

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: May 14, 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

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Vacant, 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 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member 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 Morales, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Kelly Elvestad of Castle Rock addressed the Council regarding cooperative planning between community members and decision-making entities on land use, and clear guidelines for public comments on the Council's website prior to a Council vote.

Nancy Aarestat of Castle Rock addressed the Council regarding the public's right to be heard at the Council's public meetings.

Jeff Schottler of Farmington addressed the Council regarding the safe separation of residential, commercial and industrial zoning.

Cathy Peregrino of Farmington addressed the Council regarding project-related noise and its impact on the health of residents.

Andrew Boardman of ATU 1005 addressed the Council regarding the City of Minneapolis' Nicollet Mall project; and read a statement from the President of ATU 1005 to oppose discontinuing the Northstar Commuter Rail service.

Jim Elli (did not indicate his location) addressed the Council regarding its responsibility and to reject decisions that negatively affect the residents of this area.

Esther Varga of Farmington addressed the Council on how the Met Council process discourages public participation and that the decisions should be made on research, not on assumptions or fear of being sued.

Taylor Heitman of Farmington addressed the Council regarding the reading of the Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement and how those words mean nothing without action behind them.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-8)

1. **2025-87:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - a. Approve the Baker Park Reserve Long-Range Plan.
 - b. Advise Three Rivers Park District to consider implementing the recommendations for solar resources and population forecasts in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.
 - c. Require the Park District, prior to any new development of the park reserve, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.
2. **2025-98:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract 211041 with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office to update the rates for legal services for FY 2026 and FY 2027 and to add a not to exceed amount of \$150,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$650,000.
3. **2025-101 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a multi-use trail and intersection improvements to the City of Bloomington's CSAH 34 (Normandale Blvd) sidewalk, curb ramp, and signal project.
4. **2025-102 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the cost of four Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (FTA Section 5310) projects.
5. **2025-103 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add charging and fueling infrastructure.
6. **2025-113:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - a. Issue System Statements to communities in the seven-county metropolitan area in September 2025, with local comprehensive plan updates due to the Council by December 31, 2028.
 - b. Accept comprehensive plan amendments to 2040 local comprehensive plans through September 30, 2028. Proposed amendments must be submitted and found

complete for review by September 30, 2028, in order to be considered by the Council and authorized to be placed into effect. After September 30, 2028, the Council will no longer accept amendments to 2040 local comprehensive plans.

- c. Advise communities that:
- i. All communities must use regional policy and system plans adopted by the Council as a part of Imagine 2050 for all local comprehensive plan updates and for all comprehensive plan amendments submitted to the Council for review after December 31, 2025.
 - ii. For comprehensive plan amendments submitted and found complete for review before December 31, 2025, communities may choose to have those amendments reviewed under the Thrive MSP 2040 and its system plans or under Imagine 2050 and its system plans, provided that the proposed amendment is not found more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from the 2050 metropolitan system plans adopted in 2025.
 - iii. For comprehensive plan amendments submitted before the issuance of System Statements, the Council will consider any requests for forecast changes in light of Imagine 2050 forecasts and consider interim revisions to those forecasts for inclusion in 2025 System Statements. Council staff will work with communities on how best to incorporate any proposed forecast changes into 2040 local comprehensive plans.
 - iv. The Council will no longer make revisions to the allocations of affordable housing need for the 2021-2030 decade, which were originally adopted as a part of Thrive MSP 2040. Any proposed changes to Imagine 2050 forecasts may affect the allocation of affordable housing need for the 2031-2040 decade and will be considered consistent with the forecast revision approach.

7. **2025-116 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2025-116 SW, which:
- a. authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program awards in the total amount of \$209,720.
 - b. and releases the remaining \$190,280 to be used for either the Equity-Focused Pilot Program or the Water Efficiency Grant Program if additional funding is requested by participating municipalities.
8. **2025-118 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute Contract 24P242 with PCI Roads for the Seneca Site and Pipe Restoration project in an amount not to exceed \$10,466,727.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2025-88:**
- a. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 - b. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 - c. Strongly advise the City that:
 - i. Because of the potential volume and chemical characteristics of wastewater

from this site, the Council is concerned about a potential wastewater system impact. Therefore, the Council advises the City to consider the full extent of the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater.

- ii. Because of the volume of projected water use identified for this site, the Council is concerned about the potential water demand tradeoff between this immediate industrial use versus the population future growth of the City. Therefore, the Council advises the City to consider the full extent of advisory comments in the Review Record for water supply.

d. Advise the City:

- i. That its Plan remains inconsistent with Council housing policy, and it may not draw down funds awarded via Livable Communities Act (LCA) programs
- ii. To implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for forecasts.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis.

CM Wulff pointed out that the action the Council is taking is whether the City's amendment is in alignment with the Regional Development Guide with regard to land use. CM Johnson empathized with those in attendance and reiterated the Council's role in this matter. CM Johnson encouraged residents to work through City of Farmington City Council, as the City has the authority to make decisions that the residents are seeking. Chair Zelle commended the Council members on their hard work and time spent on this topic.

Motion carried.

Environment

No reports.

Management

No reports.

Transportation

1. **2025-109 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract 25P103 with Vontas to provide thirty-nine OnRoute systems that includes installation, licensing and configuration in an amount not to exceed \$897,685.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-114 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute lease agreement 25M036 with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) on behalf of Trinity Railway Express (TRE), and with Amtrak of idle Northstar equipment, subject to FTA concurrence.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Johnson.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-115 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract 24P298R with Rion Equipment to provide railcar mover equipment in an amount not to exceed \$572,320.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

No reports.



Other business

No reports.

Reports

Chair Zelle acknowledged the hard work by the government relations staff and the strides made by the Met Council in the past years.

CM Cederberg commented on the water quality issues in the region and how the Environment Committee is committed to elevating these issues by bringing them to the Committee of the Whole as part of the implementation of Imagine 2050. CM Johnson added the importance of working with our partners to discuss possible impacts to our systems as things progress.

CM Wulff announced that May 15th is Law Enforcement Memorial Day. Law enforcement officers will gather at the Peace Officer monument at the Capitol. There will be a ceremony to honor the fallen officers and those disabled in the line of duty.

Regional Administrator (RA) O'Connor shared that it is Police Week and highlighted events and work that Chief Dotseth is doing with Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) in the region and noted Employee Appreciation events across the organization. Lastly, RA O'Connor provided updates on the Culture Ambassadors session which focused on what appreciation looks and feels like and how employees work with each other across the Council.

General Counsel, Ann Bloodhart, expressed appreciation to the Council members on how the Council operates within the context of their legislative authority, even when it may conflict with their personal feelings on a topic.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2025.

Council contact:

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