

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: October 25, 2023

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

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:03 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 Osman to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comment.

Business

1. 2023-227: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Comment Draft of the 2024 Unified Budget.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Vento.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	15	Johnson, Chamblis, T. Carter, Barber, Pacheco, Lilligren, Osman, Zelle, Morales, Lindstrom, Cederberg, Vento, W.T. Carter, Dolkar, Wulff
Nay	0	
Absent	2	Cameron, Lee

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-12)

1. 2023-158: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source amendment to the legal services contract with Venable, LLC (Venable) to support METRO Green Line Extension Project (Project) activities in an amount not to exceed \$8.5 million, with a total not to exceed contract value of \$19.25 million.
2. 2023-212: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts 23P022A-B for mechanical engineering services, and contracts 23P022C-D for electrical engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.
3. 2023-228: That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Adopt the proposed 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,332,756.
 2. Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds.
4. 2023-232: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Statement of Work 20I066B, an Income Agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County for Hennepin County financial participation in the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure along the METRO E Line corridor.
5. 2023-233: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 23I083 (“Agreement”), a joint powers income agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County funds for County-requested improvements along the METRO E Line corridor and for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the E Line project.
6. 2023-234: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 23I082 (“Agreement”), a joint powers income agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with the City of Minneapolis for City-requested improvements along the METRO E Line corridor and for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the E Line project.
7. 2023-238: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2024 Regional Parks and Trails System Competitive Equity Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability.
8. 2023-239: That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve a grant of up to \$431,250 to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 1.98-acre parcel located at 16350 Dayton River Road in Dayton, MN, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail.
 2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
9. 2023-241: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P125 with Sunoco, LLC, to supply and deliver gasoline to contract operators of Metro Mobility transit services in an amount not to exceed \$33,179,794.
10. 2023-242: That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and SouthWest Transit (SWT) for Demand Response Transit Service projects consisting of vehicle costs, infrastructure, and other capital costs.
11. 2023-251: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Eden Prairie to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Eden Prairie’s forecasts.
 3. Advise the City of Eden Prairie to implement the advisory comments in the Review



Record for Water Supply.

12. 2023-254: That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize the Executive Director of the Community Development Division to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the “Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing” (PRO Housing) program.
2. Commit \$6 million in Local Housing Incentive Account grants, over the years 2024-2028, as leverage for the PRO Housing grant, if awarded.

It was moved by W.T. Carter, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. 2023-146: That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Summit Avenue Regional Trail Long-Range Plan.
2. Require Saint Paul, prior to initiating any construction, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Lindstrom.

Council Member Vento spoke in favor of this item and noted that this project has had more public engagement than any other item in her time on the Council. Council Member Cederberg shared comments regarding snow removal, the equity analysis, and the environmental analysis, as well as her reasons for voting no. Council Member Wulff also shared her reasons for voting no, including the validity of this corridor as a regional trail. Council Member Toni Carter asked for more information about the timeline of the project. Emmett Mullin, Senior Manager, Regional Planning, shared more information about the long-range planning process relevant to the project status. Council members also asked for more information about the process. Lisa Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development, shared more information about the Environmental Review process. Council Member Lilligren spoke in favor of the project and shared his reasons for considering this trail. Council Member Johnson noted the timeline for approval and shared her reasons for voting in favor of the item. Chair Zelle shared information regarding why this project remains on the agenda despite a request to pause and delay the vote due to a lawsuit.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. Reports on consent agenda

Management

1. 2023-256 SW: That the Metropolitan Council approve the triennial FTA and EPA DBE Program goal.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by W.T. Carter.

Council Member Chamblis asked for a comparison of the 2022 and 2023 EPA goals. Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director, Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, shared that the 2022 number was the achievement, and the 2023 number is the goal.

Motion carried.

Transportation



1. Reports on consent agenda

Joint reports

2023-236 JT: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee

1. Authorize the City of Shorewood to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. Revise the City's population and employment forecasts upward as shown in Table 1 of the Review Record.
3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for forecasts and water supply.

Recommendations of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Shorewood Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater, which state that the City is currently reviewing and negotiating revisions to several of its intercommunity service agreements. Once these agreements have been executed, a copy shall be submitted to the Council.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Carter.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Small Business Contracting Overview

Cy Jordan, Director, Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO), and Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director, OEEEO, gave a presentation regarding small business contracting at the Metropolitan Council. Jordan began with an overview of the OEEEO department. There are two small business programs at the Council: Disadvantages Business Enterprise (DBE), and Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB). DBE only applies to projects funded with federal money, and MCUB applies to projects funded by just local money. DBE goals are set for projects over \$50k, and MCUB goals are set for contracts greater than \$175k, MCUB Select for Contracts \$25K up to \$175K, and MCUB Direct Spend for purchases up to \$25k. Jordan and Payne also shared information about current actions, as well as highlighted successes, including and FTA DBE Achievement for 2022 of 18.22% and an EPA DBE Achievement for 2022 of 16.70%.

Council Members had questions and comments including the upcoming Small Business Equity Audit, barriers to certification, legislative agenda and proposals, information about the disparity study, the importance of Council Member support, internal tracking, and the history of the MCUB program.

Reports

The Chair, Council Members, and the Regional Administrator did not have any reports. General Counsel Ann Bloodhart shared information about a brief filed by the Council to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in support of the City of Minneapolis regarding litigation around the City's 2040 Plan.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 25, 2023.

Approved this 8th day of November 2023.

Council contact:

Bridget Toskey, Recording Secretary

Bridget.Toskey@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1806

