

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: February 11, 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 4:03 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-12)

1. **2026-2:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to:
 - Enter into and execute a new 5-year Metropass Agreement with Xcel Energy with a renewal period of January 1, 2026 – 2031 to provide Metropass to eligible employees. Potential revenue for the term of this agreement is estimated at \$2.2M.
2. **2026-16:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a second amendment to contract 23P050 with 4RM+ULA Architects for the METRO Blue Line Lake St/Midtown Station Renovation design and construction support services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,178,081.
3. **2026-17:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of South Saint Paul 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 Wastewater Services.
4. **2026-18:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Maplewood 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 sanitary sewers, forecasts, and land use.
5. **2026-19:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2026 MUSA Implementation Guidelines as shown in Attachment 1, replacing the current Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) Implementation Guidelines.
6. **2026-20:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P148 with Catalyst Consulting Group Inc that will provide Customer Support, Text for Safety, and Outreach software and implementation services in an amount not to exceed \$19,646,725.
7. **2026-22:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 8 of the Bus Transportation Agency Safety Plan and the Light Rail Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Metro Transit as required by 49 CFR Part 673.
8. **2026-23:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 5 of the Agency Safety Plan for Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) as required by 49 CFR Part 673.
9. **2026-25:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Interceptor 8253-327 Forcemain Improvements Phase 2, ES Project No. 802806, per the attached Resolution No. 2026-2.
10. **2026-26:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reconvey property that was part of the original South Saint Paul Wastewater Treatment Plant site to the City of South Saint Paul, at no cost, in accordance with the original acquisition agreement.
11. **2026-27:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt resolution 2026-3 authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of real estate property for Interceptor 9208 and 9701 Maintenance Hole Improvements, ES Project No. 809517.
12. **2026-40:** That the Metropolitan Council approve \$27,500,000 for the FY2026 Livable Communities grant program, as described in Attachment 1: FY2026 Livable Communities Fund Availability, to be administered per the 2026-2027 Fund Distribution Plan.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2026-24:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2026-1, which authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a Bond Purchase and Project Loan Agreement with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) and the issuance and sale of the supporting General Obligation Wastewater Revenue Note securing the loan.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lilligren.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. No reports.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. No reports.

Information

1. No reports.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson thanked Council Members for making time to meet and learn about each district. Scheduling continues for those who have not gotten meetings scheduled. Chair will focus on meeting with county boards and the legislative session. Council will testify at next Senate Capital Investment Committee hearing.

Council Member Cederberg noted that Clean Water funds are up and the community can get involved in May through July 2026.

Council Member Lindstrom represented the Council at the MN Climate Action Framework at North End Community Center in Saint Paul. The host site is a new building with many sustainability features. The revamped climate action framework sets the vision and establishes action steps that the state and individuals can take to address this issue. CM Lindstrom learned that MnDOT is piloting biofuel for buses and snowplows. The Recycling and Energy Centers of Ramsey and Washington Counties are exploring biochar, which can be used in wastewater to reduce heavy metals and dye. There are many opportunities to engage with the Climate Action Framework so that it can be executed for everybody in the region.

Council Member Lilligren invited Council Members to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives event at the American Indian Center on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Council Member Pacheco thanked Council Member Dr. Tyronne Carter for helping with the Equity Committee as CM Pacheco has been busy with the Latino community and the impacts of the

federal presence in the community.

Council Member Dr. Tyronne Carter shared that the thing he likes most about the Twin Cities community is that they look out for each other and bring our community forward.

Regional Administrator O'Connor thanked the Metro Transit team for adjusting in real time when there was a high-speed chase that ended in a crash that disrupted transit services in the Selby and Western area. The State of Minnesota is working on revalidation of providers as required by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In order to meet this requirement, the State requested state agencies provide a staff list for redeployment. While not a state agency, the Council provided a recommendation list of ten staff to contribute to this effort. This action is similar to when the Council provided interagency agreement to the State for another redeployment opportunity earlier this year. Another update is the Renew the Blue work, which will go into year two of three with important capital improvements to transit assets. Lastly, Regional Administrator provided updates on organizational changes regarding audit and compliance management re-structure, to be led by Matt LaTour.

Council Members gave kudos to the Regional Administrator and staff for their work with audit and compliance re-structure work. This work aligns with what members of the Management Committee have discussed over the tenure of various Council Members.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 11, 2026.

Council contact:

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