

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: December 8, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- Chair, Deb Barber, D4
- Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2
- Judy Johnson, District 1

- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- John Pacheco Jr., District 5
- Yassin Osman, District 7

- Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Victor Obisakin, District 15

= 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 Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Chair Barber.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025, Special meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Instruction Manager Dan Stoffer who presented awards to: Assistant Transportation Manager (former Instructor) Peter Blomgren, Instructor Nicole Bond, Instructor Michael Goin, Instructor Mark Parr, Instructor Mickey Albert and Instructor CJ Camp (not present).

Public Comment

Andrew Boardman (ATU Local 1005) addressed the committee regarding immigration enforcement.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Charles Carlson reported on recent quarterly service changes and tracking the upcoming weather and potential service impacts.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Lesley Kandaras reported on the successful launch of the E Line and preparations for winter weather.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)

No report.

4. Joint Labor Management Safety Committee (JLMSC)

JLMSC Co-chairs, Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi and Technician Rafael Valle provided a year end recap of the committee's work and an overview of the requirements of the Agency Safety plans.

Consent business

1. There were no consent items.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-277 JT:** Loan Agreement with MnDOT for Coordinated Corridor Projects, Contract 25R012

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council ("the Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a loan agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") for coordinated corridor construction of roadway improvements on the METRO F Line corridor.

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth and Metropolitan Council Chief Financial Officer Ned Smith presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked why this agreement is setup in a loan structure. Roth responded that the work is not transit improvements, but costs for roadway construction that is advantageous to the Council to occur at the same time as the F Line. Roth added that it also takes advantage of some of the near-term capacity the Council has in the Sales tax, while allowing the money to come back to the Council when it is needed in the longer term.

   Motion carried.

2. **2025-307:** Voestalpine LVT Block Procurement, Contract 25P323

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source with Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,562,950.

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Wyatt Jackson presented this item. Council members discussed future replacements of these blocks, material components of the spare blocks and the need for future shutdowns to complete this work. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras confirmed that this work is part of the larger Renew the Blue work, and there will be two longer shutdowns in 2026 and 2027.

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

3. **2025-309:** 2026-2028 Title VI Program

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council shall

approve the 2026-2028 Title VI Program.

Metropolitan Council Title VI Administrator Shirin Edwin and Civil Rights Unit Manager Scottie Carter presented this item. Council members discussed how this work is impacted by Executive orders. Edwin and Carter responded that the Council is responsible following the law and OEOO continues to monitor the Council's compliance with Title VI, and any changes to allow for swift action as needed.

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

4. **2025-316:** Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund Repayment from City of Ramsey and Write-off

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the City of Ramsey to sell two parcels purchased with Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund Loan Numbers L0505 and L0609 for the agreed upon combined value of \$2 million, forward these funds less customary closing costs to the Metropolitan Council in satisfaction of these loans, and direct staff to write-off the remaining loan balances.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planner Tony Fischer presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Senior Manager Steve Peterson and Regional Transportation Planning Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Council members discussed the recommendations, feedback received and the next steps.

2. Customer Issue Tracking & Reporting (CITR) Project

Metro Transit Customer Experience Director Ben Rajkowski, Customer Experience Product Manager Dexter Thomas and Customer Experience Senior Project Administrator Kelly Morrell presented this item. Council members stated their excitement for this project.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of December 8, 2025.

Council contact:

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