

# Minutes

Metropolitan Council



**Meeting date:** March 27, 2024

**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
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excused

## Call to Order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:02 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

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

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Toni Carter to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

## Public Invitation

No one wished to speak.

## Joint reports

**2024-15 JT:** Quarterly/Carryforward Budget Amendment. That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2023 and 2024 Unified Budget as amended as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables. **Roll Call**

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Barber.

## Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	11	Johnson, Chamblis, Tyronne Carter, Barber, Lilligren, Osman, Cedarberg, Vento, Toni Carter, Wulff, Zelle
Nay	0	
Absent	6	Pacheco, Morales, Lindstrom, Lee, Dolkar, Cameron

## Consent Business

Consent business adopted (items 1 – 9)

1. **2024-23:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendments to:
  - Contract 22P305 with Hoglund Bus for a price increase of \$376,700 for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$1,746,600; and
  - Contract 22P372 with Hoglund Bus for a price increase of \$905,142 for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$4,014,178.
2. **2024-24:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment #1 to Contract 22P373 with North Central Bus to increase the number of buses purchased from 75 to 104 at a price increase of \$6,162,373 for a cumulative not to exceed contract amount of \$14,531,763.
3. **2024-51:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 23P112A – 23P112L for architecture and engineering design services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.
4. **2024-52:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  - Approve a grant of up to \$720,829 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire an 8.7-acre parcel located at 10775 Fernbrook Lane North in Maple Grove, MN, for the Rush Creek Regional Trail.
  - Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
5. **2024-53:** That the Metropolitan Council:
  - Approve a grant of up to \$2,725,384 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Washington County to acquire approximately 248 acres of park reserve land located in the southeast quadrant of Manning Avenue and 170th Street for the Big Marine Park Reserve.
  - Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
6. **2024-57:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
  - Authorize the City of Arden Hills to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  - Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
  - Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Transportation, Transit, and Forecasts.
7. **2024-74:** METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Rights of Entry. That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2024-4 that authorizes access to properties for survey, environmental testing, geotechnical investigations including subsurface utility engineering, and archeological investigations in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §§473.129, subd. 9 and 117.041.
8. **2024-83 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to increase the project cost of MnDOT's Robert Street project, move the project from 2025 to 2024, and reassign the project to the City of Saint Paul.
9. **2024-84 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add three new projects:
  - Add median cable barriers to two sections of MN 5 in Chanhassen
  - Districtwide signal cabinet improvements

- Lighting replacements on Interstate 494 and MN 52 in various locations

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Cederberg.

**Motion carried.**

## **Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees**

### ***Community Development***

No Reports.

### ***Environment***

No Reports.

### ***Management***

1. **2024-64:** Award Wastewater Bonds within established financial parameters: That the Metropolitan Council adopt Parameters Resolution 2024-3, which authorizes the issuance, sale, and award of general obligation debt within established financial parameters, incurrence of related issuance expenses, and execution of documents necessary to secure the financing.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Barber

**Motion carried.**

2. **2024-72 SW:** Labor Agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Local #432. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Local #432 (Full-Time Police) effective for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Osman

**Motion carried.**

### ***Transportation***

1. **2024-45:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendment #3 to contract #22P031 with HNTB for Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Environmental and Peer Review Services for a total contract value not to exceed \$7,272,394.93.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Tyronne Carter

**Motion carried.**

2. **2024-58:** That the Metropolitan Council designate the attached list of Council properties as potential TOD sites eligible for use of the TOD fund allocated to the TOD Office. Funds will be used for expenses necessary to advance TOD opportunities on these sites. Examples of expenses include due diligence work such as title reports, surveys, appraisals, market studies, engineering studies, etc.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Cameron

It was asked which sites were removed from the list and for what reason. Michael Kranz, Senior Manager of TOD, responded that the two sites removed are the former MTPD Headquarters, which was previously on the list but has been sold, along with the site at W. River Road and 117<sup>th</sup> Ave, where the facility is closed and planned to be sold as well.

**Motion carried.**

3. **2024-67 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council find that the Final Draft Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) 2040 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the Council systems and is consistent with Council policies.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Johnson

**Motion carried.**

4. **2024-68 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P210 with Morcon Construction Co., Inc. for construction of the METRO E Line Arterial BRT project in an amount not to exceed \$39,416,070.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Lilligren

Motion carried.

Barber provided comments on how the ABRT lines are improving the system and showing great impact to the region.

### **Other business**

No other business.

## **Information**

1. **Scenario Planning Consolidated Findings and Connections to Policy.** (Baris Gumus-Dawes, 651-602-1331; Dan Marckel, 651-602-1548).

Baris Gumus-Dawes, Planning Analyst, and Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst, presented on the Imagine 2050 and the consolidated findings from the scenario planning process. Their discussion included scenario analysis findings, overall lessons from the scenario findings; along with policy discussion. Compact scenarios versus Dispersed scenarios were reviewed, along with the finding that regional goals are easier to achieve in compact scenarios. Policy examples were shared for land use, housing, and aligning land use and transportation. The timeline for the next 11 months was presented.

Council members appreciated this presentation and would like to hear a more in-depth discussion on it. There were questions and comments on the modeling assumptions, how we kept the cities included, what is in the plan. It was suggested to have a Committee of the Whole set aside for the topic.

**Quarterly Transitway Update** (Nick Thompson, 612-349-7507; Jim Alexander, 612-373-3880; Alicia Vap, 612-349-7079; and Stephen Smith)

Chair Zelle reported that today is just a highlight and overview on these four projects, and there will be additional discussion on the Blue Line Extension project at a separate meeting.

Nick Thompson presented an overview of the four projects, Gold Line, Green Line Extension, Purple Line and Blue Line Extension. Alicia Vap, Gold Line Project Director, then presented an update on the Gold Line. Photos were shown of the construction on the project. Construction is approximately 41% complete as of January. Vap announced that the Gold Line opening date is going to be March 22, 2025. Council Members are encouraged to hold this date for this event.

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director presented an update on the Green Line Extension project. The project is now overall 80% complete, with LRT tracks up through Beltline Station now turned over to Systems work. 11 of 16 stations are completed; and all 29 bridges are complete. For the Kenilworth Tunnel work, 19 of the 30 cells are now complete.

Opening day remains scheduled for 2027. Photos were shown of the construction and progress along the corridor.

Stephen Smith, Deputy Project Manager for Purple Line reported on the project status. Staff are working on route modification Phase II, which is looking at the route being on Maryland and White Bear Avenue. This will be a 10-mile route, with 22 stations in the modified route. Smith went through the design options in the St. Paul and Maplewood sections. The next step will be community meetings to gain feedback on the options. The goal is to get to the single option by September timeframe.

Nick Thompson went over the Blue Line Extension update. This route has 13.4 miles and 12 new stations. Thompson went over the timeline and next steps. Once the SDEIS is complete, municipal consent can begin, which will be this summer. The construction is scheduled to begin in 2026-27 and an anticipated opening in 2030. Thompson went over the Anti-Displacement next steps process.

Thompson went over the upcoming Council actions for each of these four projects.

Council members had questions and comments on the Blue Line Extension project, and would like to hear a more in-depth session in the near future. Questions included request for additional details on mitigation and anti-displacement costs, ROW and the capital grant agreement.

## Reports

No Reports.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 27, 2024.

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### Council contact:

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