

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: April 23, 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

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Vacant, 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 to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Lilligren to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No members of the public indicated they would like to speak.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-12)

1. **2025-23:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P038 with Northwest Bus Sales to provide ten buses utilizing the State of Washington Contract #06719 in an amount not to exceed \$1,608,000.
2. **2025-71:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 17P085 with Wabtec Transportation Systems, LLC that will add a not to exceed amount of \$3,448,597 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$19,069,025.
3. **2025-81:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), a Replacement Service Provider (Suburban Transit Provider), for the acquisition of multiple Information Technology (IT) software applications to support employee, onboard, and customer needs in the amount of \$1,600,000.
4. **2025-82:** That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to contract 19P385F with Albrecht Sign Company that will add \$29,136.40 for a total not to exceed amount of \$828,949.33.
5. **2025-89:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the revisions to the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan as described in this report and attachments.
6. **2025-90:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 23P115 with Employee Strategies, LLC for consulting services that will add \$715,000, for a total contract value not to exceed amount of \$1,362,000.
7. **2025-92:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P293 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk caustic at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$2,884,018.
8. **2025-94:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2025-10 authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of real estate property for the Forest Lake Interceptor 7029 Rehabilitation, ES Project No. 808603.
9. **2025-95:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 25P227 with Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) for Environmental Services' Lift Stations and ERS Communications Upgrades – Phase 1, for the installation and reoccurring monthly costs of fiber optic services at 65 sites for an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000.
10. **2025-96:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 24P233 with Remix Technologies, LLC, for transit planning tools in the amount not to exceed \$1,160,897.
11. **2025-99:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P247 with Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) for Information Services' circuit management, installation of new circuits, and reoccurring monthly costs of services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.
12. **2025-100:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract 18P402 with Rail-Term to extend the contract term and add a not to exceed amount of \$212,522 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$777,244.32.

It was moved by Dr. Carter, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.



Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports

Environment

1. No reports

Management

1. 2025-105 SW: That the Metropolitan Council authorize an internal loan to fund Environmental Services capital expenditure cashflow until 2025 bond funding is available.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. 2025-110: That the Metropolitan Council adopt FTA Authorizing Resolution 2025-11, which demonstrates the authority of the Council to file for federal grants and delegates authority to act on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Vento.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports

Other business

1. 2025-111: That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointment to the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC):

District 14: Heather Worthington

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Johnson.

Motion carried.

2. 2025-112: That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee geographic member or at large member Co-Chair Seat:

Carmeann Foster (At-Large)

It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Lee.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Metro Transit Capital Maintenance Overview (Brian Funk 612-349-7514, Kristin Thompson 612-349-7782, Marilyn Porter 612-349-7689, Bruce Cardon 612-349-7516, Kelci Stones 612-349-7686)

Brian Funk, Deputy General Manager of Metro Transit, gave a high-level overview highlighting current projects, including the Capital Improvement Plan, capital maintenance budgeting process, capital program for Metro Transit, and the 2025 approved program including network expansion and investments in the current system.

Presenting staff provided an overview of capital maintenance key work units including engineering and facilities, and bus and rail vehicle maintenance. Finally, presenters provided an overview of the 2025-2027 highlighted project, Renew the Blue, and included a marketing and community outreach timeline.

Council members acknowledged the current milestone in asset management and agreed that streamlining processes will make this maintenance project more effective and efficient. Council members recognized that more efficient organization comes through having more resources. Council members discussed the importance of recruiting new staff as well as retention of current staff and discussed the impacts of being short-staffed. Council members agreed that consistent levels of recruitment on a regular basis for the next two years will have a positive impact.

Reports

CM Cederberg reported that in honor of Earth Day, there is an Earth Week Water Party on April 23, 2025 at The Market at Malcolm Yards as part of the Art and Policy initiative.

CM Vento reported that the first day of the Ramsey County Correctional Facility Plant Sale is April 24, 2025.

CM Chamblis reported that she and Allison Waukau, Tribal Liaison and Native Relations Coordinator, participated in a tribal consultation with Red Lake Nation where they heard concerns regarding wild rice protections, acknowledgments, and getting needs met regarding housing and chemical dependency concerns.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 23, 2025.

Council contact:

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