

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: July 14, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = 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, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Chair Barber.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Carter, Tyronne to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced and thanked MTPD Interim Chief Dotseth and Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk for their leadership. Interim Chief Dotseth and Funk presented awards to: MTPD Captain Salah Ahmed, MTPD Officer Juan Peralta, Assistant Director – Field Operations Antionette Brasson, Assistant Manager – Street Operations Amy Ferman, Street Supervisor Nabell Khoury (not in attendance), Assistant Director – Bus Maintenance Operations John Demorrett and Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Services Jeremiah Riter.

Kandaras also introduced Director – BRT Projects Katie Roth who presented awards to Manager BRT Projects Frank Alarcon and Senior Project Coordinator Alicia Valenti; Director Community Affairs Sophia Ginis who presented awards to Manager Public Involvement Cody Olson and Community Outreach Coordinator Alyssia Bell; Manager Construction Services Jesse Hejlstone who presented an award to Principal Contract Administrator Kendra Jaeger (not in attendance); and Manager Market Development Maria Cone who presented an award to Senior Market Development Specialist Anj Olsen.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Carlson reported on three concurrent public comment periods: Transportation Policy Plan Amendment (July 10 through August 27), Transportation Improvements Program ended July 7), and Unified Planning Work Program (ends August 1).

2. Metro Transit General Manager

No report.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)

No report.

Consent business

1. **2025-166:** Authorize Grant Agreement with the City of Plymouth for Local Match to the City's Federal RAISE Grant

Proposed Action: 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.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Carter, Toni.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-154:** Blue Line Lake Street/Midtown Renovation Design Contract Amendment, Contract 23P050

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obisakin, 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.

Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Manager Derek Berube presented this item. Council members expressed excitement and appreciation for the project, including the design renderings.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-155:** Blue Line Franklin Ave Renovation Design, Contract 25P213

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin, 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.

Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Liz Morice presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked about the e-scooter component. Morice stated the design will look at ways to

coordinate the large amount of e-scooter and e-bikes that are parked at the station (usually piled up at the end of the stairs), which could include aspects of a mobility hub. Carter, Toni questioned how the community was engaged. Morice responded that the team has worked with the Metropolitan Council's tribal liaison, as well as the community engagement team to help make those connections with the community. Johnson asked that the team work with partners regarding cleanliness of the station and surrounding area as it relates to needles.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-171: Free Regular Route Rides for Certified Metro Mobility Customers**

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Obisakin, 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.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Director Gerri Sutton presented this item. Osman asked how many people use Metro Mobility services. Harper responded that Metro Mobility delivers about 2.2 million trips per year, with an average subsidy of about \$50 per trip. Cameron asked what percentage of Metro Mobility customers used regular route service during the \$0 fare pilot. Harper stated in 2024, there were 70k trips and 2025 is projected to yield 90k trips. Cameron asked about the funding component and where the cost is absorbed. Harper stated the estimated \$100k is eaten by the Council or the transit providers because it provides a good overall benefit, due to the comparison of a \$50 subsidy with a Metro Mobility trip, while freeing up space within the program to provide rides within the ADA and non-ADA service areas. Carter, Tyrone asked about the certification process. Harper stated there is a well-defined process for certification, that is guided by the elements of the federal ADA.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated that this item could proceed as consent to Council.

4. **2025-179: St Paul and Anoka County (SPaAC) Transit Service, Contract 25P010**

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin, 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.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Service Manager John Harper presented this item. Chamblis asked about the evaluation panel. Metropolitan Council's Chief Procurement Officer explained the procurement process that happens when there is only a single bid/proposal received and that with this procurement the evaluation panel did not determine there was anything restrictive, meaning that if a new solicitation was sent out it wouldn't yield a different response. Johnson expressed apprehension with the vendor due to their national/international presence (including purchasing smaller bus companies). Harper stated that due to the use of federal money, there are strict guidelines that must be followed including be agnostic to whether the vendor is local, national, or international.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan Annual Report**

Metro Transit Electric Bus Infrastructure Manager Carrie Desmond and Bus Maintenance Technology Assistant Director Jeremiah Riter presented this item. There was discussion around workforce development and environmental justice/engagement.

2. **August Service and State Fair Update**

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington and Market Development Specialist Jessica Cross presented this item. Council members asked about cross-

communication with the State Fair in terms of bus information, the discontinued route 960 and park n ride locations.

3. Transit Funding Allocation Policy Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson presented this item. There was discussion around approval process and advantages to replacing the pooled capital funding for suburban transit providers.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 14, 2025.

Council contact:

Becky Gorell, Recording Secretary
Rebecca.Gorell@metrotransit.org

