

# Minutes

Metropolitan Council



**Meeting date:** April 10, 2024

**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
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excused

## 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.

## Agenda approved

Chair Zelle noted that 2024-71: City of North Oaks Red Forest Way South Comprehensive Plan Amendment Plan Modification is being postponed at the City's request to a future Council meeting. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2024, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

There were several people that wished to comment on the parking elimination proposal on Lyndale Avenue to accommodate a dedicated bus lane.

1. Rayn spoke on behalf of business on Lyndale Avenue due to the proposed road construction. He represented 'Vibrant Lyndale' a group opposed to removing parking in order to allow for a dedicated bus lane. They are not opposed to public transit but felt this was not necessary due to declining ridership since the pandemic. They asked the Council to do an analysis of ridership and the appropriateness of a designated bus lane.
2. Andrea Corbin from the Uptown Association Board and the Lyndale Association spoke to the lack of support for small businesses, civil unrest in our corridors. Felt that safe and accessible places to park is a top concern.
3. Cao, also a small business owner, stated his concern with the current lack of parking already a problem as well as concern for safety for customers and employees.
4. Judy Longbottom spoke of her concerns and discussed the current lack of parking has lowered their revenue. Further reduction of parking would be even more detrimental.

5. Bryan, an employee in the area, noted parking is already a challenge and feels his business would go under with a further cut in parking.

Chair Zelle commented that the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction is done by the City of Minneapolis and that Lyndale Avenue reconstruction is done by the County, but he appreciated people's concerns.

6. Melissa Fryberger, a resident, spoke and felt that biking is not an option due to crime in the area. She disputed the number of bikes on Bryant Avenue being reported and felt these numbers were largely inflated.

## Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-8)

1. **2024-69:** That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an option on existing contract 19P385A with ASC Acquisition Co./DBA Albrecht Sign Company for the fabrication and delivery of pylon signs for installation on the METRO E Line project, in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.
2. **2024-70:** That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an option on existing contract 19P385B with Duo-Gard Industries, Inc. for the fabrication and delivery of bus rapid transit shelters for installation on the METRO E Line project, in an amount not to exceed \$2,060,000.
3. **2024-76:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 19P218 with Arcadis Architects, Engineers and Landscape Architects, A New York General Partnership, to: (1) continue providing and supporting transit alerts manager and real-time concentrator systems for a cumulative not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,223,402; and (2) extend the term of the contract to July 31, 2026.
4. **2024-77:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for Contract 18P322C with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to continue providing and supporting a real-time bus departure prediction engine system for a cumulative not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,322,000.
5. **2024-78:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to approve a Sole Source procurement authorization with Alstom Signaling for an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.
6. **2024-79:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to approve a Sole Source procurement authorization with Siemens Mobility for an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.
7. **2024-82:** That the Metropolitan Council rescind the authorization to the Regional Administrator in Business Item 2024-17 to award and execute a contract 23P040 with Tab Products, LLC to provide document scanning services in an amount not to exceed \$582,940 and reject all proposals.
8. **2024-88:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
  - Authorize the City of Plymouth to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
  - Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
  - Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for parks, transportation, and forecasts.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Barber.

**Motion carried.**

## Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

### **Community Development**

No reports.

### **Environment**

No reports.

### **Management**

No reports.

### **Transportation**

1. **2024-75:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P005 with Versacon Inc., for Heywood Office Systems Upgrade project for necessary upgrades to the 1984 Heywood Office in the amount of \$14,171,360. It was moved by Barber, seconded by Dr. Carter.

#### **Motion carried.**

2. **2024-99 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with Replacement Service Providers (Suburban Transit Providers) as follows:
  - To SouthWest Transit for capital assistance for battery-electric vehicle purchases and deployment in the amount of \$2,001,604.
  - To Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for assistance on Phases II and III of the Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization Project in the amounts of \$3,500,000 and \$4,960,000, respectively.
  - To MVTA for the projects identified in Table 1.

Table 1 Project Description	Grant Amount	Funding Source	ACP Project #
Technology Hardware and Software	\$612,615	Motor Vehicle Sales Tax	36288
Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization Phase II (Overmatch)	\$2,000,000	Transportation Sales Tax	36274
Customer Facility Projects (Burnsville and Egan Transit Stations)	\$988,600	Transportation Sales Tax	36296
Support Facility Projects (Burnsville and Egan Bus Garages)	\$1,167,500	Transportation Sales Tax	36297

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Vento.

#### **Motion carried.**

### **Joint reports**

No reports.

### **Other business**

No other business.

## Information



1. **2024 Update on Climate Action Work Plan Progress (Lisa Barajas, 651-602-1895; Jeff Freeman 612-349-7527, and Laura Bretheim)**

Barajas, Freeman and Bretheim gave an update on the 2024 Climate Action Work Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Lindstrom gave some history on the work of this group in 2021-2023 and is excited to see the work going forward in 2024.

Council members appreciated the presentation and felt it was well done and informative.

Questions around environmental justice and how it shows up as policy at our committees was discussed. Bretheim discussed engagement approaches and outcomes that measure success. Dolkar asked what we mean by environmental justice by definition. Discussed taking data and overlaying with engagement. Discussed outcomes and need for resources.

Barajas discussed climate pollution implementation grants being utilized from EPA. She stated this is a good way to complete next steps by prioritizing benefits around communities.

Chair Zelle discussed how this presentation has helped inform this work for the region.

2. **Equity Advisory Committee End-of-Year Summary 2023 (Lila Eltawely, 651-602-1762)**  
Add recap of information item discussion.

Eltawely gave a presentation updating the Council on the work of the EAC in 2023 as outlined in the materials provided. She noted that attendance and membership have been on the decline and discussed how members have expressed their concern that recommendations they've made have not been acted on.

Comments were shared stating this was a great presentation. Concern from all with the idea that recommendations have not been implemented by the Council and asked for a list of all recommendations not implemented.

Acknowledgement of the work of the EAC and Council Member Pacheco and discussed the purposeful work of the EAC. It was suggested to think about how we use the EAC to center engagement around equity and discussed a work plan going forward.

Eltawely discussed attendance fatigue and stated they are in the process of evaluating their processes, i.e. what does good structure looks like. They've also enhanced orientation process and planning a retreat.

Pacheco noted this is a presentation on EAC and not equity. He noted the need to be clear of the expectations of this committee and their role. He discussed membership and possibly lowering the overall committee from 21 members to something more manageable. He suggested looking at hybrid meetings for better attendance. He felt the next presentation should be from the Office of Equal Opportunity but noted that the bottom line is the Council is listening.

It was recommended that each standing committee present their work plan each year to the EAC.

Regional Administrator Ryan O'Connor shared that he hears the concerns and recognizes themes being discussed. He shared two dynamics that came to mind. 1) how do we think about equity work across the organization; 2) how do we think about the work of the EAC. We should also be thinking about other engagements we have with community groups. He asked for some time to come back with a structure/framework. He noted that it may not be that things are not being implemented but it can be hard to know when we're being heard and things that someone prioritizes feels like it even matters. Also, how do they know when they're making a difference. He discussed the collaboration with other standing committees and also coming with just our ears and not an agenda. He noted that we'll keep working on this.

Dr. Carter stated that the work of the EAC is very important. He pledged going forward to give some of his time to this committee and noted we need to be authentic in our work.



## Reports

Vento noted that the EPA made a strong ruling of forever chemical (PFAP's as well as others). She suggested as we talk about Imagine 2050 we need to consider a world without these chemicals.

Regional Administrator O'Connor stated the regional solicitation process is out and getting feedback. He also mentioned the memo shared by Chair Zelle on sales tax sources and uses and noted it's an important document and encouraged council members to take a look at it if they haven't already.

Johnson asked if handouts like the piece from CAWP today could be stored via a link in Community Relations for all Council Members to reference in a 'tool kit'.

General Council – Theisen discussed a bill at the legislature for compensation for committee members that has not gone through. He noted that they have tried for years without success.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:12 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 10, 2024.

Approved this 24 day of April 2024.

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### Council contact:

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