

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** August 6, 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

- ☒ 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 Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Lilligren to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2025 & June 18, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. **Q2 2025 Safety and Security Action Plan** (Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513, Dan Stoffer 612-349-7002, Liz Morice 612-474-4353, Matt Broughton 612-349-7472, Interim Chief Joseph Dotseth, 612-349-7269, John Choi - Ramsey)

Lesley Kandas, General Manager of Metro Transit, provided an overview of the presentation including Part 1: Safety and Security Action Plan Update, and Part 2: Metro Transit Police Department Update. Staff highlighted the strategic priorities of Metro Transit including increasing ridership and improving customer experience. Dan Stauffer, Manager of Bus Instruction for Metro Transit, presented a De-escalation Update and reported that de-escalation training is a collaboration between Joint Labor and Management Safety Committee and the Instruction Center. De-escalation training is now available for all frontline workers and their managers and has already trained 1,100 employees so far.

Liz Morice, Senior Project Coordinator of Engineering and Facilities, presented on crime prevention through environmental design which emphasizes the use of structures, spaces, lighting, and people to prevent crime. Presenter gave an overview of station applications including lighting improvements, landscaping, installing clear glass, removing retired shelters, platform painting, and pylon cleaning.

Matt Broughton, Assistant Director of Bus Transportation Administration, gave a report on supplemental security and walked council members through coordinated layers of official presence including police officers, TRIP agents, real-time information center, community service officers, security, and safety ambassadors. Staff provided an overview of TRIP Agent services and concluded with a procurement timeline with plans to execute in Q4 2025.

Joe Dotseth, Metro Transit Interim Chief of Police, presented the Quarter 2 Metro Transit Police Department Update highlighting three main principals: commitment to whole community approach to public safety, policing as a service, and empowering our workforce. Chief Dotseth highlighted Metro Transit's 'Forward' initiative and provided a staffing update covering retention rates, hiring goals, and the 'Be the Difference' marketing campaign which tells the story of why people come to MTPD and stay.

John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney, and Gloria Reyes, Deputy County Manager, joined Chief Dotseth to highlight the story of the Metro Transit Police Department and the importance of regional collaboration and partnership between Metro Transit, Ramsey County, and other community stakeholders. Presenters shared that Ramsey County aligns with Metro Transit to bring public health and services to people in need in addition to policing and praised the proactive work of the Homelessness Action Team (HAT).

Finally, Chief Dotseth honored Chair Zelle's service on the Met Council with a plaque of appreciation.

## **2. Northstar Transition Update** (Craig Lamothe 651-602-1978, Adam Harrington 612-349-7797)

Adam Harrington, Director of Service Development, and Craig Lamothe, Director of Northstar Transition, presented a Northstar Transition Update which focused on answering the following questions: Why transition from commuter rail to bus service?; What is the enhanced replacement bus service?; When will the transition occur?; What other activities are involved in the transition?; and, What future actions will be requested of the council? Presenting directors acknowledged that the Northstar transition is consistent with Network Now Framework including more options for rides, adapting to changing needs, and responsiveness to community. Presenters reported that low ridership and steadily increasing operating costs contribute to the need to transition away from Northstar.

Presenters provided an overview of Northstar service levels and covered 2024 Network Now community engagement. Planning for the Northstar transition began in March 2025 which included development of service concepts for Route 827 and 888.

Presenting staff reported that the last Northstar train will be on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> after the final Vikings regular season game. Presenters shared other transition activities which included: continued conversations with MnDOT, FTA, FRA, State of MN, BNSF, and other partners, determining the disposition of infrastructure requested to be retained by others, completing design plans for station demolition and corridor restoration, assessing the value of undepreciated capital assets and real estate and preparing disposition plans for federal review and concurrence.

Council members thanked presenters for contextualizing the Northstar transition and for all the community engagement efforts. Council members acknowledged the need for effective transit systems for special events and asked questions about the timing of trips.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of August 6, 2025.

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#### **Council contact:**

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