

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: September 2, 2026

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 4:03 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Wulff, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Blue Line Extension Project Update

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager – Capital Programs, introduced the Blue Line Extension Project presentation agenda.

Alicia Vap, Program Manager – Blue Line Extension, provided an overview of the Blue Line Extension (BLE) route, which starts at Target Center in downtown Minneapolis and connects to the city of Brooklyn Park. The BLE provides connection to the existing Blue Line down to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Vap highlighted important BLE milestones, purpose and need, as well as benefits of the BLE project.

Ryan Kronzer, Assistant Director of Design and Engineering, shared visuals of guiding theme and design markers that will be used at each station. Kronzer shared list of right of way acquisitions, which will require Council action before acquisition will begin.

Vap gave an overview of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Risk Assessment process. Vap noted that an FTA mini-risk update was done in April 2026, where FTA acknowledged constructability reviews conducted by the BLE team to reduce risks. As a result of the mini-risk assessment, the FTA reduced both the risks and contingency.

Vap outlined the updated BLE project budget, schedule and ridership numbers. Vap noted that FTA ridership modeling does not capture special events such as professional sports events from the Minnesota Lynx, Twins and Vikings.

Nkongo Cigolo, Manager of Public Involvement, shared engagement metrics, which included project-led and community-hosted events between August 2020 through June 2026. Cigolo highlighted outreach efforts with members of the blind or low-vision transit user community. In addition to individual engagement events, BLE Community and Business advisory committees help inform the design process. The two groups will form one working group beyond the design process. Cigolo concluded with the Council's Anti-Displacement Framework and strategies to implement the framework.

Vap provided a recap of the current project status, including budget, committed local funding, anticipated federal funding, and scope element reductions.

Thompson shared a brief history of BLE project funding, cost of operation and maintenance and overview of the Capital Grant Agreement. Thompson gave an outline of steps needed before the Council can submit a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) application. Thompson covered the funding gap, the Council's limitations and impacts on service. Thompson concluded the presentation with upcoming Council actions.

Council Members discussed anti-displacement funding allocation, ways to resolve the funding gap, impacts to current operations, FTA process and timeline after submittal of FFGA application to notification of award.

Council Members acknowledged that the Council has worked hard to build the regional transit system and rebound from COVID pandemic. The Council took lessons learned from past projects and established a framework for future projects to delineate roles and responsibilities for project originator and Council.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:49 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 September 2, 2026.

Council contact:

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