

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: February 25, 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 4:04p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Jenkins to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Michael and Barber Wright, residents of Minnetonka, addressed the Council regarding an ADA compliant tracking technology for Metro Mobility services.

Sarah Rodman, resident of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council to consider

preventing ICE offices/detention centers from being built or converted and to support cities in these prevention policy efforts; to push Governor for an eviction moratorium; lastly, to ban ICE from Metro Transit properties.

Mike Roberts, resident of Saint Paul and Council employee, addressed the Council and read a statement from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers No. 110 (IBEW) regarding federal presence and actions impacting IBEW members and the community.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-11)

1. **2025-311:** That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Emergency Declaration for the red dye material release and subsequent roadway remediation at the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, in an amount not to exceed \$288,671.78.
2. **2026-29:** That the Metropolitan Council approve Anoka County’s Rice Creek North Regional Trail Long-Range Plan.
3. **2026-34:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute master contracts 25P057 A-C for electrical distribution and facilities improvement services with not to exceed amounts as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
Black and Veatch	25P057A	\$6,000,000
SEH	25P057B	\$2,000,000
TKDA	25P057C	\$2,000,000

4. **2026-35:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 25P156A-K for interceptor engineering services with cumulative not to exceed amount of \$68,000,000 as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
Brown and Caldwell	25P156A	\$7,600,000
Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC. *	25P156B	\$5,500,000
Black and Veatch *	25P156C	\$6,200,000
SEH, Inc.*	25P156D	\$6,900,000
Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.*	25P156E	\$10,300,000
CDM Smith, Inc.	25P156F	\$5,000,000
TKDA and Associates, Inc.	25P156G	\$6,100,000
HDR Engineering, Inc.	25P156H	\$5,200,000
Bolton & Menk, Inc. *	25P156I	\$7,700,000
Donohue and Associates	25P156J	\$6,000,000
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. ***	25P156K	\$1,500,000

*A&E plus Construction contract

***Construction contract only

5. **2026-36:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to replace the portion of interceptor 1-SP-230 that is within MnDOT’s construction limits for the Highway 3/Robert Street reconstruction project, ES Project No. 809518, for an amount not to exceed \$13,000,000.
6. **2026-38 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project installing a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program-funded charging station at Exit 251 on I-94 in



Lake Elmo.

7. **2026-39 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Traffic Management System (TMS) and lighting, along with a cost increase, to its MN 77 bridge rehabilitation project.
8. **2026-42:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award, Negotiate and execute contract 25P082 with Corval Constructors Inc. to provide Mechanical Pipefitting Services for MCES facilities in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.
9. **2026-44:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts 25P170A-C for Wastewater System Planning Services for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Carollo Engineers, Inc.	25P170A	\$2,000,000
HDR Engineering, Inc.	25P170B	\$2,000,000
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	25P170C	\$2,000,000

10. **2026-51:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 - Authorize the City of Lino Lakes to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 - Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 - Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Regional Parks and Trails, Wastewater. Forecasts, Water Supply and Land Use.
11. **2026-52:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 - Authorize the City of Dayton to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 - Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 - Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Land Use.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Barber.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2026-50:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 - Revise local forecasts in Imagine 2050 for 16 cities and townships, as detailed in Table 1.
 - Revise sewer-served forecasts in the Water Policy Plan for 15 cities and townships, as detailed in Table 2.
 - Revise Affordable Housing Need allocations in the Housing Policy Plan for 15 cities and townships as detailed in Table 3.
 - Include the information in revised System Statements to be re-issued.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Obisakin.



Council Member Cederberg provided a statement regarding the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Workgroup and how this impacts the planning process for the communities in the workgroup. Council Member Barber thanked Council staff for their work and responsiveness with the small municipalities in District 4. Chair Hutcheson thanked Council Member Cederberg for meeting with communities in her districts. Chair Hutcheson thanked staff for their work with comprehensive planning. Regional Administrator O'Connor noted that regional population estimates process continues with communities. As the work of the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Workgroup keeps moving forward, the Council will continue to have conversations with Workgroup communities.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-32 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25I069 with Suntide Commercial Realty, Inc, for the 10-year lease agreement in the amount of \$6,770,836.94, which includes a Tenant Improvement Allowance (TIA) to build out the space and Common Area Maintenance (CAM) expenses.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-33 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Master Utility Agreement #24M045 ("MUA") with Northern States Power Company ("NSP") to allow for reimbursement of compensable utility relocation costs that conflict with the METRO Blue Line Extension, in an amount not to exceed \$18,600,000.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. No reports.

Information

1. Network Now Progress

Adam Harrington, Director of Service Development – Metro Transit, presented an update on Network Now. In 2025, 34% of improvements were implemented on 54 routes and launched the METRO Gold Line, ABRT B and E Lines. Improvements included adapting to the market and adding new access routes to better connect with transit centers. In addition, two new Metro micro zones were added –bringing the total to four micro zones: Roseville, Woodbury,



Bloomington and Blaine.

In 2026, Harrington highlighted several routes with service improvements such as increased service frequency, new midday service hours, Renew the Blue Replacement Bus, and post-road construction schedule adjustments. Service improvements are focused on all-day multi-purpose transit. Work in 2027 will include the Gold Line extension, launch of the Green Line Extension, phase 1 of the G Line, Eastside Metro re-structure and new Metro Micro zones.

Council Member Lindstrom asked about where the Metro Micro zones will be as well as which routes were impacted by the Eastside Metro re-structure work. Staff noted that one of the new Metro Micro zones will likely be Minnetonka region to align with the Green Line Extension. The Eastside Metro re-structure will be focused on orienting routes to align with the G Line.

Council Member Barber highlighted a key accomplishment –achieving hiring targets, which has helped the organization execute and implement the work laid out in the plan.

2. Safety & Security Action Plan, Q4 Update

Lesley Kandaras, Metro Transit General Manager, presented updates on the Safety and Security Action Plan action items and legislative reports pertaining to Transit Safety & Rider Experience and Transit Cleaning & Repair Standards.

Metro Transit staff provided programming highlights:

- Trisha Hopkins-Smith, Peer Support Supervisor, gave an update on Metro Transit's Peer Support Program, which is a program for operators. As of February 2026, 28 new Peer Support counselors have completed 40-hour training.
- Shamara Baggett, Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP) Manager, noted that 130 TRIP agents were hired by the end of 2025. TRIP agents have expanded their coverage to include fare inspection on Bus Rapid Transit bus lines.
- Carol Gronfar, Senior Contracts Administrator, presented an upcoming pilot program with Canopy Roots to offer behavioral health-related services on transit lines and stations. While this is still in contract negotiations, the anticipated start date is spring 2026.

Interim Chief Joe Dotseth closed the presentation with Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) updates, which include 2025 Fourth Quarter highlights, MTPD staffing data, and safety and security data.

Council Members congratulated Metro Transit and MTPD on their recruitment and retention work, which makes a difference in the delivery of services.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared that there was a hearing confirmation with the Senate Transportation Finance and Policy Committee on Monday, February 23, 2026. Chair Hutcheson thanked Council Members and staff leaders for reaching out to extend their support before and after the hearing confirmation.

Council Member Obisakin gave a shout out to the city of West St. Paul for receiving a grant to support their community impacted by federal presence in the community. In addition, CM Obisakin appreciates meeting with Council staff and learning about their work. CM Obisakin thanked staff for the support he has received in the last six months as a new Council Member.

General Counsel shared that George Henry is now officially Deputy General Counsel and is no longer in an acting role.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:02 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 25, 2026.

Council contact:

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