

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: October 15, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Deb Barber
- ☒ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☐ Vacant, 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 Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 and September 17, 2025, Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole minutes. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Project Update and Feedback on Draft

Baris Gumus-Dawes, Planning Analyst in Community Development, was joined by Bridget Tuck from the University of Minnesota Extension School to discuss the 2025 Regional Economic Framework. Baris began the presentation by outlining key takeaways from the 2025 Regional Economic Framework and the nine Strategic Priorities that structure the document. She discussed notable factors that impact growth in the region, such as opportunities in the workforce, business support systems, racial inclusion, and climate transition. Baris summarized the timeline for adoption of the 2025 Regional Economic Framework and discussed roles that the Council will play in implementation.

Council members continued the discussion of regional growth factors, such as housing affordability, quality of life measures, and immigration.

2. Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Update – Continued Discussion

Krysten Ryba-Tures, Research Manager and Sarah Nelson, Outcomes Measurement Researcher, resumed the discussion on two remaining proposed regional goal measures – Climate and Natural Systems. The regional goal measure for climate change is to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and ensure communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts. The regional goal measure for natural systems is to protect and restore natural systems. Previously, the regional goal measures for natural systems focused on conservation and resource management. Moving forward, this measure will focus more on systems.

Council members encouraged staff to highlight where the Met Council is leading the work in these two categories. In addition, Council members offered additional measures for consideration, such as green job workforce and energy use per capita as examples. Council commended staff for their hard work with the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program.

Staff will bring a business item to the Council on October 22, 2025 to seek authorization to release the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program amendment for public comment.

3. Advertising Standards Background

George Henry, Acting Deputy General Counsel, presented on the legal background of advertising standards. Presenter shared Government controlled space for advertising: traditional and designated public forums, limited public forums, and nonpublic forums; public transit is a nonpublic forum. Michael Schommer, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, presented Metro Transit's current advertising standards, which were last updated in 2015. Current standards focus on revenue, protecting Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council brands, as well as enhance transit riders' experience. Presenter shared considerations for standard updates to set clear, consistent guidelines, continue to prioritize brands and rider experience, and maximize revenue opportunities.

Regional Administrator O'Connor commented that things in the past may not be acceptable to the time now and updating to the Metro Transit advertising standard would help set clear lines. As staff work to update the advertising standards, Council Members noted considerations for who decides what topic or issue is controversial or not.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of October 15, 2025.

Council contact:

Mee Cheng, Recording Secretary

Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1222

