

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting date:** May 12, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** Robert St Chambers

## Members present:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3              | <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused              |

## 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, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Chair Barber.

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Employee recognition – Metro Transit

### 1. Metro Transit General Manager

Kandaras introduced Gold Line Project Construction Manager Steve Barrett who presented awards to Gold Line Renee Dufour and Dennis Wolfe; Service Development Director Adam Harrington who presented awards to Planner Mark Christianson, Manager-Route Planning Cyndi Harper, and Community Outreach Coordinator Julie Martinez; Rail Operations Manager Jacob Rooney who presented an award to Rail Supervisor Chris Becker.

## Public Comment

1. A member of the public spoke to the committee about service changes.

## Reports

2. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Carlson reported on the recent UMN transportation summit.

3. Metro Transit General Manager

Kandaras reported that starting today (May 12) we're launching "Ready to Go," a campaign to reengage current riders, win back former customers, and attract new ones by promoting services like BRT and Metro Micro. We're looking to refresh our brand, highlight recent investments, and reinforce our role as a reliable, welcoming, and convenient transportation option. It aligns with our BRT Awareness campaign, "Less Stop. More Go." And, next year's launch of the new fare payment system, Go-To Pay and new Go-To Pay fare payment card.

4. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

There was no TAB report.

5. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

There was no TAAC report.

## Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2025-97: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Funding, Resolution 2025-9 (Sheila Williams 651-602-1709)
2. 2025-101 SW: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – CSAH 34 Sidewalk, Curb Ramp, and Signal Project (Joe Barbeau, 651-602-1750)
3. 2025-102 SW: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT's 5310 Bus Purchases (Joe Barbeau, 651-602-1750)
4. 2025-103 SW: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program (Joe Barbeau, 651-602-1750)
5. 2025-121: Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund repayment from City of Ramsey for Parcel along US 10 east of Ramsey Blvd NW (Tony Fischer, 651-602-1703)

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

Motion carried.

## Information

1. Update on the New West 7th Concept (Katie Roth 612-349-7772, Russ Stark - Chief Resilience Officer, City of Saint Paul)

Council Members asked questions and shared feedback about the project.

## Non-consent business

1. 2025-109 SW: Purchase of Vontas Transit Master (OnRoute) Systems (Jodi Janssen 651-602-1103, Paul Colton 651-602-1668)

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract 25P103 with Vontas to provide thirty-nine OnRoute systems that includes installation, licensing and configuration

in an amount not to exceed \$897,685.

**Motion carried.**

2. 2025-24: Procurement of 5 Transit Vans utilizing the State of North Dakota Contract 25P212 - SWT (Jodi Janssen 651-602-1103, Paul Colton 651-602-1668)

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 25P212 with North Central Bus & Equipment, Inc. for 5 replacement transit vans in an amount not to exceed \$650,000. This purchase is contingent upon the approval of a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the Metropolitan Council and the State of North Dakota Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The approval of the JPA is scheduled to be presented to Management Committee and then Metropolitan Council, same week, on May 28th.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed consent to Council.**

3. 2025-114 SW: Northstar Equipment Lease Agreements with DART and Amtrak, Contract 25M036 (Brian Funk 612-349-7514, Bruce Cardon 612-349-7516)

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute lease agreement 25M036 with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) on behalf of Trinity Railway Express (TRE), and with Amtrak of idle Northstar equipment, subject to FTA concurrence.

Council Members asked about transport logistics, peer agency practices, and lease terms.

**Motion carried.**

4. 2025-115 SW: METRO Green Line Extension Railcar Mover, Contract 24P298R (Jim Alexander 612-373-3880)

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Johnson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract 24P298R with Rion Equipment to provide railcar mover equipment in an amount not to exceed \$572,320.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Highway Harms Study (Bethany Brandt-Sargent 651-602-1725)

Council Members asked about highway-specific harms, advisory group makeup, and other study details.

2. June 2025 Service & Workforce Update (Adam Harrington 612-349-7797)

Council Members voiced appreciation for staff work on this item.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of May 12, 2025.

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### Council contact:

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