

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: September 9, 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 Member Morales chaired the meeting and 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 Obisakin.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Cederberg, seconded by Obisakin to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Joint reports

1. **2026-124 JT:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2026 Unified Budget as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Jenkins. Council Member Toni Carter was not present at the time of roll call vote but was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	10	Chamblis, Dr. Tyronne Carter, Lilligren, Osman, Lindstrom, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Obisakin, Wulff, Morales
Nay	0	
Absent	6	Hutcheson, Johnson, Barber, Pacheco, Cameron, Lee

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-8)

1. **2026-127:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - Adopt the attached 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a budget of approximately \$11.9 million, including approximately \$6.0 million in federal funds
 - Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for receipt of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration planning funds.
2. **2026-128:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the updated Memorandum of Understanding with the urbanized area of Wright and Sherburne Counties, its applicable cities, and the Region 7W Policy Board.
3. **2026-145:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P274 with TKDA for mechanical design services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.
4. **2026-146:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 25P326A and 25P236B for architectural/engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Construction in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Inspec	25P326A	\$2,000,000
TKDA	25P326B	\$1,000,000

5. **2026-158:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2026 Non-Represented Plan Changes effective September 12, 2026, incorporating the revisions as summarized in the Summary of Changes attached.

6. **2026-159:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 21P143B with North Shore Track Services, Inc. to add a not to exceed amount of \$2,178,484.70 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$7,868,056.97.
7. **2026-164:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 26P024 with Rice Lake Construction Group for the construction of the St. Croix Valley Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$20,396,800.
8. **2026-165:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota for the purchase of two (2) replacement articulated buses in the amount of \$2,200,000.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-126:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - Adopt the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
 - Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114- 357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
 - 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment



opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;

- The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
- The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794)
- Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
- Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
- Find that the TIP meets all applicable executive orders and federal requirements.
- Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
- Transmit the 2027-2030 TIP along with public comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-150:** That the Council authorize release of the METRO H Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment; and direct staff to collect public comments through Wednesday, October 7, 2026, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

3. **2026-155:** That the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P018 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc, to provide environmental, engineering and project management services for the METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$23,447,572.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Dr. Tyrone Carter.

Motion carried.

Other business

1. No Reports.



Information

1. Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan Update & 2026 Activation

Claire Warren, Principal Engineer and Project Manager for Electric Bus Infrastructure, and Jeremiah Riter, Assistant Director of Bus Maintenance, presented the item.

Riter gave an overview of the zero emission bus transition, going over the guiding principles of the transition plan. Riter highlighted a chart showing key performance indicators that relate to the guiding principles and summarized purchases through 2025 of buses, chargers, and software.

Riter discussed fleet key performance indicators where metrics help understand how buses can perform and help make future considerations and reviewed the data for C Line electric bus mileage, bus availability, and bus reliability from 2019-2025.

Warren discussed environmental performance indicators where metrics help quantify the impact of the electric bus program and reviewed the data for emission and energy costs from 2019-2025.

Warren discussed infrastructure key performance indicators where metrics help Metro Transit assess technology availability and reliability and reviewed the data for charger availability and incidents from 2020-2025.

Warren provided updates on the North Loop Garage testing and training hub and highlighted the dedicated charger room, and updates on the Gold Line project where buses with recalls are returning after battery replacement and the remaining buses will return by the end of the year.

Council Members and Regional Administrator asked questions about bus reliability, improving fleet metrics for future, clarification on measurement of cost per mile, maintenance costs, overall accounting of costs, demand charges, and infrastructure costs with space needs and changing technology.

2. Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion (closed session)

It was motioned by Jenkins, seconded by Lilligren, to close this meeting to the public to discuss Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion. **Motion carried.**

It was noted that the meeting would reopen following the discussion of Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion and the meeting would continue with the agenda.

In accordance with the motion, the meeting was closed to the public and began discussion of the Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion at 4:44 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Council Member Morales 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 Metropolitan Council meeting: Ryan O'Connor, Ann Bloodhart, Chief Joseph Dotseth, Lieutenant Kadra Mohamed, Elias Montesa, Lidiya Girma, Michael Sund, Sam O'Connell, Ned Smith, Phil Walljasper, Greg Kaslow, Maika Boeckel, Megan Burchett, Greg Ricci, and Mee Cheng.

BUSINESS (in closed meeting)

Todd Axtell and John Kirkwood presented to the Council Members on the open meeting safety and security training and discussion and answered Council Member questions.

Re-Open Meeting:

It was moved by Jenkins, and seconded by Obisakin to re-open this meeting to the public to complete the remaining business on the agenda. **Motion Carried.** Meeting re-opened to the public at 5:52 p.m.

Reports

Regional Administrator provided two updates:

- The Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) helped respond to the Minneapolis shooting last week and thanked MTPD for their support.
- Noted the regulatory changes to temporary protected status and its impact on the workforce.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 9, 2026.

Council contact:

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