

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: August 26, 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 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Morales, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Ann Maslansky-Takahashi, of Shoreview, addressed the Council regarding the Primer Tracer parcel in Shoreview and the request to preserve Rice Creek plan as outlined in the comprehensive plan.

Joint Reports

1. **2026-125:** Adoption of the following Resolutions for the Metropolitan Council's Preliminary 2027 Unified Operating Budget and the Proposed 2026, Payable 2027, Tax Levies:

2026-05: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's Preliminary 2027 Unified Operating Budget

2026-06: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's Proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy for General Purposes for Certification to the Minnesota Commissioner of Revenue

2026-07: Adopting the Metropolitan Council's Proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy for General Purposes for Certification to the County Auditors

2026-08: Adopting a Proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy for the Livable Communities Demonstration Account in the Metropolitan Livable Communities Fund

2026-09: Adopting a Proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy for the Tax Base Revitalization Account of the Livable Communities Act

2026-10: Certifying a Property Tax Levy for 2026 for Debt Service on Issued and To Be Issued Transit Bonds

2026-11: Certifying a Property Tax Levy for 2026 for Debt Service on Issued and To Be Issued Park Bonds

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis. Council Member Lindstrom was present at the meeting but was not in the room at the time of roll call vote.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	11	Chamblis, Dr. Tyronne Carter, Barber, Pacheco, Morales, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Toni Carter, Obisakin, Wulff, Hutcheson
Nay	0	
Absent	5	Johnson, Lilligren, Osman, Cameron, Lee

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-6)

1. **2026-137:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Minnetrista to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Revise the City's forecasts for population and households upward as shown in Table 1 of the attached Review Record.

3. Revise the Imagine 2050 community designation from Diversified Rural to Suburban Edge for the amendment site as shown in Figure 3 in the Review Record.
4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Regional Parks, Wastewater Service, Transportation, and Land Use.
2. **2026-139:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Revise local forecasts in Imagine 2050 for North Oaks, Hugo, and Oakdale, as detailed in Table 1.
 2. Revise sewer-serviced forecasts in the Water Policy Plan for North Oaks, Hugo, and Oakdale, as detailed in Table 2.
 3. Revise Affordable Housing Need allocations in the Housing Policy Plan for North Oaks, Hugo, and Oakdale, as detailed in Table 3.
3. **2026-144:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P221 with Transit Team for Transit Link services in Scott and Carver County in the amount not to exceed \$20,259,200 through July 31, 2030.
4. **2026-153:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Greenfield to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Revise the City's forecasts upward for population, households, and employment as shown in Table 1 of the attached Review Record.
 3. Revise the City's allocation of the regional affordable housing need to 83 units at 30% Area Median Income (AMI), 92 units at 31-50% AMI, and none at 51-80% AMI.
 4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater, forecasts, and land use.
5. **2026-154:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Bloomington to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Land Use.
6. **2026-160 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2026-160 SW on the process for the 2026 2028 Stormwater Reuse Grant Program described in Attachment A and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Dr. Tyronne Carter.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2026-156:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - Award 100 Bring It Home (BIH) Project Based Vouchers (PBV) to five (5) projects as shown in Table 1 below.
 - Authorize the Metro HRA Senior Manager to execute the necessary documents with the project owners of the awarded projects.

Table 1. Recommended Bring It Home Project Based Voucher Awards

Project	City	Total Units in Project	Bring It Home PBV Award
Autumn Ridge	Brooklyn Park	366	50
Bellaire Apartments	White Bear Lake	18	14
Bottineau Ridge Phase II and III	Maple Grove	100	10
Maple Pond Homes	Maplewood	168	16
Tessman Ridge	Brooklyn Park	71	10

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2026-89:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment for contract 22P018 with Turner and Townsend, AMCL Inc., to provide professional consulting services and support that will increase the contract value by \$2,800,000 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$5,330,000.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Jenkins.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2026-151 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 26P075 with Meyer Contracting, Inc. for construction of the METRO G Line Arterial BRT project in an amount not to exceed \$20,726,416.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales. Council Member Barber recused from voting on business item 2026-151 SW.

Council Members Toni Carter and Jenkins thanked the Council for supporting this project for the constituents of Ramsey and Dakota counties. Council Member Toni Carter thanked Council Member Barber for her leadership as Transportation Committee Chair to see this project through.

Motion carried.

Other business

1. No reports.

Information

1. **Green Line Extension Project Update** (Lesley Kandaras, Jim Alexander, Brian Funk, Chief Joseph Dotseth, Andrew Brody, Sophia Ginis)

The item was presented by Metro Transit staff, Lesley Kandaras - General Manager, Jim Alexander – Project Director for Green Line Extension, Brian Funk – Chief Operating Officer, Chief Joseph Dotseth – Chief of Police, Andrew Brody – Chief Safety Officer, and Sophia Ginis – Director of Community Affairs.

Kandaras introduced the presentation with a brief overview of the Metro Green Line Extension Update and Metro Transit Forward framework.

Alexander discussed the workforce participation in the project and provided updates on the construction progress. Alexander highlighted that civil construction, the Hopkins Rail Support Facility, and systems construction are nearing completion. The Kenilworth Corridor landscaping project will be completed in 2027. Alexander reviewed the systems testing phases and current activities and testing will wrap up later this year.

Funk summarized the operations activities and plans for before and after service begins, showed a staffing snapshot for the project, and discussed plans for connecting bus networks to the Green Line Extension from feedback from Network Now Update.

Chief Dotseth provided the public safety update and discussed partnering with local law enforcement agencies along the Green Line Extension, planning for supplemental security, and building relationships with communities through community events. Brody gave an update on safety coordination and partnering with local agencies in engaging with Fire/Life/Safety Committee exercises. Brody discussed safety awareness outreach for youth and families, and partnering with local organizations to educate on the importance of safety around the corridor.

Ginis gave an overview of the communications activities on the opening of the Green Line Extension through connecting with community and engagement efforts.

Council Members and Chair commented on the excitement of the completion of the project and look forward to the launch and thanked staff for their hard work and working together through the stages of the project.

2. **Safety and Security Action Plan, Q2 Update** (Lesley Kandaras, Carol Gronfor, Chief Joseph Dotseth)

Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, introduced the presentation by giving a brief overview of the progress of the Safety & Security Action Plan. This plan includes 44 action items that aim to coordinate layers of official Metro Transit presence. Kandaras reported that 43 of 44 action items are in implementation stage, one in the planning stage, across three areas of work: improving conditions on the system, training and supporting employees, and engaging customers and partners.

Carol Gronfor, Senior Contract Administrator at Metro Transit, discussed the Community Response Team and their program partner, Canopy Roots. Gronfor explained that this is a pilot program that offers on-demand, rapid, mobile and in-person response to calls for service precipitated by behavioral health concerns, with the target audience being individuals experiencing a mental health or chemical dependency incident. Gronfor discussed the two types of service that are being offered through the CRT pilot program: the Response Team—which will conduct risk assessment and triage any immediate behavioral health crisis, and the Service Team—for those in need of individualized assistance such as treatment enrollment, housing application, and economic assistance.

Chief Joseph Dotseth discussed promotions and assignments, as well as expanded initiatives in the Metro Transit Police Department—such as an expansion of the Homeless Action Team and the establishment of a dedicated outreach sergeant. Dotseth praised the high MTPD retention rate and proactive police calls for service. Dotseth reported that total reported offenses on transit have fallen steadily since 2024. Dotseth looked ahead to future priorities, such as planning for the METRO Green Line extension, transit employee assault reduction, and juvenile unit + outreach program.

Council Member Obisakin expressed appreciation for the MTPD's focus on mental health assistance, and Council Member Toni Carter and others commented on the marked improvement of train conditions. Council Member Lindstrom inquired about the duration and evaluation process of the pilot program. Chair Hutcheson inquired about the selection of the community response areas and recent staffing trends in the department.

Reports

Council Member Cederberg shared information about the fourth incinerator ground break event on August 26, 2026. The fourth incinerator will allow a shutdown of another incinerator to allow routine maintenance and allow Metropolitan Water Resource Recovery Facility to serve as backup to the other Met Council Environmental Services facilities, increasing the reliability of the regional system. Council Member Cederberg thanked Ramsey County Commissioner Kelly Miller and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Assistant Commissioner Frank Kohlasch.

Council Member Wulff shared that she's been involved with the fourth incinerator for many years and was in attendance for the ground break event. Wulff participated in the post-event Metro Plant tour and highly recommends the tour to others.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:43 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 26, 2026.

Council contact:

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