

Metropolitan Council

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 10:00AM, St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates	Dr. Tyronne Carter	Tim Brausen (Alt)	Kristian Evans (Alt)
Present:	Khani Sahebjam	Patrick Hanlon	Elie Farhat for Marion
	Debbie Goettel	Brad Wiersum	Greene

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Carter called the meeting to order at 10:02AM. Introductions were made. Chair Zelle and General Manager Kandaras are currently in Washington, D.C. to meet with the FTA and members of our Congressional delegation to discuss transitway projects and funding. Dr. Carter shared some announcements.

Travel patterns in the Twin Cities region shifted significantly during the pandemic, and while overall ridership has grown, NorthStar ridership remains about 84% below the pre-pandemic level. In February 2025, the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT announced plans to examine ending commuter rail service and transitioning to bus service. This transition will better serve the travel needs of the corridor at a lower cost.

The B Line, an arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT), will be opening on June 14, 2025. It will provide more frequent and faster service on Lake Street in Minneapolis and Marshall and Selby avenues in St. Paul.

The E Line, our next ABRT investment, will open in December. It will provide faster and more reliable service on the Route 6 corridor along Hennepin and France avenues.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Carter presented the December 4, 2024, Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Hanlon made a motion to approve the minutes and Mayor Wiersum seconded the motion. Following a vote, the minutes were approved.

3. METRO TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Interim Chief Joseph Dotseth from the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) provided an update on MTPD activities. Chief Dotseth said MTPD is doing a lot of positive things to support diversity initiatives and build back staffing at the department. He said the Community Service Officer Program is helping to fill the officer ranks.

Chief Dotseth provided an update on the Safety and Security Action Plan. It includes 43 action items, and the Metropolitan Council receives an update on a quarterly basis. We have coordinated layers of official presence on the light rail lines, including 112 police officers and 60+ TRIP agents, among others. This will continue as the Green Line Extension opens.

Chief Dotseth shared an update on the status of MTPD's nine goals and highlights for Q1. Each goal is assigned to a captain (there are currently four captains in the MTPD). Some highlights include 2,500+ hours of training completed by employees, 90% retention rate, creation of the Transit Response Unit, and dedicated HR staffing. Representatives of law enforcement from agencies along the corridor joined Chief Dotseth at today's meeting; they introduced themselves. Our collaboration on this project is crucial to its success.

Mayor Hanlon thanked the officers for their collaboration and for building a strong culture of safety on this line as it is set to open. Mayor Wiersum reiterated that the collaboration is so critical and the public safety aspects of it will benefit all the communities along the line.

4. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director provided a project update.

We gained one county since our last meeting, so there are 72 of 87 Minnesota counties represented by construction workers on the Project. We are working on opening remaining trails in Minneapolis in 2025 and have made a lot of progress on the Kenilworth LRT tunnel. The Luce Line Trail Bridge adjacent to the Bassett Creek Valley Station opened in Minneapolis.

Alexander shared the new Development Trends Along Transit (DTAT) web app that was created by Metro Transit's transit-oriented development (TOD) team. Visit the Metro Transit TOD page for more information. We will continue to track progress and invite Michael Krantz to a future meeting for an update.

Alexander shared photos of construction progress. We are planning to start system integration testing in July on the western end of the project. Testing with light rail vehicles will begin in the fall. The testing will be done in phases as shown on the slide.

Council Member Brausen asked if there's any possibility the completion date might be moved up. Alexander said at this time we continue to look at opening in 2027. There is a lot of testing that needs to occur before opening for revenue service.

Mayor Hanlon thanked Alexander for getting the trails opened and the flexibility on surface parking in Hopkins. He asked about the development in Hopkins and the timeline for the Shady Oak Station area. Alexander said he will follow up with Mayor Hanlon on the timeline that he has been working on with Michael Krantz.

Dr. Carter thanked Alexander for his work on the Project.

5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE – James Mockovciak

James Mockovciak, Senior Community Outreach Coordinator, provided an update and shared slides of the spring 2025 activities and communications.

The Outreach Team has been attending various community events, conducting tours, and working on developing resources. Tours will continue throughout the summer; if you know of any group that would be interested in a tour, please reach out to the Outreach staff.

The Project Office will be implementing a public awareness and safety messaging campaign later this summer/early fall to make people aware of the upcoming testing that will involve active gate arms and light rail vehicles.

Mayor Wiersum asked if there will be opportunities for a ride before the line opens, especially on the western part of the line. Alexander said it would be difficult to take the public out because we will be in testing mode and need to make sure the system is safe. Mayor Wiersum asked if the Project staff could help with an official statement for why the answer is no when City staff are asked if early rides are possible. Alexander said we can certainly help develop a response for when cities get that question.

Mockovciak said we have a video of a simulated ride on the GLE, which includes footage from the front and back of the train. It's broken up into segments and will highlight each of the cities.

6. DBE UPDATE – Jon Tao

Jon Tao from the Council's Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity discussed the DBE achievement numbers. We continue to exceed the 15% DBE goal.

7. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:45AM. The next meeting will be September 10, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary