

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: August 12, 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 to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

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 July 22, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Claire Lukens, of Minnetonka and Council employee, was present on behalf of Local 668 and addressed the Council regarding Communications staff whose positions were repurposed due to restructuring within the department.

Teresa O'Connell, of Lino Lakes, addressed the Council regarding the old Lino Lake city hall building and inquired who is responsible for connecting the sewer and water to the building.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-3)

1. **2026-96 Revised:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the appropriate documents to transfer ownership to the receiving recipients, SouthWest Transit (SWT) and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), of the public transit revenue and non-revenue fleet vehicles which are no longer required for Council use and are identified in Exhibit A. These vehicles had an original purchase value of \$102.7 million with a current net book value of approximately \$38.4 million. The remaining federal interest is \$26.8 million; this amount does not reflect the required local match for these assets. The detail for remaining federal interest is identified on Exhibit A.
2. **2026-119:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P032 with Vision Service Plan to provide voluntary vision services for all eligible Council employees, retirees and dependents in the amount not to exceed \$2,530,739.
3. **2026-132:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute joint powers cooperative agreement #26I040 with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services ("DES") to allow the Council to utilize their master contracts for cooperative purchasing of rolling stock and associated equipment and technology.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2026-130:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Award thirty-four (34) Livable Communities Policy and Affordable Housing Program Development grants, totaling \$12,045,200, as shown in Tables 1, 2, and 3;
 2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Table 1. Livable Communities Policy and Affordable Housing Program Development Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Project	Recommended Award
Arden Hills	Housing Needs Assessment to support redevelopment policies	\$88,221
Blaine	Manufactured Home Contractor Training – Program Development and Partnership	\$50,279
Brooklyn Park EDA	Housing Action Plan – Policy Prioritization and Implementation	\$100,000
Edina	Policy for New Multifamily Affordable Housing Update	\$100,000
New Brighton	Downtown and Residential Zoning Districts Update	\$90,500
Rogers	Housing Study to support land use policy and zoning code update	\$35,000
Saint Louis Park	Zoning Code Update (Phase 3): Refinement, Evaluation, and Cohesion	\$75,000
TOTAL		\$539,000

Table 2. Livable Communities Small Area Planning Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Project	Recommended Award
Falcon Heights	Les Bolstad Golf Course Master Plan	\$100,000
New Brighton	Downtown Vision Plan Phase II	\$60,000
Newport	Streetscaping and Wayfinding - Hastings Ave.	\$40,000
TOTAL		\$200,000

Table 3. Livable Communities Development Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Project	Recommended Award
Bloomington HRA	Bloomington Affordable Homeownership Program	\$225,000
Brooklyn Center	New Generations LLC Predevelopment Grant	\$220,000
Brooklyn Park EDA	African Village – Cultural Destination Mall	\$160,000
Falcon Heights	Fairway Commons	\$631,100
Hopkins	901 Mainstreet	\$97,200
Minneapolis	250 Freemont	\$1,000,000
Minneapolis	Dreamland on 38 th	\$410,000
Minneapolis	Grain Exchange	\$1,500,000
Norwood Young America	Norwood Flats	\$113,400
Oakdale	Hudson Blvd Housing	\$1,000,000
Saint Louis Park EDA	Beltline Station Redevelopment	\$1,000,000
Saint Paul	Jackson and Wheelock	\$200,000
Saint Paul	Rondo Revitalize	\$220,000
Saint Paul	The Beasley	\$1,000,000
Saint Paul	The Heights, Parcel E1	\$410,000
Saint Paul	The Aragon	\$410,000
Saint Paul	Ember on Pine	\$194,800
Saint Paul	Torre de San Miguel	\$400,500
Savage	E5 Energy Property Revitalization Project	\$21,800
Scott County CDA	Moraine CLT – Phase 2	\$200,000
Shakopee EDA	Innovation Hub	\$1,427,400
South Saint Paul EDA	Play at the Library	\$140,000
White Bear Lake	White Bear Lake Habitat for Humanity	\$102,700
Woodbury HRA	Two Rivers Community Land Trust	\$222,300
TOTAL		\$11,306,200

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. **2026-131 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopts the wastewater rates and charges outlined in business item 2026-131SW, to be effective January 1, 2027.
 - Regional Wastewater Charge (total of municipal wastewater charges) of **\$325,634,000**;
 - Sewer Availability Charge (SAC): **\$2,485** (**\$3,185** for East Bethel and **\$4,685** for Elko New Market);
 - Temporary SAC: **\$1.25** per 1,000 gallons (**\$1.60** per 1,000 gallons for East Bethel and **\$2.36** per 1,000 gallons for Elko New Market);
 - Industrial Capacity Charge: **\$2.44** per 1,000 gallons (**\$3.13** for East Bethel, **\$4.60** for Elko New Market);
 - Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.385** per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS);
 - Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.193** per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD);
 - Brewery Strength Charge: **\$1.208** per barrel;
 - Standard Load Charge: **\$70.47** per 1,000 gallons;
 - Holding Tank Load Charge: **\$12.74** per 1,000 gallons;
 - Portable Toilet Waste Load Charge: **\$90.40** per 1,000 gallons;
 - Collar County Load Charge: **\$85.47** per thousand gallons;
 - Permitted Waste Hauler Strength Charge **\$.477** per excess pound of TSS;
 - Permitted Waste Hauler Strength Charge **\$.239** per excess pound of COD;
 - Out-of-Region Load Charge Component for hauled waste: **\$15.00** per thousand gallons;
 - Industrial User Permit Fees as shown on Attachment A; and
 - Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Surcharge Exceedance Rate: **\$572,000** per million gallons per day (rate of maximum measured flow within an hour over allowed flow rate).

It was moved by Cederberg, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-129:** That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Capital Grant Agreement #26I016 (Funding Agreement) for Engineering with Ramsey County and the Ramsey County Regional

Railroad Authority (collectively, the County) for the METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (Project) with a Maximum Grant Amount not to exceed \$22,245,000.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Lee.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. **2026-111:** That the Metropolitan Council appoint the following two individuals to two-year terms of service on the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (through July 2028):

- William Price, Sr., Project for Pride in Living
- Susan Olmsted, Susan Olmsted Workshop

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Lilligren. Council Member Osman abstained from voting on business item 2026-111.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2027 Divisional Level Operating Budget (Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer)

Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the Regional Administration budget and how the budget is allocated to support strategic initiatives.

Leisa Thompson, General Manager – Environmental Services division, provided context and vision of the Environmental Services budget.

Christine Dwyer, Director of Finance & Admin, presented an overview of the Environmental Services operating budget, revenue sources, and Sewer Availability Charge reserve trends.

Heather Giesel, Director of Finance & Admin for Community Development and Metropolitan Transportation Services, shared Community Development accomplishments and discussed advancing regional goals tied to internal work. Giesel presented an overview of the Community Development operating budget, revenue sources, and passthrough budget.

Kristin Prescott, Metro Transit Finance Director, and Giesel covered the transportation budget, including transportation operations and revenue sources. Metro Transit highlights included public safety, Network Now, cleaning and maintenance, and Green Line Extension. Highlights from Metropolitan Transportation Services included Network Now/micro transit and ongoing regional transportation planning program projects. Giesel noted that special transportation services (STS) are not part of the state's forecast programs.

Council Members noted their appreciation for the thoughtful approach and strategy to building the budget based on where the growth is happening across the organization. Council Member Tyronne Carter asked if there was a cap to the STS program. Staff noted that the population will continue to age and expect the program to continue to grow. Since the STS is a state program, Council will continue to work with Minnesota



Management and Budget agency regarding STS budget. In addition, Council Member Jenkins asked if one transit option or tool goes away, will that result in the public acquiring another method to travel. Staff noted one way to see travel pattern changes is through the Travel Survey. The Travel Survey data can be a tool that the Council leverages to meet the transit needs of the region.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson introduced that the Council received some awards from the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate.

Council Member Lindstrom shared that the Council was the big winner for the work to transition fleets into electric vehicles. The Council received an all-star award for staff completing the Envision framework training.

Regional Administrator introduced three Met Scholars interns who joined tonight's meeting and asked the interns to introduce themselves and share which department they worked in throughout the internship. Met Scholars were Yelitza Hernandez-Guitron, Sophie Miller-Grande and Ameerah Alsorkhi.

General Counsel noted that the Office of General Counsel hosted a Met Scholars intern this summer and the students presented their work in an Intern Showcase. General Counsel had the opportunity to meet with many interns this summer who were interested in the legal field.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 12, 2026.

Council contact:

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