Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 10:00AM St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present:	Chair Robin Hutcheson	Rebecca Schack	Tim Brausen
	Dr. Tyronne Carter	Anjuli Cameron	Will Roach
	Debbie Goettel	Nick Thompson (Alt)	Heather Edelson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. This meeting is live-streamed and posted on the Metropolitan Council's website. Members of the public watching the meeting can submit comments to David.Davies@metrotransit.org. The comment period is open until Friday, June 12. Comments that are received will be included in the meeting minutes. (No comments were received.)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hutcheson presented the March 4, 2026, Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes. Council Member Brausen had a correction to a statement in the March 4 minutes that was attributed to him; the word "tax income" in paragraph 2, line 2, under item 4 (Development Trends), the statement should have been "tax increment financing". Council Member Brausen made the motion to approve the corrected minutes, and Commissioner Edelson seconded the motion. Following a vote, the corrected minutes were approved.

Chair Hutcheson thanked staff and everyone who participated in the recent Trails to Rails event. She noted the importance of the event as it leads up to the opening of the Green Line Extension.

3. METRO TRANSIT UPDATE

Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, and the Metro Transit executive team discussed launch preparations for the METRO Green Line Extension. The team has been attending a series of meetings throughout the corridor as we prepare for the Green Line Extension launch. Kandaras stated the team would welcome feedback from the CMC members about what topics are important to community members as they engage with the cities along the corridor. For 2026, Metro Transit is focused on building ridership, increasing employee, rider, and community satisfaction, and preparing for a flawless Green Line Extension launch in 2027.

Jim Alexander, Project Director, provided an update on the project. Through March 2026, 5,561 people have been working on the project, with 4,469 residing in Minnesota. The 21.9% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation exceeds the 15% goal. Staff have been tracking development along the Green Line Extension, and $3.3B in permitted development has occurred between 2011-2024, with $694M in planned development. The Civil construction is 99% complete, with the overall completion expected later in 2026. The Hopkins Rail Support Facility (HRSF) construction is 87% complete; Operations staff are expected to move into the building later in summer 2026.

Landscaping in the Kenilworth corridor began with planting in May 2026 and will be completed in 2027. The Systems construction is 92% complete. Systems Integration Testing is progressing and will continue into the fall of 2026. Alexander explained that there are thousands of devices along the corridor that need to be tested. Testing includes verifying the devices function properly and that they communicate with each other and with the Rail Control Center in Minneapolis.
Brian Funk, Chief Operating Officer for Metro Transit, said his team is working with Alexander's team and in concert with the contractor to complete the Systems Integration Testing. It provides a good baseline for the Operations staff who will oversee running the system for decades to come. We will use this as an opportunity to gain initial experience and prepare for pre-revenue testing that is planned to begin at the end of 2026 and continue into 2027 leading up to revenue service. Our goal is to run full operating

schedules minus the passengers so that we can simulate planned operations, run non-standard scenarios, and plan out how we will handle large-scale events. We will also use the opportunity to do staff training in readiness. In addition, we need to make sure all maintenance teams are familiar with the system. A new fare collection system will allow customers to navigate the system more easily and we want to make sure this system works in a flawless manner when we open for revenue service in 2027.

Will Roach congratulated staff on the fantastic progress and asked if the opening would occur in early or late 2027. Kandaras said she expects we will be able to set a more specific date sometime this fall, but it will open in 2027. Roach followed up by asking if operations could start on the west side earlier than later. Alexander responded that starting operations on the western segment of the line early would be a significant challenge because we need to get vehicles to and from existing main line and it would be logistically difficult. We are not powered up on the Minneapolis section yet and we are still have testing to do on the east section of the line.

Funk shared updates on hiring and training staff; over 1400 positions are planned to support both existing and upcoming operations, and we are currently working on filling around 260 openings. Funk also shared information regarding real-time operations. The Rail Control Center (RCC) monitors and supports rail operations, and the Transit Control Center (TCC) is Metro Transit's central hub for handling bus service, 911 transfer calls, and Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) dispatch.

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager of Planning and Capital Programs for Metro Transit, provided an update on connecting bus routes with the Green Line Extension. We will be launching some new bus service and expanding service that connects to the Green Line Extension; an updated proposal will be available for review and comment later this summer and fall.

Kandaras provided an update on the Safety & Security Action Plan, which currently has 44 action items in 3 areas of work: improving conditions on the system, training and supporting employees, and engagement with customers and partners. Chief Joe Dotseth, MTPD, said the Plan came together 4 years ago, and it is working well; crime on the system is at record lows. Chief Dotseth introduced Captain Erin Dietz, who will be representing the MTPD during GLE launch preparations.

Commissioner Edelson asked Chief Dotseth about the QR code that customers can use to report something on the line. Chief Dotseth said the Text for Safety system goes to a real person and the response is quick. Chair Hutcheson asked where it goes when someone sends a message to Text for Safety. Chief Dotseth said the message is received at the police dispatch at the TCC, and the MTPD will send a squad to respond. Funk said this program was launched in 2018, and it is staffed 24/7. When not responding to calls, staff share real-time updates.

Kandaras shared that we provide the Metropolitan Council with an update on the Safety & Security Action Plan implementation progress on a quarterly basis. The Safety Department is working to ensure that we're prepared in case of an emergency. We are actively coordinating with local emergency response agencies and continue to hold familiarization exercises on the corridor. Community events and tour opportunities will continue through this summer and early fall. Beginning in June and continuing through the summer and fall, Metro Transit's executive team and project office staff will be giving Green Line Extension presentations to the cities on the corridor.

Chair Hutcheson thanked the team for a great presentation and asked if there were additional questions. Commissioner Edelson thanked the team for the presentation and asked about the specific plans for reaching young people who are not familiar with LRT. Alexander said our Outreach team has reached out to school districts and will continue engaging this summer and fall.

Commissioner Goettel thanked the group for the presentation and gave kudos to team for the Text for Safety system and real-time responses. She said she was glad that the team is programming for maintenance, but she wants to make sure it includes inflation. She also asked if heated sidewalks have been incorporated at larger stations to prevent ice buildup in the winter. Alexander said we did consider that, but the infrastructure is problematic for maintenance; Funk's team will be responsible for

maintenance at public facilities, including station areas. Funk said he will make sure they are reinforcing removal of snow and ice as a priority. Thompson said we are tracking inflation, and we do an annual capital program that includes projections for estimates and inflation factors in the cost of maintenance activities.

Brausen asked if the signage for reporting problems is on LRT vehicles and buses. Kandaras said yes, the contact information is on vehicles as well as at the stations; there is a project underway that will streamline this further. Brausen asked what the current daily ridership is for the existing Green Line. Kandaras said we update ridership numbers monthly and this information is posted on the Metro Transit website. Average weekday ridership on the Green Line in May was approximately 19,000. Kandaras said the way we count rides is based on people boarding, and as we've increased our layers of presence on the system a lot of activity that included people getting on/off but not necessarily riding transit from A to B has been reduced due to the increased presence of MTPD officers and TRIP agents; we believe this is a reason ridership has dipped. On the customer satisfaction front, our LRT riders showed the most improvement in satisfaction and are reporting that they are seeing real changes. Brausen said Alexander and his team gave the St. Louis Park City Council a tour of the stations and it was useful.

Chair Hutcheson thanked everyone for their participation.

4. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:05AM. The next meeting will be September 2, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary