Minutes

Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: August 13, 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 Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council 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 Obisakin.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Toni Carter to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried**.

Public invitation

Andrew B. Cardman of ATU made a public comment regarding transportation planning.

Public Hearing on 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment

Matt Bruns made his comments regarding the Blue Line Extension's inclusion in the TPP.

Mark Hughes made his comments regarding Metro Mobility.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-11)

1. **2025-164:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P204 with Eric Hanson Consulting for a term of three years to provide consulting services for building controls systems, on-site support of building controls systems, building control interfaces, system, integrations, and support of devices for the Council in an amount not to exceed $729,100.

2. **2025-176:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P013 with MetLife to provide Long Term Disability insurance for all eligible Council employees in the amount not to exceed $2,298,256.

3. **2025-177:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P060 with Railworks Track Systems, Inc., to provide on-call and preventative track maintenance to the Blue and Green Lines in an amount not to exceed $1,500,000.

4. **2025-181:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions: 1. Authorize the City of Prior Lake to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect. 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Prior Lake's forecasts.

5. **2025-182:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract No. 25P041 with Wilder Research to conduct the 2026 Parks and Trails Visitor Study, in an amount not to exceed $1,000,000.

6. **2025-183:** That the Metropolitan Council take the following actions: 1. Revise local forecasts in the Imagine 2050 development guide for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 1 of the Business Item. 2. Revise sewer-serviced forecasts in the Water Policy Plan, for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 2 of the Business Item. 3. Revise Affordable Housing Need allocations in the Housing Policy Plan, for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 3 of the Business Item. 4. Include the revised information in System Statements to be issued this fall.

7. **2025-184:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to: Enter into and execute the amended Student Pass Contract no 23R009-11 with Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) to provide Student Passes to eligible students.

8. **2025-186:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 23M005G – Work Order #7, with Wabtec Transportation Systems, LLC (Wabtec) to provide software upgrades and updates in an amount not to exceed $2,366,265.

9. **2025-188:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add sign replacement on I-494 from Argenta Trail in Eagan to MN Highway 77 in Bloomington.

10. **2025-189:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost of two signal replacement projects.

11. **2025-193:** 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 Transportation and Water Resources.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. No reports.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. **2025-197:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee geographic member or at large member Co-Chair Seat:

   Astrid Benedetto (At-Large)

   Markeya Knight (At Large)

   It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Osman.

   Motion carried.

2. **2025-204:** That the Metropolitan Council appoints the following twelve individuals to two-year terms of service on the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (through July 2027).

   - Michael Giovanis, Consultant
   - Jason Gottfried, Minnesota Department of Transportation
   - Libin Hashi, Social Service Provider
   - Stephanie Hawkinson, City of Edina
   - Aron Johnson, DJR Architecture
   - Nate Kabat, City of Chaska
   - Roxanne Kimball, Minnesota Homeownership Center
   - Nichole Klonowski, City of Brooklyn Park
   - Valerie Quarles, City of Saint Paul
   - Matthew Ramadan, City of Minneapolis
   - Suzanne Schefcik, Colliers
   - Der Yang, Greater Twin Cities United Way

   It was moved by Lee, seconded by Morales.

   Motion carried.

Information

1. Divisional Level Operating Budget (Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer, 651-602-1162)

Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer, provided a high-level overview of the budget approval process which included a timeline of the budget/levies adoption. The presenter walked through proposed 2026 property tax levies and discussed levy strategy. Presenter highlighted the Livable Communities levies including the Tax Base Revitalization Account Levy, Livable Communities Demonstration Account Levy, and the Local Housing Incentives Account. The presenter discussed the proposed 2026 operating budget of $1.8 billion and provided breakdowns including transportation: 68%, ES: 22%, CD 11% and RA/OPEB: 1%, noting that Information Services are a significant portion of RA expenses. Finally, presenting staff provided proposed FTEs by division, and a General Fund Operations breakdown.

Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services, and Matt Gsellmeier, Senior Manager of Budget, began their presentation by sharing a vision of clean water for future generations and reported that this vision is our shift to a “One Water” future. Presenters shared that their mission includes clean water for future generations utilizing the Partner, Plan, and Provide framework. Matt Gsellmeier provided an overview of ES operating budget highlights including the municipal wastewater charge, sewer availability charge, industrial waste strength charge, and industrial waste permit fees.

Lisa Barajas, Executive Director of Community Development, presented an overview of the Community Development division’s engagement and accomplishments and shared that HRA is celebrating their 50th anniversary. The presenter noted that Met Council achieved 100% utilization of housing vouchers which is a testament of the commitment of the team to connect resources with people. Presenter highlighted the adoption of Imagine 2050, the modernization of regional mapping, and the first round of community tree planting grants. Presenting staff provided an overview of major initiatives and studies including supporting local comprehensive planning, continued work on the HUD PRO Housing Grant, LCA alignment with Imagine 2050, implementation of a parks and trails visitor study, and the Climate Action Work Plan (CAWP) implementation. The presenter walked through Metro HRA initiatives including Bring it Home: MN State Rental Assistance Program, implementation of the National Standards for physical inspection of real estate, and monitoring budget changes at the federal level. Heather Giesel, Director of Community Development and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) Admin, presented on Community Development operations and broke down uses by category.

Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, provided Transportation Division highlights for Metro Transit and MTS. Kristin Prescott, Director of Finance at Metro Transit, gave an overview of how the budget will support goals including Metro Transit Public safety, Network Now, cleaning and maintenance, and Green Line Extension. Presenting staff shared council ridership statistics in millions, and covered transportation operations sources noting the biggest spend was on salary and benefits. Presenting staff then provided a background on special transportation services including Metro Mobility and Metro Move and reported that projected ridership is at 91% pre-covid levels in 2026.

Reports

No reports.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 13, 2025.

Council contact:

Ginger Fride, Recording Secretary
Ginger.Fride@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1842