

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: March 11, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robin Hutcheson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Lilligren, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Jenkins, District 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Barber, District 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gail Cederberg, District 11 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = 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 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-7)

1. **2026-41:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 20P218 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc., dba Vontas, that will add \$10,500,000 for OnRoute equipment, software maintenance and support for a total contract amount not to exceed \$20,841,807.
2. **2026-45:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P197 with Transit Team for Transit Link service in Anoka and Hennepin counties in an amount not to exceed \$37,307,890.
3. **2026-49:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an extension to lease agreement #20I010 with the Metropolitan Airport Commission for the South Garage facility for a total contract amount not to exceed \$19,350,000.
4. **2026-53:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P225 with HealthPartners to provide onsite clinic administrative services for all eligible Council employees, retirees and dependents in the amount not to exceed \$7,261,385.
5. **2026-55:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Utility Relocation Agreement #25M010 (“URA”) with Qwest Corporation, d/b/a CenturyLink QC (“Qwest”), to allow for reimbursement of compensable utility relocation costs that conflict with the METRO Blue Line Extension in an amount not to exceed \$2,356,016.
6. **2026-58:** That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2026-4 authorizing the Metropolitan Council to apply for Section 5311 Formula Grant for Rural Areas funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to support Transit Link dial-a-ride services for the 2027 calendar year.
7. **2026-59:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the revisions to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Administrative Plan as described in this report and attachments.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. **2026-10:** That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2026-10 on the process for the 2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grant Program described in Attachment A and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Obisakin.

Jen Kostrewski, Assistant Manager of Water Resources, presented an overview of the program, including funding allocation, changes for 2026-2028, program design, eligible expenses, award and selection details and anticipated timeline and next steps. Staff answered questions from the Council regarding community engagement, program limits as well as program criteria.

Motion carried.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-46:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the recommendations from the 2025 Arterial BRT Plan Update, identifying the West 7th corridor as the J Line and the Nicollet corridor as the K Line.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-47:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P058 with Gillig LLC utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract 06719-01 to purchase (109) 40-foot electric-hybrid buses for the Council's regular route services in an amount not to exceed \$133,602,701.71.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. **2026-64:**

1. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective on Thursday, March 12, 2026, the following standing committee assignments recommended by the Chair, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.

Community Development	Environment	Management	Transportation
Lilligren, Chair	Cederberg, Chair	Johnson, Chair	Barber, Chair
Carter, Toni, Vice Chair	Wulff, Vice Chair	Pacheco, Vice Chair	Chamblis, Vice Chair
Cameron	Carter, Tyronne	Cederberg	Carter, Toni
Chamblis	Jenkins	Jenkins	Carter, Tyronne
Lee	Lee	Lilligren	Cameron
Lindstrom	Lindstrom	Morales	Johnson
Morales	Morales	Osman	Osman
Obisakin			Obisakin
Wulff			Pacheco

2. That the Metropolitan Council approve Reva Chamblis as Vice Chair of the Council, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article I.

3. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective on Thursday, March 12, 2026, the following special and advisory committees, commissions, and boards assignments, as recommended by the Chair and pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.

1. Age-Friendly Minnesota Council: Cameron



2. Audit: Lee (Chair), Barber (Vice Chair), Jenkins, Obisakin
3. Clean Water Council: Cederberg
4. Environmental Quality Board: Lindstrom, Tyrone Carter (Alternate)
5. Equity Advisory Committee: Pacheco (Chair), Toni Carter, Tyrone Carter, Osman
6. Hennepin County Community Works Bottineau Steering Committee: Chamblis, Osman (Alternate)
7. Investment Review Committee: Morales (Chair), Lee
8. Land Use Advisory Committee: Morales (Chair)
9. METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee: Hutcheson (Chair), Chamblis, Cameron, Osman (Alternate)
10. METRO Blue Line Extension Project Development Board: Hutcheson (Chair), Chamblis, Cameron (Alternate)
11. METRO Green Line Extension Corridor Management Committee: Hutcheson (Chair), Tyrone Carter, Lilligren, Cameron (Alternate)
12. METRO Green Line Extension Executive Change Control Board: Hutcheson (Chair), Tyrone Carter, Lilligren (Alternate)
13. METRO Gold Line Executive Change Control Board: Hutcheson (Chair), Lee, Jenkins (Alternate)
14. Metropolitan Airports Commission: Cameron, Morales (Alternate)
15. Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee: Wulff (Chair)
16. Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: Wulff
17. Minnesota Council on Disability: Wulff
18. Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneur Board: Pacheco
19. Olmstead Sub-Cabinet: Wulff
20. Regional Council of Mayors: Lindstrom, Johnson (Alternate)
21. Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee: Toni Carter, Lee (Alternate)
22. Southwest LRT PLACES: Cameron
23. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee: Cameron
24. Transportation Advisory Board: Barber, Chamblis (Alternate)

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-65:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB):

Transit – Tim Marino

Transit Alternate – Andrew Eikum

Transit – Abdi Isse

Transit Alternate – Simon Bracey Lane

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Information

1. No reports.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared the following updates:

- The Met Council had successful presentations to State House and Senate Capital Investment committees.
- Washington, D.C. trip with Regional Administrator, Government Relations Director and Metro Transit General Manager. The team had productive conversations with federal partners about transit.
- National Advisory Committee workshop for surface transportation for state and local governments – convened by Brookings Institute. This workshop will be held in Denver, Colorado, where Chair Hutcheson will be joined by eight other metro regions.

Council Member Jenkins attended Greater MSP Next26 event. Their vision of the metropolitan is optimistic. Our regions have faced challenges and how we responded to adversities – this has positioned our region well going forward.

Regional Administration shared the following updates:

- Chief Joseph Dotseth was named the Police Chief for the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) and thanked community partners, staff and leadership for being part of the recruitment and hiring process. In addition, Regional Administrator thanked candidates who were part of the process.
- The MTPD passed MN Peace Officers Standards and Training's annual review. The day-to-day work is led by Chief Dotseth and his leadership team.
- The Council wrapped up its third culture survey which was administered in the month of January. Over 50% response rate and the highest turnout so far. Results will continue to roll out at end of the month. Thank you to Lisa Barajas, Executive Director of Community Development, for being one of the two executive sponsors to lead the culture work.
- There were technology issues with Go-To cards over the weekend. It is an external vendor issue and not a security issue for the Council. Thank you to Metro Transit and Information Services teams for their work to restore the fare collection system.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Certification

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

Council contact:

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