Minutes

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 27, 2026 **Time**: 4:00 PM **Location:** Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2
- ☒ Vice Chair, Victor Obisakin, D15
- ☐ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☒ Deb Barber, D4
- ☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5
- ☒ Yassin Osman, District 7
- ☒ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- ☐ Toni Carter, District 14

☒ = 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, Committee Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee 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 Chamblis.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried**.

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

   Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Transit Asset Management Director Kristin Thompson who presented awards to the leaders of the Pride Employee Resource Group: Alice Johnson, Nathan Bakken, Rus Weikle, Nate Frisbie-Krogh, Ruth Crowe-Lane; and Bus Maintenance Technical Support Assistant Director Jeremiah Riter who presented awards to the Bus Maintenance team who competed in the 2026 APTA

Maintenance Roadeo: Chris Thull, Rudolph Ramnarain, Griffin Still.

Public Comment

Darlene Baber, Sharon Markham and Mike Doeshoer, of Phalen Village Co-op, addressed the committee regarding the close proximity of the Bronze Line bridge to their building, and asked the project team to consider other alternatives.

Reports

1. Transportation Planning Director

   Vennewitz provided an update on Regional Solicitation application numbers and stated it's entering the scoring stage which will take two months to complete.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

   Kandaras provided a brief update on State Fair service, noting that Council members will hear a more in-depth presentation at the next meeting. Osman asked that the presentation include past years' ridership numbers.

Consent business

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-consent business

1. **2026-96 Revised**: Suburban Provider Fleet Transfer

   It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Barber, 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.

   Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Fleet Services Manager Jodi Jassen presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked for clarification on the netbook value. Jassen stated that is the amount remaining after depreciation.

   Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

2. **2026-129:** METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit – Engineering Phase Capital Grant Agreement with Ramsey County

   It was moved by Carter, Tyronne, seconded by Osman, 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.

   Metro Transit Bonze Line Project Director Craig Lamothe presented this item. Obisakin raised concern that the community's issues with the bridge haven't been addressed. Lamothe stated nothing additional has advanced since the July 8th presentation; this agreement would bring consultants on board to work on the technical issues with the project, including the bridge, and once those staff are on board, staff (especially engineers) can re-meet with the community members.

Barber recused. Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Electric Vehicle Planning

   Metropolitan Council Transportation Planning Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item. Council members discussed charging for single family homes, especially those in rural communities, the role of public utility companies, charging efficiency in winter and off-peak electric rates.

2. Quarterly Service Change and Workforce Update

   Metro Transit Principal Data Scientist Shanta Hejmadi and Route and System Planning Assistant Director Johnathan Ahn presented this item. Council members thanked staff for being transparent. Chamblis asked about the mandated study for highway 55, to which staff will provide a follow-up.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:35p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 27, 2026.

Council contact:

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