

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** December 10, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Robin Hutcheson
- ☐ 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

- ☒ 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 Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Toni Carter to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025 and November 19, 2025 Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole minutes. **Motion carried.**

## Public Hearing

### 1. 2025-313: Public Hearing on the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program

Chair Hutcheson opened the Public Hearing at 4:07 p.m. The Council received one pre-registered speaker, but the speaker was not present at the meeting. There were no additional speakers to provide public comments and Chair Hutcheson closed the Public Hearing at 4:08 p.m.

## Information

### 1. METRO Bronze Line Project Update

Craig Lamothe, Project Manager at Metro Transit, provided an overview and brief history of the Bronze Line project, formerly known as the Purple Line. The Metropolitan Council assumed project leadership in 2021.

Morgan Abbott, Transit Engineer and Design Manager, shared transit design for the 10-mile route from Union Depot to Maplewood Mall Transit Center. The route will have dedicated bus lanes, primarily in Saint Paul, to enhance transit reliability. Construction also includes two new bridges, one at Arcade Street Station and another at Johnson Parkway.

Liz Jones, Community Outreach and Engagement Lead, covered the engagement and outreach plan. On December 2, 2025, the Council and Ramsey County held a joint media event on rebranding of the line at Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul. Outreach activities include pop-up events, postcard mailings, social media engagement, and comment cards at community spaces. Display boards are located in community spaces in the cities of Maplewood and Saint Paul, including community centers, public libraries, and housing complexes. Engagement efforts emphasize transparency, ongoing dialogue, and responsiveness to community feedback.

Craig Lamothe concluded with discussion of the contracting approach, including engineering and design phases, and outlined joint roles and responsibilities of the Council and Ramsey County. The project construction is anticipated to begin around 2029-2030, with the Bronze Line opening projected for 2032.

Council Members commented on the importance of pedestrian safety and trail preservation. Staff were commended for incorporating community feedback and lessons learned into the project design and contract structures for 2026.

### 2. Open Meeting Safety Plan and Discussion (closed session)

It was motioned by Barber, seconded by Lee, to close this meeting to the public to discuss Open Meeting Safety Plan report. **Motion carried.**

Because this was the final agenda item, it was noted that the meeting would not be reopened following the discussion of Open Meeting Safety Plan report and the meeting would be adjourned at the conclusion of the discussions.

In accordance with the motion, the meeting was closed to the public and began discussion of the Open Meeting Safety Plan report at 4:56 p.m., Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Chair Hutcheson asked for the room to be cleared except for Council Members, leadership staff and others whose presence is necessary to conduct the closed meeting.

Closed session business was concluded at 5:51 p.m.

The following persons attended the closed portion of the Committee of the Whole meeting: Ryan O'Connor, George Henry, Mee Cheng, Sam O'Connell, Chief Joseph Dotseth, Todd Axtell, Chief Matt Clark, Greg Kaslow, Kelly Jameson, Ann Bloodhart, Phil Walljasper, Charles Carlson, Lidiya Girma, Michael Sund, Elias Montesa, Zecharias Hailu, Greg Ricci and Jason Tintes.



BUSINESS (in closed meeting)

Chief Todd Axtell and Chief Matt Clark presented to the Council Members on their report and answered Council Member questions. Council Members discussed the recommendations from the report.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:51 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 December 10, 2025.

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#### **Council contact:**

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