

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: January 14, 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 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Obisakin to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Hannah Gary of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council to stand behind the commitments of Imagine 2050. Speaker asked the Council to ban ICE from Council-owned

properties, support community in knowing their rights, and ensure that all employees have the resources to protect themselves, their families and their community. Resources include clear guidance for staff to do their work and allow for work from home arrangements for staff who can do so.

Zhu Gong, Council employee, provided written statement read by Hannah Gary, statement addressed the Council to prohibit ICE from Council and Metro Transit properties and protect residents from ICE.

Matt Schroeder of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council and shared that fear in the community has resulted in residents staying at home and are in need of food resources. Speaker requested more more concrete actions from the Council to support staff and community.

Maddy Schwartz of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council with examples of unlawful ICE abductions on or near Council properties and called on Council leaders to ban ICE from Council properties.

Emily Seddon of Oakdale and Council employee, addressed the Council to do more to protect staff and provide resources for managers. Asked the Council not to be silent on ICE and not treat work from home accommodation as an exception.

Samah Safiullah of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council to protect its BIPOC employees by offering work from home options, ban ICE from Council properties, provide trainings for employees on what to do when ICE is on Council properties.

Olivia Boerschinger of Minneapolis and Council employee, read a statement by an employee who wished to remain anonymous. Statement outlined the fear and experiences of BIPOC community members in the last year. Asked Council to take a strong stance against ICE and work with other cities to keep residents safe.

Raven McKnight, Council employee, addressed the Council to prohibit ICE from using Council-owned property, commit to supporting employees who may be unlawfully detained, allow employees to work from home to prevent unnecessary personal risk.

Ames Yoder of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council to ban ICE on Council properties and offer resources for staff on how to verify warrants.

Joseph Leadley of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council that while there is leadership at the business unit level to ensure staff safety, speaker would like to see organizational leadership at the Council to protect employee and community safety.

Caitlin Magistad of Saint Paul and Council employee, addressed the Council to respond to ICE, provide clear guidance to staff and community on their rights when ICE is on Council property, allow for work from home for all staff rather than at discretion of individual managers, use the Council's power to demand a statewide eviction moratorium.

Kevin Phan of Saint Paul and Council employee, addressed the Council that many residents rely on the essential services provided by the Council. Residents are hesitant to use Council and Metro Transit services due to fear, profiling, abduction and harassment from ICE. Speaker implored the Council to prohibit from ICE using all Council-owned building, property, lots and land.

Liz Roten of Saint Paul and Council employee, addressed the Council and asked the Council to provide guidance on what to do and individual rights when observing unlawful ICE actions.

Bethany Brandt, Council employee, addressed the Council and shared stories of ICE waiting for an employee at their home address as well as being added to an employee's safety plan. Speaker asked the Council to do more for its employees by offering comprehensive policies to keep employees safe.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-3)

1. **2025-320:** The Metropolitan Council authorize an internal loan to Environmental Services capital fund until 2026 bond funding is available.
2. **2026-5 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Saint Paul’s Transportation Safety Countermeasures project.
3. **2026-6 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to make the following project adjustments:
 - Addition of guardrail, grading, and ADA updates to MnDOT’s US 10 mill and overlay project in Denmark Township.
 - Combining of six MnDOT 2026 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program projects into one project line.
 - Increasing the cost and adding a pedestrian bridge to MnDOT’s MN 65 interchanges project in Blaine.
 - Increasing the cost and removing one pedestrian bridge from MnDOT and Chisago County’s US 8 expansion project.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Wulff.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2025-318:** That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Award twelve (12) Livable Communities Act Tax Base Revitalization Account Grants totaling \$3,536,100 as shown in Table 1 below.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Table 1. Tax Base Revitalization Account Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Seeding Equitable Environmental Development (SEED) Projects	Recommended Amount
Minneapolis	CORA Townhomes	\$189,200
Saint Paul	Rondo Revitalize	\$50,000
Applicant	Environmental Site Investigation Projects	Recommended Amount
Hastings EDRA	Gateway Block Redevelopment	\$55,300
Plymouth	Scattered Site and Cornerstone Auto Redevelopment	\$150,000
Applicant	Contamination Cleanup Projects	Recommended Amount
Minneapolis	Henn 25 Shops	\$130,900
Minneapolis	Native American Community Clinic and Housing	\$250,500
Minneapolis	Rise Up Center	\$49,200
Roseville EDA	Twin Lakes Technology Center	\$325,000
Saint Louis Park EDA	Beltline Station	\$342,500
Saint Louis Park EDA	Minnetonka Boulevard Twin Homes	\$432,700
Saint Paul	Face to Face	\$60,800
Saint Paul	Hamm’s Brewery West End	\$1,500,000
TOTAL		\$3,536,100

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Johnson.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-319:** That the Metropolitan Council:



1. Award four multifamily rental Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) grants as shown in Table 1, totaling \$2.5 million.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Table 1. 2025 LHIA Award Recommendation

Grantee	Project	LHIA Funding Recommendation
Anoka County HRA	Heights Ridge Apartments (Columbia Heights)	\$750,000
Minneapolis	Flour Exchange	\$650,000
Saint Paul	Hamm's Brewery – East End Apartments	\$600,000
Saint Paul	Torre de San Miguel	\$500,000
TOTAL		\$2,500,000

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. No reports.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. **2025-317:** That the Metropolitan Council approve Makiza Johnson for Metropolitan Parks and Open Space District B. This appointment is being made mid-term and it will run until January 2027.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Wulff.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-3:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB):

TAB Chair – James Hovland

District A – Doug Anderson

District B – John Morast

District C – Husniyah Bradley

District D – Glen Johnson

Non-motorized – Brian Martinson

B Alternate – Aaron Cameron

C Alternate – Andy Lewis

D Alternate – Brandon Wagenfeld

Non-motorized Alternate – Jackson Hampton

Council Member Barber noted that there are additional positions open and encouraged community to apply.



It was moved by Barber, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

3. **2026-4:** That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Accept the public comment report for the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program amendment (Attachment 3).
2. Adopt the final Outcomes Measurement Program amendment to Imagine 2050:
 - a) The program narrative (Attachment 1) is appended to the Vision, Values, and Goals chapter as Section 8.
 - b) The initial slate of measures (Attachment 2) is appended to the Vision, Values, and Goals chapter as Appendix C (renaming current Appendix C as Appendix D).

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.

Information

1. No reports.

Reports

Council Member Obisakin thanked Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins and District 15 community for coming together and helping each other during this time. Thanked Chair Hutcheson and Regional Administrator O'Connor for their ongoing leadership and responses.

Council Member Chamblis thanked employees for coming to the meeting to share their feedback so that the Council can address the most crucial issues for staff.

Council Members Osman and Pacheco acknowledged that it is scary and their communities are experiencing a lot of fear with federal agent presence in the community.

Chair Hutcheson and Regional Administrator O'Connor thanked leadership staff for the weekly communication, real-time coordination and response to daily incident reports that impact the Council and Metro Transit. In partnership with the Office of General Counsel, the Council is prioritizing trainings with operational teams.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 14, 2026.

Council contact:

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