.

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Joint Reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. **2025-289:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Release the 2025 Regional Economic Framework (the region's updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Alternative) for public comment.
 2. Authorize a public comment period from November 13, 2025, to December 22, 2025.
 3. Conduct a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at the regularly scheduled Metropolitan Council meeting.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Johnson.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-298:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Accept the public comment report for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 2. Authorize Council staff to finalize the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, including

making non-substantive edits for plain language, accessibility, and consistency and submit the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Jenkins.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-299:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolutions setting days, times and locations for regular meetings of the Council and its Committees and authorizing closed Committee meetings:
 - a. Metropolitan Council (Resolution No. 2025-31)
 - b. Committee of the Whole (Resolution No. 2025-32)
 - c. Management Committee (Resolution No. 2025-33)
 - d. Community Development Committee (Resolution No. 2025-34)
 - e. Environment Committee (Resolution No. 2025-35)
 - f. Transportation Committee (Resolution No. 2025-36)

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **E Line Activation** (Adam Smith 612-349-7160, Bob Westgate)

Brian Funk, Service Deputy General Manager at Metro Transit, introduced Bob Westgate, Senior Manager of Operations Planning. The Operations Planning team has been formalized to assist with implementation efforts of large Metro Transit projects.

Adam Smith, Manager of BRT Projects, gave an overview of the Metro E Line timeline, which began construction in 2024 and will open for operation on December 6, 2025. The presenter outlined the features of the Metro E Line stops, including station platforms that provide shelter, heat, lights, real-time signage and off-board fare collection.

Bob Westgate presented on the operational readiness of the Metro E Line, citing two test runs of buses along the route. Operations teams will continue to monitor stations to ensure safe and reliable operations.

Council members inquired about transit line monitoring and how routes will be managed when roads are closed for events. Staff responded that they intend to use bus operator feedback and will identify suitable detours during events.
2. **Arterial BRT Plan Update** (Kyle O'Donnell Burrows 612-349-7749)

Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Planning Manager for Arterial BRT at Metro Transit, presented on the Arterial BRT Plan Update process. The presentation included a brief recap of Arterial BRT Plan Update process, a review of the Technical Evaluation Results, and a preview of considerations that will be taken as they select the future J, K, and L transit lines. The presenter explained that the Arterial BRT Lines focus heavily on ridership, where the goal is to serve the highest number of people efficiently. Therefore, the Arterial BRT Lines focus on corridors that have high population and employment density, aiming for 25 or more passengers per service hour.

The 2025 ABRT Plan Update aims to identify the next three Arterial BRT lines (J, K, and L Line), that are planned to open between 2030 and 2035. The steps to this process include identifying candidate corridors, screening the corridors to identify the most promising routes, and performing detailed technical evaluations. The next steps will prioritize the next three lines based on the technical evaluation and readiness criteria. The presenter

addressed the roles of outreach and engagement in planning considerations and identified additional factors such as readiness and partner coordination.

Council Member Johnson and Council Member Toni Carter inquired about the West 7th Corridor and the utilization of engagement results in the consideration of prospective corridors. Council Member Wulff emphasized the importance of the transit corridor covered by bus route 54 and the key connection between downtown Saint Paul and the airport.

Reports

Chair Barber provided a recap of the B Line Celebration to commemorate one million rides. The initial grand opening celebration was canceled due to the assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband. In addition, Chair Barber announced that the November 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole will be in Woodbury, MN and it will focus on the topic of water.

Council Member Johnson shared that she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Highway 610 extension project on November 10, 2025. Council Member Johnson thanked all partners who worked on the project.

General Counsel Bloodhart noted non-substantive administrative errors on business items 2025-261 and 2025-262. The dates on the business items should have been listed as November 12, 2025 and not November 5, 2025.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 12, 2025.

Council contact:

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

